

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

>

Fourteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 11, 2003/Agrahayana 20, 1925
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, Cane growers of the country are not being paid the minimum support price of Sugarcane. . . . (*Interruptions*) They are being exploited by the Sugar mill owners. . . . (*Interruptions*) The issue of cane growers is very vital. . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, every year one crore people are being rendered unemployed in the country. . . . (*Interruptions*) Hon'ble Prime Minister had stated to provide employment to one crore people every year. . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bhartiya Janta Party has distributed twenty rupees notes after affixing their stickers on them. I have a note of the denomination of twenty rupees on which sticker is affixed. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : The notices which I have received, include notices on the issue of unemployment.

[*English*]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, in Andhra Pradesh everywhere. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : There is need to fix minimum support price for sugarcane – this issue is being raised by Kunwar Akhilesh Singh for a long time.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : As already declared, I am not in a position to allow the suspension of Question Hour. As regards the notices for Adjournment Motions, these are not the subjects for Adjournment Motions. The only thing is that on these subjects you wanted a reply from the Minister.

[*Translation*]

I can understand that the issue of unemployment is very vital and it should be discussed in the House. It was also discussed in the last session and if you want to discuss it in this session, then there is one way that we will place it before the Business Advisory Committee and I think no body will oppose it.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of unemployment is a big problem and so long as you do not suspend the Question Hour. . . . (*Interruptions*) The urgency of this problem will stand diluted. As such, please suspend the question hour and hold discussion on this issue. . . . (*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of Cane growers is the biggest one. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I am in a mood to allow discussion on this subject. You start the discussion and after the discussion is over, the Minister will give the reply. You may raise the discussion during Zero Hour. I will ask the Minister to remain present in the House.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of Cane growers is a very serious issue. The Cane growers are not being given the fair price.

11.03 hrs.

(*At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table*)

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you come in the well. You go to your seats. I do not like your coming in the well. The issue raised by you is an important one but the practice of rushing in the well is wrong. It does not behave of you. You go to your seats. Do not try to put pressure on me in any way. You are not going to get anything in this way. I have said that I will ask the Minister to give reply but first you go to your seats.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : On this issue, we will go to any extent if required.

MR. SPEAKER : Where is the need of your going to any extent? I am allowing discussion on this issue and the Minister will give the reply.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Now the sugarcane is ready to be sent for crushing. . . .(Interruptions) The crushing season has started. But Government of India has not started procuring the sugarcane. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will go to the Question Hour now. Q.N. 141, Shrimati Kanti Singh.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I have started the Question Hour. Shrimati Kanti Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I can ask the Minister to give reply. First you go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not try to put pressure in this way. There is no deadlock between you and the Chair. You should keep it in mind. The deadlock may be between you and the Government. Why are you disturbing the entire House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : In this way you are not going to exert any pressure on me. You should not try for it. I am not allowing you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : In this way your behaviour is wrong. I am not appreciating that. You go to your seats and speak from there. There is no need of your coming in the well. I give you two minutes to express your views. But I will not allow anyone in this way. I will allow neither you nor any other Member. It is upto the House. First I will listen to you and then I will give my decision.

11.06 hrs.

(At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when, three farmers were killed in Munderwa during the last

session, only then the Government woke up from slumber. They had enhanced the Statutory Minimum price of sugarcane from Rs. 64 to Rs. 69. This year the Government have not fixed the statutory minimum price of sugarcane whereas the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Price, Government of India, has suggested Rs. 73 as the statutory minimum price. The Government of India have not announced that price so far due to which. . . .(Interruptions) They are anti farmer. Therefore, they are talking like this. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : My humble submission is that you please direct the Minister of Agriculture that the Government of India should announce the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane for this year, at an early date so that the farmers could be saved from exploitation by the sugar mill owners. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Sir the problem of unemployment is a national problem. We have not entered in the well of the House. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have listened to you. Let me give my decision about that. You have not entered in the well of the House. For that I appreciate you and convey my thanks to you. There is no need of entering in the well. You, have framed the rules for the conduct of Business in the House and I have to work according to those rules. I have already made it clear to all the Members that the manner in which pressure is being exerted on me, is totally unacceptable to me and I would not succumb to it. I would only say that your question is important. Kunwar Akhileshji met me in the Chamber. I told him that his question was important and I could request the hon. Minister in this regard. You revise the question and hon. Minister will reply to it. It will be my pleasure if it is included in the agenda of the day. Otherwise also, during zero hour I would request the Minister to come out with a reply in two minutes time. This is the only way out. Today I have tolerated your coming to the well of the House but for the next time on, I would like to caution you against coming into the well of the House. This neither behave on part of any Member of the House nor does it add to the dignity of the entire

House. I will try my best to speak to the hon. Minister about your question and ask him to give its reply. You please cooperate with the Chair and do not ever try to breach the sanctity of the well of the House.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me a minute. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Sir, unemployment is a national level problem.

MR. SPEAKER : We will discuss about it. The subject is in my knowledge. We will certainly hold discussion on it.

[English]

Please sit down. I have gone to the Question Hour.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, two Indians are being held by the Talibans. They are under the control of Talibans for the past four days. . . .(Interruptions) The Government of India has to interfere immediately to safeguard the lives of these Indians. They hail from Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh. What is the Government's reaction on this? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Sir, it is a very serious matter. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, it has been coming in the newspapers for the past two days. I request the Government in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister will give the reaction at the right time.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Sir, what is your ruling on the problem of unemployment?

MR. SPEAKER : My ruling in this regard is that a debate should be held on this subject. The debate on this subject should be held for 3-4 hours. I will raise this matter before BAC and hold a discussion on it.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.08 hrs.

[English]

Advertisement on Gandhiji

+

*141. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Ministry has issued an advertisement on the Gandhiji's birthday this year inscribing deliberate attempt to belittle Gandhiji's Legacy of non-violence quoting him as saying "I would rather have India resort to arms in order to defend her honour than to remain a helpless witness to her own dishonour" against the established Gandhian philosophy;

(b) if so, whether there has been a strong opposition from various quarters in this regard; and

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

[Translation]

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

Statement

(a) The quote used in this year's advertisement on Gandhiji's Birthday does not dishonour Gandhian philosophy. Instead, it stresses Gandhiji's concern for India's honour and dignity. The quote used was taken from a book on Gandhiji titled 'Mahatma - Life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi' (Volume-II) written by Shri D.G. Tendulkar and published by Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The said quote was written by Mahatma Gandhi in an article entitled 'The Doctrine of the Sword' written by him in 'Young India' on August 11, 1920.

(b) and (c) In so far as DAVP/Ministry of I and B are concerned, no reaction from any quarter regarding this advertisement has been received.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in part (b) and (c) that in respect of this advertisement no reaction has been expressed from any quarter. The advertisement issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting reads like this :

"Main Bharat ke apne apman ka asahay sakshi bane rahneki apeksha, main uske samman ki raksha ke uddeshya se hathiyar ka sahara lene ko rahoonga". (I would rather have India resort to arms in order to defend her honour than to remain a helpless witness to her dishonour)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, "Ahimsa Parmodharmah" is the epitome of Gandhian Philosophy. He always taught the lesson of 'Ahimsa' (Non-violence). The quotation used by your Ministry was taken from "young India". They say that No reaction has been expressed in response to it. I want a reply to it. I would like to quote the reaction, which has been received in that regard.

[English]

"Vadodara-based editor of *Bhoomi Putra* Jagdish Shah said : "They have murdered Gandhi. He was a firm believer of non-violence, they have quoted him without giving the reference.

Vedchhi-based Narayan Desai, who was in Ahmedabad where his four-volume biography on Mahatma Gandhi in Gujarati was released, said : "The same advertisement was issued by some other organisations also, they are using him to serve their purpose. They find him more important for selfish reasons, not for his ideals."

Veteran Gandhian Chuniabhai Vaidya said that "Gandhi once said he would consider it non-violence if a woman while protecting her honour killed someone. Can such a statement be used to say he espoused violence?"

A group of human rights activists, including Rohit Prajapati Nandini Manjrekar and Anand Mazgaonkar, said "they were horrified to see the advertisement. The mischievous intent of the advertisement is obvious. . ."

[Translation]

I would like to know as to how the Minister could not get the relevant information whereas a lot of reaction has been expressed in this regard.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, DAVP under our Ministry floats an advertisement in the newspapers of the country on three occasions i.e. on 26th January, 15th August and 2nd October. Shri D.G. Tendulkar has written biography of Mahatma Gandhi in eight volumes which has been brought out by our publication division.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : They do not have any other quote than this. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Please allow me to speak.

[Translation]

This book was first brought out in 1951 and in 1961 it was reviewed and then reprinted. Its introduction has been written by Jawahar Lal ji. He has written in his book.

[English]

"It brings together more facts and data about Gandhi than any book that I know. I consider this book to be of great value as a record not only of a life of a man in supreme generation, but also as a period in India's history."

[Translation]

There is a quotation from an article written by Gandhiji and appearing in "Young India" on 11th August, 1920 wherein Gandhiji has written. "If one has to choose between cowardice and violence which one has to be opted for". It was said in that context there. There he said :

[English]

"If I have to choose between cowardice and violence. . ." Certainly, he gave certain instances. There, he said that "the honour of the nation is supreme and if that requires violence, certainly it is. . ." He made those comments there.

[*Translation*]

He also stated that it was because of that they participated in Boar war. He also made a mention of it. What I want to say is that there is a need to look into the overall personality and thinking of Gandhiji. I would humbly like to tell Smt. Kantiji in the context of reply to her question that we have mentioned it in the reply that DAVP has not received any objection in this regard. So far as the reaction expressed in various newspapers is concerned, I would like to state that our's is a democratic system of Governance and everyone has the freedom to express themselves through free press. If the Government of India based on the views expressed by Gandhiji in this book has published a quotation in respect of choosing between cowardice and violence in the context of national honour and pride in my opinion that this would be the exact depiction of Gandhiji's personality. It is not that we do not give it. We give it every year and sometimes we give quoted quotation. There is need to look into the totality of his personality if we see it in its entirety, the point stated by Gandhiji in honour of the nation, is perfectly alright.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know as to why the hon'ble Minister has cited this quote. A lot has been said in the Gandhian Darshan. All the Members of this House know it.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, we already know that.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : The entire country is well aware of it and the Minister of information and Broadcasting is well aware that the communal forces in the country particularly Sangh Parivar has been deadly against the Gandhian philosophy and ideology of Gandhiji. It has been their tradition to present Gandhiji's thoughts in a distorted manner.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sangh Parivar bring out a magazine namely, 'Panchjanya' and this fact can be corroborated by going through that magazine. A layman of this country know that Gandhiji had attained freedom for the country by means of truth and non-violence. Keeping this in mind

what message does the hon'ble Minister want to give to the people of the country by citing this quotation. This advertisement is published only for ten per cent population and I want to know the reaction of the common man to this and what does the hon'ble Minister want to say to the people of the country. This is what I want to know?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the DAVP has been publishing advertisements on the occasion of 2nd October every year. We are in power for the last five-six years. These are published with some dictum every year. As I said in the beginning, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru has made a good and useful comment about the authenticity of this book. This book was published in 1951. . . .(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : This is a good book but what is the impact of this Book on the general public and what does the hon'ble Minister want to convey by citing this quotation?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say only this much that Gandhiji has said this in the context of cowardice. . . .(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Please do not speak about Gandhiji.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this quotation has not been cited in this context. For what purpose this book has been published?

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Kanti Singhji, your question has been replied to. Please sit down.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do agree the fact that Gandhiji had written this keeping in view the security and dignity of the country which is relevant even today. So far as ideology of Sangh Parivar is concerned, I would like to tell Shrimati Kanti Singh with all humility that she should try to avoid this political remark after a crushing defeat in elections. . . .(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is contradicting his own statements. . . .(*Interruptions*) Sir, I am on a point of order. The hon. Minister

has stated that no objection, from any quarter, has been received in this regard. But in his reply, the hon. Minister states that no reaction has been received in this regard. What is the distinction between the words 'reaction' and 'objection'?

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has already replied to that also. He has stated that he did not receive it. You have not listened to him properly. He has said that the Government has not received it. This is not a point of order.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have got truth and non-violence in legacy. 2600 years ago lord Mahavira and Lord Budha gave message of truth and non-violence to the world which Gandhiji practised. It was not unfortunate for us and an irony that Gandhiji was assassinated in this country. Everybody know who was the assassin. . . .(Interruptions) People are talking about this". It is being asked as to who was the assassin. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : ". . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : All objectionable words will be expunged from the record.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gandhiji was assassinated and now his ideology is being distorted and the Government is unaware of it. All Gandhians are upset with the advertisement published by his Ministry. All the people have expressed their reaction thereto and the Government are unaware of that and the hon'ble Minister is justifying that advertisement. In that advertisement various quotes of Gandhiji are given. For example if one has to choose from cowardice and violence, Gandhi has preferred to choose violence. But it does not mean that violence. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasadji, please wait a minute.

(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : Don't you listen that I am speaking.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : He should apologise for this. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : What for the should apologise?

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said that if what he has said is objectionable, it will be removed from the records.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : What is objectionable?

MR. SPEAKER : The objectionable part is that you are interfering and nothing else. If what you have also said is objectionable, it will be removed from the record and there is nothing to worry about.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The ideology of Gandhiji has been misquoted. He has rightly said that he did not consider it violence if a woman while protecting her honour kill someone.

Second thing he has said is that if one has to choose from cowardice and violence, one should choose violence. They have misquoted Gandhiji for their own benefit by saying that despite being non-violent Gandhiji had preferred violence in case of adverse situation. All Gandhians are upset with this and they say that they are not aware of any reaction. This has published in the Indian Express, a leading newspaper of the country and our Minister of Information and Broadcasting is unaware of this. He is deliberately trying to suppress this thing. I would like to say that he will have to make clear the context otherwise it will be misconstrued. Humanism is Gandhism. The people of Hindu world accept the fact that disguised humanism is Gandhism. What people from India and other parts of the world has said. . . .(Interruptions) Can't you understand this. You cannot understand this. It is the

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

'Urjadarshan' of Gandhiji, it is humanism and Gandhism. When Dr. Lohia went to meet Einstein. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You ask the question. Why don't you ask your question? It's Question Hour and you should ask your question.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : What is the rationale behind misinterpreting the philosophy of Gandhiji? The Hon. Minister may kindly tell us.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Hon Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member Raghuvansh Babu comes from my State Bihar. His scholarship and eloquence is par excellence and I cannot say anything about it. But this much I must say that it would be great if the conviction in and commitment to truth and non-violence he has could also be reflected in my State where his party is in power. But this is a different issue. He said one thing as to how I quoted him. What have I said? I am quoting it from the "Young India" as to what Gandhiji had said on 11 August, 1920.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The hon. Minister is referring to Bihar. I would like to tell you that such is the glory of Bihar's soil which made Mohandas Karamchand Mahatma Gandhi. This is the Karmabhoomi of Bhagwan Mahavira and the Buddha. This is the land which ruined the killers of Gandhiji, sent Advani behind bars and Bihar is the destroyer of wrong doers and riateers. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Hon. Member, Raghuvansh Babu has said as to what I have quoted. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen, the hon. Minister is replying.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : I would like to quote before you what Mahatma Gandhiji wrote in the "Young India" on 11 August, 1920.

[English]

"I would rather have India resort to arms in order to defend her honour than she should in a cowardly manner become or remain a helpless witness to her dishonour."

[Translation]

He referred to the honour and, security of India, and Raghuvansh Babu had unfortunately referred to his assassination. This has been raised time and again, it has been made clear by the Commission. This is not true and it should be expunged from the records. Raghuvansh Babu should not level such baseless allegations. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Krishna Bose ji, you ask your question.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Sir, this is a very important question. Gandhiji is our greatest leader. We must not be carried away either by this side or that side. We must think of this as a very serious proposition. I do not think the Government have misquoted him, they have just quoted him. That is not the problem here. I do not see any reason why the opposition are attributing motives as if they have quoted it on purpose. I do not see what the problem is.

Two questions were raised by two Members from Bihar. Bihar was the centre of Quit India movement. They should be proud of that. It is true what the Minister said that if the choice was between cowardice and violence, Gandhiji would have preferred violence. Gandhiji had said that again and again. There is no doubt about that. . . .(Interruptions)

In April, 1942 he said that he was prepared "to take the risk of violence to end the great calamity of slavery". . . .(Interruptions) Gandhiji said again and I quote, "Ordered anarchy is worse than real anarchy." He said that if India had a sword, he would have asked them to take the sword. We did not have the sword at that time.

My friends in the Congress, let me read one quotation of Gandhiji. He said, "Ahimsa with me is a creed." Yes it was a creed with him. "But it is never as a creed that I placed it before India. I placed it before the Congress as a political weapon to be employed for the solution of practical problems." You should remember that as Congressmen. . . .(Interruptions)

We are in no way belittling Gandhiji's Ahimsa which is a great creed. But we must have a balanced view.

... (Interruptions) My question to the Minister is as to why his answer is somewhat apologetic? He is not dishonouring Gandhiji's philosophy. We should always place Gandhiji's views in an objective and balanced manner. He was a very complex character and a great man. We honour him by placing him as a balanced character.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, this is just an observation. If you want you can respond.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Sir, I deeply appreciate the kind words she has used.

DAVP has always stated the facts about Gandhi in the last 35 years which in a way brings the totality of the work of the ideals and personality of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji was a towering figure, a man of peace, and also a man of profound philosophy. We need to understand Gandhiji in an objective manner. It is very important to the future generations of India also to learn Gandhiji in totality. That is what we need today. We are not apologetic, we are very clear. We understand the philosophy of Gandhiji, and we shall try our best to project that in an objective manner.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure the House through you that the hon. Minister has correctly quoted two sentences from the article "The Doctrine of the Sword" written in *Young India* by Gandhiji on August, 11. But if he can read two sentences, I do not see why his Ministry cannot read the rest of the sentences in exactly the same article. Unlike Shrimati Krishna Bose who jumped from 1920 to 1942, I would like to remain with the article.

Immediately after the second quotations which the hon. Minister read, Gandhiji said :

"But I believe that non-violence is infinitely superior to violence, forgiveness is more manly than punishment."

He goes on in the same article to say :

"I am not a visionary. I claim to be a practical idealist. Religion of non-violence is not merely meant for the *nshis* and saints. It is meant for the common people as well. Non-violence is the law of our species as violence is the law of the brute."

He goes on to say :

"I have, therefore, ventured to place before India the ancient law of self-sacrifice. . . Non violence in its dynamic condition means conscious suffering. It does not mean meek submission to the will of the evil-doer, but it means putting one's whole soul against the will of the tyrant."

Then, he goes on to say :

"And so, I am not pleading for India to practise non-violence because she is weak. I want her to practise non-violence being conscious of her strength and power. No training in arms is required for realisation of her strength."

And, in the end, Gandhiji says :

"If India takes up the doctrine of the sword, she may gain momentary victory. Then India will cease to be the pride of my heart."

The BJP has won a momentary victory and that is why India, under the BJP, has ceased to be the pride of my heart. I challenge the hon. Minister to deny all these things that I read from exactly the same article. They have chosen to take one sentence out of context to mislead the country.

I demand, Sir, that this is a matter of such a great importance that we should have a Half-an-hour discussion on this.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Sir, as I said at the outset, for the last 35 years we are keeping on giving quotations from Gandhiji's work on 2nd October. This year, we gave this. Whenever we give one to two-line quotation, we cannot give 20 lines or 30 lines or one paragraph.

Let me assure Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar that the people of this country know Gandhiji very well. They have profound respect for Gandhiji, and we shall try to ensure that the great work and philosophy of Gandhiji are always respected. We have also got the people's support. Howsoever they may wish, let us not bring in the political issues here. That is what I wanted to say.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, may we have a Half-an-hour discussion on this Question?

MR. SPEAKER : This Question has already taken more than half an hour. But if the Members want to discuss it, yes they may raise it under the device of Half-an-hour discussion.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, the whole Ministry is being misused. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to know only this much from the hon. Minister that as Gandhi ji spoke of the security and honour of the country, when Pakistan attacked India, did our forces go there by asking Gandhiji? So do they want us to remain a silent spectator to Pakistan's attack and own dishonour? I would request the hon. Minister to repeal this quote of Mahatma Gandhi again and again so that Gandhiji could be honoured in real sense of the term. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, no reply is required.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, reference has been made here about the assassination of Mahatma Gandhiji. . . .(Interruptions) I walk out of the House.

11.34 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Ramdas Athawale and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This matter is over now, and I am going to the next Question.

Task Force on FM Radio

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*142. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the private FM Stations across the country to broadcast news on their frequencies;

(b) if so, whether the Government had set up/ propose to setup any task force to review the policy in relation to national security aspect and observance of programme code like the one followed by All India Radio presently;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and reference of the task force;

(d) the time by which the new policy is likely to come into effect;

(e) the amount earned by the Government from F.M. licence fees during the last three years and till date so far; and

(f) the number of F.M. players declared defaulters alongwith the penalty imposed on each F.M. player during the above period?

[Translation]

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) to (c) The Government had, on 24th July, constituted a Committee to make recommendations for radio broadcasting for phase II. The details of the terms and reference of the said Committee is placed at the Annexure-I. The Committee has on 17th November, 2003 submitted its report to the Government.

(d) No time frame can be indicated for the decision on the recommendations of the Committee.

(e) A total sum of Rs. 23346.85 lakhs, which includes licence fees, reserve licence fees, earnest money deposit, sale of tender document and encashment of bank guarantees have been received by the Government till date.

(f) Licence Agreements were signed with 16 companies for 37 stations in 19 cities, to establish,

maintain and operate FM Radio broadcast stations on certain terms and conditions. The details of the companies who violated terms and conditions of the licence and the action taken thereon are given in the Annexure-II.

Annexure-I

The Terms of Reference of the Committee, constituted by the Government, on 24.07.2003, to make recommendation for Radio Broadcasting for Phases II

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Determining a transparent and effective bidding/ auction process to be adopted for allotment of frequencies. (ii) Assessment of a viable licensee fee structure for the various cities (one time entry fee, fixed licence fees, revenue sharing etc.) to be based on clearly defined parameters. (iii) Suggestions regarding extent of foreign equity participation in private FM in order to make them economically more viable/sustainable while also keeping in mind regimes in other sectors and requirements of national security. (iv) Study the desirability and legal implications of making modifications in licensing regime of Phase-I licensees should a different licensing regime be proposed for phase-II. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (v) <i>Suggestions for improvement in content being broadcast and considering the inclusion of news.</i> (vi) Examining the possibility of having non-commercial, non-advertisement driven channels, to be operated/licenced by the same commercial broadcasters; terms and conditions thereof; consideration of whether type of content of these channels could include subjects related to the heritage and culture of India. (vii) Recommendations for a code of conduct in programming matters and method of strict enforcement for violations thereof. (viii) Assessment of whether colocation is necessary and desirable and if found otherwise, approach to be adopted in the metros, where colocated set ups involving huge investments stand operationalised. (ix) Determining the legal implications of the regime which may be proposed vis-à-vis the existing one. (x) Formulating draft bidding documents and contract/ licence agreement. (xi) Other matters as may be referred to the Committee from time to time. |
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Annexure-II

S.No.	Name of Company	Stations	Action/Other remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s. Vertex B, casting Co. Pvt. Ltd.	Kolkata, Indore, Bhopal and Visakhapatnam	Bank Guarantee encashed
2.	M/s Millenium Delhi B.cast Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi	The Company Obtained stay from High Court against encashment of Bank Guarantee.
3.	M/s Millenium Chennai B.cast Pvt. Ltd.	Chennai	The Company Obtained stay from High Court against encashment of Bank Guarantee.
4.	M/d Mid-day Radio North (India) Ltd.	Delhi	The Company Obtained stay from High Court against encashment of Bank Guarantee.
5.	M/d Mid-day B'casting South (India) Ltd.	Chennai	The Company Obtained stay from High Court against encashment of Bank Guarantee.

1	2	3	4
6.	M/s. Entertainment Network India Ltd.	Hyderabad, Lucknow and Cuttack	The Company Obtained stay from High Court against encashment of Bank Guarantee.
7.	M/s. Music Broadcast Pvt. Ltd.	Nagpur and Patna	The Company Obtained stay from High Court against encashment of Bank Guarantee.
8.	M/s Millenium Mumbai B'Cast Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai	Licence revoked and Bank Guarantee encashed. Station is however being run under Court Order.

[English]

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Sir, will the Government direct the FM Stations, which will be broadcasting the news, to cover the important developmental activities taken up by the States in a fair and objective manner? Will they also cover the policy initiatives of the State Governments?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : In terms of the exacting policy, we do not permit broadcast of news on FM Channels. We had set up a task force and it had made certain recommendations also. One of the points of recommendations is that news ought to be permitted.

We had put the substance and summary of the whole recommendations on the website. The Cabinet and the Government of India will have to take a view on it, and thereafter, the question as to whether the State-specific news will be permitted or not will have to be considered; the Cabinet and the Government of India have to take a view on the indirect permissions.

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : May I know whether the Government would provide opportunity to the State Governments to set up Radio Stations subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be necessary, in the national interest?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : As of now, we have three schemes. One is Akashvani Public Broadcaster. The second is the FM Channel. We also have come up with a concept of Community Radios, whereunder any recognised educational institutions could establish Community Radio Stations.

As far as the State Government's specific radio stations are concerned, we have presently no proposals. Having

said that, the State Governments are giving due coverage at the existing Radio Stations themselves, including sponsored programmes. Many Chief Ministers are also having dialogue with the people. Therefore, all the required needs of the State Governments, as far as projection of public broadcaster is concerned, are certainly taken care of.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : FM Radios have been allowed in 37 Stations in 19 cities run by 16 companies. Out of that, eight companies have defaulted. Licence has also been cancelled in the case of one of the companies, but still it is continuing to broadcast. There must be some inherent loophole in the licensing system. It seems that without observing legal points, licences have been given. Otherwise, even after cancellation, how can one broadcast? You can always take the plea that it is in the courts.

We have the earlier experience in the case of other channels that even after the licence was over, money was not being given or we have not collected dues.

In those 16 companies – whichever company has defaulted – have you identified their inter-relationship? There is a commonality in those companies. All the companies or most of them or maybe, all the eight companies might have been promoted by one single organisation, if this is the trend, in future, FM radios will create havoc in the country. They cannot be truthful.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your question. We have very little time. Half an hour is taken by the first question.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : More than half an hour is taken by the first question. Please allot at least ten minutes for this question.

MR. SPEAKER : *Unfortunately, it has taken half an hour. So, we want to finish it soon.*

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : *This is a very important question.*

MR. SPEAKER : *But you can ask the question now.*

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : *I am coming to the question.*

MR. SPEAKER : *Please come to the question.*

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : *I am giving the background.*

MR. SPEAKER : *The Minister knows the background. For all the questions, he knows the background.*

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : *But it should come to the knowledge of the House.*

MR. SPEAKER : *I will ask the Minister to give the background and give answer also.*

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : *We are discussing an important topic in the House. The knowledge of the House is very important.*

May I know whether the Minister has studied the inter-linkage between those eight companies? This is one.

Secondly, even after cancellation of licences, if somebody continues to broadcast, how could the revenues be recovered? Tomorrow, one can plead saying that the licence has been cancelled and he need not pay the licence fee. So, I need specific answers from the hon. Minister in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : *Mr. Minister, you may reply to both part (a) and part (b) of the question.*

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : *We have got 22 FM Stations installed – 14 in metros and eight in other cities.*

Earlier there was an auction bidding process whereby many parties came; some withdrew; some deposited the money, but could not take the licence; some of them executed the licence.

Now, under the new recommendations of the task force, a new suggestion has come about, that we must have a tendering process wherein there are certain pre-qualifications. The Government of India has to take a view

on that. We have certainly identified eight companies and in one case we have encashed the bank guarantee because of its default. In another case also we have proceeded to that but many of them have already taken stay from the court. The matter is pending there. The matter has been heard and in many cases final orders are awaited. Therefore, we will have to await the court verdict. The hon. Members know that when a matter is pending in the court, we have to have restraint as far as that particular matter is concerned.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : *In the beginning itself I had told you that you have the pretext of court. But how can they continue after their licence is cancelled?*

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : *With the vast experience, Shri Murthi will appreciate that we will have to await the court verdict.*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : *Sir, I am afraid, the answer is not complete. Part (f) of the Question related to certain FM players being declared as defaulters and the penalty imposed thereon. In reply, the hon. Minister says that the details of the companies which violated the terms and conditions of the licence and the action taken thereon are given in Annexure-II. Kindly see Annexure-II. There are only three headings; Name of the company, Stations and Action, other remarks. Precisely what was sought to be known from the hon. Minister was, in each case what is the reason and whether there is any violation of the terms and conditions of operation or whether they are guilty of default of payment of fee. There is a difference between the two and the actions can be different in different cases. We are concerned with both.*

Out of these 17 stations which have been allotted to 16 companies, how many are the cases of default where they have failed to pay you the licence fee, or whatever it is, regularly. Secondly, have they violated any of the conditions. So far, in phase-I, the condition is that they cannot use. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : *Shri Bansal, please ask the question. We have very limited time. Further questions are also to be asked.*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : *Sir, it is a valid thing. There is a condition that they cannot broadcast news. We*

know that somewhere, in a different case, you would have given permission to broadcast news in a different context, to which there will be a lot many objections elsewhere. Has any matter come to your notice where people have violated the terms and conditions and in that case what action have you taken? Besides that, the Minister has told us that the recommendations are on the website. It was in the fitness of things that when the Parliament had asked a question a gist of the recommendations should have been attached with this answer, which has not been done.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : If the hon. Member would kindly see, in reference to part (f) of the query itself, names of eight parties and what actions are taken, are given. As far as second part of your query as to whether it has come to our notice that certain parties broadcast news is concerned, you are right. Three instances were brought to our notice wherein certain FM channels broadcast news. We had conveyed to them that it was not within the meaning of the licence and they had agreed also. In two cases it was found that it was an inadvertent slip and they said that they would not repeat it. In one case, they said that they had given only a particular financial news but they said that they shall keep it in mind. Therefore, you are right that three instances have been brought to our notice. We have taken action and they have said that it was an inadvertent mistake and it will not be repeated.

Proposal for Setting Up of Power Projects

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*143. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power projects commenced three years back are still awaiting completion;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of the companies and capacity of proposed power plants and the stipulated time within which they were scheduled to be completed;

(d) whether the Government has fixed the responsibility for non-completion of such projects;

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

(f) whether the Government is planning to identify new areas for setting up of power projects in each State during the year 2003-04;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government is likely to encourage setting up of gas based power plants in the country in future; and

(i) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (i) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) During the year 2000 work in respect of 7 projects commenced out of which 5 have already been completed. The list of 2 power projects work on which commenced during this period and presently are under implementation is at Annexure.

Normal gestation period for completion of power projects ranges between three to seven years depending upon whether it is a gas based combined cycle project, coal based thermal project or hydro project.

(d) and (e) The 2 projects where work commenced during 2000 and which are still in the implementation process are at different stages of execution and with the close monitoring system and with a nodal officer designated in the Central Electricity Authority for each project for facilitating resolution of bottlenecks, these projects are expected to be completed as per schedule.

(f) and (g) During the period 2003-04, so far sites for 162 hydro electricity schemes totaling 50,000 MW, and 106 thermal schemes totaling 1,04,000 MW have been identified. Depending on techno economic feasibility and subject to commercial viability, these will be taken up for development.

(h) and (i) Yes, Sir. Central Electricity Authority has been asked for identification of suitable sites for development of gas based projects keeping in view the availability of gas and economics of power generation.

Annexure

List of Power Projects where construction work commenced between 1.1.2000 to 30.11.2003 and are still awaiting completion

Sl No	State/Project/Name/	Implementing Agency	Month of Main Plant Order/ Sanction	Capacity (MW)	Commissioning Target	Schedule Anticipated/ Actual (A)
Central Sector						
1.	Sikkim Teesta V	NHPC	02/2000	510	2006-07	2006-07
State Sector						
2.	Himachal Pradesh Larji	HPSEB	1/2000	126	2004-05	2004-05

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Sir, in reply to part (a) to (c) of my question, it has been stated in the Annexure that only two power projects, on which works were commenced, are presently under implementation. As part (a) of my supplementary question I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has got any information about the work on power project. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had sought your permission to speak in the half an hour discussion on the issue of electricity in Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not received any notice from anyone.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I have given a notice on this.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not got any notice for half-an-hour discussion.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I have given a notice for half-an-hour discussion. I have sought half-an-hour discussion on this very issue.

MR. SPEAKER : You give your notice.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : How can they raise it in Question Hour?

As part (a) of my supplementary question I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has got any information about the work on power project namely, AKRIMOTA Thermal Power Station in Kutch district of Gujarat. The name of the company is Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation. The work was commenced in November 2000 and it is lagging much behind its schedule.

Second part of my supplementary question is, in Parts (e) and (d) of my main Question I wanted to know specifically whether the Government has fixed responsibility for non-completion of such projects, but answer to my specific question has not been given. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that for non-completion of projects in schedule time, whether the Government wants to fix any responsibility and accountability on highest officer of that project or not. If yes, what action will be taken and if not, the reasons thereof.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked a question regarding a special project of Gujarat. Whatever information he wants in this regard, I will send him in writing.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : I wanted to know whether the responsibility will be fixed or not.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a general question.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : I would like to know whether responsibility will be fixed on higher officers for the non-completion of projects in scheduled time or not.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will obtain the information and send it to the Member.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : I would like to know the details of identification of suitable sites for development of gas-based projects identified by the Central Electricity Authority. Further, as per the news reported in the newspaper, the Government of India is going to import more than 50 lakh tonnes of gas from Oman and other countries through Dahej Port in Gujarat. I would like to know whether all preparations to facilitate such import have already been completed or not. I would also like to know whether the Central Electricity Authority, in collaboration with the Gujarat Electricity Board or any other company, would identify suitable sites for gas-based power projects in Gujarat as the import of gas would be from Dahej port of Gujarat.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Electricity Authority has been asked to conduct survey regarding setting up of gas based power project. This survey is underway. The information given by the Member here is true. The NTPC has invited tenders in this regard. At present tender in this regard is in process.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, the question of electricity is going to be the most important question. The targets fixed for the 9th Five Year Plan have not been achieved. It appears that the targets fixed for the 10th Five Year Plan are also not going to be achieved. The major reason behind this is that the Government are having a policy to get the private sector make investment into this. The private sector is not ready to invest into it because they will have to wait for 20 years to recover their money. If such situation is going to emerge then will the Government examine it thoroughly and spend money from public sector to achieve the targets fixed under the tenth five year plan as you failed

in assessing the target of generating 30,000 MW electricity during the ninth five year plan. This is the outcome of policy and not just of tender or officer. We should concentrate on private sector but, in case there are no returns then it will be difficult for you to take corrective steps in this regard. I want to know as to what will be the policy of the Government in this regard?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of electricity has become a million dollar question. I share the feelings of the hon. Member. He has expressed his concern over non-achievement of the targets fixed during the Ninth Five Year Plan and whether we would be able to achieve the targets fixed during the tenth five year plan? We have fixed a target of 41,000 MW during the tenth five year plan and we are trying to achieve this target. There is project of approximately 32,000 MW which is in different stages of progress. The response of private sector has not been encouraging as far as its participation in power generation sector is concerned. Therefore, in the tenth five year plan, we have given maximum targets to the Central Sector followed by the State sector with the minimum targets given to private sector. The Government will certainly shoulder its responsibility of catering to the power requirement.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has referred to 162 hydel scheme. The crisis of water is also increasing day by day and its percentage is constantly going down. I want to know from the hon. Minister the percentage of hydel schemes on the anvil and the chances of their completion and the ways the demand of power will be met in case the said schemes are not completed.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the able guidance of the hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, we have started hydel project of 50,000 MW. Approximately 162 projects have been selected. We are trying to generate 50,000 MW hydro electricity under these projects. As the hon. Member has expressed his concern certainly, we are trying to promote hydro-electricity. Therefore, an allocation of rupees 14,000 crore has been made exclusively for hydro electricity in the budget for the current year. We are trying to meet the demand, whatever it be, through CPSUs, be it of hydro-power or the thermal power.

Testing of Pilotless Aircraft

*144. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the pilotless aircraft 'Lakshya' was successfully test-flown recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to induct the above aircraft in the Indian Air Force in the near future; and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be inducted?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Recently trials were carried out for the evaluation of the Lakshya system and operation by the Army.

(c) and (d) The Lakshya aircraft has already been inducted in Air Force in November, 2000.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : We do not want to hear him. . . .(Interruptions) We are going out of the House. . . .(Interruptions)

11.53 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Rupchand Pal and some other hon. Members then left the House)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir. . . . (Interruptions)

11.53½ hrs.

(At this stage Shri Shivraj V. Patil and some other hon. Members then left the House)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, this is an insult to the House that they participated in the proceedings of the House till now and now they are walking out. . . . (Interruptions) Till when this drama will go on. . . . (Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very disgraceful act. It is a murder of democracy. . . .(Interruptions) Is this the way in a democratic set up, first asking a question related to security and then to walk out. This is the prerogative of the Prime Minister to appoint anybody as Minister. . . .(Interruptions) He is the Defence Minister of the country. How long will it continue that they come to the Parliament, ask question and walk out when their question comes up. . . .(Interruptions) In my opinion, this is highly condemnable. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should take some step in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should move a censure motion here on this issue. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I raised the same issue in the last Session. I requested you to give your ruling on this. . . .(Interruptions) This is an important matter. They have no faith in democracy. They have no faith in parliamentary procedure. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the subject before the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : We should move a censure motion here on this issue. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had submitted before you that this affair is continuing for a long period and in my opinion, this is, in no way, justified. . . .(Interruptions) I think, you should call a meeting in your chamber to close this chapter. I think, this should not continue any longer. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I propose that it should be censured. This is a murder of democracy. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I share your feelings and I am also of the opinion that every party should listen to Mr. Minister, but you must be aware that there was a full discussion on this issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : After the discussion, the Congress people had said that the reason for which they were walking out.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I expect the ruling party to move a motion on the subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : If the Congress Party does so then. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member has asked a question. He has every right to ask his question. Let the Minister reply. I cannot go beyond the business that is before the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[Translation]

Chautalaji, you ask your question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I condemn the behaviour of the Congress party. I request hon. Speaker, to take some decision in this regard. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter relating to theft of idols is pending before you. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : The way these people are taking democracy for a ride before you, is condemnable. . . .*(Interruptions)* My supplementary question is that to what extent the pilotless aircraft the engines fitted in these aircraft and the spare parts used in these engines are indigenous and what is the production cost of these aircraft. . . .*(Interruptions)* How far these aircraft are capable to cater to the needs of the Indian Air Force?. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, if a question is asked and if they walk out, then it is against the rules. . . .

(Interruptions) Every time they are doing like this. . . .

(Interruptions) You please de-recognise the Opposition.

. . .*(Interruptions)* They are violating the rules. . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Could you please show me the rule under which I can do that?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, you have the residuary powers to do this.

MR. SPEAKER : I want to know the exact rule under which I can de-recognise a political party?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, it is a violation of the Constitution. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, how long will this continue. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, you please tell them that if they keep on doing so, then. . . * We shall not let them speak here. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Chautalaji, you please ask your question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We shall discuss it later once you move the motion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : The censure motion should be moved. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, you can condemn their action. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : May I remind the House again as to what had happened? I do not want to take the time of the House. On this issue, I had convened a meeting. A number of Members present here were also present in that meeting. I wanted that this issue should be settled once for all. I also desire that all hon. Members of all political parties must participate in the Question Hour and the

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

debates. The Minister is present here. A question has been asked. The hon. Member can put a question and other hon. Members can ask further supplementary questions on that basic question. But this is not happening only because on some issues they have to say that some Resolution has to be brought in this regard in the House. The draft of the Resolution has to be given by the Ruling Party. If the Ruling Party gives me a draft, then I can send it to them and then they may modify it and thereafter a discussion can take place on the issue if we want to resolve this issue. Till that is done, I am sorry, things will continue the same way.

12.00 hrs.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, they cannot hold the House to ransom. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not reiterating the position and nothing more.

(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : They cannot bully the whole thing. They cannot say that this will continue until and unless that is done. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is necessary that the Members should remain present in the House and must put their questions to the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Sir, you may suspend them for the day. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : You call a meeting to convey our feeling to them that if they behave in such a manner then we can also do likewise to their leader.

MR. SPEAKER Ajay Singh ji, you ask your supplementary question.

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister the extent to which the pilotless aircraft, the engines fitted in these aircraft and the spare parts used in these engines are indigenous or imported? At the same time, I want to know as to how far these aircraft are capable of catering to the needs of the Indian Air Force?

MR. SPEAKER : You ask your supplementary question soon as a lot of time has passed.

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : You please check those who have wasted time. I do not waste even a single minute.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the aircraft in question goes into the sky with a particular aim about which the jawans and officers of our army, navy and airforce are imparted training. This is not an aircraft. This is not a carrier aircraft, rather it takes the target up in the air for which training is imparted. The cost of this aircraft is rupees 2.9 crore. This is completely indigenous. It is such a fine aircraft that the country like Israel is trying to relate itself with this aircraft.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Deployment of Submarines and Troops by Pakistan

*145. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the deployment of submarines and troops by Pakistan near west coast of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Operations of the Pakistan Navy submarines near Gujarat coast have come to notice during last two months. There is also known deployment of Pakistani troops near west coast of Gujarat, opposite Rann of Kutch and Sir Creek Area.

(c) The development of Pakistan troops/submarines/ naval craft are monitored by the Indian Armed Forces, through constant surveillance.

[*Translation*]

Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme

*146. SHRI AMIR ALAM : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has introduced Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme;

(b) if so, the salient features and objectives of the said scheme;

(c) the funds allocated under the said scheme; and

(d) the number of beneficiaries therefrom, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) The Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities has been named as Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme.

(b) *The salient features and objectives of the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme*

- Has been in operation for more than two decades and extends to the entire country.
- Implemented through the medium of Non-Governmental Organization to supplement the rehabilitation services delivered through Governmental and semi Governmental agencies.
- Registered Societies/Public Trust are eligible for assistance in the form of Grant-in-aid for running projects under the Scheme.
- Covers projects relating to Education, Training including Vocational Training, Placement Services, Therapeutic and Rehabilitation services.
- Covers mental retardation, hearing impairment, visual impairment, locomotor disability, leprosy cured persons, cured or controlled mentally ill etc. for provision for rehabilitation services.
- Assistance is provided for meeting expenditure on fixed honorarium of human resource personnel, transportation, stipend, cost of raw

material, contingencies, hostel maintenance charges etc. and non recurring expenditure on furniture, books, equipment, vehicles, construction of buildings etc.

- Extent of funding is upto 90% of the budgeted amount for the project arrived at on the basis of prescribed cost norms.
 - Application for grant is to be made in the prescribed format and basic documents such as audited account, utilization certificate, list of beneficiaries, Managing Committee Members, Memorandum of Articles of Association attached.
 - Grant is released in 2 installments.
- (c) Rs. 75 crore is allocated under the Scheme for the year 2003-04.
- (d) Statewise number of beneficiaries for the year 2002-03 is given at statement.

Statement

Number of beneficiaries under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme for the year 2002-2003

State	Number of Beneficiaries
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	34994
Arunachal Pradesh	202
Assam	515
Bihar	1060
Chandigarh	933
Chhattisgarh	180
Delhi	16344
Goa	214
Gujarat	30720
Haryana	4881
Himachal Pradesh	622

1	2
Jammu and Kashmir	65
Jharkhand	131
Karnataka	9200
Kerala	10632
Madhya Pradesh	1514
Maharashtra	17049
Manipur	556
Meghalaya	483
Mizoram	178
Orissa	3393
Pondicherry	75
Punjab	2248
Rajasthan	2648
Tamil Nadu	9545
Tripura	104
Uttar Pradesh	17168
Uttaranchal	479
West Bengal	8645
Grand Total	174778

[English]

Electricity Act, 2003

*147. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the implementation of certain provision of the Electricity Act, 2003 would lead to increase in power tariff for the ordinary consumers;

(b) if so, whether this aspect has been brought to the notice of the Union Government by the States and by Andhra Pradesh Government in particular in August, 2003;

(c) if so, the response of the Government thereto; and

(d) the methodology to be adopted by the Government to sort out the objections?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) The Electricity Act, 2003 is a progressive legislation that provides for measures conducive to development of electricity industry, promoting competition therein, protecting interest of consumers and supply of electricity to all areas, rationalization of electricity tariff, ensuring transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies etc.

(b) Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Punjab have written to the Government of India highlighting some of the issues connected with the Electricity Act, 2003. Government of Andhra Pradesh while supporting the overall objectives of the Electricity Act, 2003 which is a critical legislation to facilitate development and improved management of the power sector by promoting measures conducive to promotion of competition and encouraging private participation, have raised concerns about some of the provisions of the Act. While supporting open access, concern has been expressed regarding the liberal definition of captive generation, exemption from surcharge for such captive generation to take care of cross subsidy, provisions relating to parallel distribution networks in the area of existing distribution licensee, operational provision relating to theft and period of disconnection.

(c) and (d) The Electricity Bill 2001 was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August, 2001. This was evolved on the basis of a broad consensus after detailed and in depth discussions with the States and all other stakeholders. The Bill had, along with other progressive features, the provisions for Captive generation being freely permitted and having right to non-discriminatory open access through the grid without payment of surcharge and also for more than one distribution licensee operating in the same area of supply.

The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Energy in the Lok Sabha, which again undertook detailed consultation with all stakeholders including State Governments. The Government accepted most of the recommendations of the Standing Committee. The liberal definition of captive generation was incorporated in the Act

on the basis of the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

[Translation]

New Guidelines for Selection of Dealers

*148. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

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

(a) whether the Government has issued new guidelines for the selection of retail outlets/LPG agencies/dealers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether reservation has been provided for SCs/STs, freedom fighters and outstanding sports persons as per the new guidelines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are authorized to select dealers/distributors for retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributorship and SKO-LDO dealerships on the basis of guidelines adopted by them. The Government have only advised the OMCs to observe certain broad parameters in the guidelines.

There is no change in the policy of reservation for various sections of the society, and the percentage of reservation is as under :—

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes	— 25%
Freedom Fighters	— 2%
Outstanding Sports Persons	— 2%
Defence personnel	— 8%
Paramilitary/Police/Government personnel	— 8%
Physically Handicapped Persons	— 5%
Open Category	— 50%

33% of the dealerships/distributorships in each category are reserved for women belonging to that category.

[English]

Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority

*149. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to set up a Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority (RTRA) to rationalise rail tariff; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has approved setting up of a Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority by the Ministry of Railways for rationalisation of Rail Tariff. In view of the implications of such an Authority, the subject matter is under examination by the Ministry of Railways.

Guidelines by CERC

*150. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has recently announced guidelines and enabling procedures for open access in the transmission in the power sector;

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

(c) whether the distribution companies and trading companies are likely to be benefited by the guidelines of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission; and

(d) if so, the extent to which these companies are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (d) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has issued an order on open access in the Inter-State transmission on 14.11.2003.

The CERC order provides that all transmission service providers in the country including POWERGRID shall provide non-discriminatory open access for Inter-State transmission to any distribution company, trader, generating company, captive plant or any permitted consumer with immediate effect. Apart from creating new options for distribution companies and bulk customers for buying power this will facilitate competition in the power generation industry as envisaged in the Electricity Act, 2003. The salient features of the order are at Statement enclosed.

Statement

Guidelines by CERC

Salient Features of CERC's order on open access in Inter-State transmission

- Existing Regional Postage Stamp pricing method is to be applied.
- Discoms, Traders, IPPs, captive Plants can immediately avail Inter-State open access.
- Two categories of open access customers – short term and long term.
- Nodal Agency for short term customers will be the RLDC within which the point of drawal is located.
- CTU will be the nodal agency for long term customers.
- Minimum 5 years commitment required for becoming long term customer.
- Long term customers to be treated at par with original beneficiaries of the CTU network.
- Short term customers will be curtailed first in case of transmission constraint.
- Mismatches in the energy drawals by the open access customers to be billed as per the existing frequency linked unscheduled interchange charges under Availability Based Tariff (ABT).
- CERC recommends adoption of ABT at the State level.

Student Loan Scheme by NMDFC

*151. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) propose to start a student loan scheme for pursuing technical and professional education;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and criteria fixed for sanctioning of loan under the said scheme;

(c) the funds provided/likely to be provided under the said scheme during 2003-2004; and

(d) the number of students benefited/likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) has introduced its Educational Loan Scheme during the current financial year i.e. 2003-04 with the objective to facilitate job-oriented education amongst the weaker sections of the minorities. The scheme is implemented through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) of the NMDFC, nominated by the respective State Governments. The scheme envisages a maximum loan of Rs. 75,000/- for pursuing professional and technical courses of duration not exceeding 2 years. Funds for this purpose are made available to the SCAs at interest rate of 1% for lending to the beneficiaries at 3%. The loan is repayable in maximum period of five years after completion of the course. Following are the eligibility criteria under the scheme :

- (1) The applicant should belong to any of the notified minority communities i.e. Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists or Zoroastrians.
- (2) The annual family income should be below double the poverty line.
- (3) The applicant should be in age group of 16-32 years.
- (4) Confirmed admission in the intended course is essential.
- (5) Selection is strictly based on merit and perference is given to women and physically challenged candidates.

(c) and (d) As the scheme has been introduced in the current year i.e. 2003-04, the NMDFC has not made

separate allocations to the State Channelising Agencies for this purpose. The SCAs have been advised to use 10% of the Annual Allocations provided to them by the NMDFC for the purpose of Educational loans. Accordingly, allocations to the extent of Rs. 1090.00 lakh are available to the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) for the year 2003-04. As on 30.11.2003, loans amounting to Rs. 22.50 lakh have been disbursed to 161 students under the Scheme.

Ceiling on Entertainment Tax

*152. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

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

(a) whether the Government has requested all State Governments to reduce entertainment tax to 45%;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Ministry had a meeting with the representatives of 10 States in October 2003;

(c) if so, the main decisions arrived at the meeting along with the progress made in regard to implementation of these decisions;

(d) the States which have already reduced their entertainment tax; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to control the piracy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (e) 'Cinema' except 'certification of films' is a State subject. A Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector was set up in January 2001, under the Chairmanship of the Minister for information and Broadcasting in Government of India with nine State Ministers of Information and Public Relations as Members, inter alia to suggest a policy framework both at the Centre and in the States conducive to promoting the entertainment sector, in order to ensure a uniform development pattern for this sector.

The Committee in its second meeting held on 8.11.2001, inter alia, recommended that all State Governments fix their entertainment tax within a ceiling of

60%. In response to this recommendation, several State Governments have reduced the rates of entertainment tax in their States.

In its third meeting held on 13.10.2003 the Committee recommended a further reduction of the ceiling on entertainment tax rates for films from 60% to 45%. The recommendation of the Committee has been circulated to all State Governments.

The following decisions were also taken on various issues including piracy by the Committee in its meetings held on 8.11.2001 and 13.10.2003, which have been circulated, to all State Governments :

- (i) Ministry of I and B to evolve appropriate training modules for both senior police officers and junior police personnel on piracy in the film sector and circulate them to all the States to be included in their training curriculum for the police. The Ministry has conducted a training programme for senior police officers and necessary training material has been compiled.
- (ii) State Governments to conduct training programmes for police personnel and appoint senior nodal police officers who would be responsible for anti piracy activities in States.
- (iii) A sub committee, with representatives of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Haryana, President, Multiplex Association of India and a representative of the Ministry of I and B was constituted to look into the issue of introducing computerized ticketing in the States.
- (iv) The Ministry of I and B to put together a model structure of rules, regulations and incentives for the exhibition sector to be used as a reference point for all States. FICCI has been entrusted with the task of formulating model cinema and cinema related regulations, which will be scrutinized by the above Sub-Committee of the Committee for the Development of the Entertainment Sector.
- (v) State Governments to give single window clearance for foreign film teams shooting in India

and a specific officer to be appointed for facilitating such clearances.

- (vi) State Governments to sensitize their police personnel about copyright violation and take necessary steps to prevent the occurrence of piracy.

Purchase of Power from Nepal

*153. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has entered into a power purchase agreement with Nepal for meeting power supply in the Northern parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the total M.W. of power proposed to be purchased from Nepal;
- (c) whether Northern States are likely to be benefited by this power trading agreement; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) Government of India has not entered into any power purchase agreement with Nepal. However, bilateral exchange of power is taking place since 1971, between contiguous areas on the border of India and Nepal. At present, power exchange between India and Nepal is of the order of 90-100 MW.

(c) and (d) Mutually beneficial exchange of power is taking place along the border of Nepal with the States of Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

[Translation]

Hotline between the Coast Guard Headquarters of India and Pakistan

*154. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Pakistan has accepted the Indian proposal for setting up a hotline between the Coast Guard Headquarters of the two countries;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and appropriate proposal prepared therefor;

(c) whether the Indian fishermen have not got protection from the Coast Guard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the Indian fishermen?

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

(b) Government of India has proposed that the Indian Coast Guard Headquarters could establish communication through International Subscribers Dailing (ISD) with the Maritime Security Agency Headquarters of Pakistan with effect from January 1, 2004. Communication links would cover matters related to the humanitarian aspects concerning fishermen of both countries.

(c) The Indian fishermen fishing within Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are protected by the Indian Coast Guard.

(d) Does not arise.

Power Generation Capacity of Power Plants

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

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has assessed the gap between the power generation capacity of the power generating plants of various State Electricity Boards and the quantum of actual power generated by them.

(b) if so, the generation capacity of power generating plants operated by each State Electricity Board during the year 2003;

(c) the actual power generated during the first nine months during the year 2003;

(d) the financial losses being incurred by each Electricity Board as a result of inefficient functioning of power generation Plants; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The generation capacity of power generating plants operated by each State Electricity Board (SEB)/State Power Utility as on 31st March, 2003 is given at statement enclosed.

(c) The total electricity generation in the country during the first nine months of 2003 (January-September, 2003) has been 402748 Million Units out of which 202158 Million Units was by SEBs/State Power Utilities.

(d) Inefficient operation of a power generating station results into lesser generation of electricity and also comparatively higher fuel consumption and auxiliary power consumption due to lower efficiencies. Since there are large number of units in the country with varying capacities and a mix of new and old units, it is not possible to assess their optimum operation levels and consequently quantify the financial losses.

(e) The remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken are as under :

(f) Renovation and Modernization (R and M) of existing Thermal Power Stations. Power Finance

Corporation (PFC) is providing financial assistance for R and M works at lower rate of interest.

- (ii) Life extension of 106 Thermal units aggregating 10413 MW and R and M of 57 Thermal units aggregating 17270 MW have been planned for execution during 10th Plan.
- (iii) 74 existing hydro power stations aggregating 8082.45 MW capacity in Public Sector (Central and State) have been identified for Renovation, Modernization, uprating and life extension during the 10th Plan period.
- (iv) Early stabilization of newly commissioned Units.
- (v) Monitoring of environmental conditions of Thermal Power Stations to safe guard and eco-system of the area where the plant is situated.
- (vi) Incentive schemes for better performance of thermal power stations in Public Sector.
- (vii) Energy audit of selected Thermal Power Stations in the country to improve the heat rate and reduce the auxiliary power consumption and secondary fuel oil consumption.

Statement

Power Generation Capacity of Power Plants

Name of State	Name of SEB/PSU	Installed Gen. Capacity in MW as on 31.03.03						
		Thermal				Hydro	Wind	Total
		Steam	Diesel	Gas	Sub. Total.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Delhi	IPGPCL	320		612.4	932.4			932.4
Haryana	HPGC	1040	3.92		1043.92	48		1091.92
Himachal Pradesh	HPSEB		0.13		0.13	326.2		326.33
Jammu and Kashmir	JKEB		8.94	175	183.94	311.69		495.63
Punjab	PSEB	2130			2130	2398.94		4528.94
Rajasthan	RRVUNL	1850		113.8	1963.8	163.86	6.4	2134.06
Uttar Pradesh	UPRVUNL	4102			4102			4102
	UPHPC				0	556.6		556.6
	Total	4102			4102	556.6		4658.6

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Uttaranchal		USEB				0	954.15		954.15
Gujarat		GEB	3339	17.26	171	3527.26	563	17.3	4107.56
		GMDCL	0			0			0
		GSECL	420			420			420
		GSEGL			156.1	156.1			156.1
		Total	3759	17.26	327.1	4103.36	563	17.3	4683.66
Madhya Pradesh		MPGPCL	2157.5			2157.5	919.91	0.59	3078
Chattisgarh		CSEB	1280			1280	120		1400
Maharashtra		MSEB	6425		912	7337	2427.17	6.44	9770.61
Andhra Pradesh		APGEN	2952.5			2952.5	3281.01	5.4	6238.91
		APGPC			99	99			99
		Total	2952.5		99	3051.5	3281.01	5.4	6337.91
Kerala		KSEB		234.6		234.6	1795	2.03	2031.63
Karnataka		KPCL	1470			1470	2686.95	2.6	4159.55
		VVNL		127.92		127.92			127.92
		KEB				0	206.2		206.2
		Total	1470	127.92	0	1597.92	2893.15	2.6	4493.67
Tamil Nadu		TNEB	2970		331	3301	1995.15	19.35	5315.5
Pondicherry		PPCL			32.5	32.5			32.5
Bihar		BSEB	553.5			553.5	20		573.5
Jharkhand		TVNL	420			420			420
		JSEB	840			840	130		970
		Total	1260			1260	130		1390
Orissa		OPGC	420			420		1.49	421.49
		OHPC				0	1848.58		1848.58
		Total	420			420	1848.58	1.49	2270.07
West Bengal		WBPDCL	2910		100	3010			3010
		DPL	395			395			395
		WBSEB		12.06		12.06	164.71		176.77
		Total	3305	12.06	100	3417.06	164.71		3581.77

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sikkim	Sikkim		5		5	32.9		37.9
Andaman Nicobar	A and N ADM		34.05		34.05	5.25		39.3
Assam	ASEB	330	20.69	244.5	595.19	2		597.19
Meghalaya	MEGEB		2.05		2.05	186.71		188.76
Manipur	MPDC		45.41		45.41	3.2		48.61
Tripura	Tripura		4.85	106.5	111.35	16.01		127.36
Nagaland	Nagaland		2		2	28.2	0.16	30.38
Arunachal	Arunachal		15.88		15.88	29.55		45.43
Mizoram	Mizoram		28.94		28.94	8.26		37.2
Total State Sector		36324.5	563.7	3053.8	39942	21229.2	61.76	61232.96

[English]

Sinking of Ships

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

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ships sank in the vicinity of Indian ports during the last six months;

(b) whether the Indian Coast Guard has sought a legislation to prevent the entry of old tankers into Indian waters as a precautionary measures to prevent oil spills;

(c) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Three ships sank in the vicinity of Indian Ports during the last six months.

The Coast Guard had proposed new inspection regulations, to prevent operation of unseaworthy ships in Indian waters to prevent casualties, navigational hazards and manne environment damage.

Several Conventions and Protocols dealing with the subject of ship safety and environment protection have come into force and have been ratified by India. Some of these Convention/Protocols are Safety of Life at Sea Convention, 1974 and its Protocols of 1974 and 1988, Collision Regulations 1972, Tonnage Convention 1969, MARPOL Convention 1973/1978, Standard of Training, Certification and Watch Keeping 1978 and its 1995 Code etc. The Safety Management Code (ISM Code) is applicable to all types of ships. Besides normal surveys, the ships are now also subjected to Safety System audits. Therefore, the proposal was not accepted as Indian Maritime Administration has adequate provisions available, to deal with question of ship safety.

Impact of CAS on old T.V. Sets

*157. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether with the introduction of Conditional Access System (CAS), the viewers with older TV sets having a range of about 39 channels or so, would be put to great disadvantage and would be required to spend more to get their sets updated;

(b) if so, the details of the disadvantages to be faced or suffered by old TV set viewers;

(c) the percentage of viewers covered so far by CAS and those, who have opted for Set Top Box (STB);

(d) whether introduction of CAS in other States has been kept in abeyance till the next General Elections; and

(e) if so, the justification thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Set Top Boxes are supplied to the consumers by the Multi System Operators/cable operators. As per the information received from Chennai, where C.A.S. has been implemented, approximately 12,000 Set Top Boxes (STBs) are reported to have been sold out/hired out to customers out of a total of about ten lakh cable T.V. subscribers. These figures are, however, provisional.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Licence to Power Links Transmission Limited

*158. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Links Transmission Limited, a joint venture company of the Power Grid Corporation and Tata Power has been granted the first license in the private sector for transmission by the Central Power Regulatory Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the respective shares of the Tata Power and Power Grid in it;

(d) the time by which the above project is likely to be completed and the States, which are likely to be benefited there from;

(e) whether the Government has finalized giving more licenses to the private players in the transmission sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s. Power Links Transmission Ltd., a joint venture company of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (POWERGRID) and Tata Power Ltd., has been granted licence by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission on 13.11.2003 under Section 14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 to construct, maintain and operate the following transmission lines for evacuation of power to be generated from Tala Hydro-electric Power Project in Bhutan :

(i) Siliguri-Purnea 400 kV D/C (Quad. Conductor) Transmission Line – 162 KM.

(ii) Purnea-Muzzaffarpur (New) 400 kV D/C (Quad. Conductor) Transmission Line – 242 KM.

(iii) Muzzaffarpur (New) – Gorakhpur 400 kV D/C (Quad. Conductor) – 233 KM.

(iv) Gorakhpur-Lucknow 400 kV D/C (Twin Conductor) Transmission Line-277 KM.

(v) Bareilly-Mandola 400 kV D/C (Twin conductor) Transmission Line-237 KM.

(vi) Muzzaffarpur (New)-Muzzaffarpur (BSEB) 220 kV (Twin Conductor) Transmission Line – 20 KM.

The transmission system will also be utilized for transfer of surplus power from Eastern Region to Northern Region.

(c) Tata Power Ltd., and POWERGRID will hold 51% and 49% of the equity share capital respectively of the Company.

(d) The projects is scheduled to be completed by June, 2006. The transmission system will enable delivery of 1020 MW power to be evacuated from Tala HEP, Bhutan to Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal. Sikkim and Damodar Valley Corporation in the Eastern Region in accordance with their allocated share. The transmission system will also be utilized to transfer surplus power from Eastern

Region to the States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Haryana and National Capital Territory of Delhi in Northern Region.

(e) and (f) The competent authority to grant transmission licence is the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission or State Electricity Regulatory Commission, as the case may be.

[English]

**Revision of Criteria for Determining
Creamy Layer among OBCs**

*159. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up a committee to review the criteria for determining creamy layer among Other Backward Classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its composition;

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report;

(d) whether the Government is considering ways and means to make reservation of SCs, STs, and OBCs in private sector effective;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government has also decided to set up social justice centres in selected districts of the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which these centres would facilitate rehabilitation of target groups?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) The Government has decided to review the income criteria for identification of 'Creamy Layer' amongst OBCs. This work has been entrusted to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). The Commission will review the existing ceiling of income/wealth to determine the 'Creamy Layer' amongst OBCs and also to evolve and

suggest formula through which the periodic revision of income ceiling/criteria in terms of quantum of rupee be fixed so that the income ceiling for determining the 'Creamy Layer' amongst OBCs is revised from time to time as per the formula. The Commission has been requested to submit its recommendations to the Government within three months.

(d) and (e) Presently there is no reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in the private sector.

(f) and (g) The Government has decided to set up Social Justice Centres to facilitate rehabilitation of the target groups by disseminating information about policies and programmes of the Ministry; collecting applications for concessional credit to be availed through State Channelising agencies by way of reference from the Apex Finance and Development Corporations; and collecting applications from students with disabilities for award of National Scholarship.

**Installation of Train Protection and
Warning System (TPWS)**

*160. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways had adopted a new Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS), a variant of AWS (Auxiliary Warning System) as per the recommendation of Khanna Committee to strengthen the safety and security of passengers and rail installations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total kilometers of railway track covered by this system so far;

(c) whether the present system and new system proved to be successful and satisfactory;

(d) if so, whether the Railways has proposed to cover entire network with warning system;

(e) if so, the progress made in this regard;

(f) whether the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has also developed an Automatic Detection Signal System to check train accidents; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in introduction of such system in the Railways?

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

(b) and (c) It has been planned to adopt Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS), a variant of Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), to further enhance safety levels in train operations by preventing cases of "Signal passed at danger", on 280 Track Kilometres (TKms) of 'A' route on Southern and North Central Railways, on trial basis.

At present AWS is working satisfactorily in Mumbai Suburban sections of Central and Western Railways. Though, its earlier version could not function on Howrah-Mughalsarai section of Indian Railways due to frequent thefts of track magnets, which are basically made of Copper. The new proposed TPWS system, uses Euro Balise in place of track magnets and has very little Copper, is still to be provided on Indian Railways. Salient features of AWS and TPWS are as follows :

- (i) The conventional AWS system uses track magnets, which are basically made of Copper, making it prone to thefts. In this system, information about signal aspect, is transmitted from track device to cab equipment through electro magnetic induction.
 - (ii) TPWS uses Euro Balise as a track device, which is an electronic device with very less Copper inside and it uses radio transmission for sending information to cab equipment.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) No, Sir.
- (g) Does not arise.

[English]

Manufacturing of Cars

1420.SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Car Industry in the country has grown appreciably; and

(b) if so, the details of car manufacturing business and their production during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The passenger Car Industry in India has grown steadily during the last few years except during the year 2000-01 when there was negative growth due to global economic recession. Passenger Car Industry in India has 15 manufacturers with an installed capacity of 12,37,000 units. Production of cars during the years 2001-02 and 2002-03 was 564052 nos. and 606088 nos. respectively.

Recruitment in Defence Services

1421.SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Defence personnel recruited in different wings of Defence Services during 2002 and 2003 so far, State-wise;
- (b) whether there is any recruitment quota for each State in Defence Services;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of cadres and the wings where quota system exists?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) to (d) In Navy and Air Force there is no separate recruitment quota for States. However, in the Army, the vacancies are allotted to the States based on new raising and annual retirements, as under :-

- (i) Fixed Class Vacancies-These vacancies are based in the class composition of the Regiments/ Corps. They are allotted as per fixed class share of the State, based on demographic pattern of the population.
- (ii) All India All Class Vacancies-These vacancies are allotted as per Recruitable Male Population

(RMP) of the States based on census Report of 2001.

Statement

Number of Defence personnel recruited during 2002 and 2003 State-wise

S. No.	Name of State	Army		Navy	
		2001-2002	2002-2003	2002	2003
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6616	7193	323	303
2.	Assam	1555	1650	27	65
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	191	61	2	1
4.	Bihar	5105	6895	814	605
5.	Goa	140	20	9	5
6.	Gujarat	1899	3656	12	14
7.	Haryana	3922	3099	418	674
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2747	2884	59	133
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3638	4266	66	125
10.	Kerala	3037	3529	318	229
11.	Karnataka	3994	3077	6	39
12.	Maharashtra	7998	10290	103	86
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4084	4726	41	55
14.	Manipur	644	302	16	57
15.	Meghalaya	120	139	4	5
16.	Mizoram	296	178	2	1
17.	Nagaland	578	253	2	31
18.	Orissa	1929	2460	261	247
19.	Punjab	6995	7271	59	158
20.	Rajasthan	6595	7271	229	345
21.	Sikkim	62	64	15	13
22.	Tamil Nadu	5462	5615	61	39
23.	Tripura	157	151	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Uttar Pradesh	12562	16442	598	629
25.	West Bengal	4760	5417	133	129
26.	Chhattisgarh	1030	1183	14	34
27.	Uttaranchal	5966	3698	95	88
28.	Jharkhand	1574	1987	56	40
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	49	22	3	3
30.	Chandigarh	11	7	1	-
31.	Delhi	1210	1460	82	46
32.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-
33.	Lakshadweep	-	18	-	-
34.	Pondicherry	6	23	3	1
35.	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-
36.	Nepal	1880	1542	1	1
Total		96810	105421	3833	4201

In Indian Air Force, recruitment is done on All India basis. The State-wise recruitment figures are not maintained. The total personnel recruited in Air Force in the year 2000 and 2003 was 5468 and 3435 (till date) respectively.

Improvement in the Performance of SEBs

1422.SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any State Electricity Board (SEB) has been able to improve its performance during any of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the SEB-wise performance in reducing the losses in those years?

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

(b) and (c) During 2001-02, State Electricity Boards of four States viz. Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana and

Rajasthan have shown cash loss reduction as compared to the year 2000-01 to the tune of Rs. 2138.44 crore as under :

(Rs. in Crs.)

Sl. No.	State	Cash Loss Reduction
1.	Gujarat	1072.30
2.	Maharashtra	579.74
3.	Haryana	210.98
4.	Rajasthan	275.42
Total		2138.44

In addition of this, States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal have reported reduction in overall losses during the year 2002-03 as compared to previous year.

Chinese Film Festival in India

1423. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has invited the Government of China to hold a Chinese film festival in India in 2004; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Government of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China, have a Cultural Exchange Programme which includes a clause for exchange of cultural festivals and film delegations between the two countries. There is at present no firm proposal to hold a Chinese Film Festival in India in 2004.

[Translation]

ROBs on Jammu-Udhampur Rail Line

1424. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of bridges on Jammu-Udhampur railway line;

(b) the number of bridges, out of these identified for repairing; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for repairing of these bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOU DA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) The total number of bridges constructed/under construction in connection with Jammu-Udhampur new rail line project is 158. This includes 13 Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges.

(b) No bridge has been identified for repairing on this new line project.

(c) Does not arise.

Incident of Stampede during Recruitment

1425. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the incident of stampede while making recruitment of armed forces at Jalgaon, Maharashtra in November, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for mismanagement and the steps taken by the Government to check such incident in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A recruitment rally was conducted at Jalgaon from 05-14th November, 2003. On 5th November, 2003, the aspirants who were outside awaiting their turn, tried to jump the barricade. This resulted in a melee. It was, however, immediately brought under control. In the melee, a few individuals sustained minor injuries.

Adequate arrangements had been by the District Administration and there was no mismanagement. The civil Administration had also deployed 150 policemen for the rally. Except for the above minor incident, the rally continued smoothly till its conclusion on 14th November, 2003.

*[English]***CNG to Vallarpadam Container Terminal**

1426.SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any representation from the authorities of Vallarpadam Container Terminal Project in Kerala to supply CNG; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pricing Policy on Transportation of Fuel

1427.SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to have differential pricing policy based on the cost of transportation of the fuel from the nearest port to the sale point;

(b) if so, whether the Government has worked out the pricing policy for the different regions both for the coastal and non-coastal areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the revised pricing policy has been introduced; and

(e) if not, the time by which the same is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (e) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the prices of petrol and diesel have been decontrolled. While, in free market scenario, the freight costs would be reflected in the consumer prices of these products, with a view to facilitate a smooth transition from the APM era to free market scenario, the public sector oil marketing companies are presently equalizing the inland

freight costs to some extent amongst different locations in the country.

Charges by PGC from North Eastern States

1428.SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam has appealed to the Union Government to look into the States grievance on the issue of discriminatory rate of 35 paise per unit charged by the Power Grid Corporation from the North Eastern States against 12 paise charges in respect of other regions; and

(b) if so, the Government's response thereto to do away with the discriminatory treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) In the 53rd meeting of North Eastern Regional Electricity Board held on 17.10.2003, the North Eastern States raised the issue of fixing of transmission tariff for North Eastern Region to a level not higher than the national average. The transmission tariff of 35 paise was fixed by North Eastern Electricity Board on 13.11.1997 and was agreed to by all the State Power Utilities of the North Eastern Region based on the projected Central sector energy transfer during 1998-99. Even after completion of new transmission projects by POWERGRID in the Region subsequently at a capital cost of more than Rs. 1000 crore, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission directed POWERGRID to continue charging transmission charges at the rate of 35 paise per unit.

The transmission tariff in the other regions is determined on the basis of the costs of the projects. In case the same norms are applied in North Eastern Region, the transmission tariff in the Region would be much higher than 35 paise per unit. POWERGRID have suffered considerable revenue loses in North Eastern Region on account of restricting the transmission tariff at 35 paise per unit.

Reservation of Seats/Berths in Paschim Express

1429.SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of berths/seats fixed for reservation at Chandigarh in A.C.2 Tier, Sleeper Coach and 2nd class unreserved coach attached to train no. 2925/2926, Paschim Express running between Kalka and Ambala Cantt. for onward journey to Mumbai;

(b) the reasons for not reserving all the berths/seats in the five coaches for Chandigarh/Kalka;

(c) whether the Government has considered the desirability of adding an additional 3 tier sleeper coach in view of the rush of passenger from Chandigarh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) to (d) Out of the six coaches (one AC-3 tier, three Sleeper Class, two partially unreserved coaches) being run by 2926A Kalka- Mumbai Central Paschim Express, the entire accommodation of AC-3 tier coach (64 berths) and both partially unreserved coaches (80 seats) is available for passengers intending to travel from Kalka/Chandigarh by this train. In sleeper class, the accommodation of 72 berths (one full coach) which was earlier available for the passengers of Kalka/Chandigarh, has since been enhanced to 108 berths w.e.f. 10.01.2004 based on utilisation. No AC-2 tier coach is running on this train. No room is available for attaching in additional Sleeper coach for Chandigarh/Kalka as room for one coach is available to clear extra rush of Wait Listed passengers or party coach etc.

Work in Turbe-Thane Section

1430.SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that even after spending a sum of over Rs. 109 crore on the Turbe-Thane Section of Central Railway the work remains incomplete and is going on at snail's pace;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in handling the work and the slow pace of implementation; and

(c) the original cost of the project and the cost escalation incurred so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a)

and (b) The expenditure incurred on the Turbe-Thane project so far is Rs. 287.40 crore (Railway's share Rs. 121.85 crores City and Industrial Development Corporation's share Rs. 165.55 crores). There has been no delay on account of Railways. The work has progressed commensurate to the funds made available by CIDCO.

Following constraints also need to be removed by Government of Maharashtra/CIDCO :

(i) 200 Sq. M land occupied by Vyamshala is yet to be handed over to Railway.

(ii) Shifting of 400 nos. encroachments falling in safety zone.

(c) The sanctioned cost of the project is Rs. 403.39 crore and the escalation can be worked out only after the work is completed and completion report drawn.

Athirapally Hydro Electric Project

1431.SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to give clearance to the Athirapally Hydro Electric Project located on the Chalakudy river downstream of the existing Poringalkuthu reservoir;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Athirapally Hydro Electric Project (2x80 Mega Watts) was accorded environment and forest clearance in 1998 and 1999 respectively. However, the environmental clearance was subsequently suspended on 19.11.2001 as the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala had directed that a Public Hearing should be conducted.

The Detailed Project Report of the Athirapally Hydro Electric Project was returned by the Central Electricity Authority to the Kerala State Electricity Board in June, 2002 as essential inputs/details were not tied up. The Government of Kerala has to resubmit the proposal after obtaining the comments of the Central Water Commission.

Revival Scheme for BSCL

1432. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state to refer to Unstarred Question No. 632 dated July 24, 2003 and to state :

(a) whether BSCL's revival scheme sanctioned for implementation over a period of five years was failed within a span of two years from the date of its sanction;

(b) if so, whether it reflects that the Management failed to implement the revival scheme for BSCL;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether RITES has been authorized to make a full-fledged man power study of BSCL and pending their recommendation how DHI could issue instruction to reduce the man power from 1800 to 900 numbers;

(e) if so, whether the employee-related liabilities have not been reflected as 'current liabilities' in the Annual Account of BSCL for the year ended 2002-2003;

(f) if so, whether the payment of the employee-related liabilities, as per order dated January 21, 2003 passed by Hon'ble High Court of Kolkata is complied with; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The BIFR had sanctioned rehabilitation scheme for BSCL on 16.04.1999. The scheme was declared as failed on 14.09.2001 by the BIFR.

(b) and (c) The company could not perform as per the projections in the scheme due to prevailing business conditions in the field of wagons, refractories and allied products, delayed and inadequate orders from Railways and non-remunerative wagon prices.

(d) Manpower study was conducted by RITES in the year 2001 as recommended in the BIFR sanctioned scheme. Since the scheme was declared as failed, recommendations in the RITES draft report have lost

relevance. The reduction of manpower through VRS is being taken recourse to for reducing the fixed costs of the company without affecting production.

(e) All admissible employee related liabilities including statutory liabilities have been properly reflected in the annual accounts of the company for the year 2002-03.

(f) and (g) As per order of the Hon'ble High Court dated 21.01.2003, the matter of revision of pay scale of the petitioners was to be considered by BIFR while sanctioning any new scheme. In case of BSCL no new scheme has yet been evolved.

**Facilities at New Jalpaiguri and
Haldibari Railway Stations**

1433. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received requests for Foot Over Bridge at Haldibari Railway Stations and two more platforms at New Jalpaiguri Railway Station;

(b) if so, whether the Government is also aware that proper/better drinking water facility is also not available at New Jalpaiguri Railway Station;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Stations have been categorized, for the provision of passenger amenities, in "A" to "F" categories based on the passenger traffic handled and the annual passenger earnings therefrom. Haldibari station is an "E" category terminal station and as per the laid down norms, Foot over Bridge (FOB) is not an essential amenity at this category of station.

At New Jalpaiguri station, nine passenger platforms are available which are considered adequate for the current traffic. Adequate drinking water arrangements have also been made at this station. 61 taps, 2 water huts/trolleys and 2 water coolers are available. Augmentation

of drinking water arrangements is a continuous process and the same is undertaken as warranted by growth in passenger traffic.

**Procurement by DRDO through NCCF/
Kendriya Bhandar**

1434. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is not mandatory upon DRDO and other Defence units to route their purchases through NCCF/Kendriya Bhandar because of the poor quality of products supplied by them and the cost being higher than the open market;

(b) if so, the items whose quality have been found poor and rates higher than the open market;

(c) whether MES is not purchasing stationery and other items from NCCF;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken to direct all Defence establishments in Delhi to purchase their items from NCCF only?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) As per the instructions of Department of Personnel and Training, Central Government Departments, and organizations, financed and/or controlled by the Government, located at Delhi/New Delhi are to make all local purchases of stationery and other items required by them from NCCF, Kendriya Bhandar and Super Bazar. In case these agencies are not able to supply a particular item, local purchases can be made from other sources. These instructions are not mandatory for Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). However, DRDO generally resorts to purchase of items through NCCF/Kendriya Bhandar.

(b) No such survey has been done by the Defence establishments.

(c) MES is purchasing stationery and other items from NCCF/Kendriya Bhandar as per availability of items and location of NCCF/Kendriya Bhandar at the particular station, after issue of tenders and consequent comparison of rates.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Items are already being procured by Defence establishments in Delhi from NCCF/Kendriya Bhandar.

[Translation]

**Survey for Rail Projects in
Madhya Pradesh**

1435. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of on-going surveys in Madhya Pradesh alongwith target date fixed for completion thereof;

(b) whether the Government conducted any survey to lay new rail line between Khandwa-Dahod and electrification of Ujjain-Indore rail line in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the time by which the work on the said project is proposed to be started alongwith the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) The following surveys are in progress in the State of Madhya Pradesh :—

- (i) New line from Manmad to Indore via Malegaon and Dhule.
- (ii) New line from Shirpur to Mhow.
- (iii) Gauge conversion of Phulgaon-Arvi with extension to Amla.
- (iv) New line from Bishrampur to Jabalpur
- (v) Gauge conversion of Chhindwara-Nagpur
- (vi) Gauge conversion of Chhindwara-Nagpur
- (vii) Bhopal-Bina 3rd line.

The above surveys are in various stages of progress. All the survey except S.No. (iv) are likely to be completed during 2003-04. The survey for new line from Bishrampur to Jabalpur is likely to be completed during 2004-05

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Station Masters

1436. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3690 dated August 21, 2003 regarding Station Masters and state :

- (a) whether the information in regard to the above said question has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons for delay; and
- (d) the time by which the said information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) to (d) The requisite information has since been collected from all the Zonal Railways and Production Units. However, some discrepancies/inconsistencies in the figures have been observed which are being reconciled in consultation with the Zonal Railways and Production Units. The reconciled information is likely to become available early. Efforts are being made to collect and furnish it as early as possible.

[English]

Utilisation of New Station Building at Tellicherry

1437. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the new station building at Tellicherry (Palaghat Division) inaugurated two years ago is not yet used for traffic;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the same;
- (c) whether the Railway authorities will take necessary steps to utilize the station building for traffic at the earliest; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a)

to (d) Trains are being dealt with on the platform on which new station building is located. There is also an entry to this platform. Other inputs are being progressively given.

[Translation]

Issue of LOI by IOCL in Bihar

1438. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of retail outlets of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited in Bihar for which the company had issued Letter of Intent (LOI) to the selected applications; and
- (b) the number of such retail outlets for which the company had sold and received the application forms in various names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) During the years 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (upto October, 2003), Indian Oil Corporation Limited has issued Letters of Intent in respect of 86 retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) in the State of Bihar, which were included in Oil Industry's marketing plan as approved by the Government. During the same period, the number of advertisements released by the company for appointment of its retail outlet dealerships in the State was 128.

[English]

Withdrawal of Purchase Preference from State owned Company

1439. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to withdraw the 10 percent purchase preference available to State owned companies in power sector;
- (b) if so, the details and the facts thereof;
- (c) the number of contracts assigned to State owned companies at 10 per cent more than the lowest bidder during the last three years and current year so far;

(d) whether the Government has assessed the impact of withdrawal of preference on PSUs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reasons for withdrawal of such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (f) As per the existing instructions, the policy on purchase preference for products and services of Central Public Sector Enterprises will be in operation till 31.03.2004. Meanwhile, in order to bring down the cost of power by increasing the completion at the bidding stage of power projects, the Government, pending a general review of the scheme, have considered the overall position/competition in bidding etc., and authorized the Ministry of finance to exempt such proposals of the Ministry of Power from purchase preference on case to case basis as and when needed.

The power sector public sector undertakings go in for bidding for the execution of various packages pertaining to their projects as and when needed and other related components of packages are executed. The Government does not get involved in the bidding process of PSUs/ assign any specific contract to such PSUs. The Board of PSUs are empowered to take a final decision in the process of bidding etc., based on merits and as per the existing instructions. During the last three years, 12 contracts each were awarded by National Thermal Power Corporation (December, 2000 to November, 2003) and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (1.4.2000 to 30.11.2003), one order by Damodar Valley Corporation (April, 2001), after considering purchase preference as applicable.

[Translation]

**survey of Solapur-Tuljapur-
Osmanabad Rail Line**

1440. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey of Sholapur-Osmanabad via Tuljapur rail line has been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and the present status of the survey;

(e) the fund allocated and expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(f) the time by which the said survey is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) A number of surveys had been taken up. These have been planned to be completed in a phased manner. This survey is now being planned to be taken up.

(e) An outlay of Rs. 3.64 lakh has been provided so far and expenditure of Rs. 3.44 lakh has been booked up to 31.03.2003.

(f) The survey is likely to be completed in 2004-05.

[English]

Allotment of Wagons

1441. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received several representations from Members of Parliament for allotment of wagons for carrying cement, salt, wheat etc. to Tripura;

(b) if so, whether the allotment of wagons is much less than the required quantity; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to allot more wagons as per demand for carrying essential items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. While there is unsatisfied demand of railway wagons for movement of various commodities to Tripura from all over the country, Railway are meeting requirement of wagons for essential commodities to Tripura.

(c)(1) Railways are transporting goods for Tripura to Dhamanagar terminal which is on Lumding-Badarpur Metre Gauge Railway Section.

(2) Traffic loaded for Lumding-Badarpur section is transhipped at Lumding Station from broad gauge wagons to metre gauge wagons. Lumding-Badarpur section is a hilly area with difficult terrain and steep gradient. Transshipment capacity of Lumding transshipment terminal and transportation capacity of Lumding-Badarpur Section is limited. The transshipment of wagons at Lumding station has increased by nearly 10% in the current year upto October 2003 in comparison to the corresponding period of previous year. Still 90% of the transshipment capacity of Lumding transshipment point is being used only for transshipping essential commodities like foodgrain, sugar, cement, fertilizer and salt.

(3) Railways are meeting the demand for wagons for loading foodgrain, as programmed by the Food Corporation of India for taking care of the requirements of Public Distribution System and other Welfare Scheme for Tripura, in full.

(4) On a request from Government of Tripura, to avoid any crisis of salt in Tripura, loading of one rake of edible iodised salt for Tripura is being permitted every month since July, 2003.

Pathetic Condition of Adoption Centres

1442. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the Pathetic Condition of Adoption Centres being run by State Governments;

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

(c) whether the Union Government propose to assist the State Governments financially to upgrade the existing Adoption Centre in all States or any State Governments have requested for such assistance for these Adoption Centres;

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

(e) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has not received any such reports.

(c) to (e) Under the Scheme of Assistance to Homes (Shishu Gresh) for Children to promote In-Country Adoptions, financial assistance is available to Shishu Grehs run by Non-Governmental Organisations. However, w.e.f. 2001-02, the assistance is also made available to State Government agencies. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Manipur, Mizoram and Uttar Pradesh have submitted proposals for assistance. A Statement showing details of assistance sought by these States is enclosed. The Proposals are considered on the basis of eligibility criteria and guidelines laid down under the scheme.

Statement

S.No.	States	Details of the proposal	Amount
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Grant-in-Aid sought for 25 units* of Shishu Greh	Rs. 1.5 lakh
2.	Gujarat	Grant-in-Aid sought for 11 units of Shishu Greh	Rs. 66 lakh
3.	Manipur	Grant-in-Aid sought for 5 units of Shishu Greh	Rs. 33.15 lakh
4.	Rajasthan	Grant-in-Aid sought for 5 units of Shishu Greh	Rs. 30 lakh
5.	Mizoram	Grant-in-Aid sought for 1 unit of Shishu Greh	Rs. 6.63 lakh
6.	Uttar Pradesh	Grant-in-Aid sought for 2 unit of Shishu Greh	Rs. 13.26 lakh

*One unit of Shishu Greh involves 10 children between the age of 0-6 years.

Holiday Special Trains

1443. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce holiday special/special trains during Christmas and New Year period;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the starting and terminating place thereof, train-wise;

(c) whether the Government has initiated any special package for Mumbai and Goa during the Christmas period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) and (b) Provision of special trains/augmentation of trains to clear the extra rush is an on going process. During water including Christmas and New Year, every year, Railway runs special trains based on the traffic demands, operational feasibility and availability of recourses. One daily special train between Mumbai and Madgaon is being proposed to run from 21.12.2003 till 3.1.2004.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Benami Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies

1444. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that some powerful people are able to get Benami Petrol Pumps, LGP Agencies and Kerosene Agencies which were allotted to SC/ST people;

(b) if so, the details of such cases came to the notice of the Government for the last three years;

(c) the action taken against such persons;

(d) whether the Government have made any new policy that nobody can misuse the provision of reservation for SC/ST in these agencies; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (e) Award of dealerships/distributorships to the selected candidates involves a process which takes guard against the dealerships/distributorships going into the hands of unauthorized persons. In addition, regular inspection of the dealerships/distributorships by officers of the oil marketing companies (OMCs) concerned is also resorted to in order to ensure, among other things, that no unauthorized persons gain control of the dealerships/distributorships so allotted to persons of all categories, including the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe category.

In spite of this, the OMCs come across, from time to time, cases of dealerships/distributorships suspected to be involved in benami operations. Such cases are investigated and action is taken by the OMCs against such dealerships/distributorships in accordance with the dealership/distributorship agreements.

[Translation]

Hydro-Power Project of Bihar

1445. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the implementation of 450 Megawatt capacity Hydro-Power scheme under Indrapuri Reservoir Scheme in Bihar is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Bihar has requested to implement the said power scheme from Union Government fund;

(c) if so, the action taken to take consent from the concerned States for its implementation; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government to implement this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The

Indrapuri Reservoir Scheme (5x90 MW), in Bihar, earlier known as Kadhwan Hydroelectric Project involves Inter-State aspect among Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh, (now Chhattisgarh), which need to be resolved by the project authorities. Meetings have been held in the Central Electricity Authority and the matter taken up with the concerned State Governments to give their concurrence. The Government of Madhya Pradesh had given its concurrence for execution of the Project. However, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has conveyed its decision not to accord "in principle" approval for the execution of the Project. The Government of Jharkhand has not responded on the issue. The Government of Bihar has to make available certain critical information/data to the Central Water Commission.

Export by Maruti Udyog Limited

1446. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of export out of its total production made by the Maruti Udyog Limited during the year 2002;

(b) whether this export target is being lowered this year; and

(c) if so, the percentage thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) As per Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL), the export accounted for 8.7% of the total number of vehicles made by the company during the year 2002-03.

(b) and (c) No. Sir.

[English]

Functioning of Army Cantonment Boards in Congested Urban Agglomerations

1447. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Army Cantonment Boards are still functioning in congested urban agglomerations and major municipal corporation/board areas;

(b) whether the Government feels that the prevailing system of separate cantonment has outlived its utility and the governance thereof undemocratic;

(c) whether the Government would consider abolishing/converting cantonment boards and merge the same with local municipal corporations/bodies which are democratically elected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) There are 62 Cantonments in the country. The Cantonment Boards consist of elected and nominated Members. The Cantonment Boards were formed under the provision of the Cantonments Act, 1924 for specific municipal duties with a view to ensuring better health and sanitation to the troops in the Cantonments. The Cantonments are less congested than the neighbouring municipal bodies.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to abolish/convert the Cantonments or to merge the same with neighbouring municipal corporation/local bodies.

(d) Does not arise.

Ban on Indian Films/Artists by Pakistan

1448. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether India took up with Pakistan the issue of ban on Indian films during the SAARC Information Minister's Conference held recently;

(b) if so, whether the issue of ban on Indian artists performing in Pakistan was also taken up; and

(c) if so, the response of Pakistan to the said matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Bilateral issues are, not

taken up in SAARC fora. However, Indian Film personalities did have an opportunity to interact with SAARC Ministers on an informal level basis to sensitise them on their concerns.

Procurement of Jets for VIP's

1449. SHRI PRABODH PANDA :

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government has decided to acquire five executive jets for VIPs from Brazil's Embraer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds have been allocated therefor; and
- (d) the reasons for acquiring such jets?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The contract for the purchase has been signed on 19th September, 2003. Four jets are meant for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and one for the Border Security Force (BSF).

(c) Necessary budgetary allocations have been made;

(d) Acquisition of the executive jets will enable the IAF and BSF to execute safe and efficient carriage of visiting VVIPs and VIPs, in aircraft fitted with modern navigational aids.

Licenses for Community Radio

1450. SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Universities and Residential Schools are to be granted licenses for Community Radio;
- (b) if so, the details of Universities and Residential schools who have applied for licenses;
- (c) the details of Universities and Residential schools who have been granted licenses;
- (d) whether some Universities and Residential schools who have not been granted license or whose request for such licenses have been rejected; and

(e) if so, the details along with the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Government has decided to grant Licenses to recognized educational institutions, including Universities, and Institutes of Technology/ Management, for setting up low power FM Community Radio Stations, as per the guidelines available on this Ministry's website: www.mib.nic.in

(b) to (e) Details are given in the enclosed statement. The applications received are being processed. However, the applications of following institution have not been found eligible for grant of license as per the guidelines :

- (i) Jammu University, Jammu (ii) Kashmir University, Srinagar (iii) New Light, Keonjhar (iv) Buldana Urban Charitable Society, Buldana.

Statement

List of Applications for Community Radio Stations

1. Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
2. Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat
3. DC School of Management and Technology, Kottayam, Kerala
4. AJK Mass Communication Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi
5. Banasthali Vidyapeeth, Banasthali, Rajasthan
6. University of Jammu, Jammu
7. AVRC, Anna University, Chennai
8. Subhalakshmi College of Science, Madurai
9. P.G. College, Ghazipur
10. District Institute of Education and Training, Pondicherry
11. Sri Manakula Vinayagar Engg. College, Pondicherry
12. Noorul Islam College of Engg., Kumarcil, Kanyakumari
13. New Light, Keonjhar, Orissa
14. Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi
15. State Institute of Education and Technology, Patna
16. S.D. Public School, Muzaffarnagar

17. Janson's School of Management, Coimbtore
18. G.D. Sawant Arts, Commerce and BCS College, Nasik
19. St. Soldier Education Society, New Delhi
20. IITT College of Engg. Nawanshahar, Punjab
21. B.V. Bhumareddi College of Engg. and Tech., Hubli, Karnataka
22. Film and TV Instt. of India, Pune
23. Jagatguru Tontadarya College, Gadag-betgeri, Karnatak
24. Great Commission Kids Academy, Dimapur, Nagaland
25. Kashmir University, Srinagar
26. Attam Vallabh Girls College, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan
27. Athavale College of Social Work, Bhandara, Maharashtra
28. Kumaon Engg. College, Dwarhaat, Uttaranchal
29. National Instt. of Agriculture Extension Management (MANAGE), Hydrabad
30. Lakshmi Matriculation School, Sirunathur, Tamilnadu
31. City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow
32. City Montessori School, Station Road, Lucknow
33. CMS Degree College, LDA Colony, Lucknow
34. Jodhpur Engg. College and Research Centre, Jodhpur, Rajasthan
35. Bhaktikala, Mumbai
36. Hindustan College of Engg., Chennai
37. Buldana Urban Charitable Society, Buldana, Maharashtra
38. India International Instt of Management, Jaipur
39. Godavari Instt of Engg. and Technology, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh

[Translation]

**Power Generation from Small Hydro
Power in Jharkhand**

1451. SHRI PRADIP YADAV : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to explore the potential of small hydro power generation from non-conventional energy sources in Jharkhand in view of power crisis being faced by the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is giving incentives for harnessing the power potential through setting up small hydro power (SHP) projects. These include incentives for detailed project report preparation and subsidy to set up SHP projects. 89 potential sites with an aggregate capacity of about 170 MW have been identified in Jharkhand. So far, 6 SHP projects aggregating 4.05 MW have been set up in the State and 8 projects aggregating 34.85 MW are under implementation.

Development of Device to Defuse Bomb

1452. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that a device has been developed which can defuse the bomb before its explosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the tests of the said device has been successful; and

(d) the likely cost of the device?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) An electronic device based on Electronic Counter Measures (ECM) has been developed by DRDO which can temporarily mute the remotely controlled improvised explosive device (RCIED) for protection of convoy of vehicles.

(c) After successful evaluation of the device by the Army, it has been inducted into service.

(d) The cost of each device is Rs. 30 lakh.

Grants to Shia/Sunni Wakf Boards

1453. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shia and Sunni Wakf Boards get Annual grants from the Government;

(b) if so, the grants given to them during each of the last two years;

(c) whether the Chairman and other office bearers of Wakf Boards are leasing out the land of several Kabristans especially in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh despite a ban in this regards; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such activities and the actions taken against the guilty persons associated with Wakf Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI) : (a) and (b) The Central Government does not provide any grants to Shia and Sunni Wakf Boards. However, annual grants have been provided to Shia and Sunni Wakf Boards by the concerned State Governments as per statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) None of the Chairman and other office bearers of the Wakf Boards have leased out the land of Kabristans. However, the erstwhile Punjab Wakf Board had leased out only some portion of Khasra No. 1726 situated at inner Akhara Bazar, Kullu, which is adjacent to a Kabristan to 12 different persons reserving an area of 5186.20 sq. yards for the running Kabristan.

Statement

(Rupees in Lakhs)

State	Year-wise Grants	
	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	512	476
Andaman and Nicobar	6.00	7.565
Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil
Assam	4.60	4.60

	1	2	3
Bihar		5.00	5.00 (for Shina Wakf Board)*
		15.00	15.00 (for Sunni Wakf Board)
Delhi		44.00	20.00
Goa		Nil	Nil
Gujarat		Nil	Nil
Haryana		Nil	Nil
Himachal Pradesh		Nil	Nil
Karnataka		415	610
Kerala		20	20
Lakshadweep		15	15
Madhya Pradesh		57.45	60.00
Maharashtra		Nil	Nil
Manipur		3.00	5.00
Meghalaya		0.123	0.123
Orissa		11.10	14.00
Pondicherry		25.00	30.00
Punjab		Nil	Nil
Rajasthan		Nil	Nil
Tamil Nadu		45.00	45.00
Tripura		39.00	Nil
Uttar Pradesh		40.50	25.80 (Sunni Wakf (Boad)*)
		3.07	5.34 (Shia Wakf (Board))
West Bengal		48.88	53.93
Daman		Nil	Nil
Dadra and Nagar Haveli		Nil	Nil
Mizoram		Nil	Nil
Chandigarh		Nil	Nil
Nagaland		Nil	Nil
Sikkim		Nil	Nil

*Separate Shia and Sunni Wakf Boards have been constituted only in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

[English]

ROB/RUB at Mansa

1454. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Rail Over Bridge/Road Under Bridge project at Mansa in Punjab;

(b) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred thereon far; and

(c) the target fixed for completion of said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) and (b) The road over bridge near Mansa at Km. 245.92 in lieu of LC No. B-208 has already been sanctioned during the Works Programme of 2003-04 and an outlay of Rs. 10 lakhs have been provided during the year. Railway shall construct Bridge proper (bridge over tracks) and approaches shall be constructed by State Government. There was a proposal for construction of a Road under Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 206 also at Mansa. However, this proposal has been dropped by State Government in view of its non-feasibility as advised by them in April, 2003.

(c) Completion of Road Over Bridge will depend upon completion of work on approaches to be done by State Government Railway will ensure completion of their portion of work (bridge over tracks) simultaneously with completion of work of approaches by State Government.

Slides on Environment in Cinema Halls

1455. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is mandatory for cinema halls to exhibit free of cost at least two slides on importance of environmental protection;

(b) if so, whether all cinema halls are complying with the orders; and

(c) if not, the action taken against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) According to the directions contained in the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 22.11.1991 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 860/1991 – M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India and Others, it is mandatory for all cinema halls, touring cinemas and video parlours to exhibit free of cost at least 2 slides/messages on environment in each show undertaken by them.

(b) and (c) It has been informed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, under whose purview the subject falls, that as per their available records of 2000, all the States/UTs have reported compliance with the Supreme Court's Order. Further, Supreme Court in its Order dated 26th February, 2003 has directed all States/UTs through respective Chief Secretaries/Administrators to file the status report of compliance to the Supreme Court's Order.

HPT for Kokrajhar

1456. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 3231 dated August 14, 2003 regarding "HPT facilities for Kokrajhar" and to state :

(a) whether the competent authority has approved the scheme for setting up a high power transmitter with the provision of production and other facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the funds allocated and released for Kokrajhar DD/AIR along with North East Region during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The scheme for upgradation of the existing LPT at Kokrajhar to HPT is included in the Special Package for North East Region which is yet to be approved by the competent authority. There is no proposal to set up Production facilities at Kokrajhar.

(d) Funds for HPT, Kakrajhar would be allocated after the scheme is approved by the competent authority. An amount of Rs. 221.09 lakhs was allocated for AIR, Kokrajhar during the last five years out of which Rs. 200.20 lakhs were actually released. The amount released/spent by AIR and DD during the last five years for expansion and upgradation of facilities in North East region was Rs. 74.03 crores and Rs. 118.34 crores respectively.

Setting Up of Food Plazas at Railway Stations

1457. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has set up Food Plazas at the important railway stations in a move to improve the quality of food and for providing hygienic and nutritious fast food to the passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof including names of stations;

(c) the names of other stations where such food plazas are likely to be set up; and

(d) the details of the other steps contemplated for providing hygienic and nutritious food to passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. So far 13 Food Plazas have come up at (1) Pune (2) Chennai (3) Mumbai Central (4) Delhi (5) Nizamuddin (6) Allahabad (7) Howrah (8) Viskhapatnam (9) Ranchi (10) Kurseong (11) Patna-2 numbers (12) Tata Nagar stations.

(c) The name of other stations where food plazas are likely to be set up are Nagpur, Agra, Borivali, Churchgate, Jaipur, Amritsar, Jammu, Ludhiana, Kanpur, Bilaspur, Ghum, Rajendra Nagar, Bangalore, Madurai, Trichur, Trichy, Coimbatore, Ernakulam, Ernakulam Town, Trivandrum, Chennai Beach, Chennai Park, Chennai Egmore, Shoranur, Vijayawada, Tirupati, Rajamundry and James Street (Hyderabad).

(d) With a view to upgrade and professionalise catering services on Indian Railways, the Ministry of

Railways have set up the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC). Besides, measures have been taken up by Zonal Railways for setting up of automatic vending machines for dispensing cold drinks/tea and coffee at stations, introduction of paper cups for dispensing tea and coffee, serving food in three piece casseroles to the passengers, provision of dustbins for disposal of garbage in pantry cars as well as stations and introduction of "Rail Neer" etc. Wherever Rail Neer has not yet reached, packaged drinking water of approved brands having Bureau of Indian Standards certificate are sold.

Pending Rail Projects in West Bengal

1458. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Railway projects in West Bengal for which survey work had been completed during the Ninth Plan and which could not be included in later budgets;

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

(c) if so, the details of these projects along with the additional funds required therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to mobilize the required funds for execution of pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) Surveys for eleven projects in West Bengal were completed during the Ninth Plan, but could not be taken up for execution.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise. However, a number of initiatives have been taken to augment resources for expediting completion of the ongoing projects. These include sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence and funds for National Rail Vikas Yojana. With these efforts, it may be feasible to expedite the progress of ongoing projects.

[Translation]

**Committee on Advertisements/
Programmes Code**

1459. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY :
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to ban the companies taking recourse to obscenity in advertisements of consumer durables in private T.V. Channel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether an Inter-Ministerial committee has been set up to look into the violation of programme code by satellite TV channels;

(d) if so, the number of complaints received and the action taken thereon; and

(e) the details of penalty imposed on repeated violators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The codes for commercial advertising of AIR and Doordarshan and the Advertising Code applicable to TV channels transmitted through cable service contain safeguards against obscenity. Inter-Ministerial committees have been set up under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to look into violation of 'Programme Code' and 'Advertising Code' in respect of programmes and advertisements telecast through cable service.

(d) and (e) The matter relating to serials *Temptation Island*, *Kavita*, *Kyonki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*, *Ram Khilawan CM 'n' Family and Horror serials* etc. were placed before the Programme Committee. On recommendations of the Committee, orders were issued to channels not to telecast/re-telecast serial "Temptation Island" and a particular episode of serial "Kavita". All channels were asked to telecast horror serials such as "Sssh.. Koi Hai" only after 10:10 p.m. on weekdays and avoid such telecast on weekends with visible warnings. An advisory was also issued to Indian Broadcasting Foundation, to direct its

Members channels, to strictly adhere to the provisions of the Programme Code. This is a continuous process. No repetitions of violations have been reported.

Violation of Guidelines by Doordarshan

1460. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

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

(a) the guidelines followed for the clearance of serials in Doordarshan;

(b) whether these guidelines have been flouted;

(c) if so, the details of the violation of these guidelines during each of the last three years; and

(d) the action taken/proposed 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) Prasar Bharati has informed that there are guidelines for the consideration, processing and approval of proposals from outside producers for telecast of TV programmes/serials under "Sponsorship Category" and "Commissioned Category". These guidelines are available on Doordarshan website: www.ddindia.com.

(b) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that in exceptional cases where high quality sponsored programmes are required as channel driver, Empowered Committee/Prasar Bharati Board is approached to approve the proposal in relaxation of guidelines keeping in view of the concept and content of the serial, status of the producer/production house, production and technical quality of the programme and market potential etc.

[English]

Rail Projects in Gujarat

1461. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA :
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of new/on-going and pending rail projects in Gujarat, alongwith target fixed for completion, project-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred thereon so far, project-wise;

(c) whether there is a considerable increase in expenditure for such projects;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether some projects are lagging behind the schedule;

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects; and

(g) whether the Government has also received requests for new rail projects in Gujarat; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and action taken on each of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOU DA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:
(a) and (b) Position is given in Statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) There has been increase in the anticipated cost of the projects in comparison to the original cost due to general price escalation in the intervening period, change in standards and scope of work as per site requirements. The expenditure is within the sanctioned cost and as per the Budget outlays provided and funds received from the co-sharers.

(e) and (f) Projects are being progressed as per availability of resources. A number of initiatives have been taken to augment resources for expediting completion of the ongoing projects. These include sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence, additional resources for National Project of Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla and funds for National Rail Vikas Yojana. With these efforts, it may be feasible to expedite the progress of projects.

(g) and (h) Position is given in Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Details of new/on-going and pending projects alongwith funds allocated, expenditure incurred and target date fixed for completion is as under:-

(Rs. In crore)

Sl. No.	Project	Year of Inclusion in Budget	Cost	Anticipated expenditure upto March 2003	Budget Outlay 2003-04	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Lines						
1.	Gandhinagar-Adrej Moti-Kalol	2000-01	49.96	10 ^f	15	30 hectare out of 45 hectare land has been acquired. Earthwork and bridgeworks are in various stages of progress. The entire project including conversion of Adraj Moti-Kalol is planned for completion during 2004-05 depending upon availability of resources.
2.	Godhra-Indore and Dewas-Maksi	1989-90	900	59.73	20	This work is being executed in phases. Dewas-Maksi (36 Km) has been com-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						pleted and commissioned. Preliminary arrangements are being made to take up the work on remaining section.
Gauge Conversion						
3.	Gandhidham-Palanpur	1998-99	344.63	25.57	100	Earthwork, bridges and ballasting have been taken up and are in various stages of progress. The project is covered under National Rail Vikas Yojana. This project is likely to be completed in next 2-3 years as per the availability of resources.
4.	Surendranagar-Bhavnagar-Rajula-Mahuwa with the extension upto Pipavav and Sihor-Palitana.	1996-97	372	157.04	15	The work of conversion of main line from Surendranagar to Rajula with connectivity to Pipavav has been completed. Work of guage conversion of Dhola-Bhavnagar, Sihor-Palitana and Rajula-Mahuva is also in progress. Dhola-Bhavnagar and Rajula-Mahuva is targeted for completion during 2003-04.
5.	Rajkot-Veraval including material modification for extension from Wansjalia to Jetalsar.	1994-95	359.8	116.75	35	Work on Rajkot-Junagarh section (103 km) has been completed. Work on remaining portion of main line is also in progress and is targetted for completion during 2003-04. Guage conversion of Wansjalia-Jetalsar taken up as a material modification to this work is also in progress.
6.	Bhildi-Viramgam	1990-91	134.8	17.15	1	The project consists of gauge conversion from Viramgam to Patan and construction of new line of 52.64 Km between Patan and Bhildi. On Viramgam-Mahesana (65 Km), earthwork, bridges and ballasting collection are in progress. The work of supply of balance quantity of ballast, P. Way linking, signalling and telecommunication works are being executed under BOT (Build, Own and Transfer) by Viramgam-Mahesana Project Ltd. (VMPL). The work under BOT has commenced on 27.7.2003 and is targeted for completion during 2004-05 depending upon progress of BOT contractor.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Phulera-Marwar-Ahmedabad	1993-94	637.35	632.35	1	The work has been completed and commissioned. Residual works of Ahmedabad Yard remodelling are in progress. Gauge conversion of Rewari-Delhi (82.5 Km) is also a part of this work where formation works have been completed. Conversion will be dovetailed with the conversion of adjoining metre gauge sections.
8.	Bhildi-Samdari	1990-91	244.74	1.87	30	This work was sanctioned in 1990-91 as a part of Kandla-Bhatinda rail link. The work was earlier given lower priority in view of gauge conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad. Tenders for ballast supply and civil works are under process. The project is being implemented under National Rail Vikas Yojana.
Doubling						
9.	Surat-Kosamba (Phase-I)	2000-01	49	0.1	5	This project is being regulated as per low operational priority.

Statement-II

Record of each and every demand for construction of new project is not maintained. However, some of the proposals received by the Government for construction of new rail lines in the last few years in the State of Gujarat is as under :

Sl.No.	Proposal	Action Taken
1	2	3

New Line

1.	Gandhinagar-Adraj Moti	Work included in the budget 2000-2001.
2.	Veraval-Somnath-Kodinar	New line work from Veraval to Somnath has been taken up.
3.	Surendranagar-Limbdi-Loliya-Wadgaon-Khambat-Kavi-Jambusar-Bharuch and Surendranagar-Limbdi-Bagodara-Khambat-Bharuch	Work on Surendranagar-Limbdi has been completed. In view of heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, it has not been found feasible to consider remaining portion of this proposal.
4.	Extension of rail line from Modasa to Titoi	Survey completed and report is under examination.
5.	Kharaghoda-Santalpur	Survey is in progress.
6.	Dholera Port-Bhavnagar Port	Survey is in progress from Bhavnagar to Tarapur via Dholera.

1	2	3
7. Extension upto Hazira Port new line		Study is being done on behalf of Gujarat Maritime Board by RITES.
8. Bhavnagar-Tarapur		Survey is in progress.

Besides the above, following proposals for construction of new lines have also been received. However, it has not been feasible to take up the proposed projects in view of heavy throw-forward of ongoing works and constraint of resources. The proposals received are as under :-

1. Porbandar-Porbandar Port
2. New Hapa-Dahinsara
3. Extension of rail line from Taranga Hill/Khedbrahma to Ambaji and Abu Road
4. Extension of Surendranagar-Pipavav rail line upto Jafrabad
5. Amreli-Liliya Mota
6. Umreth-Vina-Nadiad-Vaso-Dholka-Surendranagar
7. Radhanpur-Harij Chanasma-Mahesana
8. Radhanpur-Sami Shankheshwar-Viramgam
9. Radhanpur-Tharad-Sanchor-Jodhpur
10. Dholavira-Rapar-Tikar-Hadavad-Malvan-Ahemedabad
11. Dholera Port-Surendranagar

**Conversion of MG Line into BG between
Rangia Jn. and Murkhongselek**

1462. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to convert the MG line into BG line between Rangia Jn. and Murkhongselek;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which work in the said project is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) to (d) Based on demands, the survey report for gauge conversion of Rangia to Murkhongselek and linked figures has been updated. The proposal has been processed for necessary approvals. The work would be taken up as and when the requisite clearances are received and the work is included in the Budget.

**Setting Up of Hydel Power Project
in Gujarat**

1463. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal for setting up of a Hydel Power Project in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) There is, at present, no Hydro Electric Project under consideration of the Government for being set up in Gujarat.

**Communication Network to Flash
Accident Relating News**

1464. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no communication network with railways to report immediately the accident and other untoward incidents relating to railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the railways wholly depend on the electronic media to know about the accidents etc: and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken by the railways to have its own communication network to flash

the news and information relating to railways accidents, etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) and (b) Railways have an extensive communication network, which is used for train operations, control, safety and administrative functions. The same network is used for reporting of accidents and other untoward incidents, as and when occurring, on the Railways. However, the existing communication network does not provide real-time on-line communication from trains running between the stations to Control Rooms. On busy sections, however, Very High Frequency (VHF) sets have been provided to be used by train crews and Station Masters to communicate during emergent situations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Railways are continually upgrading their communication network to facilitate Operational and Train Control activities. Satellite phones, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) exchanges, mobile phones and other allied equipments are being added to the set up to cater for faster mode of communication, from the site of accident.

Power Blackouts

1465. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of United States and some European Union Governments have approached India to know as to how India tackles the power blackouts;

(b) if so, the names of countries which have contacted Government of India in this regard; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The power experts from North America and European countries as also from other parts of the world, during interaction with officials of POWERGRID at various fora, have expressed keen interest in grid management practices of India owing to its vast network. However, no formal proposal has been received by Government or by POWERGRID in this regard.

Civilian Flights from Defence Air-base

1466. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to allow defence air bases for operating civilian flights to facilitate greater air connectivity in the country;

(b) if so, whether it would pose any problem to the security of the country;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the number of defence air bases to be allowed for civilian flights?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Scheduled and non-scheduled civil air operations are already being undertaken from Defence airfields.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Request from civil operators are considered on a case to case basis.

[Translation]

Violation of Geneva Conventions by Pakistani Forces

1467. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bodies of the Indian soldiers killed on LoC in Jammu and Kashmir are returned mutilated by the Pak forces;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last three years so far;

(c) whether such acts of the Pakistani forces are in utter violation of the Geneva conventions for treatment of the bodies of soldiers in such cases;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) There has been no case in the past three years wherein the Pakistan Army has returned bodies of Indian soldiers, killed on Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, in a mutilated condition.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Power Projects in Maharashtra during Tenth Plan

1468. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new power projects started in Maharashtra during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the cost of each project, the source of finance and the details of the organizations interested in starting projects, if any; and

(c) the details of the latest power tariff for agriculture, irrigation and domestic consumption in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Work on new power projects in Maharashtra has not started during X Five Year Plan so far.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Tariff applicable to domestic and agriculture categories of consumers of Maharashtra State Electricity Board as notified by Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission recently is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Consumer category/ slab	Existing			Consumer Category/ slab	Revised		
	Demand Charge (Rs/HP/Month) or (Rs/Service Connection per Month)	Energy charge (paise/ unit)	T and D loss Charge (paise/ unit)		Demand Charge (Rs/HP/ Month) or (Rs/ Service Connec- tion per Month)	Energy charge (paise/ unit)	Regula- tory Liability (paise/ unit)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Domestic				Domestic			
0-30 Units	Rs. 20 per service connection	100	10	0-30 units	20	125	0
31-100 Units	Rs. 30 per service connection for single phase; Rs. 75 per service connection	255	20	31-100 units	40	290	0
101-300 Units	for three phase; Additional Fixed charge of Rs. 75 per 10KW load or	295		100-300 units More than 300 units	40	290	0
Above 300 Units (only balance Units)		455			40	400	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	part thereof above 10 KW load shall be payable.						
Additional fixed charge-3 phase	75			Additional fixed charge 3 phase	100		
Additional fixed charge-CL > 10KW	75 per 10 KW			Additional fixed charge CL>10 KW	100 per 10 KW		
Agriculture				Agriculture			
Flat Rate Tariff (HP per month)	Rs. 110 per	0	Rs. 10 per HP per month	Flat Rate Tariff (Rs/ HP/Month)			
				a. Circles with cons. Norm<1300 hrs per HP/year	150	0	0
				b. Circles with cons. norm>1300 hrs per HP/year	180	0	0
Metered Tariff (HP per month)	Rs. 10	90	10	Metered tariff includ- ing poultry	15	110	0

[English]

**Outstanding dues recovered by
NTPC from SEBs**

1469. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has recovered a good amount of their outstanding dues from the State Governments;

(b) if so, the total amount recovered from the State Government and the balance outstanding dues against each State as on date; and

(c) the amount of surcharge and penalties which have been written off, State-wise and the commitments

made by the States to clear the balance amount of their dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Government of India implemented scheme for One Time Settlement of the dues of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) on 17.4.2002 for securitization of outstanding dues as on 30.09.2001 payable by various SEBs. The scheme provides that total outstanding dues as on 30.09.2001 including 40% surcharge would be securitized by issuance of 15 year 8.5% tax-free bonds and balance 60% surcharge payable by SEBs to CPSUs would be waived off. Further, bonds issued by SEBs after 1.3.1998 but outstanding as on 30.09.2001. were also eligible for conversion under the scheme.

Pursuant to the implementation to the scheme, tripartite agreement for implementation was signed by all

the 28 State Governments. Accordingly, the power bonds amounting to Rs. 15,788.396 crore have been received by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in September, 2003 from the States to whom NTPC is supplying power. The details are enclosed as Statement-I. The liquidation of outstanding dues payable by the concerned SEBs are discussed and resolved by NTPC.

As per the One Time Settlement Scheme the details pertaining to the amount of surcharge etc., which have been written off are enclosed as Statement-II. The total outstanding dues for NTPC from various SEBs etc. as on 31.10.2003 are enclosed as Statement-III.

Statement-I*Details of Bonds issued by RBI on one time Settlement Scheme*

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	States	Bond issued
1	2	3
1.	Uttar Pradesh	3989.9000
2.	Uttaranchal	399.6500
3.	Rajasthan	290.0000
4.	Punjab	346.2300
5.	Haryana	1075.000
6.	Himachal Pradesh	33.3880
7.	Maharashtra	381.4000
8.	Gujarat	837.2400
9.	Andhra Pradesh	1260.6500
10.	Karnataka	196.6100
11.	Tamil Nadu	465.0660
12.	Kerala	1002.4000
13.	West Bengal	1174.2480
14.	Assam	51.4640
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	367.3600
16.	Sikkim	34.1960

1	2	3
17.	Orissa	1102.8740
18.	Bihar	1466.6600
19.	Madhya Pradesh	830.8400
20.	Chhattisgarh	483.2200
21.	Jharkhand	-
22.	Delhi	-
Total		15788.3960

Statement-II*Amount of Surcharge (60%) Written off from SEBS/State Utilities due for NTPC*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State Electricity Boards (SEB)/State Utilities pertaining to the States/Uts	60% written off surcharge
1	2	3
1.	Uttar Pradesh	55540
2.	Uttaranchal	6172
3.	Rajasthan	4908
4.	Punjab	373
5.	Haryana	8216
6.	Himachal Pradesh	626
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	423
8.	Madhya Pradesh	9023
9.	Chhattisgarh	12635
10.	Maharashtra	5402
11.	Gujarat	14174
12.	Andhra Pradesh	3078
13.	Karnataka	4988
14.	Tamil Nadu	9172

1	2	3
15. Kerala		8307
16. West Bengal		44748
17. Bihar		53601
18. Orissa		10888
19. Sikkim		983
20. Jharkhand		0
21. Assam		1505
Total		254762

Statement-III*Outstanding dues of NTPC as on 31.10.2003*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	SEBs/State Utilities Pertaining to States/UTs	Outstanding dues		
		Principal	Surcharge	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-9014	46	-8968
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3.	Assam	132	211	343
4.	Bihar	81119	5483	86602
5.	Chandigarh	13	0	13
6.	Chhattisgarh	13809	21058	34867
7.	Cooperatives	0	0	0
8.	Delhi	186705	193589	380294
9.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	-34	0	-34
10.	Daman and Diu	-866	0	-866
11.	Gujarat	-208	1103	895
12.	Goa	-124	0	-124
13.	Haryana	-21107	315	-20792

1	2	3	4	5
14. Himachal Pradesh		-1290	0	-1290
15. Jammu and Kashmir		-32	0	-32
16. Jharkhand		89190	77683	166873
17. Karnataka		-41	107	66
18. Kerala		15227	6933	22160
19. Madhya Pradesh		14415	336	14751
20. Maharashtra		4771	686	5457
21. Manipur		0	0	0
22. Meghalaya		0	0	0
23. Mizoram		0	0	0
24. Nagaland		0	0	0
25. NEEPCO		0	0	0
26. Orissa		24946	1677	26623
27. Others		0	0	0
28. Punjab		-890	0	-890
29. Pondicherry		-668	24	-644
30. Rajasthan		837	125	962
31. State Governments		0	0	0
32. Sikkim		244	44	288
33. Tamil Nadu		-3707	117	-3590
34. Tripura		0	0	0
35. Uttar Pradesh		1100	0	1100
36. Uttaranchal		371	0	371
37. West Bengal		0	129	129
Total		394898	309666	704564
1.	Damodar Valley Corporation	10811	28438	39249
2.	Powergrid	44	194	238
3.	Railways	1	0	1

1	2	3	4	5
4.	NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam	24	0	24
5.	Unscheduled Interchange	-140	0	-140
Total		10740	28632	39372
Grand Total		405638	338298	743936

[Translation]

Target for Power Generation

1470. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of electricity in the country;

(b) if so, the present demand, shortage of electricity, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to requirement of electric during the Tenth Plan in the country, State-wise; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to provide assistance to those to overcome the present power crises and action taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) There are power shortages of varying degree in different States of the country.

(b) State-wise actual power supply position both in terms of energy and peak demand in month of

November, 2003 and April-November, 2003 is given in Statement-I.

(c) State-wise anticipated requirement of power both in terms of energy and peak at the of 10th Plan according to 16th Electric Power Survey (EPS) Report is enclosed in Statement-II.

(d) Electricity is a concurrent subject. However, supply and distribution of electricity State is the responsibility of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned, Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Governments by setting up of power plants through Central Power Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) in Central Sector and providing allocations from Central Generating Stations in the region. However, the following assistance is being provided by the Government to improve the power supply in the country :

- (i) 10th Plan capacity addition of around 41,110 MW has been targeted in all Sectors (State+Private+Central) out of which 22,832 MW is in the Central Sector.
- (ii) Additional allocation from unallocated quota of Central Sector Stations in the Region/outside the Region.
- (iii) Enhancement of Inter regional/Inter-State power transfer from surplus to deficit region by augmenting/strengthening inter-regional transmission links leading to formation of National Grid.
- (iv) Renovation and Modernization (R and M), uprating and life extension (LE) of existing old and inefficient generating units. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) provides financial assistance for R and M and LE works at lower rate of interest.
- (v) Funds are being provided for strengthening/ augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution systems of States under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for reduction in aggregate Transmission and commercial losses.

Statement-I*Actual Power Supply Position*

Figures are in MU

State/System/Region	November '2003				April-November '2003			
	Require- ment (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus/Deficit (-)		Require- ment (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus/Deficit (-)	
			(MU)	(%)			(MU)	(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	72	72	0	0.0	765	764	-1	-0.1
Delhi	1436	1427	-9	-0.6	14056	13857	-199	-1.4
Haryana	1482	1391	-91	-6.1	14135	13532	-603	-4.3
Himachal Pradesh	278	278	0	0.0	2277	2270	-7	-0.3
Jammu and Kashmir	564	545	-19	-3.4	4578	4309	-269	-5.9
Punjab	2036	1980	-56	-2.8	22713	22021	-692	-3.0
Rajasthan	2458	2454	-4	-0.2	16293	16191	-102	-0.6
Uttar Pradesh	3739	3329	-410	-11.0	30653	26555	-4098	-13.4
Uttaranchal	343	336	-7	-2.0	2733	2684	-49	-1.8
Northern Region	12408	11812	-596	-4.8	108203	102183	-6020	-5.6
Chhattisgarh	763	756	-7	-0.9	6586	6379	-207	-3.1
Gujarat	5252	4500	-752	-14.3	36484	32326	-4158	-11.4
Madhya Pradesh	3196	2923	-273	-8.5	19326	17035	-2291	-11.9
Maharashtra	7713	6864	-849	-11.0	56558	51423	-5135	-9.1
Daman and Diu(*)	91	91	0	0.0	274	274	0	0.0
Dadar Nagar Haveli(*)	160	160	0	0.0	451	451	0	0.0
Goa	172	172	0	0.0	1297	1297	0	0.0
Western Region	17347	15466	-1881	-10.8	120976	109185	-11791	-9.7
Andhra Pradesh	4036	3994	-42	-1.0	30405	29439	-966	-3.2
Karnataka	2952	2628	-324	-11.0	22668	19312	-3356	-14.8
Kerala	1058	1025	-33	-3.1	8480	8187	-293	-3.5
Tamil Nadu	3427	3391	-36	-1.1	29218	28941	-277	-0.9
Pondicherry	113	113	0	0.0	982	982	0	0.0
Southern Region	11586	11151	-435	-3.8	91753	86861	-4892	-5.3
Bihar	630	451	-179	-28.4	5052	3820	-1232	-24.4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
DVC	694	683	-11	-1.6	5450	5379	-71	-1.3
Jharkhand	275	267	-8	-2.9	2145	2042	-103	-4.8
Orissa	1116	1096	-20	-1.8	9155	9008	-147	-1.6
West Bengal + Sikkim	1612	1583	-29	-1.8	15151	14837	-314	-2.1
Eastern Region	4327	4080	-247	-5.7	36953	35086	-1867	-5.1
Arunachal Pradesh	13	13	0	0.0	126	124	-2	-1.6
Assam	291	273	-18	-6.2	2369	2236	-133	-5.6
Manipur	49	48	-1	-2.0	324	318	-6	-1.9
Meghalaya	100	91	-9	-9.0	721	691	-30	-4.2
Mizoram	26	26	0	0.0	183	179	-4	-2.2
Nagaland	30	29	-1	-3.3	202	199	-3	-1.5
Tripura	58	53	-5	-8.6	483	455	-28	-5.8
North-Eastern Region	567	533	-34	-6.0	4408	4202	-206	-4.7
All India	46235	43042	-3193	-6.9	362293	337517	-24776	-6.8

(*) Daman and Diu and Dadar Nagar Haveli figures for the period of April-August' 03 are included in Gujarat

Peak Demand/Peak Met

(Figures in net MW)

State/System/Region	November '2003				April-November '2003			
	Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Met (MW)	Surplus/Deficit (-)		Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Met (MW)	Surplus/Deficit (-)	
1	2	3	4 (MW)	5 (%)	6 (MW)	7 (MW)	8 (MW)	9 (%)
Chandigarh	147	147	0	0.0	188	188	0	0.0
Delhi	2818	2801	-17	-0.6	3389	3284	-105	-3.1
Haryana	2965	2717	-248	-8.4	3465	3278	-187	-5.4
Himachal Pradesh	543	543	0	0.0	665	665	0	0.0
Jammu and Kashmir	1035	985	-50	-4.8	1268	1218	-50	-3.9
Punjab	3753	3580	-173	-4.6	5922	5622	-300	-5.1
Rajasthan	3937	3937	0	0.0	3937	3937	0	0.0
Uttar Pradesh	7057	5742	-1315	-18.6	7218	5973	-1245	-17.2
Uttaranchal	711	695	-16	-2.3	766	726	-40	-5.2
Northern Region	22414	20563	-1851	-8.3	23817	21961	-1856	-7.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chhattisgarh	1548	1435	-113	-7.3	1669	1485	-184	-11.0
Gujarat	9820	7196	-2624	-26.7	9820	7196	-2624	-26.7
Madhya Pradesh	5392	4647	-745	-13.8	5392	4647	-745	-13.8
Maharashtra	14211	11282	2929	-20.6	14211	11282	-2929	-20.6
Daman and Diu(*)	181	181	0	0.0	181	181	0	0.0
Dadar Nagar Haveli(*)	250	250	0	0.0	315	315	0	0.0
Goa	332	332	0	0.0	332	332	0	0.0
Western Region	29076	23376	5700	-19.6	29076	23376	-5700	-19.6
Andhra Pradesh	6907	6777	-130	-1.9	8679	7143	-1536	-17.7
Karnataka	5348	4804	-544	10.2	6213	4913	-1300	-20.9
Kerala	2386	2210	-176	-7.4	2442	2210	-232	-9.5
Tamil Nadu	6657	6619	-38	-0.6	6772	6710	-62	-0.9
Pondicherry	182	182	0	0.0	235	235	0	0.0
Southern Region	21019	20152	-867	-4.1	21788	20152	-1636	-7.5
Bihar	832	697	-135	-16.2	973	741	-232	-23.8
DVC	1138	1064	-74	-6.5	1275	1154	-121	-9.5
Jharkhand	504	456	-48	-9.5	539	456	-83	-15.4
Orissa	2074	1904	-170	-8.2	2099	1958	-141	-6.7
West Bengal + Sikkim	3571	3263	-308	-8.6	3836	3652	-184	-4.8
Eastern Region	7969	7070	-899	-11.3	8594	7710	-884	-10.3
Arunachal Pradesh	45	45	0	0.0	50	50	0	0.0
Assam	715	599	-116	-16.2	738	635	-103	-14.0
Manipur	100	100	0	0.0	115	111	-4	-3.5
Meghalaya	209	159	-50	-23.9	209	195	-14	-6.7
Mizoram	70	69	-1	-1.4	71	69	-2	-2.8
Nagaland	62	62	0	0.0	62	62	0	0.0
Tripura	182	138	-44	-24.2	190	144	-46	-24.2
North-Eastern Region	1258	1069	-189	-15.0	1259	1071	-188	-14.9
All India	81736	72230	-9506	-11.6	81736	72230	-9506	-11.6

(*) Daman and Diu and Dadar Nagar Haveli figures for the period of April-August' 03 are included in Gujarat.

Statement-II*Extracts from 16th EPS*

States	Energy Require- ment (MKWH)	Peak Load (MW)
1	2	3
Northern Region (Public Utilities)	2006-07	2006-07
Haryana	25750	4899
Himachal Pradesh	5113	973
Jammu and Kashmir	9099	1923
Punjab	41922	7719
Rajasthan	40341	6772
Uttar Pradesh	70803	11384
Chandigarh	2120	403
Delhi	25672	4310
Total	220820	35540
Western Region (Public Utilities)	2006-07	2006-07
Goa	2207	355
Gujarat	61683	10605
Madhya Pradesh	51952	8595
Maharashtra	106892	16716
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1284	216
Daman and Diu	909	146
Total	224927	35223
Southern Region (Public Utilities)	2006-07	2006-07
Andhra Pradesh	68797	11219
Karnataka	44748	7740
Kerala	22998	4304
Tamil Nadu	54872	8847
Pondicherry	2687	458
Total	194102	31017

	1	2	3
Eastern Region (Public Utilities)	2006-07	2006-07	
Bihar	12256	2332	
DVC	11129	2049	
Orissa	17997	2977	
Sikkim	239	62	
West Bengal (excl DVC)	27846	5169	
Total	69467	11990	
North Eastern Region (Public Utilities)	2006-07	2006-07	
Arunachal Pradesh	303	97	
Assam	5294	991	
Manipur	1039	252	
Meghalaya	955	198	
Mizoram	525	136	
Nagaland	388	98	
Tripura	997	253	
Total	9501	1875	

*[English]***Tax/Cess on Petroleum Products**

1471. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has plans to levy an additional tax or cess on all petroleum products to build up a strategic oil reserve;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any alternative plan of finance have been worked out by the Government to meet the funding requirements of strategic oil reserve;

(d) if so, whether additional cess on petroleum products will push up cost of petrol, leading to inflation; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to get oil companies to use their internal resource to store oil and petrol as part of the strategic reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) The proposal for setting up of strategic oil storage, including the financing options, is under the consideration of the Government.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

Hydro Electric Projects in Kerala

1472.SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pooyamkutty Hydroelectric power project submitted by the Government of Kerala is under consideration of Union Government;

(b) if so, the details including the year of submission and status of this project as on date;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken any decision on Pooyamkutty project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Tropical Botanical Garden Research Institute (TBGRI) has submitted the Environmental Impact assessment report of the above project; and

(f) 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 (d) The Puyankutty Hydro-electric Project (2×120 MW) was cleared by the Central Electricity Authority in January, 1984 for an estimated cost of Rs. 250 crore. The Project was also sanctioned by the Planning Commission in August, 1986 subject to clearance to the project from the forest angle. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) rejected the proposal in January, 1991 as the project was located in the prime forest area of the Western Ghats. The Project was reviewed by Ministry of Environment and Forests again in 1996 and was rejected by them on the ground of "adverse ecological impact". On recommendations of an Expert Committee constituted for in depth analysis of the Project, the State Government had been asked to carry out

studies pertaining to (i) Environment Impact Assessment, (ii) Social Impact Assessment, (iii) Social and Environmental cost benefit analysis; and (iv) Engineering Evaluation.

(e) and (f) The Tropical Botanical Garden Research Institute (TBGRI) at Palode was entrusted with the task of assessment of the ecologically sustainable optimum submergence level. TBGRI carried out the studies and submitted its report to Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) in July, 2003. As informed by KSEB, based on the report submitted, the Engineering Evaluation, Social Impact Assessment and Social and Environmental Cost Benefit Analysis will require recasting. The Detailed Project Report would also need to be modified by KSEB in view of the change in project components. Forest clearance would be considered by the MOEF after the above formalities are completed by KSEB/State Government.

Construction of Level Crossings

1473.SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has received some proposal for construction of level crossings from the various States;

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

(c) the number of level crossings selected for construction during 2003-2004, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) No, Sir. No formal proposal fulfilling the prerequisites as per extant rules for construction of new level crossings on the Zonal Railways system has been received from the State Governments.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Titles of Newspapers

1474.SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of registered newspapers/periodicals are not being published, blocking the titles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) As on 31.3.2003, there are 55,780 newspapers/periodicals registered with Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI). Unregistered titles are de-blocked after two years from the date of its title verification. About 2.03 lakh titles verified upto 2000 have been de-blocked.

[Translation]

Theft of Booked Luggage

1475. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways is responsible for the loss/theft of luggage/booked luggage of passengers in the trains;

(b) if so, the procedure for claiming of theft luggage;

(c) the amount paid and compensation on this count during the last three years;

(d) the number of persons arrested on the charges of theft during the last three years, zone-wise; and

(e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to stop such type of incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) The Railways are liable for loss/theft of luggage which is booked with Railways.

(b) In case of loss or theft of booked luggage, the claim can be filed either by the consignee/the-endorsed consignee or the consignor/any other agent on production of authority from the consignee.

Claims for compensation should be made on the prescribed proforma to the General Manager or Chief Commercial Manager or Chief Claims Officer or at station goods shed or a parcel office either at booking Railway or destination Railway or the railway on which loss or theft

has occurred. Claims should be filed within six months from the date of booking with necessary documents like Railway Receipt, Beejuck or Sale invoice of the goods, etc.

(c) The amount paid for loss/theft of luggage and parcels during the last three years is as under :-

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
2000-01	246.16
2001-02	332.75
2002-03	265.92

(d) A statement is enclosed in regard to the number of persons arrested on the charges of theft of booked consignments during the last three years, zone-wise.

(e) The following preventive measures are being taken or curb such thefts :-

1. Intensive patrolling in affected areas/sections.
2. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the condition and seals of compartments carrying consignments.
3. Collection of criminal intelligence with a view to keep watch and tracking down criminals.
4. Based on criminal intelligence, raids and searches are conducted on the dens of criminals/receivers of stolen property in order to bring them to book.
5. Close coordination between RPF, GRP and local police is maintained at various levels to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property

Statement

Rlys.	Period	No. of Persons Arrested			
		OS	RE	RPF	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
CR	2000-2001	176	1	0	177
	2001-2002	155	2	0	157
	2002-2003	146	2	0	148

1	2	3	4	5	6
ER	2000-2001	232	2	0	234
	2001-2002	298	1	0	299
	2002-2003	157	0	0	157
ECR	2000-2001				
	2001-2002				
	2002-2003	113	0	0	113
NR	2000-2001	354	15	0	369
	2001-2002	341	8	1	350
	2002-2003	311	6	0	317
NER	2000-2001	86	0	0	86
	2001-2002	55	1	1	57
	2002-2003	52	1	0	53
NFR	2000-2001	64	1	1	66
	2001-2002	59	0	0	59
	2002-2003	49	1	2	52
NWR	2000-2001				
	2001-2002				
	2002-2003	17	1	0	18
SR	2000-2001	56	3	0	59
	2001-2002	51	4	1	56
	2002-2003	46	6	0	52
SCR	2000-2001	161	4	0	165
	2001-2002	116	1	0	117
	2002-2003	104	1	0	105
SER	2000-2001	53	5	0	58
	2001-2002	65	1	0	66
	2002-2003	56	2	0	58
WR	2000-2001	126	4	0	130
	2001-2002	108	5	0	113
	2002-2003	147	8	0	155

1	2	3	4	5	6
IR	2000-2001	1308	35	1	1344
	2001-2002	1248	23	3	1274
	2002-2003	1198	28	2	1228

NB : ECR and NWR are operating w.e.f. 1st Oct' 2002 only. Therefore, figures of both the Rlys. are given from Oct' 2002 to March' 2003.

[English]

**Modernisation and Strengthening
of Navy**

1476.SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Chinese and Pakistani Navies are going to hold joint maritime exercises in the Arabian sea;

(b) whether Indian security experts view these exercises as potential threat to country's area of interest;

(c) whether in this scenario it has become more important to modernise and strengthen Indian Navy; and

(d) if so, the seps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Inputs available suggest that the Pakistani and Chinese navies are likely to hold joint maritime exercises in the Arabian Sea.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Modernisation and strengthening of the Indian Navy is a continuous process. The Ministry of Defence is making efforts to provide the Navy, the equipments, ships and materials commensurate with the threat perceptions and tasks entrusted to the Indian Navy.

Several steps including important acquisitions have been taken to modernize the Indian Navy. Systematic and planned growth of the Navy is being carried out under the 15-year shipbuilding plan.

**Export of Petroleum Products to
Pakistan**

1477. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to export petroleum products to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details of Oil PSU which has explored the possibility in that regard; and

(c) the details of the proposal mooted for 2003-2004?

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 (a) above.

**Suburban Rail Service on Vasai-
Diva Rail Line**

1478. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representation to start Mumbai suburban rail service on Vasai-Diva rail line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A demand for introduction of EMU services on Vasai – Diva section has been received from Shri Vilas Patil and Shri Deepak Mishra.

(c) The demand cannot be acceded to because of the line capacity and infrastructure constraints. Vasai-Diva section is catering for already heavy movement of freight traffic from Western and Northern India, to the vital freight terminals such as Jawahar Lal Port Trust, Uran city defence and Petroleum Oil Lubricant terminal, Rashtriya Chemical Fertilizer Ltd., Thal, Kalmboli etc. It is also used for running Mail Express trains from Western and Northern Railway towards Konkan and Southern

Railway. 3 pairs of DMU services are also running in the section.

[Translation]

Solar Energy in Rural Areas

1479. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the achievements of the Government in regard to the energy sources in rural areas;

(b) whether the Union Government is organising training camps for farmers at the block level and whether success of these programmes is being reviewed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of persons in Jharkhand and Bihar to whom solar energy has been supplied by the State Governments during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Various programmes/schemes based on non-conventional energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass and small hydro are being implemented throughout the country, including rural areas. The cumulative achievements under various non-conventional energy programmes/schemes as on 30.9.2003 are enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) and (c) The Ministry is providing financial assistance under the biogas programme for organizing user training camps for creating awareness regarding the use of biogas at the block/village level and progress/effectiveness of this programme is reviewed periodically. About 5000 such user training camps are organized annually.

(d) About 10,537 solar lighting, pumping and solar cooking systems have been provided during 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (upto 30.9.2003) in Jharkhand and Bihar. Details of such systems/devices installed in Jharkhand and Bihar for the aforesaid period are enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

Cumulative achievements under various non-conventional energy programmes as on 30.9.2003

Source/System	Cumulative Achievement (as on 30.09.2003)
A. Power from Renewables (MW)	
1. Solar Photovoltaic Power	3.32
2. Wind Power	2002
3. Small Hydro Power (upto 25 MW)	1530.39
4. Biomass Cogeneration Power	570.90
5. Biomass Gasifier	57.10
Power from Renewables (Total in MW)	4163.71
B. Decentralized Energy Systems	
6. Family-size Biogas plants (Nos. in lakhs)	35.43
7. CBP/IBP/NBP Plants (Nos.)	3902
8. Improved Chulha (Nos. in crores)	3.52
9. Solar Photovoltaic Systems	
i. Solar Street Lighting Systems (Nos.)	43474
ii. Home Lighting Systems (Nos.)	260187
iii. Solar Lanterns (Nos.)	441481
iv. SPV Power Plants (kWp)	1455.70
10. Solar Cookers (Nos.)	546830
11. Solar PV Pumps (Nos.)	6452
12. Wind Pumps (Nos.)	940
13. Hybrid Systems (kW)	225.09
14. Integrated Rural Energy Programme (Nos. of Blocks)	860

CBP/IBP/NBP = Community/Institutional/Night soil biogas plants

Sq.km. = Square Kilometre Sq.m. = Square meter

MW = Mega-watt KW = Kilo watt kWp = Kilo watt peak

Statement-II

Solar energy systems/devices installed in Jharkhand and Bihar during the 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (upto 30.9.2003)

S. No.	System/Device	Bihar	Jharkhand
1.	Solar street lighting system (Nos.)	232	235
2.	Solar home lighting system (Nos.)	1225	552
3.	Solar lantern (Nos.)	8000	-
4.	Solar photovoltaic pumps (Nos.)	10	03
5.	Solar cooker (Nos.)	-	280

[English]

Problem in Power Sector

1480. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that power sector has been suffering from serious problems which have been identified ten years ago but no corrective action has been taken so far;

(b) if so, whether as a result, the power sector faces an imminent crisis in almost all States;

(c) whether no State Electricity Board is recovering the full cost of power supplied due to which they are making continuous losses; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to check the losses of SEBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/Power Utilities, have been suffering from serious problem due to loss incurred in their operation because of gap in cost of supply and revenue collection. The major factor responsible for such losses inter alia include theft of power, high technical losses, over staffing in utilities, poor metering, billing and collection, irrational tariff and non-payment of subsidies by the Government.

The Government has initiated various steps to revive the poor financial health of SEBs/Power Utilities. The Ministry of Power has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with States on power sector reform envisaging support of Central Government subject to States progressing satisfactorily on agreed reform agenda. Under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), Government is providing financial assistance for specific projects aimed at reducing Aggregate Transmission and Commercial Losses. This has been combined with a provision of a grant to the States linked to the actual reduction in losses. Past dues of SEBs due to Central Public Sector Undertakings have been securitized under tripartite agreements.

Earlier some States had enacted their Electricity Reforms Acts. To provide a national level legal frame work for liberalization and reform of electricity industry, the Electricity Act, 2003 has been enacted. Under the Electricity Act, 2003, retail tariff is to be determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. The regulatory commissions while determining the tariff shall be guided, inter-alia, by the principle of recovery of the cost of electricity in a reasonable manner.

These steps have started showing definite signs of improvement in the functioning of SEBs/power utilities. In the year 2001-2002 four States namely Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana and Rajasthan have shown aggregate cash loss reduction. In addition ten States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh,

Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal have reported deduction in over all losses during the year 2002-2003.

Doubling of Cuttack-Barang and Talcher-Paradeep Rail Line

1481. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the present status of doubling work of Cuttack-Barang and Talcher-Paradeep rail line projects in Orissa;
- (b) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred thereon so far, year-wise;
- (c) the target date fixed for the completion of said projects;
- (d) whether projects are running as per schedule;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken to expedite the construction of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

(d) to (f) The projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources. Railways have taken a number of initiatives to get additional resources from sources other than the normal budgetary support which would expedite the progress of the projects.

Statement

The details of year-wise allocation of funds and expenditure incurred (in crores of Rs.) on Cuttack-Barang and Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep doubling projects, their present status and targets wherever fixed are as under :-

Year	Cuttack-Barang		Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep								
	Outlay	Exp.	Nergundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur		Raghunathpur-Rahama		Rahama-Paradeep		2nd bridges on rivers Birupa and Mahanadi		
			Outlay	Exp.	Outlay	Exp.	Outlay	Exp.	Outlay	Exp.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1995-96					6.00	1.85					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1996-97					8.00	13.43			0.01	0.00
1997-98			0.10	0.00	7.96	16.57	0.01	0.07	1.00	0.74
1998-99			9.00	7.08	16.00	18.96	9.00	3.10	17.18	1.64
1999-2000			33.20	18.70	5.00	10.74	14.00	3.94	10.00	1.70
2000-01			30.00	19.44	9.00	2.64	24.00	4.98	10.00	0.95
2001-02			30.00	16.61	0.60	2.26	24.00	12.24	10.00	-1.20
2002-03			10.00	28.87	0.68	1.37	10.00	16.26	20.00	6.14
2003-04	10.00	*	15.00	*	0.01	*	15.00	*	20.00	*

*Expenditure of the current year will be known only after the end of the current financial year and finalization of the accounts.

Cuttack-Barang doubling is a new work included in the Budget 2003-04 and preliminary works like preparation of drawing and framing of estimates etc. have been taken up. Work is being implemented by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL).

On Nergundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur doubling project, Kapilas Road-Nergundi-Birupa Cabin section has been completed. Earthwork and minor bridges are in progress on Nergundi-Kendrapara Road and Nergundi-Cuttack sections.

Raghunathpur-Rahama doubling project has been completed and commissioned.

On Rahama-Paradeep doubling project, overall progress is 85% and the project is targeted for completion during 2003-04.

On 2nd bridges on rivers Birupa and Mahanadi, the overall progress is 48% on the 2nd Bridge on river Birupa. The 2nd bridge on river Mahanadi is to be executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) through Asian Development Bank (ADB) funding.

Role of Coast Guard

1482. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the role assigned to Coast Guard's in its various activities in the EEZ:

(b) whether the Coast Guard's time is being taken up more by such less important activity than with enhancing security and protecting the country from other country's naval forces;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to review the extent of being taken up for such small time activity like commercial exploitation of the EEZ:

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to carefully monitor the role of field officers of the Coast

Guard and the role they are playing in generally restricting commercial exploitation of our waters;

(e) the number of personnel of Coast Guard devoting their time to office work, etc. in relation to the commercial activity like fishing in our waters;

(f) the steps proposed to review the role and work of the Coast Guard in this matter;

(g) whether there is any proposal to develop one institution for overseeing only commercial activity in the EEZ; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The role of the Coast Guard is to protect

the Maritime and other national interests of India in the maritime and Exclusive Economic Zone. Its role includes assistance to fisherman at sea while in distress, Sea Pollution response, Anti-smuggling, Anti-Piracy, Search and Rescue etc.

(b) Protecting the country from other country's naval forces is the mandated task of the Indian Navy and not of the Coast Guard.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Coast Guard is playing a positive role in safeguarding the commercial exploitation of our waters, specially for fishing. Therefore, no proposal is under consideration for monitoring the role of Field Officers of the Coast Guard.

(e) There are no fixed number of Coast Guard personnel devoting time exclusively for office work in relation to the commercial activity like fishing in our waters and hence cannot be quantified.

(f) Director General Coast Guard and Regional Commanders through reviews and field visit regularly monitor the working of the field force.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Renovation and Modernisation Programme for Power Generation

1483. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has identified certain existing power stations for renovation and modernization/ life extension in order to achieve additional power generation capacity;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) During the 10th Plan, 106 thermal units have been identified for Life Extension (LE) works for anticipated increase of generation in 23700 MU/year. Also 57 thermal units have been identified for Renovation and Modernization (R and M) works for improvement of their performance. Besides, 74 existing Hydro Power Stations have been identified for implementation of Renovation, Modernization, uprating and Life Extension during 10th Plan to accrue a benefit of power of 2446.87 MW. The State-wise details of power stations identified for renovation and modernization/ life extension for implementation during the 10th Plan are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Thermal Units Identified for Life Extension during 10th Plan

Sl. No.	Name of station/units	Present rated capacity (MW)	Maximum output (MW)	Capacity expected after LEP (MW)	Additional power generation (MW)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Delhi					
1.	Badarpur units 1-5	705	705	720	15
Haryana					
2.	Panipat units 1, 3 and 4	330	300	330	30
3.	Faridabad units 1-3	165	159	180	21
Punjab					
4.	Bhatinda units 1-4	440	400	440	40

1	2	3	4	5	6
Uttar Pradesh					
5.	Obra units 1-13	1482	1335	1550	210
6.	Panki units 3-4	210	190	220	30
7.	Harduagunj units-1, 3, 4, 5 and 7	325	235	340	105
Maharashtra					
8.	Nasik units 1-2	280	250	280	30
9.	Paras unit-2	58	58	62.5	4.5
10.	Bhusawal unit-1	58	58	62.5	4.5
11.	Koradi units 1-4	460	440	480	40
12.	Parli units 1-2	60	60	60	0
Chhattisgarh					
13.	Korba (East) units 1, 4, 5 and 6	320	280	340	60
Madhya Pradesh					
14.	Satpura units 1-5	310.25	300	310.25	10.25
15.	Amarkantak units 1-4	290	240	300	60
Gujarat					
16.	Gandhinagar units 1-2	240	200	240	40
17.	Dhuvaran units 1-6	534	422	534	112
18.	Ukai units 1-2	240	210	240	30
Tamil Nadu					
19.	Ennore units 1-2	120	100	120	20
20.	Tuticorin unit 1-3	630	630	630	0
Andhra Pradesh					
21.	Vijayawada units 1-2	420	420	420	0
22.	Kothagudem units 6-8	325	300	360	60
West Bengal					
23.	Santalidih units 1-3	360	260	360	100
24.	Bandel units 1-4	320	260	330	70
25.	Durgapur-DVC unit-3	140	110	140	30

1	2	3	4	5	6
Jharkhand					
26.	Chandrapura-DVC units 1-6	750	570	780	210
27.	Bokaro units 1-3	135	0	172.5	172.5
28.	Patratu units 4-8	430	315	470	155
Bihar					
29.	Barauni units 4-5	100	0	100	100
Assam					
30.	Chandrapur unit-1	30	0	30	30
31.	Namrup uit-l	23	23	23	0
32.	Bongaigaon units 1-2	120	0	120	120

*Thermal Units Identified for R and M
during 10th Plan*

S. No.	Name of Station	Unit	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
Rajasthan			
1.	Kota	1-5	850
Punjab			
2.	Ropar	1-6	1260
Maharashtra			
3.	Nasik	3-5	630
4.	Koradi	5-7	630
5.	Chadrapur	1-6	1840
6.	Parli	3-5	630

1	2	3	4
7.	Khaperkheda	1-2	420
8.	Bhusawal	2-3	420
Gujarat			
9.	Kutch Lignite	1-2	140
Madhya Pradesh			
10.	Singrauli STPS	1-7	2000
11.	Vindhyachal	1-6	1260
Chhattisgarh			
12.	Korba	1-6	2100
Andhra Pradesh			
13.	Ramagundem	1-6	2100

10th Plan Programme of Renovation, Modernisation and Uprating of Hydro Power Schemes

S. No.	Scheme Description	Scheme category	Expected Benefit	
			MW	MU
1	2	3	4	5

CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES

Meghalaya

1.	Khandong, NEEPCO 2x25 MW	R and M	-	-
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1	2	3	4	5
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ONGOING CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES

Punjab

2.	Bhakra LB, BBMB 5x90 MW (Original) 1960-61 5x108 MW (Up-rated in 1985)	RMU and LE	108 (LE) 18 (UR) (one unit)	5.77* + 42.54*
3.	Pong, BBMB 6x60 MW	RM and U	36 (UR)	5.77
4.	Ganguwal U-1, BBMB 1x29.25 MW (Installed) 1x25.89 MW (Re-rated)	RMU and LE	25.89 (LE) + 2.09 (UR) Being revised to 25.89 (LE) + 2.10 (UR)	211.27 + 17.05 Being revised to 211.27 + 17.14
5.	Kotla U1, BBMB 1x29.25 MW (Installed) 1x26.61 MW (Re-rated)	RMU and LE	26.61 (LE) + 2.35 (UR) Being revised to 26.61 (LE) + 2.33 (UR)	217.14 + 19.17 Being revised to 217.14 + 19.01

Jharkhand

6.	Maithon, DVC. 3x20 MW (IC) (Unit 2)	RMU and LE	20 (LE) 3.2 (UR)	66.22
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Manipur

7.	Loktak NHPC 3x35 MW	R and M + Res.	15.00 (Res.)	40.26
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SCHEMES REPORTED UNDER RESIDUAL LIFE ASSESSMENT (RLA) STUDIES

Jharkhand

1.	Maithon, DVC 3x20 MW (IC) (U1 and 3)	RMU and LE	40 (LE) 6.4 (UR) UR being revised to 6.0	132.44
2.	Panchet, DVC, 1x40 MW (U-1 Conv.)	RMU and LE	40 (LE) 6 (UR)	100.4

SCHEMES UNDER DETAILED PROJECT STAGE

Jammu and Kashmir

1.	Salal Ph-II, NHPC, 3x115 + 3x115 MW	R and M + Res.	75 (Res.)	227 Being revised to 277
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1	2	3	4	5
Assam				
2.	Kopili, NEEPCO 2x50 MW 2x50 MW	R and M (units 1 and 2)	-	-
SCHEMES COMPLETED UNDER STATE SECTOR				
Punjab				
1.	Shanan Ph-A 4x12 MW (1932) (uprated to 4x15 MW) 1x50 MW	R and M	-	-
Karnataka				
2.	Nagjhari (U1 and 3) KPCL 2x135 MW	RM and U	30 (UR)	-
3.	Supa PH, KPCL 2x50 MW	R and M	-	-
4.	Mahatma Gandhi, KPCL 4x12 + 4x18 MW	RMU and LE	120 (LE) 19.2* (UR)	250
5.	Munirabad Gen. Strn., 2x9 + 1x10.3 MW	RM and LE	28.3 (LE)	100
6.	Mani Dam Power House, 2x4.5 MW	R and M	-	-
7.	Pallivasal, KSEB 3x5 + 3x7.5 MW	RM and LE	37.5 (LE)	284
8.	Sengulam, KSEB 4x12 MW	RM and LE	48 (LE)	184
9.	Panniar, KSEB 2x15 MW	RM and LE	30 (LE)	148
Meghalaya				
10.	Umium St.I 4x9 MW	RM and LE	36 (LE)	-
ONGOING SCHEMES UNDER STATE SECTOR				
Jammu and Kashmir				
1.	Lower Jhelum, J and KPDC 3x35 MW	RM and U + Res.	9 (UR) 25 (Res.)	81.6

1	2	3	4	5
Punjab				
2.	Shanan Ph.-B 4×12 MW 4×15 MW uprated 1×50 MW	RM and LE for 15 MW units and R and M for 50 MW unit	60 (LE)	—
Rajasthan				
3.	Jawahar Sagar 3×33 MW	R and M	—	—
4.	Rana Pratap Sagar, 4×43 MW	R and M	—	—
Uttaranchal				
5.	Chibro. UJVNL 4×60 MW	R and M	—	20
6.	Chilla. UJVNL 4×36 MW	R and M	—	60
7.	Khodri. UJVNL 4×30 MW	R and M	—	10
Karnataka				
8.	Bhadra Ph.II, KPCL 2×12 + 1×7.2 + 1×2 MW 1×6 MW	RM and LE	2 (LE)	6
9.	Varahi, KPCL 2×115 MW	R and M	—	—
10.	Sharavathy Ph-A 10×103.5 MW	R and M	—	—
11.	Shivasamudram, KPCL 6×3 + 4×6 MW	RM and LE	42 (LE)	250 Being revised to 185
Kerala				
12.	Sabarigiri, KSEB 6×50 MW	RMU and LE	300 (LE) 35 (UR) (U1 to U5 @ 5 MW U6 @ 10 MW)	1338 + 26.76
13.	Neriamangalam, KSEB, 1961-63 3×15 MW	RMU and LE	45 (LE) 9 (UR)	330.8

1	2	3	4	5
Tamil Nadu				
14.	Mettur Dam PH/TNEB 4x10 MW	RMU and LE	40 (LE) 10 (UR)	111.98
15.	Papanasam. TNEB 4x7 MW	RMU and LE	28.0 (LE) 4.0 (UR)	105
16.	Pykara, TNEB 3x6.65 + 1x11 + 2x14 MW	RM and LE	58.95 (LE)	268.16
Orissa				
17.	Hirakud 1. OHPC	R and M		-
18.	Hirakud-1 (U3 and 4) 2x24 MW	RMU and LE	48 (LE) 16 (UR)	231.04
19.	Hirakud II, OHPC 3x24 MW	RM and LE	27 (LE)	376
20.	Jaldhaka St.I + II 3x9 + 2x4 MW	RM and LE	27 (LE of St-I units)	45 (St-I) 12.6 (St-II)
Maharashtra				
21.	Bhira Tail Race PS, MSEB 2x40 MW	R and M	-	-
22.	Koyna Generating Coplex, MSEB 4x70 MW 4x80 MW 4x80 MW	R and M	-	131
23.	Tillari HPS, MSEB 1x60 MW	RM and U	8.2 (UR)	-
SCHEMES POSED FOR ACCELERATED GENERATION AND SUPPLY PROGRAMME (AG AND SP)/POWER FINANCE CORPORATION FUNDING.				
Himachal Pradesh				
1.	Bassi HPSEB 4x15 MW	RMU and LE	60 (LE) 6 (UR)	351
Jammu and Kashmir				
2.	Chenani 5x4.66 MW	RMU and LE	23.3 (LE) 2.33 (UR)	123.36
3.	Ganderbal, J and KPDC 2x3 MW + 2x4.5 MW	RM and LE	15 (LE)	93.64

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Sumbal Sindh, J and KPDC 2x11.3 MW	RM and U	3 (UR)	13.28
Uttaranchal				
5.	Dhakrani, UJVNL 3x11.25 MW	RM and LE	33.75 (LE)	160 Being revised to nil
6.	Dhalipur, UJVNL 3x17 MW	RM and LE	51 (LE)	20 Being revised to nil
7.	Tiloth, UJVNL 3x30 MW	R and M	-	30 Being revised to nil
Andhra Pradesh				
8.	Hampi APGENCO 2x9 MW (Stage-I) and 2x9 MW (Stage-II)	RM and LE	36 (LE)	118
9.	Machkund, APGENCO St.I 1955-56 3x17 MW 3x21.25 MW	RMU and LE	114.75 (LE) + 15.25 (UR)	778.45
10.	Tungabhadra Dam, 4x9 MW	RM and LE	36 (LE)	118
Karnataka				
11.	Bhadra. (2 MW) (2x12 + 1x7.2 MW) (6 MW) 2x12 + 1x7.2 + 1x6 + 1x2 MW	RM and LE of 12 MW units	24 (LE)	25.3
12.	Nagjhari, 3x135 MW (U-4, 5 and 6)	RM and U	45 (UR)	-
13.	Sharavathy (Ph-B) 10x103.5 MW	R and M	-	-
14.	Sholayar-1, 2x35 MW	RMU and LE	70 (LE) 14 (UR)	188 Being revised to 268.0
Maharashtra				
15.	Koyna St.I 4x70 MW St.II 4x80 MW	R and M	-	-

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Koyna St.III. 4x80 MW	R and M	-	-
17.	Vaitarna, 1x60 MW	RM and U	6 (UR)	10
Meghalaya				
18.	Umium St.II 2x9 MW	RM and LE	18 (LE)	-
SCHEMES UNDER RESIDUAL LIFE ASSESSMENT (RLA) STUDIES				
Himachal Pradesh				
1.	Giri, 2x30 MW	RM and LE	60 (LE)	-
2.	Khatima, 3x13.8 MW	RM and LE	41.4 (LE)	198 Being revised to nil
3.	Pathri, 3x6.8 MW	RM and LE	20.4 (LE)	40 Being revised to nil
Maharashtra				
4.	Koyna DAM PH 2x18 MW	RM and U	8 (UR)	10
SCHEMES UNDER DETAILED PROJECT REPORT STAGE				
Punjab				
1.	Anand Pur Sahib 4x33.5 MW	R and M	-	-
2.	Mukerian St.I 3x15 MW	R and M	-	-
Uttaranchal				
3.	Kulhal, 3x10 MW	R and M	-	10 Being revised to nil
4.	Ramganga, 3x66 MW	R and M + Res.	18 (Res)	-
Karnataka				
5.	Linganamakki, 2x27.5 MW	R and M	-	-
Kerala				
6.	Kuttiadi 3x25 MW	RM and LE	75 (LE)	248

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Poringalkuthu, 4x8 MW	RM and LE	32 (LE)	171
Meghalaya				
8.	Kyredemkulai 2x30 MW	RM and U	6 (UR)	—

[Translation]

Grants to Cantonment Councils

1484. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the annual grants given by the Government to the cantonment councils and the steps being taken by the councils to enhance revenue collection to become self reliant;

(b) whether there is any laxity on the part of the Government in revenue collection; and

(c) if so, the amount of revenue loss on this account?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Grants-in-aid is released by the Central Government to the deficit Cantonment Boards to balance their budget. An amount of Rs. 25 crore has been allocated for the purpose in the current year.

Steps have been taken by the Cantonment Boards to enhance their income by revision of taxes, charges, fees and wherever feasible, by construction of shopping complexes etc.

(b) No, Sir, there is no laxity on the part of Cantonment Board in revenue collection.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Natural Gas Policy of States

1485. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to give permission to State Governments to frame its own Natural Gas Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal in this regard has been received from the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Shortage of Coaches

1486. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of shortages of Railway coaches in the Metre Gauge Railway lines in Gujarat and particularly in between Patan-Ahmedabad; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) and (b) Coaches are not allotted State-wise. Overall, there is no shortage of metre gauge coaches on Western Railway. However, there is shortage of general class coaches in metre gauge. With the conversion of existing metre gauge sections into broad gauge and production of

new metre gauge coaches, the shortages are being gradually wiped out.

Energy Education Park in Bangalore

1487. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has a proposal to set up an Energy Education Park at Bangalore;
- (b) the cost involved in the park;
- (c) the amount sanctioned so far by the Union Government for that part; and
- (d) the time by which such park is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL), Bangalore, an autonomous body dealing with Renewable Energy Sources, under the Government of Karnataka has been sanctioned a State level Renewable Energy Awareness/Education Park to be set up at Indira Gandhi Musical Fountain, Ali Askar Road, Bangalore.

- (b) The estimated cost of the Park is about Rs. 125 lakhs.
- (c) The amount sanctioned by Central Government is Rs. 98,25,000/-.
- (d) The Park is expected to be completed by April 2005.

AIR/DD Kendras for Bodo-Tribal Areas

1488. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISW-MUTHIARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to set up few more number of new AIR Stations and Doordarshan Kendras in Bodo-Tribal dominated areas within the Bodoland Territory particularly in Indo-Bhutan bordering areas;
- (b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard; 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) Schemes of establishment of a high power TV transmitter at Kokrajhar and a very low power TV transmitter at Udalguri in Bodoland territory have been included in the Special package for North-East region. There is, however, no proposal for setting up new AIR Station, as the Bodo-Tribal dominated area and Indo-Bhutan bordering areas are well covered by Radio signals of All India Radio Stations at Kokrajhar, Dhubri and Guwahati in Assam, Siliguri in West Bengal, Gangtok in Sikkim and Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.

[Translation]

Committee of Retired High Officials in PGCI

1489. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India has appointed a Committee consisting of retired high officials of public sector to advice and suggest on various issues;
- (b) if so, the details of the terms of reference and the names of Members of the said Committee;
- (c) whether the Central Vigilance Commission and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India have been averse to appointment of the said Committee; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) POWERGRID has constituted two committees—one to advise on various issues related with procurement, project execution and financial aspects raised by external agencies and the other to advise on various financial management matters.

- (b) Details of the terms of reference of the two committees is enclosed as Statement-I. The list of Members of these committees is enclosed as Statement-II
- (c) No adverse comment has been received either from Central Vigilance Commission or from Comptroller and Auditor General of India on the formation of the two Committees.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement-I

- (I) *Terms of reference of the committee constituted by POWERGRID to advise on various issues related with procurement, project execution and financial aspects raised by external agencies.*
1. Study of Audit Paras/Queries/complaints/issues as may be referred to the committee pertaining to procurement, project execution and financial aspects raised by external agencies i.e. Auditors, other agencies, etc.
 2. Study the provision of bidding documents/contract agreements/evaluation reports/works and procurement policies and procedures or any other documents related to audit paras/queries complaints/issues referred to at Sl.No: 1.
 3. Study/review of replies/view points as proposed/compiled by POWERGRID along with relevant provisions of the bidding/contract or any other documents concerning the replies.
 4. Submission of Committee's reasoned findings/comments/observations to POWERGRID with respect to Sl.No. 1 and 3 above in a time bound manner but not later than 30 days from the date of referral of the audit paras/queries/complaints/issues.
 5. Suggest measures for improving the existing systems and procedures as a fall out of such reviews.
- (II) *Terms of reference of the committee constituted by POWERGRID to advise on various financial management matters.*
1. Review of existing financial management policies, systems and procedures for enhancing financial performance and operational efficiency with reference to future needs of transmission business.
 2. Review of existing financial management strategies – short term and long term with reference to transmission business.
 3. Review of matters concerning improvement of financial performance and operational efficiency.
 4. The mobilization of funds from domestic as well as from overseas markets including business options

for development of private participation including IPO.

5. Financing of new business – diversification business, etc.
6. Review of dividend policy.
7. Suggesting new systems, procedures and strategies on the basis of above review.

Statement-II

- (I) List of Members of the committee constituted by POWERGRID to advise on various issues related with procurement, project execution and financial aspects raised by external agencies.
- (i) Shri N. Vittal, Ex-Central Vigilance – Chairman
Commissioner
 - (ii) Dr. Trinath Mishra, Ex-Director, – Member
Central Bureau of Investigation
 - (iii) Shri J.S. Mathur, Ex-Dy. CAG and – Member
Chairman, Audit Board
 - (iv) Shri P.S. Bami, Ex-CMD, NTPC – Member
 - (v) A Financial Management Expert – Member
from Management Development
Institute
 - (vi) An Expert from IIT, Delhi in Civil/ – Member
Power System area
 - (vii) GM/AGM-In-Charge of the Internal – Member
Audit in POWERGRID Secretary
- (II) List of Members of the committee constituted by POWERGRID to advise on various financial management matters.
- (i) Shri V.K. Shunglu, Ex-CAG of India – Chairman
 - (ii) Shri P.S. Barmi, Ex-CMD, NTPC – Member
 - (iii) Shri Arun Singh, Chartered – Member
Accountant
 - (iv) Shri D. Sanyal, Professor, MDI, – Member
Gurgaon
 - (v) Executive Director (Fin), POWERGRID – Member
Secretary

[English]

Dahej LNG Terminal

1490. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the present status of Dahej LNG terminal project;
- (b) whether any study has been done on its feasibility; and
- (c) 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) Dahej LNG terminal is 98% complete and will be mechanically completed by the end of December 2003.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The detailed feasibility report was prepared by M/s Sofregaz of France who are one of the leading consultants in the field of LNG. The project was found techno-economically feasible. By the execution of this project the gap between supply and demand of natural gas will reduce.

Investment of Dividends by Public Sector Undertakings

1491. SHRI ARUN KUMAR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (C and AG) had brought out in its report as on March 31, 2002 that out of Rs. 93,755 crore invested by the Government in 270 PSUs dividend worth Rs. 8201 crore has been paid only by 86 PSUs to the Government during 2001-2002;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the remaining 184 PSUs not paying the dividends during 2001-2002 along with the amount of dividend that could have been received from them; and
- (c) the amount of interim dividend paid by the PSUs to the Government during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) According to Report No. 1 of 2003 of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C and AG) containing Review of Accounts of PSUs placed in Parliament on 24.04.2003 :

- (i) Audit reviewed accounts of 268 PSUs having Government Investment of Rs. 93755.40 crore.
- (ii) During the year 2001-02, 86 PSUs declared dividend amounting to Rs. 8201.57 crore out of which Rs. 5959.20 crore were paid/payable to the Government of India.

(b) and (c) Out of 268 companies reviewed by the Audit, 120 PSUs suffered losses. However, enterprise-specific information on reasons for non-declaration of dividend, the amount of dividend that could have been received from PSUs, and amount of interim dividend paid are not maintained centrally.

Procurement of Hepatitis-B Vaccine

1492. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is clear stipulation that the Government would buy the vaccine only from WHO Geneva pre-qualified firms;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry of Defence is procuring Hepatitis-B Vaccine of sub-standard quality from an Indian Firm which is not WHO Geneva pre-qualified;
- (c) if so, the actual facts thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has received a number of representations from Members of Parliament against procurement of this sub-standard vaccine;
- (e) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (f) whether few deaths of children due to Revac-B (Hepatitis-B) vaccine manufactured by Bharat Biotech International Limited have been recorded in the office of Director General of Armed Forces Medical Supplies (DGAFMS);

(g) if so, the facts and the action taken in the matter;

(h) whether any inquiry regarding the quality of the medicine being supplied now has been conducted; and

(i) if so, the results of the inquiry and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (i) There is no stipulation that Hepatitis-B Vaccine should only be procured from World Health Organisation (WHO), Geneva pre-qualified firms for use in the Armed Forces Hospitals.

The Vaccine being procured meets the prescribed specifications and is of standard quality. Vaccines are procured from the bidder who meets the prescribed specifications in the tender and whose price is the lowest. The Vaccine is further subject to inspection by the prescribed authorities.

Representations from Members of Parliament have been received for procurement of Hepatitis-B Vaccine from WHO Geneva, pre-qualified firms. These representations have been duly considered at the level of Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services (DG AFMS) when the procurement was being processed.

One death was reported from Jabalpur during a Hepatitis-B vaccination camp held in October-November, 2002. On autopsy, it was confirmed that the death was due to a rare allergic complication. No further inquiry was considered necessary, as the autopsy had confirmed that death had occurred due to the allergic reaction and not due to any deficiency in the quality of the vaccine.

Implementation of Wakf Act, 1995

1493. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is providing financial assistance in setting up of Wakf Boards under Wakf Act, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has asked the States to take action for implementation of various provisions of Act, 1995; and

(c) if so, the further steps taken or being taken or being taken by the Union Government to ensure that all the State Governments implement all the provisions of said Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI) : (a) No Madam,

(b) The Union Government is writing from time to time to the State Governments for implementing the Wakf Act, 1995 in their respective States. The Union Government is also reviewing the status of implementation in the meetings with the concerned Secretaries of all the State/UT Governments.

(c) The State/UT Governments are being regularly persuaded to implement the provisions of the Wakf Act, 1995 in their respective States/UTs.

Projects in Kerala

1494. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of work relating to satellite terminal at Kochuveli, two line crossing stations at Nemom and crossing station at Parassala in Trivandrum Division;

(b) the target fixed for completion of said projects;

(c) whether the work on the said projects running as per schedule; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) Tenders have been processed for Pit Line for Second Coaching Terminal at Kochuveli. Tenders have also been processed for earthwork for Nemom crossing station work.

Earthwork, platform work, protective work etc. are in progress for Parassala crossing station work. Tenders have also been processed for station building, staff quarters etc.

(b) and (c) Work of Nemom crossing station is planned for completion during 2004-05, Kochuveli Terminal and

Parasala works are expected to be completed in next 2-3 years depending upon the availability of resources.

(d) A number of initiatives have been taken to augment resources for expediting completion of the going works.

[Translation]

Allocation of funds of NMDFC

1495. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) has demanded allocation of more funds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI) : (a) and (b) No Sir, the NMDFC has not asked for more fund.

[English]

OBCs in Ministry

1496. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has provided adequate job opportunities for the persons belonging to Other Backward Communities (OBCs) in the various departments, autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in most instances the OBC Staff strength is far less than what it should be in corresponding to the total strength, particularly in Group A and B;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representations for the OBC and to uphold social justice to the persons belonging to the OBC in respect of job opportunities;

(e) whether the Government has asked for any detailed reports from the various departments, autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices of his Ministry regarding the current status of OBC representation in Group A, B, C and D; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) The Presidential Directives on reservation for Other Backward Communities (OBCs) are issued from time to time. However, so far as the selection/recruitment to the Group 'A' and 'B' posts is concerned, these posts are filled up by selection/recruitment made by Department of Personnel and Training, which takes care of the reservation policies meant for OBCs and the Oil PSUs under the administrative control of this Ministry take care of the presidential directives on reservation policies for OBCs at the time of recruitment of the comparable posts in their respective organizations.

(d) A few backlogs for OBCs vacancies/posts are available in some of the oil PSUs and could not be filled up, as these companies are optimizing themselves to suit the changed economic scenario. However, the concerned oil PSUs are making all out efforts to fill up the backlog vacancies/posts, meant for OBCs at the earliest.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of (d) above.

[Translation]

Rail Projects in Uttaranchal

1497. DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL :
SHRI A. NARENDRA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of new/on-going/pending rail projects and surveys in Uttaranchal;

(b) the target fixed for completion of these projects, project-wise;

(c) whether projects are running as per schedule;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) No target has yet been fixed. The ongoing project is being progressed as per the availability of resources.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Statement

The status of ongoing rail projects and completed surveys in Uttaranchal is given as under :-

- (i) There is only one project in progress falling partly in Uttaranchal, i.e., gauge conversion of Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura, Kasganj-Bareilly and Bareilly-Lalkuan. On Kanpur-Farrukhabad (140 km) section, earthwork has almost been completed, 150 minor bridges and 4 major bridges completed. On Farrukhabad-Kasganj-Mathura and Kasganj-Bareilly-Lalkuan (404.5 km) sections, 7.46 lac cum earthwork, 2 major bridges and 89 minor bridges have been completed. The work would be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.
- (ii) A number of surveys which have been completed in Uttaranchal but work could not be taken up because of non availability of sanctions due to huge throwforward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources are :
- Bhojipura-Pilibhit-Tanakpur gauge conversion
 - Muzaffarnagar to Haridwar via Roorkee new line
 - Haridwar-Kotdwar-Ramnagar new line
 - Rishikesh-Karanparyag new line
 - Rishikesh to Dehradun new line
 - Dehradun and Saharanpur new line
 - Dehradun-Chandigarh new line

A proposal for new broad gauge line from Kiccha to Khatima via Sitarganj and Nanakmata has been processed for necessary approvals.

[English]

New Power Policy for Public Sector Companies

1498. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to implement no purchase preference policy for Public Sector Companies in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main objectives behind the new power policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) As per the existing instructions, the policy on purchase preference scheme for products and services of Central Public Sector Enterprises will be operative till 31.3.2004. Meanwhile, in order to bring down the cost of power through enhancing the environment for competition at the bidding stage for power projects, the Government, pending a general review of the scheme, have considered the overall position and authorized the Ministry of Finance to exempt such proposals of the Ministry of Power from purchase preference on case to case basis as and when needed.

Hydro Electric Generation by NHPC

1499. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether NHPC has identified some places/sources for Hydro Electric Generation, State-wise;

(b) the details of project have been undertaken so far completed and new projects during Tenth Plan period, State-wise;

(c) whether any Hydro project has been undertaken in Orissa;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any hydro electric project has been taken up by NHPC in collaboration with NTPC;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any hydro project independently taken up by NTPC; and

(h) if so, the details of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Details of the projects identified for execution by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Details of the projects executed by NHPC till date are given below :

Sl. No.	Projects	Installed Capacity (MW)	Year of Commisisioning
1.	Baira Siul (M.P.)	180	1981
2.	Loktak (Manipur)	105	1983
3.	Salal-I (J and K)	345	1987
4.	Tanakpur (Uttaranchal)	120	1992
5.	Chamera-I (HP)	540	1994
6.	Salal-II (J and K)	345	1996
7.	Uri (J and K)	480	1997
8.	Rangit (Sikkim)	60	1999
9.	Chamera-II (H.P.)*	200	2003
Total		2375	

*One Unit has been commissioned and is in commercial operation w.e.f. 2.11.2003. Second Unit commissioned on 5.12.2003 and 3rd Unit will be commissioned shortly.

The projects proposed to be undertaken during the 10th Plan period given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) No project of Orissa has so far been taken up by NHPC.

The Government of Orissa had expressed their intention to develop Chiplima-B (200 MW) and Sindol HE Project, Stage-I, II and III (320 MW) under Central Sector through NHPC with the condition that NHPC has to ensure that no area is submerged and no family is affected by execution of these projects. Government of Orissa have

not responded to NHPC's letter wherein it was clarified that submergence and displacement of people cannot be totally eliminated in development of hydro projects, especially for projects having large submergence area and moderate density of population.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) is presently implementing the Kol Dam Hydro Electric Project (800 MW) in Himachal Pradesh.

Statement-I

Details of the projects identified for execution by NHPC*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
1.	Subansiri Lower	Arunachal Pradesh	2000
2.	Subansiri Middle	Arunachal Pradesh	1600
3.	Subansiri Upper	Arunachal Pradesh	2000
4.	Siang Middle	Arunachal Pradesh	1000
5.	Dibang	Arunachal Pradesh	3000
6.	Siang Lower	Arunachal Pradesh	1700
7.	Siang Upper	Arunachal Pradesh	11000
8.	Chamera-II	Himachal Pradesh	300
9.	Parbati-II	Himachal Pradesh	800
10.	Parbati-III	Himachal Pradesh	520
11.	Chamera-III	Himachal Pradesh	231
12.	Koel Karo	Jharkhand	710
13.	Dulhasti	Jammu and Kashmir	390
14.	Sewa-II	Jammu and Kashmir	120
15.	Uri-II	Jammu and Kashmir	240
16.	Bursar	Jammu and Kashmir	1020
17.	Pakal Dul	Jammu and Kashmir	1000
18.	Nimoo Bazgo	Jammu and Kashmir	45

1	2	3	4
19. Chutak	Jammu and Kashmir		30
20. Kishanganga	Jammu and Kashmir		330
21. Upper Krishna Projects	Karnataka		810
22. Bav-II	Maharashtra		37
23. Bav-I	Maharashtra		18
24. Devade	Maharashtra		6
25. Indira Sagar	Madhya Pradesh		1000
26. Omkareshwar	Madhya Pradesh		520
27. Loktak Downstream	Manipur		90
28. Teesta-V	Sikkim		510
29. Dhauliganga-I	Uttaranchal		280
30. Lakhwar Vyasi	Uttaranchal		420
31. Kotli Bhel	Uttaranchal		850
32. Teesta Low Dam St.III	West Bengal		132
33. Teesta Low Dam St-IV	West Bengal		168 **
34. Purulia Pumped Storage	West Bengal		900

* Actual execution would depend upon obtaining of requisite permissions/clearances, technical and economic viability etc.

**The installed capacity as submitted in DPR is 160 MW.

Statement-II

Details of the projects identified for implementation by NHPC during the 10th Plan

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
On going Projects			
1.	Dulhasti	Jammu and Kashmir	390

1	2	3	4
2. Chamera-II	Himachal Pradesh		300
3. Dhauliganga-I	Uttaranchal		280
4. Teesta-V	Sikkim		510
5. Sewa-II	Jammu and Kashmir		120
6. Teesta Low Dam St.III	West Bengal		132
New Projects			
7. Teesta Low Dam St-IV	West Bengal		168 *
8. Bav-II	Maharashtra		37
Joint Venture Projects			
9. Indira Sagar	Madhya Pradesh		1000
10. Omkareshwar	Madhya Pradesh		520
11. Purulia Pumped Storage	West Bengal		900

*The installed capacity as submitted in DPR is 160 MW.

Setting Up of Consultancy Subsidiary by NHPC

1500.SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) propose to set up a consultancy subsidiary;

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

(c) whether necessary funds have been arranged in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Board of Directors of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC) have decided to set up a consultancy cell to provide consultancy services to various organizations in the field of Hydropower, including technical services. The consultancy services, by the name

of National Hydro Consultancy Services Ltd., will be a separate wholly owned subsidiary company for which NHPC has got the name reserved with the Assistant Company Registrar, Haryana and Delhi.

(d) NHPC is a profit generating company and it has been proposed to have an authorized share capital of Rs. 5 Crores for the above wholly owned subsidiary. The share capital of the subsidiary company has been planned to be intially subscribed through internal resources.

Policy on Wind Energy

1501.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Wind Power Association has urged the Union Government to come out with a policy on wind energy;

(b) if so, whether the 7th annual general body meeting of the Chennai-based Association was held in Bangalore and resolved to appeal the Ministry to formulate wind energy policy to give a fillip up to wind energy generation in the country;

(c) if so, whether the Government has considered the suggestions made by them; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government is likely to frame wind energy policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Government has been receiving suggestions from various wind energy associations, including the Indian Wind Power Association regarding further concessions/benefits for wind power sector. On the basis of the existing concessions and benefits in terms of concessional customs duty, accelerated depreciation, excise duty benefit and preferential prices for wind power in many States the installed capacity has already exceeded 2000 MW and the growth of the wind sector has been satisfactory.

(b) No such resolution has been received by Government from the Indian Wind Power Association.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Exploitation of Gas Reserves in K.G. Basin

1502.SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether arrangements for exploitation of natural gas resources found in Krishna Godavari basin by Reliance Company have been finalised.

(b) if so, whether this gas will be used for the industrial development of Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) The development plan for exploitation of natural gas from the gas discovery Dhirubhai-I in Block KG-DWN-98/3 located in Krishna Godavai Basin is under preparation as of today, after declaring it as commercial by the operator M/s Reliance Industries Limited. As per provisions of the Production Sharing Contract, the contractor is free to sell gas in the domestic market in India.

Reservation of Coaches by Private Parties for Special Occasions

1503.SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the norms and charges fixed by the Railways for reservation of coaches by the private parties for special occasions;

(b) whether it is also permissible to charter a particular train for such occasions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Governemnt proposed to encourage this practice for the development of tourism in the country;

(e) whether any special fare is required to be paid for hiring the special trains for such purposes; and

(f) if so, the detaile thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a)

The party should apply for reservation of coaches through the Station Manager to the Chief Passenger Traffic Manager of the concerned Railway giving details of the destination, route to be followed, halts required en-route and specific trains to which the coach is to be attached, at least 30 days in advance and not more than 6 months prior to the commencement of the journey. Coaches are booked on Full Tariff Rates which include basic Fare, Security Deposit of Rs. 10,000/- per coach, 15% of the fare as Service charge, Safety Surcharge, Empty Haulage charge for flat 200 KM per coach and Detention charge. Fares for a special coach are computed point to point on the basis of Full adult Mail/Express fares of the concerned class for the actual number of persons travelling or the marked carrying capacity of the coaches whichever is more. Fare is charged for a minimum distance of 500 KM for single journey and 1000 Km for round trip.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The party desirous of booking a chartered train can apply for a Special train through the Station Manager to the Chief Passenger Traffic Manager of the concerned Railway giving details of the destination, route to be followed, halts required en-route, at least 30 days in advance and not more than 6 months prior to the commencement of the journey. Special trains are booked on Full Tariff Rates which include Basic Fare, Security Deposit, 15% of the Fare as Service charge, Safety Surcharge, Empty Haulage charge for flat 200 KM per coach and Detention charge. Fares for a special train are computed point to point for the actual number of persons travelling or the marked carrying capacity of the coaches whichever is more. Fare for a special train is charged for a minimum composition of 15 coaches and for a minimum distance of 500 KM for single journey and 1000 km for round trip.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

ONGC Exploration in North Eastern Region

1504. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC has undertaken large scale explorations for oil and gas in the North Eastern Region this year; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this direction in different areas of the region and results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is pursuing exploration for hydrocarbons in the North Eastern Region for the last four decades. For this year, 2003-04, ONGC has planned to acquire 925 Ground Line Kilometers (GLK) of 2-Dimensional (2D) seismic and 260 Square Kilometers (Sq. Km) of 3-Dimensional (3D) seismic as also on drilling of 32 exploratory wells in the North Eastern Region.

During the first half of the current year, i.e. April to September, 2003, 96 GLK of 2D seismic and 138 Sq. Km. of 3D seismic have been acquired in the North Eastern Region. During this period, ONGC has also drilled 8 exploratory wells. The State-wise details of exploratory efforts made by ONGC during the year 2003-04 are as under :

State	2D (GLK)	3D (Sq. Km)	Exploratory wells drilled
Assam	73	138	5
Tripura	23	-	3

Out of the eight wells drilled above, three wells have proved to be hydrocarbon bearing.

Rehabilitation Service Centres

1505. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Chandigarh has been selected for setting up Rehabilitation Services Centre;

(b) if so, whether the same has become functional;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the functions undertaken by it; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Air Show in Srinagar

1506. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airforce organized an air show at Srinagar in July, 2003;

(b) whether a recruitment drive of airmen was also launched on the occasion;

(c) if so, the response of youth of the Kashmir valley; and

(d) the number of persons selected for Air Force during the drive?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The response has been quite encouraging.

(d) 379 candidates, out of those who passed, were found medically fit. These candidates have been included in the national merit list for recruitment into the IAF.

Compensation to Project affected Persons of Tamluk-Digha Rail Project

1507. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has paid the compensations to the affected persons for take over of their lands for laying the Tamluk-Digha railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay;

(d) the time by which the compensation is likely to be paid to the affected persons;

(e) whether the Government has a plan to offer alternative lands to the evacuees; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) to (d) The land for Tamluk – Digha has been acquired and handed over to the Railway by the State Government of West Bengal. Compensation to the land owners is finalized and paid by the State Government. An amount of Rs. 28 crore has been paid by the Railways to State Government for this purpose.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Submarines

1508. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Navy has formulated a project to manufacture the destroyer submarines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any target has been fixed therefor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) A long term perspective plan envisaging acquisition of indigenous capability in submarine design, development and construction of submarines and their core systems, also indigenous construction of submarines to meet the requirements of the Indian Navy, has been approved by the Government. The plan is to be implemented in two phases. The first phase is scheduled for completion in 2012 and the second phase in 2030.

[English]

Fencing of LoC

1509. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether fencing along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir is being erected;

(b) if so, whether some villages are left on other side in Uri Sector of Baramulla district in Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government received some protests from the farmers in this regard;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government to bring these villages inside the fence?

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

(b) and (c) The alignment of the fence, based on technical considerations has been finalised after consultation with the villages close to the Line of Control (LoC). In Uri Sector of Baramulla District, some villages are located between the fence and LoC. Provision of a number of gates in the fence have been made to facilitate the movement of villagers.

(d) As per reports available, no protests from the villagers has been received by the Government.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Power Generation in Bihar

1510. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the progress made in the field of power generation in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the power generated from the internal sources along with the total quantum of power supplied by the neighbouring States and central power grids;

(c) the total consumption of power as compared to its generation in Bihar;

(d) the reasons for charging higher tariff in the States;

(e) whether the allocation of funds for Bihar has been curtailed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The details of progress made in the field of power generation in the State of Bihar during the years 2001-02 to 2003-04 (upto October, 2003) are given below :-

Sl. No.	Year	Sector	Gross generation in MU		
			Thermal	Hydro	Total
1.	2001-02	State	673	58	731
		Central	4513	-	4513
		Total	5186	58	5244
2.	2002-03	State	531	59	590
		Central	4995	-	4995
		Total	5526	59	5585
3.	2003-04 (April, 03- Oct, 03)	State	222	34	256
		Central	3241	-	3241
		Total	3463	34	3497

(b) and (c) Details of generation by internal resources as well as import from Central Sector Stations in respect of Bihar during the years 2001-02 to 2003-04 (upto October, 2003) are given below :

Sl. No.	Year	Own Net Generation (MU)	Import from Central Sector	Total Consumption	
				(MU)	% of generation
1.	2001-02	594	5514	6108	1028%
2.	2002-03	461	5517	5978	1297%
3.	2003-04 (Upto Oct., 2003)	191	3144	3335	1746%

(d) The energy tariff for Central Sector Stations is uniform for all the beneficiary States.

(e) and (f) The Approved outlay for Power Sector for Annual Plan 2003-04 for Bihar is Rs. 493.68 crore. Details of approved outlay and actual expenditure for power sector for Bihar State for the past three years is indicated below :

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Approved Outlay	102.00	60.58	275.30
Actual Expenditure	64.81	67.3	174.02*

*Revised outlay.

In addition, a scheme amounting to Rs. 365 crores for improvement of sub-transmission and distribution system in Bihar through a special grant by the Planning commission is proposed to be executed by POWERGRID on behalf of Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB).

Further, under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), schemes relating to sub-transmission and distribution system in the State of Bihar amounting to Rs. 42.88 crores and Rs. 737.97 crores have been sanctioned during the year 2000-01 and 2002-03 respectively.

Manufacturing of Air Conditioned Wagons

1511. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is manufacturing air conditioned wagons for the transportation of fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, the time by which this facility is likely to be provided; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred for manufacturing said wagons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOU DA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] :

(a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to manufacture such wagons.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Defence Intelligence Agency

1512. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) created after a review of Indian Intelligence apparatus following the 1999 Kargil war;

(b) whether it is a fact that no financial allocation is made or sanctioned for functioning of DIA;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make DIA functional?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) Defence Intelligence Agency has already become fully functional.

Task Force for Textile Industry

1513. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the domestic textile machinery industry is urging the Union Government to set up a task force under the chairmanship of the Textile Commissioner to study the industry's problems and make recommendations to strengthen it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a task force;

(d) if so, the terms of reference and composition of the task force; and

(e) the time by when they are likely to submit their recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) A Working Group under the Chairmanship of Textile Commissioner, Mumbai has been constituted.

(d) The terms of reference and the composition of the working group are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The working group is expected to submit its report by 28th February, 2004.

Statement

Terms of reference of the Working Group for the growth and development of the Textile Machinery Industry.

1. To study the current status of the Textile machinery manufacturing sector and prepare a baseline picture of the sector.
2. To prepare a vision 2020 statement for the sector.
3. To identify all relevant issues, technical, financial, legal, etc. concerning the sectoral growth.
4. To prepare a roadmap and suggest measures for the growth of the sector including R and D and export.
5. To identify issues requiring urgent action and suggest measures to address them.
6. Consider any other issue incidental thereto.

Composition of Working Group

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Position
1.	Sh. Subodh Kumar	Textile Commissioner	Chairman
2.	Sh. Vivek Ray	Joint Secretary (PF-II), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance	Member
3.	Dr. D.N. Singh	Adviser/Scientist 'G' TIFAC, Department of Science and Technology	Member
4.	Sh. Gautam Ray	Joint Secretary, Tax Research Unit, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance	Member
5.	Sh. Navin Kumar	Joint Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry	Member
6.	Prof. Amar Nath	Chair Professor, Textile Machinery, IIT Mumbai	
7.	Sh. Sanjay Jayavarthanelu	Chairman, Textile Machinery Manufacturers Association (TMMA)	Member
8.	Sh. Sanjiv Lathia	President Indian Textile Accessories and Machinery Manufacturers Association (ITAMMA)	Member
9.	Sh. Atul Bhagvati	Past Chairman, TMMA	Member
10.	Sh. R.S. Bachkaniwala	Vice Chairman, TMMA	Member

[Translation]

Power Generation

1514.DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated for providing assistance to Bihar in the fields of power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the schemes formulated for power generation in Bihar;

(d) whether the State Government has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for modernization and renovation of Kanti Thermal Power Station and Barauni Thermal Power Station and also for expansion of Kanti Thermal Power Station;

(e) if so, whether the Planning Commission has accorded sanction to the above proposal;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which these schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has approved a proposal for improvement of sub-transmission system at an estimated cost of Rs. 365 crores. The scheme is to be implemented by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. and handed over to Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) after completion.

Besides, release of funds to Bihar for rural electrification under different schemes is shown in table below :

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of Programme	2002-03	2003-04
Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)	12.08	24.1730
Minimum Need Programme (MNP)	68.00	68.00
Kutir Jyoti	9.91	12.44
Total	89.99	104.6130

(c) No capacity addition has been envisaged in the State Sector in Bihar during X Plan.

(d) to (g) Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) has requested in November, 2003 for funding under AY and SP scheme for RM and LE of Unit 4, 5, 6 and 7 of Barauni Thermal Power Station. The total cost of the scheme is Rs. 421.00 crores. The proposal is at appraisal stage.

In respect of Muzaffarpur TPS efforts are on to hand over the units to NTPC for O and M on Long Term Lease basis.

[English]

Implementation of APDP and APDRP

1515. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) and Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) launched by the Government to improve power situation in various States have run into trouble;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the total funds allocated to the States for purchase of energy meters during the last two years;

(d) whether, the funds under APDRP scheme have been fully utilized by the States; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and steps taken by the Government thereon, State-wise?

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

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Details of the funds sanctioned to the State under Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) and Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for purchase of energy meters are given in the enclosed in Statement-I.

(d) No, Sir. Details of the funds released to various States under APDRP and the utilization are given to the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) Projects sanctioned under APDRP normally require a period of 18 to 24 months for their completion. The progress of projects is monitored by (i) Steering Committee constituted by the Ministry of Power (ii) State level distribution reform committees, constituted in States and (iii) Advisor-cum-Consultants.

Statement-I

Details of the funds sanctioned to the States under APDRP

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	State	(Sanctioned)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	193.32
2.	Bihar	87.035
3.	Chhattisgarh	37.31
4.	Delhi	54.115
5.	Goa	12.48
6.	Gujarat	130.215
7.	Haryana	70.65
8.	Jharkhand	42.62
9.	Karnataka	168.655
10.	Kerala	29.345
11.	Madhya Pradesh	34.905
12.	Maharashtra	132.00
13.	Orissa	69.54
14.	Punjab	125.375
15.	Rajasthan	48.205
16.	Tamil Nadu	90.585
17.	Uttar Pradesh	13.025
18.	West Bengal	30.37
19.	Assam	70.86
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	18.19
21.	Himachal Pradesh	25.32
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	6.99
23.	Manipur	5.10
24.	Meghalaya	7.96
25.	Mizoram	2.47

1	2	3
26.	Nagaland	11.17
27.	Sikkim	6.38
28.	Tripura	12.27
29.	Uttaranchal	61.84
Total		1598.30

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of State	Cost of the projects sanctioned	Funds released	Funds utilized
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1511.40	188.92	193.16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	85.99	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	408.54	96.97	0.80
4.	Bihar	737.97	66.11	12.48
5.	Chhattisgarh	424.58	53.07	70.25
6.	Delhi	946.46	105.51	346.38
7.	Goa	176.34	22.04	20.12
8.	Gujarat	1035.80	105.42	108.30
9.	Haryana	453.41	56.33	118.27
10.	Himachal Pradesh	327.81	163.91	12.11
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	401.10	200.50	20.00
12.	Jharkhand	444.85	12.00	73.36
13.	Karnataka	1161.19	145.15	136.85
14.	Kerala	350.35	43.80	64.96
15.	Madhya Pradesh	679.08	84.87	31.21
16.	Maharashtra	1347.85	168.48	84.73
17.	Manipur	10.13	2.67	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	42.26	21.13	0.00
19.	Mizoram	57.91	28.96	3.78
20.	Nagaland	47.22	23.61	2.67

1	2	3	4	5
21. Orissa		592.22	54.35	0.00
22. Punjab		706.38	53.98	75.10
23. Rajasthan		1255.06	125.64	272.30
24. Sikkim		63.48	31.74	15.76
25. Tamil Nadu		968.17	121.02	173.17
26. Tripura		27.54	2.67	0.00
27. Uttar Pradesh		812.86	80.12	0.00
28. Uttaranchal		361.51	180.76	17.20
29. West Bengal		204.26	25.53	18.52
Total		15641.72	2265.26	1871.48

[Translation]

**Waiting List for Reservation of
Seats/Berths**

1516. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the waiting list for reservation of seats/berths in trains is constantly becoming longer and longer over the last few years and as a result, a large number of passengers have to travel without reservation; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the corrective measures taken/to be taken by the Government for ensuring reservation of seats/berths for the travellers in larger number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) During the peak rush period only such as Summer rush, Pooja rush, Christmas vacations and other occasions, when there is great demand for reserved accommodation, heavy waiting list is noticed in trains.

(b) Apart from introduction of new trains, increasing frequency and augmentation of the loads of the existing trains, as a regular measure, Railways pain the running of special trains to meet the unsatisfied demand. Moreover, the waiting list position of important trains is monitored on

day-to-day basis and depending on the demand, additional coaches are attached, wherever feasible.

Facilities at Retail Outlets in Bihar

1517. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether retail outlet allotted to the category of Scheduled Castes could be made operational only after necessary facilities like sales room, lavatory, electricity and telephone etc. have been provided;

(b) if so, whether the retail outlets of the above said category have been made functional without providing the aforesaid facilities in some districts of Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the Government is likely to provide all the aforesaid facilities at such petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Development of Airborne Early Warning
and Control System**

1518. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has decided to develop its indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any help from other countries would be sought for this project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Indian Air Force and Defence Research and Development Organisation have jointly carried out a study and evolved the system level

requirements for an Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW and C) system. The project proposal is under evaluation at DRDO HQrs.

(c) It is envisaged that help from other countries may be required for a suitably modified aircraft platform. Limited consultancy may also be required for technologies such as system engineering and system integration.

(d) Such details are to be worked out.

Pipelines from Mundra to Delhi by HPCL

1519.DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has proposed to lay a pipeline from Mundra in Gujarat to Delhi for transporting Petroleum products to Northern India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated cost of the 1,008 kms. long proposed pipeline, with a capacity of 5.8 million metric tonnes per annum, is Rs. 1,367 crore. The pipeline will pass through the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Haryana.

(c) The pipeline is likely to be commissioned after 36 months from the date of formal announcement; or 24 months from 100% availability of right of user, and environmental and forest clearances, whichever is later.

Bifurcation of DD/AIR

1520.SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to bifurcate Doordarshan and All India Radio;

(b) if so, the main objectives of the bifurcation;

(c) whether private sector participation is also proposed to be increased in Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that due to shifting of News Bulletins and Current Affairs programmes to the DD New Channel, certain additional slots on the DD-1 Channel have been created. These slots have been allotted to private producers for the telecast of serials in the sponsored category in the morning, afternoon and evening transmission.

Equity Participation in Hydro Electric Power Projects in Rajasthan

1521.COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for Equity Participation in Hydro Electric Power Projects being set up by Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs);

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

(c) whether the Government have taken note of State Government's concern about deteriorating Hydro-thermal mix which has reached precarious level; and

(d) if so, likely time of which Rajasthan Government are likely to be allowed Equity participation of augment State precarious Hydro-thermal mix especially considering non-existence of Hydel generation potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The proposal has been conveyed to the hydro sector Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). The CPSUs execute hydro-electric projects located in different States through agreements/Memoranda of Understandings (MOUs) entered into with the State(s) where the projects are located. It will be for the States where the projects are

located and the concerned CPSUs to consider the request of the Government of Rajasthan while agreeing upon implementation agreements of new hydro projects being set up by CPSUs. The Government of India does not make any funds available to any State specifically for hydro power generation in the State sector. However, it sets up hydro power projects for the benefit of the States through its own Public Sector Undertakings or with equity participation of the States as joint ventures such as Tehri Hydro Power Development Corporation (THDC), Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (formerly Nethpa Jhakri Power Corporation) and the Narmada Hydro-electric Development Corporation (NHDC). The Government of India is keen to implement measures that would accelerated the development of hydro power.

[Translation]

Adulteration in Petroleum Products

1522. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority has been directed by the Supreme Court of India to conduct an independent inquiry into the sensational cases of adulteration in the petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the other steps being taken by the Government to check this adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 22.11.2001 directed the Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) to carry out random inspection at the petrol pumps, oil depots and tank lorries in Delhi and submit a report with regard to the quality of petrol and diesel available there.

(c) Besides the setting up of Anti Adulteration Cell, steps such as blue dyeing of Kerosene meant for Public Distribution System (PDS), regular/surprise inspection of the retail outlets, introduction of tamper proof locking system for tanker-trucks, special vigilance drives, etc.,

are taken by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). The State Government also initiate action against any dealer indulging in adulteration of petroleum products and violation of any Control Order issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Violation of Kerosene Control Order by Private Oil Companies

1523. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Private Sector Companies are violating Kerosene Control Order;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) It has been reported that some of the private sector companies i.e., Parallel Marketeers of kerosene are violating the Kerosene Control Order by indulging in illegal activities such as selling imported kerosene for use in automobiles and diverting the product for adulteration of High Speed Diesel (HSD).

State Governments are empowered to take action under the provisions of Kerosene Control Order issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 against those private sector companies.

[English]

Manned and Unmanned Level Crossings

1524. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI A. NARENDRA :

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of manned and unmanned level crossings in the country at present, separately, State-wise;

(b) the criteria for manning the railway crossings;

(c) the number of unmanned level crossings likely to be manned during the current year, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government for manning all the unmanned level crossings in the country;

(e) whether the Railways are proposing to install modern device at all level crossings across the country to give audio-visual warning about approaching trains; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) Policy of manning of unmanned level crossing has been revised in June 2003. Based on revised criteria of both road and rail traffic census, manning of existing unmanned level crossings, will be under taken. 50 unmanned level crossings are expected to be manned on Indian Railway during 2003-04.

(d) As per extant rules, in case an unmanned level crossing provided initially and maintained at the cost of the Railways needs manning/upgrading/posting of additional gatekeeper due to increase in road traffic only, the cost both initial as well as recurring maintenance has to be borne by the State Government/Road Authority concerned. However, keeping in view the grave consequences of accidents at unmanned level crossings, Railways have decided to man vulnerable unmanned level crossings based on the traffic volume and visibility conditions. Besides manning of unmanned level crossings is also done under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

(e) and (f) It has been decided to provide digital Axle Counter based Train Actuated Warning Devices at 90 level crossings (which includes 20 unmanned level crossing also) on trial basis. The system would provide audio visual warning to road users about an approaching train. Depending on the success of the device at manned as well as unmanned level crossings during trials, further

adoption of the system on Indian Railways would be considered subject to availability of funds.

Statement

*Number of level crossings in the country
State-Wise as on 31.3.2003*

S. No.	State	Manned	Unmanned	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	358	551	909
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1232	1380	2612
3.	Bihar	977	1196	2173
4.	Chhattisgarh	218	348	566
5.	Delhi	54	3	57
6.	Gujarat	1445	2895	4340
7.	Haryana	602	294	896
8.	Himachal Pradesh	40	299	339
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	20	32	52
10.	Jharkhand	395	560	955
11.	Karnataka	615	828	1443
12.	Kerala	399	133	532
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1206	1121	2327
14.	Maharashtra	1210	1349	2559
15.	Manipur	0	3	3
16.	Mizoram	0	1	1
17.	Nagaland	1	0	1
18.	Orissa	340	982	1322
19.	Punjab	773	991	1764
20.	Rajasthan	1506	2060	3566
21.	Tamil Nadu	1241	1281	2522
22.	Tripura	2	17	19
23.	Uttar Pradesh	2865	2923	5788

1	2	3	4	5
24. Uttaranchal		62	18	80
25. West Bengal		1153	1404	2557
26. Chandigarh		6	1	7
27. Pondicherry		9	9	18
28. Goa		12	3	15
Total		16741	20682	37423

The following is the criteria for manning of unmanned level crossings :-

Category I - Clear visibility level crossings where Train Vehicle Unit (TVU) is more than 6000 and Road Vehicle more than 180.

Category II - Restricted visibility level crossings where TVU is more than 6000 and road vehicles more than 120.

Category III - Restricted visibility level crossings where TVU is between 3000 and 6000.

[Translation]

Setting Up of Enquiry Services by British Railway Companies

1525.COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the British Railway Companies for setting up of their rail enquiry services at Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal received and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the manner in which it is likely to serve our country's interest; and

(d) the time by which the enquiry service is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Power Failure in Western Region

1526.SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has protested and lodged complaint against Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board for failure of grid;

(b) whether the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board has overdrawn;

(c) how many times it has happened during last 3 months;

(d) the measures taken to see that such failure does not become a routine; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) As per information available, no such complaint has been received from Government of Maharashtra. However, Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) had written a letter to Western Regional Load Despatch Centre (WRLDC) and Western Regional Electricity Board (WREB) regarding low voltage profile in Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board (MPSEB) system prior to partial grid disturbances that occurred in Western Region (WR) on 5.11.2003 and 7.11.2003.

(b) MPSEB was not overdrawing active power at the time of the above partial grid disturbances.

(c) Partial grid disturbances occurred in the Western Region four times in the last 3 months i.e. 6th October, 5th and 7th November and 6th December, 2003.

(d) and (e) The matter relating to partial grid disturbance of 6th October, 2003 was discussed at the Western Regional Electricity Board (WREB) forum when the concerned authorities were advised to take corrective measures such as regulation off loading on transmission lines and improve substation maintenance.

With respect to the grid disturbances in WR on 5th and 7th November, 2003, an enquiry committee was

constituted by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) under the Chairmanship of Member Secretary, WREB. The Committee has given a number of recommendations for implementation for avoiding such occurrence in future. Following the grid disturbances on 5th and 7th November, 2003, Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India also took a meeting with all the constituents of WR and Central Public Sector Undertakings concerned at Mumbai on 12th November, 2003, when immediate preventive measures to be taken by the constituents of WR and by Regional Load Despatch Centre (RLDC) to contain low voltage and overloading of lines were identified. It was agreed that the WR States will install shunt capacitors in their respective system as per targets fixed for 2003-04 by WREB and expedite implementation of approved transmission lines. Further, it was also decided that the Standing Committee of WR power system planning will analyze and suggest short, medium and long term measures for augmentation/strengthening of transmission system in WR.

[Translation]

Setting Up of Rail Coach Factories

1527. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up new rail coach factories in various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and
- (c) the time by which these factories are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Marketing of Products of Private Companies by Oil PSUs

1528. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Public Sector Oil Companies are marketing products of Private Oil Companies through their retail outlet network; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement made in this regard and the manner in which public sector oil companies are likely to be benefited by this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Companies i.e. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have entered into bilateral product offtake agreements with Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) valid from 01.04.2002 to 31.03.2004 for uplifting of LPG, MS, HSD and SKO. IBP has no direct agreement with Reliance for uplifting their product. IBP's quantities are covered under the bilateral agreement between IOCL and RIL. The above agreement has enable Public Sector Oil Companies to meet entire domestic demand of petroleum products which includes the Retail Outlet demand, out of indigenous production only which otherwise would have been imported.

Defence Cooperation Agreement with Singapore

1529. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India and Singapore have signed a defence cooperation agreement; and
- (b) if so, the main features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Singapore have signed an Agreement concerning cooperation in the field of defence on 13th October 2003.

(b) The areas of military cooperation identified with Singapore cover exchange of expertise and personnel, military training, exchange of visits, bilateral naval exercises and participation in defence related seminars and symposia.

Manufacturing of Jet Deflector Cars

1530. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai has set its foot to manufacture Jet Deflector Cars for the Indian Army;

(b) if so, the time by which the said project is likely to be completed;

(c) whether there is any proposal to manufacture bogies for new sky bus project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the samples are likely to be ready for testing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) Integral Coach Factory (ICF) has got an order for the manufacture of four Jet Deflector Cars from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) (Ministry of Defence), Pune. Basic designs are evolved by Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO).

(b) Basic layout drawings are with DRDO for approval. After approval of drawings, ICF will take 6 to 8 months for manufacture of the coaches.

(c) and (d) Konkan Railway has approached ICF for manufacture of two proto-type bogies for the sky bus project. Technical details have not so far been received.

(e) This can be estimated only after full technical details are available. However, manufacture of these at ICF is unlikely for next 18 months for want of spare capacity in the unit.

Electricity to Villages

1531. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY :
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government plans to provide electricity in every village by 2007 and every household by 2012;

(b) if so, the details of the plan and roadmap to achieve the goal;

(c) the number of villages and households which do not have power supply in the country State-wise; and

(d) the year-wise details of the villages and households electrified in the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have resolved to complete electrification of all the villages by 2007 and access to all households by 2012.

Government is providing financial assistance to States under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) and Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). Funds are also made available to the States at a subsidized interest rate under Accelerated Rural Electricity Programme (AREP). In addition funds are released to States as 100% grant under Kutir Jyoti Programme for household electrification of below poverty line families.

(c) State-wise details of un-electrified villages and un-electrified households are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

(d) State-wise details of electrified villages during the last 5 years are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

Details of unelectrified Villages as on 31.3.2003

Sl. No.	States/UT	No. of unelectrified villages
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1307
3.	Assam	5640
4.	Bihar	20449
5.	Jharkhand	22920
6.	Goa	-
7.	Gujarat	-
8.	Haryana	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	107
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	182
11.	Karnataka	296

1	2	3
12.	Kerala	-
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1462
14.	Chhattisgarh	1399
15.	Maharashtra	-
16.	Manipur	178
17.	Meghalaya	2754
18.	Mizoram	7
19.	Nagaland	-
20.	Orissa	9682
21.	Punjab	-
22.	Rajasthan	983
23.	Sikkim	42
24.	Tamil Nadu	-
25.	Tripura	38
26.	Uttar Pradesh	18042 *
27.	Uttaranchal	2785
28.	West Bengal	7694
Total (States)		95967

*Does not include de-electrified villages.

Statement-II

*Details of un-electrified Households (Rural)
as per 2001 census*

Sl. No.	States/UT	Un-electrified Households (Rural)	% Unelectrified Households
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5114485	40.35
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	91251	55.47
3.	Assam	3522331	83.46
4.	Bihar	12010504	94.87
5.	Jharkhand	3422425	90.01
6.	Goa	10650	7.57

1	2	3	4
7.	Gujarat	1641203	27.88
8.	Haryana	527649	21.5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	60551	5.52
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	293016	25.23
11.	Karnataka	1858260	27.84
12.	Kerala	1703651	34.47
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3061371	37.68
14.	Chhattisgarh	1810152	53.89
15.	Maharashtra	3829566	34.83
16.	Manipur	140675	47.47
17.	Meghalaya	229916	69.74
18.	Mizoram	44334	55.86
19.	Nagaland	114405	43.12
20.	Orissa	5470135	80.65
21.	Punjab	292537	10.54
22.	Rajasthan	4006147	55.98
23.	Sikkim	22915	24.98
24.	Tamil Nadu	2384419	28.82
25.	Tripura	368323	68.25
26.	Uttar Pradesh	16505786	80.60
27.	Uttaranchal	593902	49.65
28.	West Bengal	8899353	79.73
29.	Delhi	24580	14.40
Union Territory			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	15846	31.91
2.	Chandigarh	552	2.95
3.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	5695	17.37
4.	Daman and Diu	562	2.54
5.	Lakshadweep	14	0.26
6.	Pondicherry	13713	18.99

Statement-III*Yearwise and Statewise Progress of Village Electrification during Last Five Year*

Sl.No.	States/UT	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1.	Andhra Pradesh					
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	48	24	35	110	16
3.	Assam	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	11
4.	Bihar	8	43	37	29	1542
5.	Jharkhand				500	771
6.	Goa					-
7.	Gujarat	4				-
8.	Haryana					-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	45	25	37	9	-
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	NA	NA	NA	10	-
11.	Karnataka	13	15	60	13	3
12.	Kerala					-
13.	Madhya Pradesh	300	87	15	20	94
14.	Chhattisgarh			1	125	120
15.	Maharashtra					-
16.	Manipur	50	11	NIL	NIL	6
17.	Meghalaya	NIL	NIL	8	62	177
18.	Mizoram	3	4	NIL	NIL	-
19.	Nagaland	10	33	16	4	-
20.	Orissa	817	748	42	105	225
21.	Punjab					-
22.	Rajasthan	685	510	465	491	504
23.	Sikkim					-
24.	Tamil Nadu					-
25.	Tripura	3	4	3	NIL	2
26.	Uttar Pradesh	711	476	260	358	1795
27.	Uttaranchal			158	82	218
28.	West Bengal	83	113	81	40	866
Total (States)		2780	2093	1218	1458	6350

Joint Ventures by ONGC

1532. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited has entered into several joint venture in the country and abroad for expanding its operations in exploration, pipeline and refinery projects and oil retailing.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of each project; and

(d) the percentage of equity of ONGC in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Gas Trading by GAIL

1533. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited proposes to set up a separate company to undertake gas trading work both in the country and in overseas market; 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) This idea is at a conceptual stage and the decision in this regard would depend on the regulatory requirement in future. Details of the proposal have not been worked out.

Growth of Advertisements Industry

1534. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether advertisement industry showed a dismal performance during the last year i.e. 2002-03;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether advertisement industry is projecting a 12 per cent growth as compared to 4% in the year 2002-03;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total share of the Government in advertisements out of total advertisement business at present; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to increase its share in the growth of advertisement industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (f) The advertising industry is mainly in private hands and is overseen by the Advertising Standards Council of India, a self-regulatory body of the advertising industry and Advertising Agencies Association of India. The Government does not monitor the growth and performance of the advertising industry. The primary objective of the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), a Government media, is to secure the widest possible coverage of the Government's schemes, programmes, policies and achievements on various social issues. During the period 2002-03, DAVP issued advertisements worth Rs. 100.14 crores.

**Setting Up of Defence University
in Haryana**

1535. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up a Defence University in Haryana;

(b) if so, the place where this university is to be set up; and

(c) the time by which the work in this regard is likely to start and the time by which the University is likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The issue of establishment of National

Defence University (NDU) is under examination in the Ministry of Defence.

(b) No, final decision on its location has been taken so far.

(c) It cannot be indicated at this stage by what time the NDU will become functional.

[Translation]

Report on Frontier Mail Accident

1536.DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Court of inquiry has blamed the negligence of train staff for the devastating fire in the Frontier Mail on May 15, 2003 which claimed 36 lives;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Court of inquiry;

(c) the details of recommendations implemented so far;

(d) the details of recommendations still under implementation and the time by which the same are likely to be implemented; and

(e) the details of action taken against those held responsible by Court of inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) Fire accident involving 2903 Up Golden Temple Mail (earlier known as Frontier Mail) was not inquired into by a Court of inquiry. Commission of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle, who conducted the inquiry into the accident has fixed primary responsibility on an unidentified person, who either carried or left a bag containing explosive materials in sleeper coach No. 4, which caught fire during the run of the train as soon as it departed from Ludhiana.

(b) Main recommendations made by the Commissioner relate to use of Rexene and foam in furnishing the passenger coaches which give out toxic,

dense smoke on burning, development of fire detectors on trains, opening of vestibules during the train journey, checks on extra passengers in reserved coaches and carriage of inflammable articles and monitoring of working of TTEs etc.

(c) and (d) Recommendations received from the Commission are examined by Zonal Railways and the Ministry of Railways considering their feasibility, practicality, financial and operational implications, etc. The examination, acceptance and implementation of various recommendations of the different Commissioners of Railway Safety is a continuous process.

(e) CRS/North Eastern Circle fixed secondary and blameworthy responsibility on six Commercial staff for various lapses in duty. Disciplinary action against them has been initiated.

[English]

Finance Policy for Small Power Projects

1537.SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has chalked out a plan to finance small power projects;

(b) if so, whether IDBI and Rural Electrification Corporation are together working out a scheme to finance small power projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether such projects have been identified so far;

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

(f) whether the Government has ruled that all transmission service providers in the country including PGCIL shall provide transmission facilities to any distribution company (small or big), trader, generating company, captive plant or any permitted consumer; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M.

KANNAPPAN) : (a) The Government is promoting the setting up of small power projects based on non-conventional energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass and small hydro throughout the country and provides financial and fiscal incentives for the same. A target capacity addition of 3075 MW from various small power projects has been set for 10th Plan period.

(b) to (e) No, Sir. However, Rural Electrification Corporation has sanctioned renewable energy based small power projects, the details of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

(f) and (g) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has issued an order on open access

in Inter-State transmission, on 14.11.2003. The CERC has also issued the draft regulation on terms and condition of open access in interstate transmission on 3.12.2003 for suggestions and comments from the interested parties. The CERC draft regulation provides that all transmission service providers in the country including Power Grid shall provide non-discriminatory open access for Inter-State transmission to any distribution company, trader, generating company, captive plant or any permitted consumer with immediate effect. Apart from creating new options for distribution companies and bulk customers for buying power, this will facilitate competition in the power generation industry as envisaged in the Electricity Act, 2003.

Statement

Renewable energy based Small Power Projects sanctioned by the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)

(Rs. In lakh)

S. No.	Name of the Project	State	Installed capacity	Project cost	Loan sanctioned by REC
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Chettipeta	Andhra Pradesh	2x500 kW	366.58	284.38
2.	M12-1-000	Andhra Pradesh	2x325 kW	583.00	362.82
3.	M18-1-330	Andhra Pradesh	2x750 kW	771.62	612.88
4.	M-6-7-110	Andhra Pradesh	2x500 kW	603.00	469.04
5.	M-6-2-000	Andhra Pradesh	2x500 kW	603.00	467.26
6.	Sillenalah	Arunachal Pradesh	2x250 kW	75.10	75.10
7.	Rine	Arunachal Pradesh	4x0.5 MW	1391.32	368.49
8.	Subbung	Arunachal Pradesh	3x1.0 MW	2331.42	1748.56
9.	Halaipani	Arunachal Pradesh	4x3.0 MW	6429.93	3134.95
10.	Deopani	Arunachal Pradesh	2x0.25 MW	617.19	184.37
11.	Matti Nalah	Arunachal Pradesh	2x0.25 MW	598.56	397.13
12.	Kithuri	Nagaland	2x100 kW	130.47	130.47
13.	Malankara	Kerala	10.50 MW	4113.00	3000.00
14.	Urmi-I	Kerala	3.75 MW	1538.00	1332.00
15.	Urmi-II	Kerala	2.40 MW	1276.00	834.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Chembukadavu-I	Kerala	2.70 MW	1326.00	946.00
17.	Chembukadavu-II	Kerala	3.75 MW	1482.00	1336.00
18.	Morand	Madhya Pradesh	3x335 kW	286.82	286.82
19.	Vishnuprayag	Uttaranchal	400 MW	190112.00	11400.00
20.	Tuipak	Manipur	0.5 MW	318.17	141.68
21.	Gelnel-II	Manipur	0.2 MW	143.23	65.38
22.	Myntdu	Meghalaya	84 MW	36300.00	1600.00
23.	Serllui-B	Mizoram	12 MW	6294.53	4089.53
24.	MGHE Hydro EP	Karnataka	20 MW	9700.00	3050.00
25.	Mukenan-Stage-II	Punjab	18 MW	12500.00	11271.60
26.	Micro-hydel scheme for Guru Govind Singh Super Thermal Plant	Punjab	1.7 MW	1178.0	1060.00
27.	Bhaderwah	Jammu and Kashmir	3x05 MW	1150.00	453.00
28.	Pahalgam	Jammu and Kashmir	3x1.5 MW	4308.00	1600.00
29.	Hattal-Zanslar	Jammu and Kashmir	3x05 MW	1474.00	343.00
30.	Shankar-Chiktan	Jammu and Kashmir	3x0.42 MW	1345.00	272.00
31.	Marpochoo-Drass	Jammu and Kashmir	3x0.25 MW	1108.00	298.00
32.	Igo Merchelung	Jammu and Kashmir	2x1.5 MW	3482.00	1603.00
33.	Hanu Ph.I and II	Jammu and Kashmir	3x0.5 MW	2606.00	2345.60
34.	Dah	Jammu and Kashmir	3x1000 kW	2504.00	2253.60
35.	Tanglse	Jammu and Kashmir	3x150 kW	693.00	624.00
36.	Kumdok	Jammu and Kashmir	3x50 kW	285.00	258.70
37.	Lower Kolab (2 MW) and Middle Kolab (25 MW)	Orissa	4x3+2x12.5 = 37 MW	16100.00	4800.00

*MW = Megawatt, kW = Kilowatt

**Design, Development and Commissioning
of Engines of Sky Bus**

1538.SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation has signed a technical cooperation agreement with an Austrian

Company for design, development and commissioning of the engines for the Sky Bus;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of the company with which such an agreement has been signed;

(c) the areas to be covered by the Sky Bus project;

(d) whether the Sky Bus project is different from other forms of metro mass transports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) Yes, Sir. Technology for 3 phase AC asynchronous motors and interfacing with Konkan Railway's Anti Collision Device (ACD) for driving the same will be jointly developed.

(b) The Austrian Company will be involved in developing the entire three phase AC traction system with electronic controls suitable to operate in Sky Bus Guideway and also will reveal the interface requirement to match with Konkan Railway's Anti Collision Devices. The name and address of the above firm with whom Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL) has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is :

"ELIN EGB Traction GmbH, ,
Cumberlandstraße, 32-34,
A-1141, Wein Austria"

(c) While proposals have been submitted for implementing Sky Bus Metro in 15 cities in India and 7 cities abroad, the technology is still to be proved.

(d) and (e) Sky Bus System is more cost effective than other urban mass transit transportation systems. Sky Bus follows the Road alignment. It is an elevated system of mass transport. The elevated metro at present is found to be costing between Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 120 crores per route km. In comparison, for the same level of performance, the Sky Bus Metro costs between Rs. 45 crores to Rs. 50 crores per km. Sky Bus does not require land at most of the occasion since it follows roads and hence can be constructed within 2 to 3 years in any city.

Replacement of Old Bridges

1539.SHRI AMBAREESHA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of old rail bridges which have been replaced with new ones during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(b) when were these bridges constructed;

(c) the time taken to replace these bridges;

(d) the details of bridges which developed serious cracks before completing five years; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) to (c) Railway bridges are rebuilt/rehabilitated based on physical condition as assessed during detailed annual inspections carried out by the field officials and not on the basis of their age. Rebuilding/repair of bridges involves collection of site data, preparation of drawings, design, preparation of estimate and its sanction in Works Programme. It also involves arrangements of material, preparation of diversion and launching arrangements, availability of traffic blocks and availability of funds. Considering all above aspects and scope of work, the average time taken for rebuilding/rehabilitation of bridges, may vary from one to five years.

The sanction of bridge works and monitoring of progress of rebuilding/rehabilitation of bridges is maintained zone-wise and not State-wise. Total bridges repaired/rehabilitated during last three years on Indian Railway are as under :-

Year	Number of Bridges Repaired/Rehabilitated
2000-2001	649
2001-2002	725
2002-2003	1151

(d) No bridge completed in last five years has developed serious cracks rendering the bridge unserviceable.

(e) Does not arise.

Rail Projects in Karnataka

1540.SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of each of the new/on-going and pending rail projects and surveys in Karnataka;

(b) the amount allocated and expenditure incurred thereon so far, project-wise;

(c) the target fixed for completion of these projects, project-wise;

(d) whether these projects are running as per the schedule;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects;

(g) whether the Government has also received request for new rail projects in Karnataka; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on each proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) Details of on-going/pending projects, falling fully/partially in the State of Karnataka, their present status, amount allocated and the target date for their completion, wherever fixed, is given as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Project	Cost	Likely Expenditure upto March 2003	Budget Outlay 2003-04	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Munirabad-Mehbuhnagar	420.12	16.43	10	Final Location Survey has been completed. State Government has been requested for reserving the land required for this new line project. Track linking between Yeramaras and Krishna has been completed. Work on Krishna Bridge is in progress.
2.	Gadwal-Raichur	108.91	4.1	5	Final Location Survey has been completed. Land acquisition has been processed. Joint survey for 36.35 km. in Mehbuhnagar District and 12 km. in Raichur District has been completed. Rs. 1.76 crore and Rs. 1.90 crore have been deposited with Government of Karnataka and with Government of Andhra Pradesh, respectively for land acquisition. Construction of Foot over Bridge and platform at Gadwal is in progress. Earthwork and minor bridges from Gadwal end in 5 km length is in progress.
3.	Hubli-Ankola	997.58	37.17	15	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition plans have been submitted to the State Government for Hubli-Kirvatti section and Rs. 14 crore deposited with the State Government towards land acquisition. Earthwork and bridges are in progress. This project has been identified as one of the four Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE) projects.

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Gulbarga-Bidar	460	5.33	15	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition papers for 14.30 Km has been submitted to State Government and Rs. 10 crore has been deposited with State Government towards cost of land. Tenders for earthwork and bridges processed for part length.
5.	Kottur-Harihar via Harappannahalli	124.03	2.17	5	Final location survey has been completed and land acquisition paper for 16 out of 31 villages has been submitted to State Government and possession of 6 villages taken over. Rs. 2.08 crore deposited with them towards cost of land. Earthwork and minor bridges for 4 reaches (25 km) are in progress. State Government has agreed to share 2/3rd cost of this project.
6.	Kadur-Chickmagalur-Saklesphur	157	16.77	15	220 hectares of land out of 240 hectares has been acquired. Balance is forest land for which acquisition process is in progress. Earthwork and minor bridges in 45 Km stretch are in progress.
7.	Hassan-Bangalore	412.91	82.4	26	Land is available between Hassan and Shravanabelagola (43 km) and Bangalore to Neelamangala (16 km). Rs. 35.6 crore has been deposited with State Government towards cost of land. Earthwork, bridges etc. are in progress. Hassan-Shravanabelagola is targeted for completion during 2003-04.
8.	Bangalore-Satyamanglam	225	0.45	0.1	Final Location Survey has been completed from Bangalore to Chamrajanagar (via Kanakapura-162 km) and is in progress in balance portion. Survey work has slowed down due to hostile situation in forest area.
Gauge Conversion					
9.	Solapur (Hotgi)-Gadag	276	162.78	10	The work is being done in phases. Work on Solapur-Hotgi (16 km) and Hotgi-Bijapur (94 km) has been completed. Work is in progress on rest of section from Bijapur to Gadag. State Government is participating to the extent of 50% in funding the project with a view to expedite early completion of this work.
10.	Mysore-Chamarajanagar	175	2.5	20	Earthwork, major and minor bridges are in progress.

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Bangalore-Hubli and Birur-Shimoga	432.08	398.41	0.01	The work on the line between Bangalore-Hubli and Birur-Shimoga has been completed and commissioned. Work is in progress on Shimoga-Talguppa section. Earthwork and bridges are in progress.
12.	Yeswantpur-Salem	178.26	175.82	0.01	Road Over Bridge at Lingarajapuram and Bansawadi are in progress. Work on Yeswantpur Bye-pass line has also been taken up and the matter is being pursued with the Ministry of Defence for transfer of defence land.
13.	Arasikere-Hassan-Mangalore	312.43	218.5	2	The gauge conversion of Arasikere-Hassan-Sakleshpur and Kankanadi (Mangalore) to Kabakaputtur has already been completed. The conversion of Kabakaputtur to Subramanya Road is targeted for completion during 2003-04 and balance is expected to be completed during 2004-05 depending upon the provision of funds by the shareholders. This project is under implementation by K-RIDE for which Hassan-Mangalore Rail Development Co. (HMRDC) has been formed.
Doubling					
14.	Hospet-Guntakal	154.14	56.42	35	Final location survey has been completed. This project is also identified under KRIDE with a view to expedite the progress. Earthwork and bridges in Bellary-Tornagallu section is in progress. This section is targeted for completion during 2003-04.
15.	Bangalore-Kengeri with Elect.	27.89	2.19	5	Karnataka Government is sharing 2/3 cost of the project. Earthwork, major, minor bridges and ballast collection etc. are in progress.
16.	Kengeri-Ramnagaram	64.54	0.02	5	Karnataka Government is sharing 2/3 cost of the project. Final location survey has been completed. Earthwork, minor bridges and ballast collection etc. are in progress. Ballast collection is also in progress.
17.	Yeshwantpur-Tumkur	91.82	10.15	19.56	Earthwork, minor bridges and panel interlocking works are in progress. Foundation work on major bridge on river Arkavathi has been completed.
18.	Bangalore-Whitefield-Bangalore City-Krishnarajapuram	85	0.02	0.01	Work will be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances.
19.	Whitefield-Kuppam	162.23	107.23	27	First phase from Whitefield to Bangarapet and Bangarapet Yard has been completed and com-

1	2	3	4	5	6
					missioned. Work on Bangarpet-Bisanatham is nearing completion and Bisanatham-Kuppam is targeted for completion during 2003-04 where earthwork, bridge work and ballast collection have been completed. Supply of P. Way material is in progress.
20.	Calicut-Mangalore	563.08	505.99	25	Work completed except Cannanore-Valapattanam and Netravathi bridge.

A survey for construction of new rail line from Nilambur Road to Nanjangud is in progress. This survey is expected to be completed by March, 2004.

(d) The projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) A number of initiatives have been taken to augment resources for expediting completion of the ongoing projects. These include sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence, additional resources for National Project of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla and funds for National Rail Vikas Yojana. With these efforts, it may be feasible to expedite the progress of projects.

(g) and (h) The details of some of the proposals received from the State Government which could not be considered for inclusion in the budget due to heavy throwforward of on-going projects and acute constraint of resources are as under :-

- i. New line between Gadag and Harihar via Harpanahalli.
- ii. New line between Mysore and Mangalore.
- iii. New line between Medikere and Channarayapatna.
- iv. New line between Chickballapur and Puttaparthi via Bagepalli.

Acquisition of Vessel by Coast Guard

1541. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coast Guard is acquiring more vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any proper assessment has been made regarding present activities and the requirement of expansion of Coast Guard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Government have approved proposal for acquisition of ships/Helicopters by Coast Guard to augment its fore levels to carry out duties and functions entrusted to the Organisation. The Charter of duties and functions includes ensuring safety and protection of artificial islands, offshore terminals, structures and devices in maritime zones, enforcing provisions of enactments in the maritime zones, search and rescue operations etc. Different kind of vessels proposed to be acquired are Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel, Pollution Control Vessel, Offshore Patrol Vessel etc.

(d) and (e) The assessment of requirements of Coast Guard is an ongoing process keeping in view the operational role of the Organisation and increased threat perception as also the increase in area of responsibility. Five years Coast Guard Development Plans are prepared accordingly and vessels/aircrafts/Helicopters/other equipments are inducted.

Medical Facility to Ex-Servicemen

1542. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to provide better medical facility to Ex-Servicemen and their dependants was under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the details of grievances of the servicemen; and
 (d) the steps taken to redress their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme for providing medical facilities to ex-servicemen and their dependents has come into effect from 1st April 2003. The details are given below :

The Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme has been introduced for providing medical facilities to ex-servicemen, war widows and their dependents on the pattern of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS). The salient features of the Scheme are as under :

- (i) The medical facilities existing at 104 military stations will be augmented at a capital cost of Rs. 49 crores and annual recurring expenditure of Rs. 52 crores.
- (ii) Fresh medical facilities in the nature of Armed Forces Polyclinics/medical inspection rooms will be set up at 123 non-military stations where the population of ex-servicemen is more than 2500. This will involve a capital cost of Rs. 69 crores and annual recurring cost of Rs. 98 crores.
- (iii) The ex-servicemen, war widows and their dependents at other stations where ex-servicemen population is less than 2500 will be attached to the existing augmented armed forces clinics/medical inspection rooms as mentioned in (i) above or with armed forces poly-clinics/medical inspection rooms to be created at 123 stations vide (ii) above.
- (iv) The ex-servicemen, war widows and their dependents will also be reimbursed the cost of medicines not provided by the armed forces poly-clinics/medical inspection rooms, fee of the specialists to whom they are referred to, the charge of laboratories for pathological or other diagnostic tests and also the cost of hospitalization. This is estimated to cost Rs. 201 crores annually.
- (v) The ex-servicemen and war widows will be required to make a contribution at the same rate at which the Central Government pensioners are required to make contribution for availing medical facilities under the CGHS after retirement.

- (vi) The Scheme will be implemented in phased manner in five years.

The grievances of ex-servicemen and servicemen are looked into as and when received. The Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme would provide required medical facilities to Ex-Servicemen.

Recommendation of Khanna Committee Report

1543.SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Khanna Enquiry Committee recommended (1998) that block providing axle counters be installed on "A" route within a time frame of three years;
- (b) if so, the number of cases of failures of signalling and telecommunication equipment reported in various railway zones alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) A Statement indicating number of Railway wise and cause wise signal failures is enclosed.
- (c) Following action is taken to improve reliability of Signalling and Telecommunication equipment.
 - Timely and periodic overhauling of equipments like Lever Frames, Block Instruments, Relays and Point Machines.
 - Implementation of reliability improvement action plan.
 - Replacement of overaged Signalling and Telecommunication assets with modern signalling and telecommunication assets.
 - Provision of Data loggers for predictive maintenance of signalling assets.
 - Monitoring of the performance of Signalling and Telecommunication assets, so as to improve Mean Time Between Failure (MTBF) and Mean Time to Repair (MTTR).

Statement*Causewise Statement of Signal Failures*

Cause	CR	ER	NR	NER	NFR	SR	SCR
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. S and T	1268	1531	3121	1527	0	1778	2539
Equipment	148	173	621	364		855	1290
Lamp fusing	35	104	182	234		88	151
Cable fault	164	97	183	24		96	165
Fuse blown off	112	163	258	163		66	174
Relay	18	131	151	206		223	269
Point M/C	18	30	24	35		65	92
Power equipment	18	30	187	33		50	104
Bad maintenance	77	40	144	42		19	131
Misc.	678	763	1371	426		316	163
Total	1268	1531	3121	1527	0	1778	2539
2. OPTG.	218	1132	2912	1565	0	236	638
TFOK	36	291	604	1045		96	185
NINA	16	612	1450	258		15	136
Wrong operation	31	226	568	56		14	63
Obstruction in pint	98	0	109	134		50	156
Others	37	3	181	72		61	98
Total	218	1132	2912	1565	0	236	638
3. Engg.	254	715	1478	272	0	421	658
Staff working	88	225	520	96		62	150
IBJ defect	10	0	198	33		1	81
G.J. defect	21	32	74	0		3	105
Poor drainage	2	159	136	29		57	61
Point defect	58	124	260	69		50	68
Others	75	175	290	45		248	193
Total	254	715	1478	272	0	421	658

(Commulative from April to October – 2003)

SER	WR	ECR	NWR	ECoR	NCR	SECR	SWR	WCR	IR
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
914	3559	3401	1105	2667	2879	1180	0	1061	25129
120	1285		334	779	300	344		245	6858
175	124		51	182	153	121		34	1634
82	153		25	173	119	81		70	1432
130	288		68	341	198	61		122	2144
51	245		177	167	217	59		83	1997
2	37		9	7	45	2		12	378
48	61		66	72	158	39		44	910
8	418		99	40	173	70		33	1294
298	948		276	906	1516	403		418	8482
914	3559	3401	1105	2667	2879	1180	0	1061	25129
430	608	1378	268	1234	2640	419	0	521	12821
160	150		0	411	987	77		159	4201
153	60		0	507	162	164		153	3686
59	74		52	153	805	87		94	2282
22	199		49	54	399	69		57	1396
36	125		167	109	287	22		58	1256
430	608	1378	268	1234	2640	419	0	521	12821
266	304	1198	119	808	1279	370	0	184	7128
82	139		12	293	435	124		57	2283
47	35		14	9	39	11		8	486
5	23		2	25	61	62		20	433
18	3		24	27	196	10		11	733
10	25		4	67	158	20		35	948
104	79		63	387	390	143		53	2245
266	304	1198	119	808	1279	370	0	184	7128

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4. DOT		66	157	669	77	0	423	485
Line fault		66	157	669	77		423	485
Total		66	157	669	77	0	423	485
5. Elect.		112	183	351	55	0	70	110
Supply failures		71	90	311	49		30	52
Others		41	93	40	6		40	58
Total		112	183	351	55	0	70	110
6. Mech.		44	73	198	71	0	12	115
Damaged by hanging part		2	9	18	10		8	1
Token lost		0	62	142	58		3	97
Others		42	2	38	3		1	17
Total		44	73	198	71	0	12	115
7. Miscreants		29	677	1563	513		151	380
8. Miscellaneous		636	314	576	64		24	1253
9. Bad weather		41	70	97	96		105	0
Grand Total		2668	4832	10965	4240	0	3220	6178

Military Ties with Central Asian Countries

1544. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to strengthen military ties with Central Asian Countries; and

(b) if so, the areas of military cooperation identified therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The Government has been taking steps to strengthen Military and Technical Cooperation with friendly countries including the Central Asian Republics.

(b) The areas identified for military cooperation with Central Asian Countries cover military training, exchange of visits, measures to counter terrorism and interaction between defence industries.

Coast Guard's Intervention with Private Fishing Industry

1545. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coast Guard at any time has sought the information from the fishery sector on the problems they face in their interactions with them;

(b) the extent to which the Coast Guard solved the problems arising from Coast Guard's interventions with the private fishing industry;

(c) whether the Coast Guard has assured the fishery sector that they will restrict their activities to national security; and

(d) if not, the ambit of activities proposed by the Coast Guard in relation to the fishing industry?

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
13	488	402	1511	98	139	12	0	67	4205
13	488		1511	98	139	12		67	4205
13	488	402	1511	98	139	12	0	67	4205
81	155	406	36	174	179	43	0	16	1565
55	133		22	132	95	31		14	1085
26	22		14	42	84	12		2	480
81	155	406	36	174	179	43	0	16	1565
10	43	45	110	126	32	20	0	7	861
7	3		11	42	18	17		6	152
3	4		99	59	4	1		1	533
0	36		0	25	10	2		0	176
10	43	45	110	126	32	20	0	7	861
91	136	2979	381	341	788	74		79	8182
99	136	748	495	269	610	52		233	5509
39	136	842	19	90	25	55		36	1651
1943	5565	11399	4044	5807	8571	2225	0	2204	73881

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

(b) The problems relating to safety of life and property at sea, if any, raised by the local fishing industry are solved during such interactions.

(c) and (d) The Coast Guard mandate is not restricted to national security activities. Its charter of duties also include Law Enforcement, Anti-Poaching, Anti-Smuggling, Sea Pollution response, Search and Rescue, etc.

Rail Projects in Jammu and Kashmir

1546. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of each of the new/on going and pending rail projects and surveys in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the mode of funding for these projects, project-wise;

(c) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(d) the target fixed for completion of these projects, project-wise;

(e) whether some projects are lagging behind their schedule;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government for expeditiously completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) to (d) The details of the new/on-going, pending, rail projects in the State, their present status, mode of funding, expenditure incurred upto 31.03.2003, proposed outlays during 2003-04, the target does wherever fixed are given as under :-

S. No.	Name of Project	Mode of funding	Expenditure incurred upto 31.3.2003	Outlay 2003-04	Present status
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New Line

1.	Jammu-Udhampur (53.6 km)	Through budgetary Support received from General Exchequer.	Rs. 423.05 crore	Rs. 30.00 crore	Jammu-Bajalta (11 km.) already commissioned in 1992. Work is in advance stage of completion in balance portion. Earthwork, tunnelling and bridges completed except four important bridges where work is in progress. The work is targetted for completion during 2003-04.
2.	Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla (287 km)	Through budgetary Support received from General Exchequer as an additionality.	Rs. 789.78 crore	Rs. 500.00 crore	The work has been taken up in phases. Earthwork, bridge work and tunnelling is in various stages of progress on Udhampur-Katra section. This section is targetted for completion by March' 2005. On Qazigund-Baramulla section, land acquisition, earthwork and bridgework is in progress. This section is targetted for completion by December' 2005. The work on Katra-Qazigund section has been entrusted to IRCON International Limited and Konkan Railway Corporation Limited. Detailed construction survey and land acquisition is in progress. The earthwork and bridgework in part length has also been taken up. This section is targetted for completion by 15.8.2007.

Doubling

3.	Jallandhar-Jammu Twai	Through budgetary Support received from General Exchequer.	Rs. 37.0 crore	Rs. 21.83 crore	Earthwork and bridge work is in various stages of progress. The work is targetted for completion by 2007-2008 in phases subject to availability of resources.
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Besides the above, a Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for new B.G. line from (i) Baramulla to Kupwara (60 km.), (ii) Udhampur to Bhadarwah via Doda (85 km.); and (iii) Doda to Kishtwar (55 km.) is in progress.

(e) to (g) The works are progressing as per availability of resources. A number of initiatives have been taken to mobilize other than normal budgetary resources to expedite completion of ongoing projects.

Reduction in Interest Rate of Loan

1547.SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal from the State Government to reduce the interest rate on loan given by Power Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, whether the Government is planning to reduce the interest rate; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) No proposal from the State Governments have been received by the Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) for

reducing interest rate on loan sanctioned by it to the State Governments/Power Utilities. However, Karnataka Power Corporation Limited has requested PFC to provide additional rebate of 0.5% on successful completion of power projects.

PFC constantly reviews its lending rates vis-à-vis market trends and its own cost of funds and suitably revise its lending rates. The current lending rates of PFC effective 24th September, 2003 is given in the Statemnt enclosed.

Statement

Lending Rates of Power Finance Corporation effective from 24.09.2003

1.0 For Project rupee term loans :

1.1 Application to State sector/Central sector borrowers :

(All rates in %)

Sl. No.	Type of borrower	Type of project	Effective interest rates (after rebate)
1.	State sector and Central sector other than special category PSUs indicated below	Grade-I Thermal Generation	9.75
		Hydro Generation	9.50
		T and D (other than APDRP Loans) and other schemes	8.50
		APDRP schemes	8.50
		R and M/R and U	9.00
		T and D (ADB-II)	8.25
		R and M (ADB-II)	8.75
2.	NTPC, NLC, DVC, NHPC, NPCIL, PGCIL and all 'AAA' rated companies (Special Category)	T and D	8.50
		Other schemes	9.00

1.2 Applicable to Private sector borrowers :

(All rates in %)

Sl. No.	Type of borrower	Type of project	Interest rates (rebate note applicable)
1.	Private Sector	All Schemes	11.25

2.0 Buyer's line of credit (BLC) :

(All rates in %)

Sl. No.	Type of borrower	Type of loan	Effective interest rates (after rebate)
1.	State sector and Central sector other than special category PSUs indicated below	Grade-I Upto 1 year	9.00
		Above 1 year but upto 5 years	9.75
		Above 5 years	10.00
2.	NTPC, NLC, DVC, NHPC, NPCIL, PGCIL and all 'AAA' rated companies (Special Category)	Upto 5 years	9.00
		Above 5 years	9.25
3.	*Private sector borrowers (other than "AAA" rated companies)	Upto 1 year	10.00
		Above 1 year but upto 5 years	11.25
		Above 5 years	11.75

*In the private sector, BLC facility is currently available only for private DISCOMs formed out of reform.

3.0 Direct Discounting of Bills :

(All rates in %)

Sl. No.	Type of borrower (Seller)	Type of loan	Interest rates (No rebate allowed)
1	2	3	4
1.	State sector and Central sector	Grade-I Upto 5 year	10.50

1	2	3	4
	other than special category PSUs indicated below	Above 5 years	11.00
2.	NTPC, NLC, DVC, NHPC, NPCIL, PGCIL and all 'AAA' rated companies (Special Category)	Upto 5 year	9.00
		Above 5 years	9.25
3.	*Private sector borrowers (other than "AAA" rated companies)	Upto 5 year	11.25
		Above 5 years	11.75

4.0 Short term loans :

(All rates in %)

Sl. No.	Type of borrower	Effective interest rates (after rebate)
1.	State sector Grade-I and Central sector borrowers including special category PSUs (i.e. NTPC, NLC, DVC, NHPC, NPCIL, PGCIL) and also 'AAA' rated companies.	9.00
2.	Private Sector borrowers (other than "AAA" rated companies)	10.50

5.0 Interest rates on disbursement made under "Lease Finance scheme" during pre-commissioning period :

(All rates in %)

Sl. No.	Type of borrower	Interest rates (no rebate for timely payment of dues is applicable)
1	2	3
1.	State sector Grade-I and Central sector other than special category PSUs indicated below	10.25

1	2	3
2.	NTPC, NLC, DVC, NHPC, NPCIL, PGCIL and all 'AAA' rated companies (Special Category)	9.50
3.	Private sector borrowers (other than "AAA" rated companies)	11.75

6.0 Interest rates on loans to equipment manufactures :

(All rates in %)

Sl. No.	Type of borrower	Type of loan	Effective interest rates (after rebate)
1.	All "AAA" rated companies	Upto 1 year	9.00
		Above 1 year but upto 5 years	9.25
2.	Other Companies	Upto 1 year	10.50
		Above 1 year but upto 5 years	11.25

Note :

1. The state sector borrowers who fulfill following criteria shall be covered under State sector Grade-I category :
 - i. No current default i.e. not a declared defaulter;
 - ii. Satisfactory escrow arrangement, and
 - iii. Reforming entity status as per PFC policy

The State power utilities satisfying the first two criteria but not having reforming status will be placed in Grade-II category. For borrowers under Grade-II category, the interest rates shall be higher by 0.5% p.a. as compared to State sector Grade-I category borrowers.

The State power utilities/borrowers not covered under above grades will be placed in Grade-III category which will normally not be funded by the Corporation. However, where the Corporation has given its commitment for disbursements to third party under any agreement, the Corporation shall continue its support.

- In such cases the interest rates for Grade-III category borrowers shall be equivalent to Grade-II borrowers.
2. The RTL under Debt Refinancing Scheme shall be provided at the rates indicated in tables given under 1.0.
 3. The above rates (except the interest rates indicated for RTL to private sector borrowers, Direct Discounting of bills and interest rates on disbursement made under "Lease Finance scheme" during pre-commissioning (period) are effective interest rates after rebate/incentive of 0.5% for timely payment of dues, unless indicated otherwise. The Corporation shall recover interest from the borrowers considering the rates without rebate. However, the rebate shall be refunded to the borrowers immediately in the cases where the remittances have reached PFC by the due date.
 4. In the case of RTL to private sector borrowers, financing under Direct Discounting of Bills scheme, and interest rates on disbursement made under "Lease Finance scheme" during pre-commissioning period the rates indicated above shall be the interest rate and no further rebate/incentive for timely payment of dues shall be allowed.
 5. In the case of Direct Discounting of Bills, the existing policy of the Corporation to charge 0.5% interest over and above the normal rates indicated above is continued if the Bills are not co-accepted/guaranteed by banks in case of purchase of equipment by SEBs/SGCs/Central Generating and Transmission company and Government undertaking upto face value of Rs. 50 crores excluding interest component on security of irrevocable Escrow Account. The rebate policy is not applicable to loans sanctioned under Direct Discounting of Bills. The interest rates indicated in above table shall be applicable for financial assistance extended under Direct Discounting of Bills. Since the line of credit is available to the seller, the applicable rate of interest shall be determined on the basis of category of seller of equipment/materials.
 6. In the case of project term loans the period of loan shall be reckoned from the date of first repayment of loan. For other schemes, the period of loan shall be reckoned from the date of disbursement (from first disbursement in case of loan to equipment manufacture).
 7. All the above interest rates indicated above are on quarterly basis. In the case of EMI, the interest rates indicated above shall be applicable for the purpose of calculation of interest under EMI installment.
 8. In the case of bullet repayment of STL/WCL, the interest shall be recovered at above rate for the contracted period.
 9. In case of Transitional loan, sanctioned on case to case basis, the project rupee term loans interest rates applicable to State sector hydro projects shall apply for GENCOs (Thermal/Hydro entities) and T and D interest rates (other than ADB loan) shall apply for TRANSCO entities.
 10. In case of medium/long term WCL against pledge of Bonds, sanctioned on case to case basis, the interest rates applicable to State sector hydro projects shall apply for GENCOs (Thermal/Hydro) and SEBs, and the interest rate for T and D (other than ADB loan) shall apply for TRANSCOs. The applicable interest rates shall be net of rebate and no separate rebate for timely payment shall be allowed over these rates.

Film Festivals

1548. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of film festivals organised by the Government during last three years;
- (b) the places where these film festivals were held; and
- (c) the separate break up of expenditure incurred in each such film festival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) A Statement in this regard is enclosed herewith.

Statement

S. Name of Film Festivals No. organised by the Government during the last three years	Places where these festivals were held	Break up of expenditure incurred in each such film festival	
1	2	3	4
1. Directorate of Film Festivals	(a) (i) 33rd International Film Festival of India from 1-10 October, 2002 at New Delhi.	(i) Rs. 151.24 lakhs. Apart from this an amount of Rs. 125 lakhs has been spent by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.	
(a) International Film Festival of India-2	(ii) 34th International Film Festival of India from 9-19 October, 2003 at New Delhi.	(ii) Rs. 118.08 lakhs. Apart from this an amount Rs. 115.00 lakhs has been spent by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.	
(b) Indian Film Festivals abroad-18	(b) During 2001-2002		
	(i) Netherlands (ii) Spain (iii) Sri Lanka (iv) Syria (v) Switzerland (vi) Maurities (vii) Laos	Expenditure borne by the Indian mission -do- -do- -do- -do- -do- -do-	
	During 2002-2003		
	1. Switzerland 2. USA (Guru Dutt's Restrospective) 3. Hong Kong 4. Japan 5. Tunisia 6. USA 7. UK (Shyam Benegal's retrospective)	Expenditure borne by the Indian mission -do- -do- Japan-Rs. 17,086 Expenditure borne by the Indian mission USA Rs. 12,599 Expenditure borne by the Indian mission .	
	During 2003-2004		
	1. Australia 2. Switzerland 3. Bhutan 4. Germany	Expenditure borne by the Indian mission -do- Bhutan Rs. 1,88,632/- Expenditure borne by the Indian mission	
Foreign Film Festivals in India-18	During 2001-2002		
	1. Isarel (in 2 cities)	Isral - Rs. 24,315/-	

1	2	3	4
		2. Germany (in 4 cities)	Germany Rs. 1,11,314/-
		3. France (in 2 cities)	France Rs. 13,511/-
		4. Australia	Expenditure borne by the foreign mission
		5. Iran	Expenditure borne by the foreign mission
		6. Sweden	Sweden Rs. 11,000/-
		7. Mukta (a special Film Festival on Women Empowerment) (in 3 cities)	Muka Rs. 6,36,938/-
		8. European Union (in 3 cities)	European Union Rs. 1,95,560
		During 2002-2003	
		1. Italy	Expenditure borne by the foreign mission
		2. Norway	-do-
		3. Poland	-do-
		4. South Africa	-do-
		5. Vietnam	-do-
		6. Visions of Australia	-do-
		7. Croatia	-do-
		8. Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas Film Festival	-do-
		9. New Zealand Film Festival	-do-
		During 2003-2004	
		1. French Animation Film Festival	Rs. 11,506/-
	National Film Festival – 2 Festivals	During 2001-2002 – at New Delhi	Rs. 31.59 lakhs
		(ii) During 2002-2003 at New Delhi	Rs. 72.68 lakhs
2. National Film Development Corporation Ltd.-7 Festivals		During 2001 – NIL	
		During 2002	
		1. Festival of Contemporary Indian Cinema in Seychelles	This festival was organized in collaboration with the Mission abroad. The prints were sent through diplomatic bag. Hence, there was no expenditure involved in organising this festival.
		2. Contemporary Malayalam Film Festival, Dubai	Rs. 1.07 lakhs
		3. Satyajit Ray Festival by National Gallery of Art and Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC	This festival was organized in collaboration with the Mission abroad. The prints were sent through diplomatic bag. Hence, there was no expenditure involved in organizing this festival.

1	2	3	4
		During 2003	
		1. Festival of Contemporary Indian Film in Seychelles	This festival was organized in collaboration with the Mission abroad. The prints were sent through diplomatic bag. Hence, there was no expenditure involved in organizing this festival
		2. Contemporary Malayalam Film Festival, Dubai	Rs. 0.30 lakhs
		3. Indian Film Festival in Mauritius	Rs. 1.24 lakhs
		4. Festival of Indian Films in Malaysia "Incredible India"	This festival was organized in collaboration with the Mission abroad. The prints were sent through diplomatic bag. Hence, there was no expenditure involved in organizing this festival
3. Films Division Mumbai-5 Festivals		During 2001	
		Delhi International Documentary Films Festival (DIFF-2001)	Rs. 2,34,344/-
		During 2002	
		1. 7th Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short and Animation Films (MIFF – Mumbai)	Rs. 97,51,000/-
		2. International Short Film Festival (Kolkata)	Rs. 94,562/-
		During 2003	
		1. International Short Film Festival (Cuttack)	Rs. 23,868/-
		2. International Short Film Festival (Bhilai)	Rs. 9,399/-
4. Children's Film Society, India-2 Festivals		During 2001	
		12th International Children Film Festival, Hyderabad (14th-20th November, 2001)	Rs. 67,46,152/-
		During 2003	
		13th International Children Film Festival, Hyderabad (14th-20th November, 2003)	Budget of Rs. 83 lakhs has been approved
5. Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute-3 Festivals		During 2001	
		SRFTI Diploma Film Festival (Mumbai and Kolkata)	Rs. 2,00,000/-
		During 2002	
		SRETI Diploma Film Festival (Kolkata)	Rs. 9,000/- approx.
		Clapstick 2002 – First International Students' Film Festival held at Kolkata	Rs. 3,63,827/-

High Power Locomotives

1549. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways has developed a higher acceleration locomotive indigenously which would reduce the journey time;

(b) if so, the special features and qualities of the locomotive;

(c) whether the production of the engines has been started;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the production of said engines are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways have indigenously manufactured higher accelerated new generation diesel and electric locomotives through transfer of technology.

(b) Special features of these locomotives include 3 phase AC/AC system, microprocessor control with self diagnostic features, crew friendly vigilance control device, regenerative braking (electric locos)/extended dynamic brakes (diesel locos) and other safety and performance enhancing features.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Production of these locos has commenced indigenously in Railway Production Units (electric locos in Chittranjan Locomotive Works, Chittranjan and diesel locos in Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi). So far 57 electric locos and 34 diesel locos have been manufactured.

(e) Does not arise.

Vigilance Mechanisms in Ministry and PSUs

1550. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vigilance Mechanisms in the Ministry and in the PSUs under the Ministry have effective in curbing the menace of corruption;

(b) if so, the number of complaints handled by the Vigilance in Ministry and in PSUs about their employees during the last two years and the result thereof; and

(c) the steps contemplated to strengthen the Vigilance Mechanism in the Ministry and in PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) The Vigilance Administration in the Ministry and PSUs enquires and recommends cases for institution of departmental proceedings whenever, prima facie, cases are established. Several other programmes and activities are undertaken to sensitize the employees regarding need for providing transparency in administration.

The number of complaints handled by the Vigilance Deptt. in the Ministry and in Oil PSUs during the last two years i.e. from 1.1.2002 to 30.11.2003 is 842. The Vigilance Administration recommended departmental proceedings against 248 employees and administrative action against 95 employees during the above period.

The study of systems and procedures for streamlining the Vigilance Mechanism is undertaken from time to time. Preparation of the Agreed list of employees in coordination with CBI, periodic review of the staff posted in sensitive areas, identification of corruption prone areas are some of the steps taken to strengthen the Vigilance mechanism.

ROBs at Anayara and Melarannoor Level Crossings

1551. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct rail over bridges at Anayara and Melarannoor level crossings in Trivandrum Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these ROBs are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) and (b) A proposal for construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 578 at Km. 217/4-5 between Trivandrum and Quilon Stations near Anayara has been received from State Government for inclusion in the Works Programme

of 2004-05. However no proposal has been received for construction of Road Over Bridge at Melarannoor from State Government.

(c) Proposals received from State Government are scrutinized for their feasibility and fulfillment of pre-requisites required under extant rules. On inclusion of the works in the Works Programme of Railways, the General Arrangement Drawings and detailed estimate are prepared and sanctioned jointly by Railways and State Government. The completion period depends on the completion of approaches by State Government also. Railways will ensure completion of their portion of bridge proper across Railway tracks along with the work on approaches by State Government.

Expenditure on Publicity

1552. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred by Northern, Western, Eastern and Southern Railways for publishing advertisements in daily newspapers and magazines with regards to the railway functions held in the respective railway zones during the last one year;

(b) whether some of the railway zones are exceeding their allocated amount, for publishing such advertisements in newspaper; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of the additional expenditure incurred by the Railways during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) The expenditure during the year 2002-03 was Rs. 2.43 crore.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Testing of Brahmos Missile

1553. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Brahmos, the Supersonic anti-ship cruise missile was tested recently;

(b) if so, the extent to which the test found to be successful in meeting all the requirements; and

(c) the time by when the missile is likely to be inducted in the Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. Brahmos missile system has been successfully flight tested on 29th October, 9th November and 23rd November during the year 2003.

(b) The flight tests have achieved all the mission objectives set for them. The missile has proved its consistent performance.

(c) Missile will enter production in 2004. Navy has accepted the systems for induction.

Integrated Rail Bus Transit System

1554. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a scheme for an Integrated Rail Bus Transit (IRBT) system connecting Delhi's Metro transit system with different towns in neighbouring States like Gurgaon, Ghaziabad, Sahibabad and Panipat;

(b) if so, the details of the IRBT plan, the estimated cost therefor and the scheduled phase-wise implementation thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) There is a proposal for an Integrated Rail-cum-Bus Transit (IRBT) System connecting Delhi with the towns of Gurgaon, Ghaziabad and Sahibabad and with interface with the Delhi mass rapid transit system (metro rail).

(b) The IRBT System includes :

(i) Two dedicated tracks for commuter traffic on the following alignments :

(a) Shahdara-Sahibabad-Ghaziabad

- (b) Sahibabad-Tilak Bridge-Minto Bridge
 (c) Dayabasti-Bijwasan-Gurgaon
- (ii) interface with Delhi Metro rail at four locations, namely, Shahdara, Trinagar/Dayabasti, Barakhamba Road/Shivaji Bridge and Kirti Nagar/New Patel Nagar. The estimated cost of the three corridors is as under :

Corridor	Cost (Rs. in Crore)
(a) Shahdara-Sahibabad-Ghaziabad :	665
(b) Sahibabad-Tilak Bridge-Minto	621
(c) Dayabasti-Bijwasan-Gurgaon :	953
Total	: 2239

(c) The feasibility study of the project has been conducted. The draft MOU has been circulated to and approved by all stakeholders, except the Government of Uttar Pradesh. A Steering Committee has also been constituted to monitor the project.

ONGC Helicopter Crash

1555. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
 SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
 DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :
 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
 SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :

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

(a) whether an ONGC helicopter crashed into the Arabian sea in the month of August, 2003;

(b) if so, the number of the ONGC employees killed in the mishap and compensation paid so far to the dependents of the deceased;

(c) whether inquiry into the cause of the helicopter crash have been completed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to avoid recurrence of such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA

MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the 20 ONGC employees killed in the mishap and compensation paid to them are contained in the Statement enclosed. Besides, dependents of 16 out of 20 employees of ONGC, who died in the accident, were given offers of appointment by ONGC. The families of remaining four deceased have been given letter of intent by ONGC for providing employment because their next of kin were underaged.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (c) above.

Statement

Payments made to the Nominees of the Dependent of deceased of ONGC who died in crash of Helicopter 11.08.2003.

Sl. No.	Name of deceased employee	Total Compensation payment made (In Rupees)
1	2	3
01.	Akshay Mathias SE(D)	5029066
02.	T.K. Sarkar SE(E)	5360352
03.	A.K. Das Dy. SE(M)	4532367
04.	B. Sahay Dy. SE(E)	4656995
05.	Ajoy Sinha Dy SE(M)	4467536
06.	V.K. Dabholkar JT(M)	3195981
07.	K.H. Pailarkar R/A-I	3107033
08.	S.R. Roy SC	4837300
09.	C.M. Naithani DSE(C)	5554499
10.	R.P. Biswas SE(D)	5091299
11.	D.V. Sawant JT(M)	3013907
12.	A.K. Singh SE(D)	4806868
13.	A.J. Mhatre AGI-(MM)	3222956
14.	H.B. Pokale R/A-II	3087412
15.	S.H. Dangle Topman	3227322
16.	S.D. Kodag DGM(M)	6156913

1	2	3
17.	R.M. Murthy AEE(D)	3649742
18.	D.J. Jani Dy SE(M)	4880766
19.	S.K. Dey	2002810
20.	J.J. Vorkey	4520881

**Karnataka Rail Infrastructure
Development Company**

1556. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka had submitted four rail projects under the auspices of the Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE) and three projects on a cost sharing basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has already drafted the Shareholders' Agreement, the Concession Agreement, the Construction Agreement and the O and M Agreement and forwarded them to the Ministry for their approval;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry has approved the proposal; and

(e) if so, the time by which the work on this project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following four ongoing sanctioned projects have been identified to be taken up under K-RIDE :

1. Hassan-Mangalore Gauge conversion
2. Solapur-Gadag Gauge conversion
3. Hubli-Ankola New Line
4. Guntakal-Hospet Doubling

In addition, The Government of Karnataka has agreed to share 2/3rd of the project cost in respect of the following projects :

1. Kottur-Harihar New Line

2. Bangalore-Kengeri Doubling

3. Kengeri-Ramnagaram Doubling

(c) and (d) Shareholders Agreements in respect of K-RIDE and Hassan-Mangalore Rail Development Company (HMRDC), the first project specific Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) have already been signed. The other agreements for HMRDC have been approved by the Ministry of Railways.

(e) All works are already in progress.

Holding of Foreign Equity in NDTV

1557. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the New Delhi Television (NDTV) sought the permission of the Government for offering 14.35% stake of Mauritius based standard chartered private equity;

(b) if so, whether the proposal of foreign direct investment of 26% in the equity of new entities for the media sector is in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) The existing foreign equity holding in NDTV and the decision of the Government with regard to their proposal for further FDI of 14.35%?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) M/s. New Delhi Television Limited (NDTV) had approached Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) seeking approval for foreign equity investment of Rs. 52,87,50,000 against issue of 34,28,387 equity shares of Rs. 10 face value aggregating to 14.35% of post issue paid up capital of the company by Standard Chartered Private Equity (Mauritius) Limited.

FIPB Unit, Ministry of Finance has given the approval for foreign investment, subject to the following conditions :

- (i) The company conforms to the eligibility criteria as per the revised guidelines for uplinking of news and current affairs TV channels from India announced.

- (ii) Foreign investment upto 26% is permissible under the guidelines and the company is required to produce documentary evidence after shares, etc. are issued to establish that the shareholding pattern is in accordance with approval granted.
- (iii) The issue/valuation/transfer of shares shall be as per RBI/SEBI guidelines.

As informed by the company, the post issue Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the company is 25.96%.

[Translation]

Engraving Martyrs Names

1558.SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the names of Martyrs who sacrificed their life for the country during the past wars have not been engraved in the memorials constructed in India, whereas the British Government, just two years back had engraved the names of Indian soldiers, who sacrificed their life during the Second World War in the memorials established for them;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to engrave the names of soldiers who achieved martyrdom during the wars of 1948, 1962, 1971 and in the Kargil war, so that the future generations could remember them as the soldiers who sacrificed their life for protecting the freedom of the country;

(c) if so, the outline thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) India Gate is the only memorial at National level in which names of our martyrs upto World War-I have been inscribed. Other than this, there is presently no memorial at National level. However, there are various memorials constructed at Regimental Centres, Schools of Instructions and other places where names of martyrs of their respective regiments are inscribed.

(b) and (c) A proposal for construction of National War Memorial is pending for want of suitable land. After the land is allotted, the National War Memorial would be

constructed and names of martyrs are proposed to be inscribed.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Transfer of Customers to Unviable Distributors in Karnataka

1559.SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the process of transfer of customers to unviable distributors as per Government guidelines have been completed in the State of Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry is going on against IOCL officials involved in racket regarding transfer of customers in the State of Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against such officials and the time by which the process of transfer of customers is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that they have completed the process of transfer of customers to the newly commissioned/unviable distributors as per the Government guidelines in the State of Karnataka except a few cases which are sub-judice.

(b) and (c) A complaint received against the officials of Indian Oil Corporation Limited of Karnataka is being investigated.

[Translation]

Rail Projects in Bihar

1560.SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has received letters from the Government of Bihar in regard to the railway projects in the State;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) No proposal has been received in the Ministry from State Government of Bihar regarding new project in the recent past.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Royalty on Gas and Oil to Assam

1561.SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Assam has been deprived of a huge amount of royalty on natural gas, by the Oil India Limited, by adopting a dubious method of calculation of Royalty, deducting the transportation cost;

(b) if so, whether according to the well established practice royalty has been calculated on well-head production basis; and

(c) if so, the extent of loss suffered by Government of Assam due such erroneous calculations during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) Royalty on crude oil and natural gas is regulated as per provisions of Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959 framed thereunder. Royalty on natural gas is payable @ 10% of wellhead value obtainable from the lessee. The facts in regard to payment of royalty on natural gas by Oil India Ltd. (OIL) to the State Government of Assam, as per the provisions of the said Act/Rules, are being ascertained.

WB Assistance for Rural Electrification

1562.SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation, is likely to get financial help from the World Bank for implementing its distributed generation schemes known as stand alone systems:

(b) if so, whether the Corporation is currently working on a policy to make finance available for setting up power projects under the distributed generation schemes;

(c) if so, whether these schemes will help in achieving the target of electrifying one lakh villages covering one crore households by 2007;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) the details of the improvement made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) During discussions with the World Bank on their programme for the power sector, the Bank's involvement in rural electrification has also been envisaged.

(b) to (e) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) envisages financing of viable distributed generation projects.

Rail-Tel

1563.SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rail-Tel Corporation has decided to offer telecom bandwidth to optical fibre cable along its 62,000 km. Track network;

(b) whether Rail-Tel has also decided to follow revenue sharing model with Cable TV operators;

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

(d) the extent to which the Rail-Tel is likely to be benefited from these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) Yes, Sir. RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel) is offering bandwidth on sale/lease to Telecom service providers, wherever Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) based communication network has been installed along the Railway track.

(b) Yes, Sir. RailTel has also adopted revenue sharing model in addition to leasing of dark fibres/

bandwidth of Cable TV operators. Decision to adopt one or other scheme is on case to case and demand basis.

(c) RailTel has leased dark fibre in Mumbai area to one Cable TV operator on revenue sharing basis. In this case, the revenue stream has two components – A fixed component on the basis of length of the fibre leased and a variable component on the basis of number of cable TV subscribers served by the Operator in that area. In Kolkata area, however, the revenue stream has a fixed component only, depending upon the length of the fibre leased.

RailTel may also sell bandwidth to Cable operators to extend signal from one centre to other, if such a demand arises in future.

Policy on the revenue sharing model will be firmed up after gaining of some experience in this business.

(d) Extending different kind of services to cable TV operators is a new source of income to RailTel and this definitely will benefit RailTel in improving its financial prospects.

**Power Projects by NTPC in
Saudi Arabia and Oman**

1564.DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) propose to set up Thermal Power Projects in various countries including Saudi Arabia and Oman;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NTPC also plans to set up similar projects in Oman in Joint Venture with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has jointed consortiums which have submitted Expression of Interest

to Saudi Arabia and Oman for development of a power project. In the consortium, NTPC is a joint venture partner responsible for operation and maintenance of the plant on a long term contract basis and also part of the power plant engineering.

(c) to (e) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), jointly with Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd. (BHEL), is presently participating in a tender for development of Power Project in Oman on BOO basis. This is a competitive tender and work will be taken up if awarded by Oman Authorities. As per tender issued by Government of Oman, the schedule date of commercial operation of power is April, 2007.

Double Stack Container Trains

1565.SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to introduce double-stack container trains;

(b) whether external assistance has been sought to bear the cost of such trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the routes identified for the introduction of such trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOURA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) to (d) A feasibility study is in progress for the movements of double stack containers to and from the ports on the west coast namely Kandla, Pipavav and Mundra. The Report has not yet been submitted.

[Translation]

Development of New Safety Technique

1566.SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Defence Scientists have developed a new safety technique against missile attacks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be tested and inducted by the Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Conversion of Plastic Wastes into Petroleum Fuel

1567. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :
SHRI JYOTIRADIYA M. SCINDIA :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

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

(a) whether research has been carried out by an Indian scientist not only for conversion of plastic waste into a degradable waste but also to convert into a petroleum like fuel;

(b) if so, the details of the research work carried out so far and the results thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to exploit this process for commercial use indicating the estimated likely annual yield of the fuel from this source?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Experiments were conducted by a joint team of IOC R and D and Professor Alka Zadgaonkar between 1.7.2003 and 10.7.2003. The findings of the report on the process are that before the fuel so obtained is used for auto and other purposes, its chlorine content, diene level etc. are required to be improved.

(c) The results of the experiments have been referred to Scientific Advisory Committee on Hydro-Carbon of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Inland Charges

1568. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal from Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry regarding tie up

between Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and Indian Railways for an economical logistics solution to the trade;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to consider the BCCI request and to enter joint venture with CWC to regulate inland charges; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

FDI in Print Media

1569. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Foreign Direct Investment has been contracted or received in the Print Media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering modifying its policy governing FDI in print media to make it mandatory for the new newspaper company to prove its financial adequacy first;

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

(e) the impact of these modifications on the foreign investment in print media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (e) The primary objective of allowing Foreign Investment in Print Media, subject to certain restrictions, was to open a window for foreign collaboration rather than the quantum of foreign money that may be received and receivable. 14 applications for foreign collaboration have been cleared with the preferred mode being royalty payment rather than foreign direct investment. The scrutiny of the financial adequacy is implicit even in the existing guidelines since the largest Indian shareholder is required to hold at

least 51% of the equity after excluding Public Financial Institutions.

[Translation]

Budhi Gandak Hydrel Power Project

1570.COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed recently between India and Nepal in regard to the preparation of a detailed project report on Budhi Gandak Hydrel Power Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) HMG/Nepal inter-alia proposed in August, 2002 that they would like India to take up field investigations and preparation of Detailed Project Report of Burhi Gandaki Hydro Electric Project under grant assistance.

As per pre-feasibility study carried out by HMG/Nepal (April, 1984), Burhi Gandaki Hydro Electric Project (600 MW) is located on river Burhi Gandaki in mid Western Nepal, approximately 2 km. upstream from its confluence with river Trisuli at Benighat.

In order to work out the modalities with Nepal regarding taking up of field investigations and preparation of Detailed Project Report of Burhi Gandaki Hydro Electric Project, a technical team from the Ministry of Water Resources held discussions with HMG/Nepal in October, 2003. It was inter-alia agreed to take up the above work by an Indian Agency after signing MOU between the two countries.

[English]

Investment by CPSUs

1571.SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the investment made by Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years;

(b) whether the Central Public Sector Undertakings have made significant contribution to the national economy

through overall improvement in their performance and productivity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the gross and net profit made by each PSU during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) As per Public Enterprises (PE) Survey 2001-02, during last three years i.e. 1999-2000, 2001-02, the latest period for which information is available, the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) have made annual investment of Rs. 13578 crore, Rs. 21453 crore and Rs. 50434 crore respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. CPSUs have made contribution to the national economy as measured in terms of contribution to Central exchequer by way of taxes, interest, dividends etc. as well as profits made by them, the details of which are available in PE Survey of respective years placed in both the Houses of Parliament. Volume III of PE Survey 2001-02 placed in Parliament on 3.3.2003 contains enterprise-wise balance sheets which give figures of gross profit (Profit Before Interest and Tax) and net profit during the last three years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02.

Electricity Charges

1572.SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways Electric Unit charge is higher than the State Electric Unit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Railway will give permission to the railway shop holders to connect State electric line to their shops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, service charges over and above the average purchase rate of electricity from State

Electricity Authorities is being charged from outsiders as per the extant norms.

(c) and (d) Railway generally do not give permission to obtain electricity directly from State Electricity Authorities within the railway land as it may create safety problems and may infringe the statutory provisions stipulated under the Electricity Rules and Supply Act.

Power Generated through Renewable Energy Sources

1573. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the loan provided by IREDA for implementation of projects under renewable energy sector to Karnataka during the last three years and current financial year so far;

(b) the power generated through renewable energy sources at present;

(c) the per unit generating cost of the power;

(d) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested for Union Government's assistance for implementation of projects under renewable energy programme; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) IREDA has disbursed loans amounting to Rs. 274.27 crores for various renewable energy projects in Karnataka during the last three years and the current financial year (upto 30.11.2003).

(b) An aggregate capacity of about 3944 MW has been installed in the country through renewable energy sources as on 31.3.2003 of which 422 MW has been installed in Karnataka.

(c) The cost of power generation from renewable energy depends on the nature of the source, technology employed and site characteristics etc. The State-wise tariff for power generation from various renewable energy technologies as on 30.11.2003 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has been providing financial support in the form of capital and interest subsidies to various renewable projects in Karnataka. In this regard, Rs. 12.84 crores has been released to Karnataka during 2002-03 under various programmes.

Statement

State-wise tariff for power generation from various renewable energy technologies as on 30.11.2003

S. No.	State	Programme	Wheeling 2%	Banking 12 months	TP Sale	Buy-Back Rs. 2.25/kwh	Annual Escalation 5%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Wind	√	√	x	√	√1994-95
		Cogen/BM	2% for old projects 28.4%+Re 0.5/unit for new projects	2%	x	√	√1994-95
		SHP	√	2%, 8-12M	not< HTT	√	√1997-98
		WTE	√	2%, 8-12M	not< HTT	√	√1997-98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
2.	Bihar	Wind/SHP/WTE/ WTE/BM	To be decided by State Electricity Regulatory Commission					
3.	Chhattisgarh	Wind	√	√	√	√	x	
		Biomass	x	x	√	√	x	
		WTE	√	√	√	√	x	
4.	Gujarat	Wind	4%	6 months	x	Rs. 2.60	5 paise 2002-03	
		Biomass	4%	√	√	√	1994-95	
		WTE	4%	√	√	√	1994-95	
5.	Haryana	Wind	√	√	√	√	1994-95	
		Cogen/BM	√	√	√	√	1994-95	
		SHP	√	√	√	√	1994-95	
		WTE	√	√	√	√	1994-95	
6.	Himachal Pradesh	SHP	√	√ with addl. charge	x	Rs. 2.50	x	
7.	Karnataka	Wind	6-12%	√2% on monthly basis	√	Rs. 3.10 for new projects	2% on base tariff	
		BM	6-12%	√ on monthly basis	x	Rs. 2.80	2% on base tariff	
		SHP	2-5%	√	√	Rs. 2.60	1994-95	
8.	Kerala	Wind	5%	June-Feb	x	Rs. 2.80	2000-01 for five years	
		SHP	√	x	x	Rs. 2.50	Not allowed	
		BM	5%	4 months	x	Rs. 2.80	2000-01 for five years	
		WTE	5%	June-Feb	x	Rs. 2.80	2000-01 for five years	
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Wind	√	x	√	√	x	
		Cogen/BM	√	x	√	√	x	
		SHP	√	x	√	√	x	
		WTE	√	x	√	√	x	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10. Maharashtra	Wind		√	√	√	√	1994-95
	Cogen		7%	√	√	Rs. 3.05 per kWh	@2% from the year of commissioning
	SHP		√	√	√	√	1999-2000
	WTE		2-6%	√	√	√	1994-95
11. Orissa	SHP		2-3%	√	√	At mutually agreed rate	x
12. Punjab	Cogen/BM		√	√	√	Rs. 3.01	@3% 2001-02
	SHP		√	√	√	Rs. 2.73	1998-99
	WTE		√	√	√	Rs. 3.01	3% from 2000-01
13. Rajasthan	SHP		√10%	√(Calendar year basis)	√	Rs. 3.32 in 2003-04	2% from 2003-04 from 2013-
	Wind		√10%	√(Calendar year basis)	√	Rs. 3.32 in 2003-04	14 for 10 years
	Cogen/BM		√	√	√	√	1994-95
	WTE		√	√	√	Rs. 3.03	2000-01
14. Tamil Nadu	Wind		5%	5%	x	Rs. 2.70	No escalation
	Cogen/BM		2-10%	√2%	x	Rs. 2.73	2000-01
	SHP		5%	x	x	Mutually agreed rate	1995-96
	WTE		x	√	x	Rs. 2.70	2000-01
15. Uttaranchal	SHP		√	√	√	Mutually agreed rate	
16. Uttar Pradesh	Wind		12%	√	0.5%	√	1995-96
	Cogen		x	√24 months	x	√	1999-2000
	SHP		√	√	√	√	1995-96
	WTE		√	√	√	√	1995-96

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17. West Bengal	Wind		√	√6M	x	x	x
	Cogen		-	-	-	-	-
	SHP		√	√6M	x	x	x

SHP : Small Hydro Power

Wind : Wind Power

Cogen : Bagasse Cogeneration

BM : Biomass power

WTE : Waste to Energy

Taking over Burnpur Unit

1574. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway has received proposal from the Ministry of Heavy Industries for taking over Burnpur unit of Burn Standard, a wagon manufacturing unit in the State of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether action has been taken in this regard to take over the unit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) and (b) Ministry of Heavy Industries had sought for comments of the Ministry of Railways on the representation from Burn Standard Officers' Association addressed to Committee on Petitions, Lok Sabha for taking over Burn Standard Company Limited as Railways' captive unit, which after due consideration was not found feasible.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Report on Rajdhani Express Accident

1575. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received the report of the Railway Safety Commissioner on accident of Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express held in Bihar during September, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of any further action plan formulated on the basis of report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commissioner of Railway Safety/Eastern Circle in his final report concluded that the accident occurred due to opening of fish plate and elastic rail clips of the cess site single rail in Howrah end approach of Bridge No. 445 by miscreants. This accident was classified by the Commission under the category of "sabotage". In this unfortunate accident, 108 persons lost their lives, 59 sustained grievous injuries and 105 sustained simple injuries. Unidentified persons were held as primarily responsible.

(c) The Commission made 26 recommendations in its report. Majority of these have been accepted by the Railways for implementation. They relate to development of design of anti-sabotage fittings, security patrolling and reduction of speed of Mail/Express trains in sabotage prone areas, guarding of surplus and released track material, emergency exists in coaches, identification of doctors travelling on trains, strengthening of track structure on bridges and improvement in relief and rescue arrangements, etc.

Committee on Conditional Access System

1576. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :
SHRI J.S. BRAR :

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

(a) whether the interferences of the political leaders in some States, the implementation of CAS has been stalled;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has now set up State level implementation committees for its enforcement in an effective way;

(c) if so, the response of the State Governments in this regard;

(d) whether there are possibilities of CAS may roll out in some cities; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) to (e) In order to ensure the fullest cooperation from the State Government authorities for smooth implementation of the Conditional Access System, the State Government of the four metros have been requested to set up State level Implementation Committees for its enforcement in an effective way. The Government of West Bengal has recently constituted the said Committee. The response from other State Governments is awaited. Section 4A of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 provides that where the Central Government is satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, it may make it obligatory for every Cable Operator, to transmit or retransmit programmes of any channel, through an addressable system, with effect from such date, as may be specified in the notification and different dates may be specified for different States, cities, towns or areas, as the case may be.

Scholarship Scheme Announced by IOCL

1577.SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited has announced scholarships for students all over the country;

(b) if so, the details of this scholarship scheme and number of students likely to be benefited; and

(c) the details of the selection criteria of such students by IOCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) announced in August, 2003, grant of 250 scholarships for students of 10 plus/Industrial Training Institute (ITI) courses and 100 scholarships for engineering, MBBS and MBA courses for the academic year 2003-04.

Under the scheme for 10 plus/ITI courses, the scholarships would be awarded at the rate of Rs. 1,000/- per month for a period of two years to the students pursuing these courses, and these scholarships will be distributed over the four regions of the country, the north-eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Under the scheme for graduate and post-graduate students, the scholarships, which would be awarded on all India merit basis, will carry an amount of Rs. 2,000/- per month for all the four years for Engineering and Medical courses and two years for Business Administration/ Management Courses.

In both the schemes, 50% scholarships have been reserved for students belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC)/Schedule Tribes (ST)/Other Backward Class (OBC). In each scheme/category/sub-category, 25% of the scholarship will be earmarked for girl students and 10% for physically challenged students.

The selection criteria for the scholars include the following :-

- (i) Minimum eligibility marks in the qualifying examination is 65% for candidates in the general category, 60% for SC/ST/OBC/girls and 50% for physically challenged candidates.
- (ii) Joint income of the family from all sources during the financial year 2002-03 should not exceed Rs. 1.00 lakh, with preference to the candidates whose family annual income is not more than Rs. 60,000/-.
- (iii) The age limit for selection is minimum 15 years and maximum 30 years as on 1.9.2003.

- (iv) Wards of the employees of IOCL, its joint ventures and subsidiaries and ABC Assessment Services, who are consultants for the Scheme, are not eligible to apply.

**Recommendations of Geethakrishnan
Committee**

1578.DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is overstaffed as stated by the Geethakrishnan Committee and highlighted by the Asian Age, dated August 4, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has suggested to minimise the staff strength of the Ministry; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The Expenditure Reforms Commission has inter alia recommended winding up Films Division, Photo Division Song and Drama Division, Directorate of Field Publicity, Directorate of Publications Division, letting the Film Industry handle institutions like Film and Television Institute of India, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Directorate of Film Festivals and Children's Film Society, India, disinvesting National Film Development Corporation Limited and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited and reducing/rationalizing the role of other units.

(d) The Government has not accepted the recommendations regarding closure or hiving of the media units in view of the functional requirements of Government publicity and the needs of the media and entertainment sectors. However, 1334 posts have been identified for abolition in a phased manner, out of which 334 posts have already been abolished. The Government believes in rightsizing and not downsizing.

[Translation]

Hajipur-Vaishali-Sugauli Rail Line

1579.DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the project for construction of Hajipur-Vaishali-Sugauli new railway line has been approved;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) the mode of funding of the project;

(d) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred thereon so far, year-wise;

(e) the target fixed for completion of the said project, state-wise;

(f) whether the work of the project running as per the schedule;

(g) if not, 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 BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project has been included in Supplementary Demands for Grants 2003-04. Final Location Survey is in progress. The part estimate has been sanctioned. This would be followed by land acquisition and work would be taken up after land is made available by State Government.

(c) The work is being funded through budgetary support. Efforts are also being made to obtain multilateral funding for the project.

(d) An outlay of Rs. 10 lakh has been provided for the work during 2003-2004. The expenditure would be known only after end of the financial year and finalization of accounts.

(e) to (h) No target has yet been fixed. The work would be progressed as per the availability of resources. A number of initiatives have been taken to augment

resources for expediting completion of the ongoing projects. These include sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence and funds for national Rail Vikas Yojana. With these efforts, it may be feasible to expedite the progress of the ongoing projects.

[English]

Welfare Schemes for Old People

1580. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :
 SHRI RAJO SINGH :
 SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
 SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :
 SHRI DANVERAO SAHEB PATIL :
 KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

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

(a) the details of welfare schemes for old people being implemented in the country including its date of inception;

(b) the details of proposal received from various State Governments/Union Territories administration and NGOs/Vos under such schemes and the funds allocated/ released to them during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise, State/Union Territory-wise and NGO/VO-wise;

(c) the funds utilized by them during the said period State/UT-wise and NGO/VO-wise;

(d) the present number of Old Age Homes functioning in the country and the number of senior citizens being benefitted therefrom and the number of new old age homes to be opened during 2003-04, State-wise;

(e) the number of cases of misutilisation of funds come to the notice of the Government and the action taken against those States/UTs/NGOs/Vos during the said period; and

(f) the measures taken/to be taken by the Government for further expansion of schemes for old people and proper monitoring of funds utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI

NAGMANI): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing two schemes for the welfare of the old people. The details of the two schemes are as under :

I. **An Integrated Programme for older persons (Plan Scheme)** : Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided on receipt of the recommendation of the State Government/UT administrations to the Non Governmental Organizations for setting up and continuance of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units as well as for supporting non-institutional services for the aged.

II. **Assistance to Panchavati Raj Institutions/ Voluntary Organizations/Self Help Groups for Construction of old age homes/multi service centres for Older persons (non Plan Scheme)** : This Central Non Plan Scheme aims at providing one time financial grant for construction of old age homes or service centres for older persons.

(b) and (c) The State-Wise/NGO-wise details of financial assistance given under the two schemes during the last three years and current year are given in the enclosed Statement-I and Statement-II.

(d) The State-wise present number of old age homes functioning in the country and the number of senior citizens being benefitted and the number of new old age homes to be set up during 2003-04 are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(e) The details of NGOs blacklisted on account of misutilisation of Government funds and the action taken are given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

(f) The Ministry gives preferences to the fresh proposals for setting up old age homes, day care centres and mobile Medicare units in respect of those districts where there are no such projects. For monitoring of utilization of the Government funds, the Ministry considers the proposals for grant in aid only on receipt of Inspection Reports and recommendations from the concerned State Government/UT administration alongwith the utilization certificates every year.

Statement-I

State-wise/NGO-wise details of Grant in aid released under the Scheme "An Integrated Programme for Older Persons" (Plan Scheme) during last three years from 2000-01 to 2002-03 and current year 2003-04 (upto 30.11.2003)

Abbreviations :-

OAHs-Old Age Homes
DCCs-Day Care Centres
MMUs-Mobile Medicare Units
NISs-Non-Institutional Services

S. No.	District	Name of the organisation	Project	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)				
				2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	(as on 30.11.2003)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
I. Andhra Pradesh								
1.	Anantpur	Adarsh Mahila Mandali	MMU-1	0.77	0	0	0	
2.	Anantpur	Christ Rural Development and Educational Society	OAH-1	1.34	0	0	0	
3.	Anantpur	Mercy Minority Educational Society	DCC-3	2.94	0	0	0	
4.	Anantpur	Mother India	OAH-1	1.37	0	0	0	
5.	Anantpur	Nav Bharat Socio Economic Development Society	OAH-1	1.33	3.97	4.03	0	
6.	Anantpur	People's Rural Education Development Society	OAH-1	0	2.47	0	0	
7.	Anantpur	Rupa Education Society	OAH-1	2.65	1.28	4.03	0	
8.	Anantpur	Rural Poor People's Welfare Society	OAH-1	0	0	2.76	4.15	
9.	Anantpur	Society for Welfare and Awakening in Rural Environment	DCC-2	3.59	1.96	5.87	0	
10.	Anantpur	Sree Venkateswara Convent Educational Society	OAH-1	0	1.34	4.11	0	
11.	Anantpur	Sri Rakesh Educational and Welfare Society	OAH-1 and DCC-1	4.39	2.29	6.08	0	
12.	Cuddapah	Chaitanya Educational and Rural Development Society	OAH-1 and MMU-1	4.14	4.14	2.07	2.07	
13.	Cuddapah	Community Development Society for Weaker Section	DCC-1	0.48	1.94	0.97	0.97	
14.	Cuddapah	Depressed Peoples Development Society	OAH-1	1.24	3.69	2.76	1.38	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15. Cuddapah	Dr. Ambedkar Dalitha Varga Abh. Sangham		OAH-1	2.69	2.76	1.38	0
16. Cuddapah	Jageevan Balheenavarga Abh. Sangham		DCC-1	1.93	1.96	0.97	1.96
17. Cuddapah	Rayalseema SC, ST and BC Deve. Society		MMU-1		0.38	1.53	0.76
18. Cuddapah	Srinivasa Education and Rural Development Society		OAH-1	1.24	1.24	5.52	1.37
19. Cuddapah	Sri Padamwathi Mahila Mandali		OAH-1	2.76	2.76	1.38	0
20. Cuddapah	Sri Venkateswara Socio-Economic Development Society		OAH-1 and DCC-1	3.97	6.1	4.31	2.36
21. Cuddapah	Sree Krishna Devaraya Yuvajana Sangam		OAH-1		1.29	2.47	1.23
22. Cuddapah	Vijaya Socio-Economic Development Society		DCC-1	0.94	2.85	0.97	1.96
23. Cuddapah	Khadisilk Gramodyoga Samiti		OAH-1	2.27	2.37	2.65	1.38
24. Chittoor	Indira Mahila Mandali		MMU-1	3.33	3.34	1.17	1.17
25. Chittoor	Jyothi Youth Association		DCC-1	1.96	1.96	0.97	1.96
26. Chittoor	Mother India Community Development Association		OAH-2, DCC-1 and MMU-1	10.51	10.58	11.17	0
27. Chittoor	Peda Prajala Seva Samithi		OAH-2	2.764	7.97	5.20	0
28. Chittoor	Peoples Action for Social Service		OAH-2 and MMU-1	7.88	7.88	3.93	7.88
29. Chittoor	Peoples Organisation for Welfare and Education Ratification		DCC-1	1.96	1.96	0.97	1.96
30. Chittoor	Rashtriya Seva Samithi		OAH-2 and DDC-9	27.59	22.34	21.24	0.76
31. Chittoor	Sarvodaya Women Welfare Society		OAH-1 and DDC-1	4.39	4.72	2.36	2.36
32. Chittoor	Sewa Bharathi		DDC-2	3.59	3.59	3.64	0
33. Chittoor	Sri Venkateswara Mahila Mandali		OAH-1, DDC-1 and MMU-1	6.44	7.39	3.47	0
34. Chittoor	Telugu Bharathi Mahila Mandali		OAH-1	2.76	2.76	1.38	0
35. Chittoor	Praja Abyudaya Sewa Samiti		MMU-1	0	0	3.52	2.35
36. East Godavari	Association for the Care of Aged		OAH-1	1.05	2.02	4.16	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37.	East Godavari	Help the Women	OAH-1 and DDC-1	4.72	4.71	3.74	2.36
38.	East Godavari	Pushkarmatha Convent Educational Committee	DCC-1	1.96	1.96	1.96	0.97
39.	East Godavari	Ravindra Educational Society	OAH-1	0	1.09	0.00	0
40.	East Godavari	Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Orphanage and Boarding Home	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76	1.38
41.	East Godavari	Sarda Education Society	OAH-1	2.59	1.38	4.15	1.38
42.	East Godavari	Suneeta Mahila Mandali	MMU-1	0.55	1.26	1.47	0.76
43.	Guntur	Indira Memorial Weaker Section Development Society	OAH-1	0	2.61	1.38	2.76
44.	Guntur	Indira Priyadarsini Girijana Backward Class Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	1.04	1.04	2.76	1.38
45.	Guntur	International Christian Crusade Service Association	DCC-1	0.48	0.48		0.97
46.	Guntur	Kothapeta Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	1.38	1.38
47.	Guntur	Narasarapel Taluk STs/Youth Club	OAH-1	2.64	2.76	1.38	1.38
48.	Guntur	Naveen Adarsya Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.76	1.36	2.73	2.76
49.	Guntur	Omkar Rural Development Society	OAH-1	0	0.86	2.76	1.38
50.	Guntur	Prakasam Nagar Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	0	3.86	0.97	1.96
51.	Guntur	SERD, SCs/STs and Christians Welfare Society	OAH-1	3.65	3.69	1.29	2.62
52.	Guntur	Soniya Gandhi Harijana Grijana Balheena Vargamula Mahila Mandali	OAH-1, DCC-1	2.31	6.92	2.36	2.36
53.	Guntur	Sree Sarda Mahila Vignana Samithi	DCC-1	1.81	2.92	0.92	4.49
54.	Guntur	Udayasree Mahila Samejam	OAH-1	0	2.61	1.32	2.71
55.	Guntur	Vellamma Weaker Sections Association	DCC-1	0	3.92	0.00	0
56.	Guntur	Kandrika Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.59	2.76	1.38	1.38
57.	Guntur	Sri Venkateswara Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0	1.09	2.76	1.38
58.	Hyderabad	Annapurna Manav Samksama Samithi	DCC-1	1.86	0.93	2.71	0.87
59.	Hyderabad	Anuraag Secunderabad	MMU-1, NIS-1	1.82	1.02	3.09	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
60.	Hyderabad	Anuraag Human Servies	OAH-1	2.62	1.38	4.15	0
61.	Hyderabad	Dr. P.N. Hanumantha Roa Charitable Trust	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76	1.38
62.	Hyderabad	Hempal Society	OAH-1	1.33	0	0.00	0
63.	Hyderabad	Mahila Dakshata Samithi	DCC-1 and MMU-1	3.63	1.84	3.69	1.84
64.	Hyderabad	Old Age Welfare Centre	DCC-1 and MMU-1	5.21	5.35	6.22	0
65.	Hyderabad	Sai Seva Sangha	OAH-1	1.11	3.02	2.22	1.11
66.	Hyderabad	Social Integration for Rural Improvement	OAH-1	3.14	2.49	1.24	1.24
67.	Hyderabad	Jyothi Welfare Association	OAH-1	4.1	1.38	4.15	1.11
68.	Karimnagar	Santosh Educational Society	OAH-1	0	4.51		0
69.	Khamman	Jaya Sree Mahila Sangham	DCC-1	1.96	1.96	1.96	0.97
70.	Krishna	A.P. Girijana Sevak Sangha	OAH-1 and DCC-1	4.72	4.72	4.72	2.36
71.	Krishna	Amma Vayavrudha Seva Sadanam	OAH-1	2.55	1.27	3.85	0
72.	Krishna	Country Womens Association of India, Vijayawada	OAH-1	2.28	0	2.76	0
73.	Krishna	Integrated Development Agency	OAH-1 and MMU-1	4.01	4.22	4.22	2.11
74.	Krishna	Mahila Sangham	OAH-1	1.72	0	2.76	2.76
75.	Krishna	Mother Theresa Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	1.84	1.96	1.96	0.97
76.	Krishna	Senior Citizens Forum	OAH-1	2.36	1.18	3.42	0
77.	Krishna	Vasavya Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	1.79	0.9	2.69	0.89
78.	Krishna	Bapuji Integrated Rural Development Society	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.75	1.38
79.	Krishna	Sri Triveni Educational Academy	DCC-1	2.15	1.96	2.36	2.76
80.	Kurmoool	Asha Jyothi Education Society	OAH-1		1.33	0.00	0
81.	Kurmoool	Nav Bharath Educational Society	OAH-1 and MMU-1	2.55	3.15	1.38	2.76
82.	Kurmoool	Partibha Education Society	OAH-1		1.24	2.76	1.38
83.	Kurmoool	Priyadarshini Mahila Mandali	OAH-1		1.09	2.73	1.37
84.	Kurmoool	Rural Tribal Development Society	OAH-1		1.03	2.76	1.38

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
85.	Kurnool	Rural Upliftment of Health and Educational Society	OAH-1	1.34			4.14
86.	Kurnool	Rural Mahila Welfare Society	MMU-1	0	0	0.53	0
87.	Mahaboobnagar	Bethel Educational Society	OAH-1	2.76	2.5	1.38	2.76
88.	Mahaboobnagar	Social Action for Social Development	OAH-1, DCC-1 and MMU-1	7.31	7.31	3.66	6.03
89.	Mahaboobnagar	Navodaya Seva Sansthan	OAH-1	2.72	0	0.00	0
90.	Mahaboobnagar	Gramabhyudaya Seva Sanasthan	OAH-1	2.22	1.08	1.08	0
91.	Mahaboobnagar	Swarajya Laxmi Organisation for Women	OAH-1	2.17	2.6	1.38	0
92.	Mahaboobnagar	Sandhya Rural Welfare Society	OAH-1	2.31	2.34	1.38	0
93.	Mahaboobnagar	S.A.V. Gupta Educational Society	OAH-1	1.37	2.66	1.38	1.38
94.	Mahaboobnagar	Rural Social Welfare Association	OAH-1	1.36	2.66	1.32	0
95.	Nalgonda	Society of Emmanuel Evangelism for Rural Development	OAH-1	2.71	2.69	1.38	0
96.	Nalgonda	Mahalaxmi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.35	3.93	3.99	0
97.	Nellore	Arya Dayananda Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.22	2.76	2.76	1.38
98.	Nellore	Asthana-A-Christia Mahila Mandali	OAH-1 and DCC-1	4.08	3.26	4.72	2.36
99.	Nellore	Bharathi Mahila Voluntary Service Organisation	OAH-1	1.25	4.02	2.76	1.38
100.	Nellore	Divine (India)	OAH-1	4.04	0	4.15	0
101.	Nellore	Haritha Mahila Mandali Society	OAH-1		1	2.76	1.38
102.	Nellore	Help the Need	DCC-1	1.96	0.98	2.94	0.97
103.	Nellore	Indiramma Mahila Mandali	MMU-1, DCC-1	1.4	1.05	2.33	0.97
104.	Nellore	Nehru Bharathi Educational Institution	OAH-1	2.57	2.55	2.76	1.38
105.	Nellore	Polymer's Educational Society	OAH-2 (1 DCC changed to OAH)	4.56	4.72	4.72	2.76
106.	Nellore	Sri Vighneswara Mahila Mandali	DCC- and MMU-1	2.89	3.47	1.96	0
107.	Nellore	Health Care and Social Welfare Society (Harijan Christian Social Welfare Society)	OAH-1	2.53	2.76	2.76	1.38

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
108.	Nellore	Laxmi Mahila Mandali	OAH (DCC changed to (OAH)	1.79	1.88	1.96	0.97
109.	Nellore	Sri Lakshmi Parvathi Mahila Mandali	DCC-1		0.5	1.96	0.97
110.	Prakasam	3 Men Academies	OAH-1	4.15	1.38	4.15	1.38
111.	Prakasam	Adarsha Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	4.06	1.38	0.00	0
112.	Prakasam	Arunodaya Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	1.96	0.98	3.91	0.97
113.	Prakasam	Chandravamsa Organisation for Rural Development	OAH-1		1.11	2.76	1.38
114.	Prakasam	Indira Priyadarsini Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	0.98	1.96	2.94	0.97
115.	Prakasam	Kastajeevula Jateeya Seva Sangham	OAH-1	0	1.38	0.00	0
116.	Prakasam	Laxmi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.75	1.38	4.15	1.37
117.	Prakasam	Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.76	1.38	2.76	2.76
118.	Prakasam	Netaji Yuvak Kendra	OAH-1		1.11	2.76	1.38
119.	Prakasam	Prakasam Zilla Balaheena Vargala Colony Verala Seva Sangham	OAH-1 and DCC-1	4.72	2.36	7.09	2.36
120.	Prakasam	Priyadarsini Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	1.85	0.92	1.85	1.85
121.	Prakasam	Sabari Girjana Mahila Mandali	DCC-1	1.84	0.92	1.85	1.85
122.	Prakasam	Samatha Mahila Vedika	OAH-1 and DCC-1	4.44	4.72	4.72	2.35
123.	Prakasam	Sri Kastijeevalaya Jateeya Seva Sangam	OAH-1	2.66	0		0
124.	Prakasam	Shri Mahalaxmi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.66	1.38	2.76	2.76
125.	Prakasam	Valmiki Seva Sangham	OAH-1	1.38	2.73	2.73	1.38
126.	Prakasam	Vasavi Educational Society	OAH-1	2.76	1.38	4.15	1.38
127.	Prakasam	Vutukuri Venkata Sabbamma Welfare Society	DCC-1	1.96	0.98	1.96	1.96
128.	Prakasam	Sri Bhavani Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	0	0	1.56	2.3
129.	Ranga Reddy	Golden Environmental Educational Technical Health and Agriculture Society	OAH-1		1.1		0
130.	Ranga Reddy	St. Anthony's Educational Society	OAH-1		0.89	2.76	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
131.	Ranga Reddy	Venketeswara Social Service Association	OAH-1 and DCC-1	1.96	3.01	4.72	0
132.	Secunderabad	Rurban Integrated Development Society			2.34		0
133.	Secunderabad	Forum for Social Upliftment Secunderabad	OAH-1		1.2	2.60	0
134.	Secunderabad	Rural Development Society	OAH-1	0	0	1.30	0
135.	Vishakhapatnam	Kasturabai Gandhi Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	1.08	0	0.00	0
136.	Vishakhapatnam	Priyadarsini Service Organisation	OAH-1	1.26	3.89	1.32	1.32
137.	Vishakhapatnam	Sri Venkateswara Yuvajana Sangham	OAH-1	3.51	4.04	2.76	1.38
138.	Vizianagram	Prema Samajan	OAH-1	2.15	2.12	1.06	1.06
139.	Warangal	Kasturibai Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.55	5.53	1.37	1.37
140.	West Godavari	St. Mary Rehabilitation Centre for Orphans, Widows and lapers	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76	0
		II. Assam					
141.	Haila Kandi	South Borband Gram Unnayan Samiti	DCC-1		0.5	1.96	1.96
142.	Haila Kandi	Wodwichee	OAH-1 and DCC-1	2.76	3.42	4.72	2.36
143.	Nagaon	Bahumukhi Krishi Avam Samaj Kalyan Samiti	OAH-2, DCC-1 and MMU-1	4.2	6	8.54	6.06
144.	Nagaon	Global Health Immunisation and Population Control Organisation	OAH-1		1.11	2.75	1.38
145.	Nagaon	Gram Vikas Parishad	DCC-1	2.09	3.5	3.50	1.75
146.	Nagaon	Sadau Asom Gramya Puthibharal Sanitha	OAH-1	0	2.55	2.19	0
147.	Nagaon	All Assam Library Foundation	MMU-1	0	0	0.00	0.64
148.	Jorhat	Assam Chah Mazdoor Multi Purpose Social Education Association	DCC-2	7.83	0		3.91
149.	Lakhimpur	Khorapattar Sammilita Yuvak Samaj	DCC-1	1.45	0.95	2.91	0.97
150.	Lakhimpur	Lakhimpur Seva Sadan	DCC-1	0	0.88	1.69	0.97
151.	Lakhimpur	Jagruti Sannilita Unnayan Kendra	MMU-1	0	0	0.70	0.69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
152.	Kamrup	Dr. Ambedkar Mission	DCC-1	1.96	1.75	1.92	0.97
153.	Kamrup	Rural Women Upliftment Association, Gowahati, Assam (Centre at Kamrup)		0	1.48		0
154.	Karimganj	Rogurtook Club and Library,	OAH-1	0	0	0.00	179858
155.	Sonitpur	Rajib Seva Sadan	DCC-1		0.49	0.00	0
		III. Bihar					
156.	Patna	Mahila Mukti Vahini	OAH-1	0	5.53	1.38	0
157.	Sitamarhi	Rajendra Institute of Education and Social Welfare	OAH-1	0	0	0.00	1.61
		IV. Chhattisgarh					
158.	Raipur	Chattisgarh Bal Avam Vrid Kalyan Parishad	OAH-1	3.98	1.28	0.00	0
		V. Gujarat					
159.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat Kalvani Trust	OAH-1	2.76	1.38	4.15	0
160.	Ahmedabad	Rachnatmak Abhigam Trust	DCC-1	1.96	0.98	2.94	0.97
161.	Ahmedabad	Agewell Foundation	2 Helplines	7.6	0	0.00	0.00
162.	Ahmedabad	Bharatiya Adimjati Sewak Sangh	OAH-2	4.6	0	0.00	0.00
		VI. Haryana					
163.	Hissar	Gram Swarajya Sansthan	DCC-1	1.96	1.96	1.96	0.97
164.	Jhajjar	Akhil Bhartiya Sant Haridas Samaj Sewa Sangh	DCC-1	0	0	1.50	0
165.	Jhajjar	Manav Avam Jan Kalyan Educational and Society	OAH-1	0	0	0.00	1.79
166.	Jind	Amar Jyothi Shiksha Sanstha	OAH-1 and DCC-1	4.72	2.36	7.08	2.36
167.	Kurushetra	Karam Bhoomi Sansthan	DCC-1	0	1.71	3.91	0
168.	Kurushetra	Jan Jagriti Sansthan	DCC-2	0	1.85	7.83	0
169.	Mahendergarh	Rao Madhav Singh Memorial Trust	OAH-1	0	1.69		0
170.	Panchkula	Senior Citizens Council	DCC-1	0.44	0		0
171.	Panipat	Lok Kalyan Foundation, Panipat, Haryana	DCC-1 and MMU-1	0.98	4.68	3.50	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
172.	Rewari	Janta Kalyan Samiti	DCC-1	0	2.94	1.96	0.97
173.	Rohtak	Bhartiya Gram Sudhar Sabha	DCC-1		0.47	1.96	0.97
174.	Rohtak	Chaubisee Vikas Sangha	OAH-1 and DCC-1	4.72	4.72	4.72	2.36
175.	Rohtak	Haryana Nav Yuvak Kala Sangham	DCC-2	3.92	3.92	3.91	1.96
176.	Rohtak	Haryana Gramin Vikas Samiti	DCC-1		0.5	1.96	0
177.	Sonepat	Adarsh Saraswathi Shiksha Samiti	DCC-1	0	1.96	2.94	0.90
178.	Sonepat	Samaj Kalyan Shiksha Samiti	OAH-1	2.68	2.24	2.68	1.38
179.	Yamunanagar	Utthan	DCC-1	0	0	4.77	0
180.	Sirmaur	VII. Himachal Pradesh Indira Ladies Club	DCC-1 and MMU-1	4.82	0.77	6.96	0
181.	Leh	VIII. Jammu and Kashmir Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre	OAH-1	0	1.75	4.37	0
182.	Rajouri	Social Welfare of India Organisation	MMU-2	8.26	5.51	5.51	2.75
183.	Rajouri	National Development Institute	MMU-1	0	1.62	1.94	0.97
184.	Baramula	Mejji-sun-nisa, Sopore, Baramula	OAH-1	1.34	0	0.00	0
185.	Srinagar	Society for Rural and Urban Development	OAH-1	0	1.8	0.00	0
186.	Bangalore	IX. Karnataka Ashaktha Poshaka Sabha	OAH-1	8.36	4.62	7.75	0
187.	Bangalore	Dr. Jachani Rastriya Sevapantha	OAH-1	8.17	2.38	7.15	2.37
188.	Bangalore	Mattadahally Japajivanram Sarvodaya Sangha	OAH-1	2.55	1.27	1.27	3.82
189.	Bangalore	Sri Amhigara Chawdasah Education Society	OAH-2	0	5.48	4.15	5.51
190.	Bangalore	Sri Satha Shrunaga Vidhya Samste	OAH-1	3.49	6.6	4.49	0
191.	Bangalore	Eshwar Education and Welfare Society	OAH-1	0	2.55	2.28	0
192.	Bangalore	Mothers Care Education Society	OAH-1		1.32	0.00	0
193.	Bangalore	Nightingales Medical Trust	DCC-1		0.24	1.96	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
194.	Bangalore	Sri Swami Sarva Dharma Sharnalaya Trust	OAH-1	1.02	2.70	0	0
195.	Bangalore	R.T. Nagar Educational Charitable Trust	OAH-1	0	2.57	0	0
196.	Bangalore	Sarvodaya Service Society	OAH-1	0	1.75	0	0
197.	Bangalore Rural Distt.	Sri Uma Maheswara Mandira Trust	OAH-1	0	1.22	0	0
198.	Bangalore	Vidyaranya Education and Development Society	OAH-1	0	1.17	0	0
199.	Bagalkot	Sri Jagadguru Gurusiddeshwar Vidhya Vardhak and Sanskritika Sanstha	OAH-1	0	1.93	1.15	1.15
200.	Belgaum	Ramalingeshwar Gramabhiruddi Sangh	OAH-1 and MMU-1	2.65	4.08	2.06	2.06
201.	Belgaum	Shri Mallikarjun Jana Seva Society	OAH-1	1.06	3.07	0	0
202.	Bidar	Chywan Ayurvedic Education Society	OAH-1	1.3	2.51	1.38	1.38
203.	Bidar	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Cultural and Welfare Society	OAH-1	1.28	2.68	1.38	1.38
204.	Bidar	Sangram Education Society	OAH-1	2.44	3.88	1.32	1.32
205.	Bidar	Nittur Educational Society	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	1.38	1.38
206.	Bidar	Sri Sirdi Sai Baba Shikshan Sanshan	OAH-1	0	2.28	1.38	1.38
207.	Bidar	Shivleela Women's Welfare Association	OAH-1	0	2.79	0	0
208.	Bellary	Adarsa Educational Society	OAH-1	1.34	4.00	1.38	1.38
209.	Bijapur	Shri Sharana Jyothi Vidya Samsta	OAH-1	2.76	4.15	0	0
210.	Chitradurga	Shri Sadguru Kabeeerananda Swamy Vidya Peetha	OAH-1	2.09	2.23	0	0
211.	Chitradurga	Niranthara Jana Seva National Education Resarch and Rural Development Organisation	OAH-1	1.06	2.63	0	0
212.	Davangere	Varshini Grambirudhi Mahila Mandali (Adrash Mahila Mandali)	OAH-1	1.11	2.76	0	0
213.	Davangere	Sri Maitri Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.76	4.23	2.37	2.37
214.	Davangere	Sri Shakti Mahila Mandali	OAH-1	2.76	4.23	2.38	2.38
215.	Davangere	Rani Chanamma Educational Trust	OAH-1	0	1.34	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
216.	Davangere	Kamala Nehru Trust	OAH-1	0	0	1.34	0
217.	Davangere	Gayathri Grameena Vidya Samusthe	OAH-1	0	0	1.17	0
218.	Gulbarga	Mahaaboo Subhani Education Trust	OAH-1		1.31		2.76
219.	Gulbarga	Mahadevi Tai Mahila Vidya Vardhaka Sangha	OAH-1	2.76	1.38	4.15	0
220.	Gulbarga	Shri Malikarjun Vidhya Vardhak Sangh	OAH-1		1.11		0
221.	Gulbarga	Sri Sangameshwam Educational Society	OAH-1	2.76	1.38	4.15	0
222.	Gulbarga	Hyderabad Karnataka Palitha Womens Educational Samiti, Gulbarga	OAH-1	0.88	0	4.15	1.38
223.	Gulbarga	Sharanara Nadu Education Society	OAH-1	0	1.8	3.92	0
224.	Kolar	Sri Raman Maharishi Trust for Disabled Persons	OAH-1 and MMU-1	8.15	5.77	7.07	3.53
225.	Kolar	Sri Swami Sarva Dharm Shamalaya Trust	OAH-1	2.49	2.68	4.09	0
226.	Kolar	Sri Vishnu Education Society	OAH-1		1.29	2.71	1.38
227.	Mandya	Poornima Vidya Samsitha Arakera	OAH-1	0.48	5.45	2.76	1.36
228.	Mandya	Jnana Sindhu Education and Cultural Society, Bangalore (Centre at Mandya Distt.)	OAH-1	0	1.49	2.76	1.38
229.	Tumkur	Rural Organisation Social and Education Society	OAH-1		1.1	2.71	0
230.	Tumkur	1. Sri Swamy Sarva Dharm Shamalaya Trust	OAH-1	2.82	1.34	2.68	0
		X. Kerala					
231.	Calicut	Association for the Welfare of Handicapped	DCC-1 and MMU-1	2.59	2.41	4.93	0
232.	Kochi	Welfare Services Eamakulam	OAH-1 and MMU-1	4.77	4.23	7.20	0
233.	Kollam	International Centre for Study and Development	OAH-1	2.36	2.13	2.89	0
		XI. Madhya Pradesh					
234.	Indore	Kalyan Mitra Samithi	OAH-1	1.14	2.27	3.41	0
235.	Indore	Mahila Utkarsh Sansthan	OAH-1	0	0	1.80	0
236.	Jabalpur	Gayatri Shakti Shiksha Kalyan Samiti	DCC-1	0	3.92	1.96	0.97
237.	Khargaon	Asha Gram Trust	OAH-1	2.15	0		0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
238.	Mandsaur	Indian Red Cross Society	OAH-1	0	0	0.00	2.12
239.	Sehore	Gyani Vrindhjan Seva Kendra	OAH-1	0	4.15	4.15	0
240.	Siddhi	Khadi Gramadyog Sewa Ashram	OAH-1	0	0	0.00	1.79
241.	Satna	Promod Van Anand Dham	OAH-1	2.25	1.14	2.28	0
242.	Ujjain	Ujjain Senior Citizens Forum	OAH-1	1.61	2.28	2.28	1.84
		XII. Punjab					
243.	Amritsar	Bhai Vir Sangh Birhdh Ghar	OAH-1	2.24	1.12	3.36	0
244.	Bhatinda	Gyandeep Shiksha Samiti	DCC-1	1.71	0.86	2.81	0.97
245.	Bhatinda	All India Guru Nanak Mission	OAH-1	1.6	1.6		0
246.	Faridkot	Indian Red Cross Society	OAH-1	3.8	0.88	2.57	0.78
247.	Ferozpur	Akhil Bhartiya Jan Seva Samiti	DCC-1		0.48	1.96	0.97
248.	Ferozpur	Lok Seva Sansthan	DCC-1	1.66	1.69	1.96	0.97
249.	Hoshiarpur	Bhai Ghannaiya Charitable Trust	OAH-1	1.11	1.02	1.44	0.58
250.	Jalandhar	Mahila Mandal	DCC-1	1.83	1.96	1.96	0.97
251.	Ludhiana	Gurunanak Charitable Trust	DCC-1	1.71	1.71	1.71	0.85
252.	Ludhiana	Nishkam Seva Ashram	DCC-1	1.68	1.36	1.69	0.75
253.	Mansa	Mahila Kalyan Samiti	OAH-1	0	3.38	2.77	0.97
254.	Muktsar	Vrhdh Ashram	DCC-1	4.3	2.28	2.28	1.13
255.	Patiala	Navjivini	DCC-1	0.84	0		0
256.	Ropar	Social Work and Rural Development Centre	DCC-1	1.65	0.9	2.77	0.97
		XIII. Delhi					
257.	Delhi	Agewell Foundation	1 Helpline	28.55	63.46	0.00	0
258.	Delhi	Ashirwad Senior Citizens Council	DCC-1	1.96	0.98	2.94	0.97
259.	Delhi	Association of National Brotherhood for Social Welfare	MMU-1	1.38	1.38	5.50	0
260.	Delhi	Helpage India	MMU-2	1.67	46.68	43.35	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
261.	Delhi	Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh	MMU-1	1.71	0	0.00	0
262.	Delhi	Manav Propkari Sanstha	MMU-1	0.49	0.49	1.54	0.76
263.	Delhi	Nari Uthhan Samiti	DCC-1	0.49	0.49	0.98	0
264.	Delhi	Society for Environment and Development	DCC-1	0	1.8	0.98	0
		XIV. Pondicherry					
265.	Pondicherry	St. Joseph of Cluney, Hospice, Convent	OAH-1	2.69	1.94	13.98	1.91
266.	Pondicherry	St. Joseph Convent (Hospice)	OAH-1	1.93	2.69	7.67	3.54
267.	Pondicherry	Immaculate Heart of Mary Home for Aged	OAH-1	2.22	1.09	3.23	1.07
		XVI. Maharashtra					
268.	Bhandhra	Arunoday Bahuddeshiya Gramin Vikas Sanstha	OAH-1	0	1.09	2.76	1.38
269.	Bhandhra	Bharatiya Aushadi Anusandhan Sanstha	NMU-1	1.95	0.97	1.95	0.98
270.	Chandrapur	Sankritayan Shikshan Prasarak Mandal	DCC-1	0	0.98	2.27	0.98
271.	Dhule	Jankibai Trust	DCC-1	0	1.89	0	0
272.	Dhule	West Khandesh Bhagini Seva Mandal	DDC-2	5.33	3.89	1.95	0
273.	Gondia	Lok Kalyan Sikshan Sanstha	MMU-1	0	0.13	1.53	76.9
274.	Gondia	Madhya Bharat Education Society	DCC-1	0	0.34	0	0
275.	Jalan	Prashar Shikshan Sansthan	OAH-1	0	2.68	2.68	0
276.	Latur	Sainath Shikshan Prasarak Mandal	DCC-1	1.96	1.95	0.98	1.95
277.	Latur	Bal Vikas Mahila Mandal	OAH-1	1.71	0.86	1.84	0.98
278.	Nagpur	Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Technical and Educational Society	OAH-1	0	2.65	1.64	0
279.	Nagpur	Sneha Bahuddeshiya Sanstha	MMU-1	0.77	0.77	1.54	1.54
280.	Nagpur	Veer Arun Yuvak Vikas Mandal	DCC-1	0.98	1.95	2.4	1.95
281.	Nagpur	Ekta Bahuddeshiya Education Society	DCC-1	0	0.61	1.42	0
282.	Nanded	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Shikshan Prasarak Sanstha	OAH-1	0	2.66	2.74	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
283.	Nanded	Jankranti Shiksha Prasarak Mandal	DCC-1	1.1	2.69	1.95	0.97
284.	Parbhani	Panchshil Shikshan Prasarak Mandal	DCC-1	0	0.47	1.95	0.97
285.	Yawatmal	Late Sanjay Rathod Shikshan Sanstha	OAH-1	1.87	3.9	2.72	2.73
286.	Yawatmal	Late Ramesh Jadhav Shikshan and Krida Prasarak Mandal	OAH-1	1.87	3.99	2.68	1.38
287.	Nagpur (1), Mumbai (2) and Pune (1)	Help Age India	MMU-4	6.67	0	0	0
XVII. Manipur							
288.	Chandel	Centre for Rural Development	OAH-1	0	1.34	2.76	0
289.	Chandel	The Integrated Tribal Development Organisation	DCC-1	0.88	0	0	0
290.	Chandel	Social Agriculture and Rural Development Agency	OAH-1	2.76	1.33	3.98	1.33
291.	Churachandpur	Tribal Upliftment Association	OAH-3	0	6.65	6.81	0
292.	Imphal (East)	Ireipak Youth Development Association	DCC-1	0	3.8	0	0
293.	Imphal (East)	Keirao Women Welfare Association	DCC-1	0.675	1.9	0	0
294.	Imphal (East)	The Centre for Upliftment of Rural Women Association	OAH-1	1.382	2.76	2.76	0
295.	Imphal (East)	Ima Leimarel Women Welfare Association	OAH-1	2.5	0	5.53	0
296.	Imphal (East)	Rural Downtrodden People Upliftment Society	OAH-1	0	2.54	2.72	2.72
297.	Imphal (East)	Community Development Society	OAH-1	0	1.22	0	4.15
298.	Imphal (West)	Bashikhong Chanura Shilon Lap	OAH-1	0	2.24	3.98	2.76
299.	Imphal (West)	Human Resource and Infrastructures Development Organisation	DCC-1	3.807	1.9	0.98	0
300.	Imphal (West)	The Manipur Deaf and Mute Association	OAH-1	0	2.68	2.71	0
301.	Imphal (West)	The Manipur SC Welfare Association	OAH-1	2.69	1.35	4.11	2.66
302.	Imphal (West)	All Thangmeiband Women's Welfare Association	DDC-1	0	0.66	1.96	0.97
303.	Imphal (West)	Rural Service Agency	OAH-1	3.96	0	2.62	2.76
304.	Imphal (West)	Integrated Rural Development Agency	DCC-1	0	0.49	1.96	0.98

305. Thoubal	Centre for Rural Upliftment Services	DCC-1	1.849	1.85	1.85	2.3
306. Thoubal	Jamia Educational Society	OAH-2	2.474	5.23	5.52	2.76
307. Thoubal	Integrated Rural Development and Educational Organisation	OAH-1	2.764	2.76	2.75	1.38
308. Thoubal	New Integrated Rural Management Agency	OAH-2	8.290	5.52	5.52	2.76
309. Thoubal	Rural Development Society	MMU-1	1.770	0	1.54	2.31
310. Thoubal	Rural Industries Development Association	DCC-2	3.915	2.85	4.83	0
311. Thoubal	Rural Medical Institute	MMU-1	1.895	0.63	2.85	0
312. Thoubal	Social Development and Rehabilitation Council	DCC-1	3.915	1.95	1.95	0
313. Thoubal	Social Environment and Rural Technical Council	DCC-1	1.957	0.98	2.93	1.96
314. Thoubal	Society for Women's Education Action and Reflection	DCC-1	2.910	1.95	0.98	2.94
315. Thoubal	South Eastern Rural Development Organisation	OAH-1	2.710	3.99	2.67	1.38
316. Thoubal	The Rural People's Development Organisation	OAH-1 and DCC-1	1.960	9.25	4.72	0
317. Thoubal	United Rural Development Services	OAH-1	1.382	1.38	5.54	0
318. Thoubal	Volunteers for Rural Health and Action	DCC-1	1.840	0.92	2.76	0
319. Thoubal	Wangjing Women and Girls Society	DCC-7	18.940	19.41	15.65	6.85
320. Thoubal	Youth Progressive Organisation	OAH-1 and NIS-1	3.270	1.63	2.76	1.38
321. Thoubal	The United Hill Peoples Development Society	OAH-1	1.70	1.13	0	0
322. Thoubal	Integrated Rural Upliftment Service	DCC-1	0.00	0.29	1.9	0.97
323. Bishnupur	Kumbi Khullakpam Leikai Women's Association	OAH-1	4.132	4.08	2.76	0
324. Thoubal	Centre for Development Activities (C-DAC)	DCC-1	0	0.45	1.96	0
XVIII Nagaland						
325. Dimapur	Old Age Home, Dimapur	OAH-1	0.87	2.06	2.15	0
326. Dimapur	Sunrise Women Welfare Society	DCC-1	0.33	1.68	0	0
327. Dimapur	Nepali Bosti Women Welfare Society	DCC-1	0	1.75	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		XIX Orissa					
328.	Angul	Gram Seva Mandal	OAH-1 and DCC-6	7.22	14.14	14.47	0
329.	Angul	Voluntary Institute for Rural Development (VIRD)	DCC-1	0	0.5	1.96	0
330.	Angul	All Orissa Research Institute for Development of Women Movement (ARIDOWM)	DCC-1	0	0.32	1.95	0.97
331.	Balangir	Gram Mangal Pathagar	OAH-1	3.88	1.38	5.52	1.38
332.	Bhubaneswar	Orissa Multipurpose Development Centre	OAH-1 and DCC-3	0.98	16.1	8.51	4.78
333.	Bhubaneswar	Council for All Round Development of Society	DCC-2	0	3.91	5.79	7.76
334.	Bhubaneswar	Jankalyan Samithi	OAH-2, DCC-5 and MMU-1	0	7.77	0	0
335.	Bhubaneswar	Organisation for Social Change and Rural Development	OAH-1, DCC-2 and MMU-1	0	8.43	0	0
336.	Cuttack	Association for Social Reconstructive Activities	OAH-1	0	4.14	0	0
337.	Cuttack	Banki Anchalika Adivasi Harijan Kalyan Parishad	DCC-3	5.78	2.93	8.8	2.93
338.	Cuttack	Basudev Pathagar	OAH-1	2.54	3.42	4.7	0.97
339.	Cuttack	Orissa Social Rural Technology Instt.	DCC-2	3.35	1.95	5.76	0
340.	Cuttack	Nandighoṣha	DCC-1 and MMU-1	0	0.63	3.42	0
341.	Cuttack	Dr. Ambedkar Rural Olympic Association	OAH-1	0	0.76	2.76	1.38
342.	Dhenkanal	Adarsh Sewa Sangathan	OAH-1	2.47	1.38	0	0
343.	Dhenkanal	Arun Institute of Rural Affairs (AIRA)	DCC-5	12.5	11.17	13.93	7.66
344.	Dhenkanal	Community Legal Action and Research Centre	OAH-1 and DCC-4	5.25	0	0	0
345.	Dhenkanal	Maharishi Dayanad Service Mission	OAH-1 and DCC-4	10.58	10.57	10.59	5.3
346.	Dhenkanal	Society for Rural Advancement and Democractice Humanitarian Action	OAH-1	2.47	1.34	4.1	1.38
347.	Dhenkanal	Mahila Unnayan Pathagar	MMU-1	1.38	0	0	0
348.	Ganjam	Institute for Women's Welfare	OAH-1	0	2.18	4.63	0
349.	Jaipur	Asha Nayakam Seva Sangha	DCC-5	0	4.53	6.54	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
350.	Jajpur	Jayanti Pathagar	DCC-1	0	1.95	1.95	1.96
351.	Kalahandi	Shree Ramakrishna Ashrama	OAH-1	1.39	2.76	4.14	0
352.	Kendrapada	Cuttack Zilla Harijan Adivasi Sanskar Yojana	DCC-2	3.35	1.95	5.75	0
353.	Kendrapada	Jana Seva Parishad	DCC-1	2.14	3.95	0	0
354.	Kendrapada	Indian Village Development Organisation	OAH-1	0	1	2.46	1.27
355.	Kendrapada	Lutheran Mahila Samiti	OAH-1 and DCC-1	2.13	2.13	6.79	2.26
356.	Kendrapada	Jankalyan Sewa Sanstha	OAH-1	2.53	1.38	4.14	1.38
357.	Keonjhar	Bishnupriya Balashram	OAH-1	0	4.11	4.14	1.38
358.	Khurda	Bhairabi Club	OAH-1 and DCC-1	2.33	4.4	6.98	2.33
359.	Khurda	Juba Jyothi Club	OAH-1	0	2.67	2.76	0
360.	Khurda	Union for Learning Trng. and Reformativie Activ.	OAH-1, DCC-1 and MMU-1	0	4.09	0	0
361.	Khurda	Vishwa Jeevan Seva Sangh	OAH-2 and DCC-5	15.32	14.34	16.29	7.66
362.	Khurda	The Padmasree Society	DCC-1	0	0.46	0	1.75
363.	Koraput	Gandhian Institute of Technical Advancement	OAH-1	0	1.25	2.76	1.38
364.	Nayagarh	National Institute of Tribal Welfare and Social action	OAH-1	0	6.58	8.64	3.34
365.	Nayagarh	Aneth Parityekta Balshram	OAH-1	2.53	0	5.45	0
366.	Nayagarh	Janvikash	OAH-1 and DCC-1	7.48	2.36	7.08	2.36
367.	Novrangpur	Sahid Boja Pujari Seva Sadan	DCC-1	0	1.79	1.8	1.79
368.	Phulbani	Banabasi Seva Samithi	OAH-1	2.37	2.36	5.13	0
369.	Phulbani	Subhadra Mehtab Seva Sadan	OAH-1 and DCC-1	0	3.97	4.93	1.75
370.	Puri	Association for Voluntary Action	OAH-1, DCC-5 and MMU-1	7.34	18	15.38	6.68
371.	Puri	Bankeswari Jubak Sangha	OAH-2 and DDC-1	4.58	4.65	2.36	4.72
372.	Puri	Bidyut Club	DCC-5	9.79	4.89	0	0
373.	Puri	Jay Jagannath Club	DCC-1	0	0	1.76	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
374.	Puri	Nilachal Seva Pratisthan	OAH-2 and DCC-5	14.24	15.14	13.35	2.76
375.	Puri	Ratnachira	OAH-1	2.76	1.38	2.76	0
376.	Puri	Surakhya	OAH-1	0	0	2.76	0
377.	Puri	Jayakishan Youth Club	OAH-1	0	1.51	3.64	1.38
378.	Puri	Adal Badal Mahila Samiti	OAH-1	0	1.52	2.01	0
379.	Mayurbhanj	Rural Development Action Cell	OAH-1	0	4.72	2.44	1.38
380.	Sambalpur	National Resources Centre for Women Development	OAH-1	0	1.25	2.75	1.38
		XX. Rajasthan					
381.	Jodhpur	Radha Bal Mandir Vidyalaya Academy	DDC-1	0	0.49	1.95	0
382.	Kota	Madhu Smriti Mahila and Bal Kalyan Utthan Sansthan	OAH-1	0	1.08	0	0
383.	Sri Ganga Nagar	Nehru Model School Samitee	DCC-1	0	0.5	1.95	0
384.	Sri Ganga Nagar	Manohar Bal Mandir Samitee	OAH-1	0	1.11	2.76	0
		XXI. Tamil Nadu					
385.	Chennai	Annai Illiam	OAH-1	0	0	4.85	0
386.	Chennai	Indian Institute for Sustainable Development	OAH-1	2.59	1.3	0	0
387.	Chennai	Kalaiselvi Karunalya Social Welfare Society	OAH-1, DCC-4 and MMU-1	5.99	17.98	12.05	6.02
388.	Chennai	Mclevy Institute of Development Services	DCC-1	0	0	1.29	0
389.	Chennai	St. Paul Educational and Medical Trust	MMU-1	0.77	0	1.54	0
390.	Chennai	Tribal Welfare Agency	DCC-1	1.18	0	0	0
391.	Chennai	Guild of Service Meals on Wheels, Egmer.	DCC-1	0	1.67	0.94	0
392.	Chennai	Help Age India	MMU-1	1.67	0	0	0
393.	Cudalore	Madhar Nala Thondu	OAH-1 and MMU-1	2.15	2.92	7.76	0
394.	Cudalore	Society for the Improvement of Weaker Sections	OAH-2 and DCC-3	2.76	0	0	0
395.	Cudalore	Meyvazhi Tamizh Sabai	DCC-1	0	1.38	2.46	0
396.	Dindigul	Dindigul Multipurpose Social Service Society	OAH-1	0	1.66	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
397.	Dindigul	Rural Education for Action and Development (READ)	OAH-1	0	1.09	0	2.65
398.	Dindigul	CEDA Trust	OAH-1	0	1.09	2.6	0
399.	Erode	Centre for Action and Rural Education	MMU-1	1.47	0.74	0.73	0
400.	Erode	Rural Welfare Organisation	OAH-1	0	1.09	0	0
401.	Kanchapuram	Bureau for Integrated Rural Development	OAH-1	2.57	2.71	2.71	0
402.	Kanchapuram	Duraisamy Generous Social Education Society	OAH-1 and DCC-1	0	11.24	2.76	0
403.	Kanchapuram	Life Improvement Trust	OAH-1	1.3	1.3	4.14	0
404.	Kanchapuram	Annai Karunalya Social Welfare Association	OAH-2	0.88	1.11	5.52	0
405.	Kanchapuram	Brundavanam Education Social Trust	MMU-1	0	2.3	2.3	0
406.	Kanyakumari	Home for the Aged	OAH-1	0	0	1.92	0
407.	Namakkal	Women Organisation for Rural Development	OAH-1	0	2.26	5.24	0
408.	Nagapattinam	Avvai Village Welfare Society	OAH-1 and DCC-1	3.3	1.84	6.09	2.36
409.	Nagapattinam	Gramiya Social Welfare Society	OAH-1 and DCC-2	1.69	7.82	6.13	3.34
410.	Nagapattinam	Nehru Social Education Centre	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	2.76	0
411.	Nagapattinam	Society for Rural Development	OAH-1 and IDCC	0	2.25	5.87	2.36
412.	Nagapattinam	Karunalya Saraswathi illam	OAH-1	0	1.1	2.76	1.38
413.	Pudukkottai	Grama Suryaraj	OAH-1 and DCC-2	3.3	13.16	6.6	3.3
414.	Pudukkottai	Vethathiri Maharishi Social Welfare Trust	OAH-1	0	2.21	0	0
415.	Pudukkottai	Oazoane	OAH-1	0	4.03	4.02	0
416.	Pudukkottai	Development Education for Rural Mass	OAH-1	0	1.54	3.67	0
417.	Pudukkottai	Rural Education for Community Organisation	OAH-1	0	0.96	0	0
418.	Salem	Gandhi Peace Centre	OAH-1	0	0	0	1.8
419.	Sivagangai	Singampatty Grama Munetra Sangam	OAH-1	0	1.53	3.64	1.38
420.	Sivagangai	Society for Rural and Urban Women's Renaissance Activities (SRUWRA)	OAH-1	0	0.94	2.76	1.34

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
421.	Thanjavur	Margaret Social Development Society	DCC-1	2.76	0.98	2.94	0.97
422.	Thanjavur	Mercy Miruna Old Age Home	OAH-1	1.38	2.76	2.76	2.76
423.	Thanjavur	Sri Victoria Educational Society	OAH-1	2.76	3.87	5.52	2.76
424.	Thiruvarur	Bharathamatha Family Welfare Foundation	OAH-1	0	5.92	2.76	1.38
425.	Thiruvarur	National Mother and Child Welfare Organisation	OAH-1	0	5.52	2.76	0
426.	Thiruvarur	Bharathi Women Development Centre	OAH-1	1.34	4.5	4.64	2.32
427.	Triuchirappalli	The Tamil Nadu Pengal Nala Sangam	OAH-1	0.93	2.72	0.89	0
428.	Theni	Yuvak Vikas Kendra	OAH-1	1.88	4.14	2.76	1.38
429.	Theni	Gramiyam Sangh	OAH-1	0	2.76	2.76	0
430.	Theni	Gramian Sangh Trust,	DCC-1	0	0.49	1.95	0.97
431.	Tirunelveli	Makkal Nalvaivu Mantram	OAH-1	0	2.6	2.6	0
432.	Tirunelveli	Arasan Rural Development Society	OAH-1	0	0.89	2.76	1.38
433.	Tiruvaillur	Ratriya Seva Samiti	OAH-1	0	0	0.65	1.38
434.	Tiruvannamalai	Neo Education social Awarness and Management Society (NESAM)	OAH-1	0	0.46	1.96	0.97
435.	Trichy	Jaya Balwadi Educational Society	OAH-2 and DCC-1	4.72	7.36	7.48	3.74
436.	Trichy	Krishna's Home	OAH-1	3.84	1.38	4.14	0
437.	Trichy	Periyar Kudil	OAH-1	1.8	0.9	1.77	0
438.	Trichy	St. John Sangam Trust	DCC-1	1.79	0.88	2.83	0
439.	Trichy	The Society organised for Promotion of Rural Tribal and Development	OAH-1	2.41	0	4.14	2.76
440.	Trichy	Thiruchirappalli rural and Urban Welfare Development Education Society	OAH-1	0.87	2.76	2.76	1.38
441.	Trichy	Vidivelli Rural Development Society	OAH-1	0	1.75	3.87	1.38
442.	Villupuram	Peoples Multipurpose Development Society	DCC-3	0	7.99	4.04	0
443.	Villupuram	Annai Karunahaya Social Welfare Association	OAH-1	0	1.11	2.76	2.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
444.	Virudhnagar	Recititude and Integrated for Community establishment	DCC-1	0	0.5	1.94	0
		XXII. Tripura					
445.	West Tripura	Abalamban	OAH-1	3.97	3.6	4.05	0
446.	West Tripura	All Tripura SC, ST and Minority Upliftment Council	OAH-1 and DCC-5	5.78	22.5	5.57	0
447.	West Tripura	Minority Development Organisation	OAH-1	0	0	1.33	0
		XXIII Uttar Pradesh					
448.	Allahabad	Adarsh Janta Shiksha Samiti	OAH-1	2.76	4.15	4.15	1.38
449.	Allahabad	Arya Kanya Vidyalaya Samiti	OAH-1	0	4.14	4.15	0
450.	Allahabad	Dalit Manav Utthan Sansthan	OAH-1	0	5.52	2.76	1.38
451.	Allahabad	Gayatri Devi Shiksha Samiti	OAH-1	2.76	2.76	0	0
452.	Allahabad	Gram Vikas Shiksha Samiti	DCC-1	1.96	1.95	0	0
453.	Allahabad	Gramothan Jan Seva Sansthan	DCC-2	1.94	5.86	3.91	1.95
454.	Allahabad	Gramya Vikas Sansthan	DCC-1	1.96	0	0	0
455.	Allahabad	Gram Vikas Sewa Sansthan	DCC-1	0	2.93	1.95	0.97
456.	Allahabad	Indian Red Cross Society	OAH-1	2.76	4.14	2.76	1.38
457.	Allahabad	Jan Sewa Sansthan	DCC-1	1.96	1.95	0	0
458.	Allahabad	Lok Sewa Mandal	DCC-1	1.96	1.95	0	0
459.	Allahabad	Prakash Gramin Vikas Sansthan	OAH-1	0	2.65	4.03	0
460.	Allahabad	Tilak Shakshik Samiti	OAH-1 and DCC-1	2.36	0	0	0
461.	Allahabad	Gaurav Jan Kalyan Samiti	OAH-1	2.76	4.14	2.76	1.38
462.	Basti	Social Welfare Society	OAH-1	2.7	0	3.85	0
463.	Barabanki	Mahila Vikas Evam Bal Vikas Shiksha Samiti	DCC-1	0	3.91	1.95	0.97
464.	Barabanki	Nirbal Samaj Kalyan Sansthan	OAH-1	0	5.45	2.76	1.38
465.	Barabanki	Manav Vikash avam Sewa Sansthan	DCC-1	0	0.49	0	2.93
466.	Barraich	Adarsh Kalyan Seva Samiti	DCC-1	0.98	2.93	0.98	1.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
467.	Deoria	Mahila and Bal Vikas Samiti	OAH-1	0	0	2.76	0
468.	Etah	Gyan Bharti Mahila Vikas Evam Shiksha Prasara Samiti	OAH-1	0	0	0	1.79
469.	Faizabad	Jan Kalyan Evam Nari Uthan Samiti	OAH-1	1.38	0	0	0
470.	Ghaziabad	Gurukul Vidyapeeth Pushpavati	OAH-1	0	4.34	1.38	0
471.	Gonda	Sangam Vikas Parisad	OAH-1	0	2.5	1.29	2.62
472.	Gorakhpur	Asahay Vikas Parisad	OAH-1	0.86	0	5.36	1.38
473.	Hamirpur	Shree Kanchanlal Saguna Seva Sansthan	OAH-1	2.72	2.76	1.38	2.76
474.	Hardoi	Sarvajanic Shiksonnyan Sansthan	OAH-1 and DCC-1	0	2.53	0	0
475.	Jalaun	Jay Gayatri Maa Bal Vidya Mandir Samiti	DCC-1	0.98	0	2.93	0
476.	J.P. Nagar	Janta Junior High School	OAH-1	0	0	0	1.79
477.	Kushinagar	Jan Kalyan Shiksha Samiti	DCC-1	0	0	0	1.95
478.	Kushinagar	Mahila Evam Bal Vikas Samiti	OAH-1	0	0	2.76	0
479.	Lucknow	Akhil Bharatiya Azad Seva Sansthan	DCC-2	3.91	3.91	3.91	1.95
480.	Lucknow	Nirvan Samaj Kalyan Sanstha	DCC-2	0	0	2.93	3.92
481.	Lucknow	Samaj Sewa Sansthan	DCC-1	0.98	2.93	1.95	0.97
482.	Lucknow	Shaheed Memorial Society	OAH-3 and DCC-1	10.24	12.04	6.5	8.86
483.	Lucknow	Sudha Prashikshan Vikas Sansthan	DCC-1	0.98	2.93	1.96	0.97
484.	Lucknow	Women Welfare and Cultural Institute	DCC-1	1.35	3.9	1.96	0.97
485.	Lucknow	Sarvajanic Shiksha Samiti	OAH-1	0	2.54	0	0
486.	Mathura	All India Women's Conference, New Delhi	OAH-1	2.43	1.18	3.82	0
487.	Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh Mahila Kalyan Avam Shiksha Samiti	OAH-1 and DCC-1	2.36	5.45	2.36	4.72
488.	Pratapgarh	Ganga Prasad Samarak Mahila Kalyan Sansthan	OAH-1 and DCC-1	0	9.43	4.72	2.36
489.	Pratapgarh	Sujakhar Gramodhyog Vikas Sansthan	DCC-1	0	1.95	0.98	0
490.	Rampur	Jawahar Jyoti Shiksha Evam Gramya Vikas Samiti	OAH-1 and DCC-1	3.33	8.46	4.72	2.36
491.	Sultanpur	Jan Vikas Sansthan	DCC-1	2.94	1.95	0.98	1.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
492.	Sultanpur	Madhyamik Vidyalaya Purab Gaon Sarsar Sanshan	DCC-1	0	3.91	2.93	0.97
493.	Sultanpur	Amethi Mahila Avam Bal Vikas Samiti	DCC-1	0	1.9	1.9	0.91
494.	Sant Ravi Das Nagar	Gramin Jan Kalyan Sanshan	0	0	1.09	2.65	1.32
495.	Unnao	Adarsh Sanskritik Satsang Kala Kendra	OAH-1	0	0	5.52	1.38
496.	Unnao	New Public School Samiti	OAH-1 and DCC-2	8.06	6.67	6.67	3.34
497.	(For Distt. Bhodai and Lucknow)	Help Age India	MMU-2	3.33	0	0	0
498.	Sidharthnagar	Gram Vikas Sanshan	OAH-1	2.76	0	4.96	0
499.	Jaunpur	Gramothan Seva Samiti	DCC-1		0.98	0	0
		XIV. Uttaranchal					
500.	Dehradun	Uttarakhand Shoshit Mahila Uthan Samiti	OAH-1 and DCC-3	12.82	4.31	2.93	5.77
		XV. West Bengal					
501.	Bankura	Vivekananda Adibasi Kalyan Samiti	MMU-1	0	0	1.91	0
502.	Birhum	Elmhirst Institute of Community Studies	DCC-1	2.4	2.58	2.58	1.95
503.	Burdwan	Central Scheduled Castes and Tribal Welfare Association	OAH-1	0	0	2.93	1.38
504.	Calcutta	All India Federation of Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Minorities	MMU-1	0	0	1.54	0
505.	Calcutta	All Bengal Women's Union	OAH-1	1.96	0	1.96	2.02
506.	Calcutta	Calcutta Matropolitan Institute of Gerontology	DCC-2 and MMU-1	0.86	2.51	2.44	0.84
507.	Calcutta	Chandranath Basu Seva Sangha	OAH-1	0	0	1.54	0
508.	Calcutta	Janashiksha Prochar Kendra	OAH-1	1.96	1.98	1.63	2.36
509.	Calcutta	Jaya Prakash Institute of Social Change	DCC-2	3.38	3.31	4.34	0
510.	Calcutta	Navadiganta	OAH-1 and DCC-1	2.42	2.24	2.24	0
511.	Calcutta	Shri Krishna Pratishhan	DCC-1	1.12	2.49	1.99	0.97

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
512.	Calcutta	Women's Coordinating Council	OAH-1	2.46	3.48	3.87	0
513.	Calcutta	Help Age India	MMU-2	3.63	3.96	0	0
514.	Calcutta	Subhas Nagar Pathikrit	DCC-1	1.86	1.88	1.95	1.89
515.	Howrah	Bagnan Chamber of Commerce and Industry	DCC-2	1.98	0	0	1.95
516.	Howrah	Chimabin	DCC-1	3.33	0	0	0
517.	Howrah	Council for Advancement of Rural and Downtrodden People	OAH-1 and DCC-1	0	0.5	0	0
518.	Howrah	Village Welfare Society	OAH-1 and DCC-1	0	0	9.46	3.49
519.	Hooghly	Kalyan Bharati	OAH-1 and DCC-1	1.27	1.71	3.42	2.11
520.	Malda	Biplobi Rural Development Society	DDC-3	0	0	4.72	0
521.	Midnapore	Amar Seva Sangha	OAH-1, DCC-1 and MMU-1	1.96	4.71	3.51	3.13
522.	Midnapore	Barabari Netaji Seva Sangha	OAH-1 and MMU-1	5.59	5.6	2.11	0.76
523.	Midnapore	Bikramnagar Udayan Sangha	OAH-2	1.94	5.8	5.71	2.76
524.	Midnapore	Child and Social Welfare Society	OAH-1	5.99	2.99	6.18	0
525.	Midnapore	Gangadharchak and Dewanchak Vivekananda Club	DDC-1	2.15	1.53	10.6	0.95
526.	Midnapore	Haldia Samaj Kalyan Parsad	DDC-3	6.6	5.52	5.52	0
527.	Midnapore	Hitajore Kishorbala Databya Chikitsalya	OAH-1	1.32	2.76	2.76	0
528.	Midnapore	Netaji Pathachakra	OAH-1	1.9	0.95	2.86	1.38
529.	Midnapore	Nimbark Math Seva Samiti Trust	OAH-1	0	0	11.74	0
530.	Midnapore	Prabuddha Bharati Shishutirtha	DCC-1	2.15	2.2	0	1.95
531.	Midnapore	Roychalk Morning Star Club	OAH-1	3.73	2.69	2.76	0
532.	Midnapore	Sainpukar Matri Sabika Samiti	OAH-2	2.22	1.09	3.36	0
533.	Midnapore	Shibarampur Milan Tirtha	OAH-1	2.94	1.95	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
534.	Midnapore	Social Welfare and Rural Development Society	OAH-1 and DCC-1	0	0	2.31	2.35
535.	Midnapore	Tarun Sangha	DCC-4	4.97	2.49	0	0
536.	Midnapore	Uttarbarh Sukanta Samriti, Pathahgar	DCC-1	2.76	1.38	2.76	0
537.	Midnapore	Vivekananda Lok Shiksha Niketan	OAH-1 and DCC-1	2.36	4.72	6.65	1.38
538.	Midnapore	West Bengal SCs, STs and Minority Welfare Association	OAH-2 and DCC-7	7.74	0	15.66	0
539.	Midnapore	Satdubi Mahila Mandal	DDC-2	0.9	0	2.93	1.95
540.	Midnapore	Seulipur Uddyann Club	OAH-1, DCC-2, MMU-1 and NIS	4.66	2.34	2.76	0
541.	Midnapore	Nepura Rural Development Society	OAH-1	9.24	27.83	13.12	0
542.	Midnapore	Basgeria Prativa Club	DCC-2	3.5	3.27	3.86	1.72
543.	Murshidabad	Berhampore Prabhee Sabha	DCC-1	6.87	9.44	4.72	0.91
544.	Nadia	Karimpur Social Welfare Society	OAH-1	0	1.59	2.32	0
545.	North 24- Parganas	Shree Ramakrishna Satyananda Ashram	OAH-1	5.02	3.28	3.48	0
546.	North 24- Parganas	Jirakpur Sister Nivedita Seva Mission	OAH-1 and DCC-2	1.95	0	2.93	0
547.	Purulia	Manipur Leprosy Rehabilitation Centre	OAH-1	0	2.72	5.49	0
548.	South 24- Pargans	Ganeshnagar Laximnarayana Club and Pathahgar	OAH-1 and DCC-1	2.22	0	3.85	7.08
549.	South 24- Pargans	Vivekanand Child Welfare Home	OAH-1	0	6.02	0	4.11
550.	South 24- Pargans	People Service Institute,	OAH-1	0	0	1.05	2.73

Statement-II

State-wise/NGO-wise details of Grant in aid released under the "Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons" (Non Plan Scheme) during last three years from 2000-01 to 2002-03 and current year 2003-04 (upto 30.11.2003)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs/NGOs	District	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (as on 30.11.2003)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh						
1.	Rashtriya Seva Samiti, Tirupati	Chittoor	10.00			
2.	Sharda Matha Mahila Mandali	Hyderabad		10.00		
3.	Khadi Silk Gramodyog Samiti	Cuddapah		10.00	5.00	
4.	Freedom Fighters Welfare Association	Warangal		10.00		
Assam						
5.	Dhula Regional Physically Handicapped	Darang	1.18			
6.	Sadau Assam Gramya Pushibharol Sanstha	Nagaon	1.06			
7.	'WODWICHEE'	Hailakandi	10.05	5.74		
8.	Jagriti Sanmilita Unayan Kendra	Lakhimpur	10.00		5.00	
9.	Dr. Ambedkar Mission	Kamrup		10.00	10.00	
10.	Gram Vikash Parishad	Nagaon		10.00	5.00	
Chandigarh						
11.	Sri Sathya Sai Trust		5.00			
Chhattisgarh						
12.	Samta Manch,	Rajnandagaon		10.00		
Delhi						
13.	AASHIRWAD	New Delhi			5.00	
Gujarat						
14.	Maharaja Shri Lukkdhirji Endowment Trust	Morvi, Rajkot		10.00		
Haryana						
15.	Chaubisee Vikas Sangh, Meham	Rohtak		10.00	5.00	
Himachal Pradesh						
16.	Age Care India	Shimla			5.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karnataka						
17.	Anandashram Seva Trust	Puttur	10.00		5.00	
18.	Dr. Sri Jachani Rastriya Sevapeetha	Bangalore		10.00		
19.	J.S.S. Mahavidyapeetha	Mysore			10.00	
Kerala						
20.	Sneha Bhavan, St., Stephens Charitable Society, Alachery	Kannur			2.50	
21.	North Paravur Municipality	Ernakulam	2.00			
22.	Abhaya Bhawan Society	Thiruvalli		1.20		
23.	Katurba Gandhi National Memorial Trust	Trichur	10.00		5.00	
24.	Holy Family Home for the Elders	Thrissur	10.00		5.00	
25.	Sachidananda Prakrusthi Kshetra Trust	Kannur		10.00		
26.	Kerala State Service Pensioner's Union	Thrissur			10.00	
Madhya Pradesh						
27.	Indian Red Cross Society	Shajapur			10.00	
28.	Shiv Shiksha Samiti, Churhat	Siddhi			5.52	
29.	Municipal Corporation Mandsaur,	Mandsaur				10.00
30.	Sewa Bharati, Ujjain	Ujjain				10.00
Nagaland						
31.	The District Pensioner's Assn.	Mokokchung		6.60		3.40
Punjab						
32.	Indian Red Cross Society,	Faridkot			5.00	
33.	Sadhu Basant Trust,	Patiala			5.00	
Rajasthan						
34.	Indian Council of Social Wel.	Jaipur	2.50			
35.	Sargam Kala Parishad	Rajasamund				10.00
Tamil Nadu						
36.	Indian Red Cross Society	Vellore			5.00	
Uttaranchal						
37.	Swamy Gyanswarupanand Trust Samiti	Haridwar				10.00

Statement-III

State-wise present number of old age homes, and number of senior citizens being benefited and the number of new old age homes to be set up during 2003-04

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ UT	No. of old age homes functioning	No. of Senior Citizens being benefited	No. of new old age homes to be set up during 2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	106	2650	0
2.	Assam	6	150	5
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	2	50	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	25	3
6.	Goa	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	1	25	2
8.	Haryana	4	100	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	1
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	75	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	3
12.	Karnataka	45	1200	1
13.	Kerala	2	50	2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8	200	8

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Maharashtra	7	175	4
16.	Manipur	24	600	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	1	25	1
20.	Orissa	40	1000	2
21.	Punjab	5	125	0
22.	Rajasthan	2	50	1
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	50	1250	1
25.	Tripura	3	75	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	31	775	5
27.	Uttaranchal	1	25	3
28.	West Bengal	34	850	1
29.	A and N Islands	0	0	0
30.	D and N Haveli	0	0	0
31.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
32.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	0	0	1
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	3	100	0
Total		379	9575	50

Statement-IV

List of Non-Governmental Organisations Blacklisted on Account of Misutilisation of Government Funds under the Scheme "An Integrated Programme for Older Persons" (Plan Scheme)

S.No.	Name of the Blacklisted organisations	Action Taken
1	2	3
1.	Christ Rural Development and Education Society, Dalavayapalli (V), Kodikanda (P.O.) Chilamethur Mandal, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh	Concerned DM/DC of the district was requested to recover the grant in aid given to the organisation after a specific enquiry and to remit the recovered amount to the PAO, Ministry of S J and E.

1	2	3
2.	Sangameshwara Educational Society, D.No. 11-292-A2-02, 4th Cross, Aravind Nagar, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh	Concerned DM/DC of the district was requested to recover the grant in aid given to the organisation after a specific enquiry and to remit the recovered amount to the PAO, Ministry of S J and E.
3.	Cultural Action in Rural Development, Pamidi, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh	Concerned DM/DC of the district was requested to recover the grant in aid given to the organisation after a specific enquiry and to remit the recovered amount to the PAO, Ministry of S J and E.
4.	Adarsh Mahila Mandali, MIG-II 50, APHB Colony Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh	Concerned DM/DC of the district was requested to recover the grant in aid given to the organisation after a specific enquiry and to remit the recovered amount to the PAO Ministry of S J and E.
5.	Mercy Minority Educational Society, 13-2-668, 1st Cross, Ramchandra Nagar, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh	Concerned DM/DC of the district was requested to recover the grant in aid given to the organisation after a specific enquiry and to remit the recovered amount to the Ministry of S J and E.
6.	Mother India, Gorantla-515231, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh	Concerned DM/DC of the district was requested to recover the grant in aid given to the organisation after a specific enquiry and to remit the recovered amount to the PAO, Ministry of S J and E.
7.	Nandini Bal Vikas and Gramin Gramodhyog Sewa Samiti, Vill. Parbati, P.O. Harwanshpur, Distt. Gonda, Uttar Pradesh	Concerned DM/DC of the district was requested to recover the grant in aid given to the organisation after a specific enquiry and to remit the recovered amount to the PAO, Ministry of S J and E.

**Introduction of Microwave Multi-Point
Distribution System for DD**

1581. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Microwave Multi-Point Distribution System (MMDS) for the Doordarshan.

(b) if so, details of the scheme and the cost that the public will have to pay for the reception of the same; and

(c) Population that the MMDS targets to cover?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Reserve Funds Spent by PSU's on
Petrol Pumps**

1582. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether PSU oil companies have spent their reserve funds and profits on wasteful expenditure to install costly gadgets and publicity devices at all petrol pumps;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent on these petrol pumps;

(c) whether this kind of upgradation was essential at Petrol Pumps by the PSU oil companies;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to enquire the ulterior motives of indulging in such wasteful expenditure; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to stop such expenditure by oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) In order to meet the challenges of Free Market Economy, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have embarked upon modernization of Retail Outlets to international standards to face the competition. Under the modernization programme, Retail Outlets are being provided with upgraded facilities for customer benefits such as Canopy, Multi Product Pumps, Digital Air Inflaters, Pre Mix Pumps for dispensing Lube blended fuel etc. This is an ongoing process required to maintain the market leadership in the competitive scenario. The modernization of Retail Outlets is carried out taking into account the Return on Investment based on commercial considerations and sales potential to cater to the growing customers needs and requirement of location. The approximate cost of modernization is Rs. 20-25 lacs per Retail Outlet of Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

(d) and (e) The essential expenditure is incurred taking into account Return of Investment based on commercial consideration and sales potential and such initiatives are vital for the success of overall marketing strategies to face deregulation scenario. Hence, the enquiry of ulterior motives of indulging in such wasteful expenditure does not arise.

Piracy in Andaman Area

1583. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the instances of poaching and piracy are on the rise in Andamans area; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Job Opportunities for OBC

1584. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has provided adequate job opportunities for the persons belonging to Other Backward Communities (OBC) in the various Departments, Autonomous Offices, subsidiary and attached offices of his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in most instances the OBC staff strength is far less than what it should be in corresponding to the total strength, particularly in Group A and B;

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

(e) whether the Government has asked for any detailed reports from the various Department, Autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices of his Ministry regarding the current status of OBC representations in Group A, B, C and D; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (f) In terms of declared policy of the Government, reservation is applicable for OBCs since September 1993 in all Groups of posts/services filled up by Direct Recruitment. In accordance with the prevailing instructions, posts reserved for OBCs have been earmarked in the post based rosters, introduced with effect from 02.07.1997, in respect of all the posts/services in the Ministry wherever such reservation is applicable. As per the information furnished by the attached/subordinate offices, Autonomous organisations, Public Sector Undertakings under the control of this Ministry, out of 171, 645, 3610 and 1338 posts earmarked for OBC in respect of Group A, B, C and D respectively in the post based rosters, 93, 92, 1655 and 565 posts respectively were lying physically vacant as on 06.03.2003.

Kenyan Pipeline Company

1585. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kenyan Pipeline Company has shown keen interest in the capabilities to Indian Oil Corporation Limited and indicated possibilities to utilize Frontline 500 companies expertise revamping expansion of its pipeline system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any delegation from the Kenyan Pipeline Corporation visited India and held talks with IOCL officials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and areas of understanding reached between the two companies for future business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Kenyan Pipeline Company Limited (KPCL) have expressed interest in tapping IOCL's expertise in revamping and expansion of their pipeline system. Preliminary talks have been held between IOCL and Senior Kenyan officials, who visited IOCL during November, 2003. No understanding has been reached, so far, for future cooperation.

Corruption Practices at BHEL Centres

1586. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that there are several alleged corruption practices held at various centers of BHEL in the country with regards to the award of contracts and in order job works;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Vigilance Department has noticed such malpractices and corrupt methods in any other offices of BHEL in the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details of the findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) As of now, there are 117 cases of allegation of corrupt practices in BHEL at various stages of investigation and departmental inquiry.

The remedial steps taken are :

1. BHEL has laid down detailed Purchase Policy and Works Policy to guide the executives in decision-making actions related to award of contract and other job works.
2. Employees are periodically trained to keep them aware of the latest procedures and practices. Frequent training programmes are organized for the purpose.
3. Specific system studies are carried out regularly in order to improve the system further and streamline it.
4. Surprise checks are carried out to ascertain any deviations from the laid down systems/procedures.
5. Penalties are imposed on individuals as and when any misconduct is established.

In all, 63 major penalties and 96 minor penalties have been imposed during the last three years.

Export of Advance Light Helicopters

1587. SHRI AMBAREESHA :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the USA has shown keen interest in buying the indigenously built Advance Light Helicopters from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the details of the MoU signed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A presentation on the capabilities

of the Advanced Light Helicopter has been made to the US Customs Department. No MoU has been signed.

**Detection of Detonators from
Railway Track**

1588. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether hours after three twin car bomb blasts in Mumbai on August 25, 2003, more than 100 detonators were recovered from a railway track about 60 Kms from Nasik, just an hour before an express train carrying Kumbh pilgrims was to pass;

(b) if so, the fact thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered into the detection of detonators from the spot; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry ordered and the action taken on the inquiry report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) and (b) The primary responsibility for maintaining law and order and crime on Railways rests with the State Governments. "Policing" being a State subject, prevention and detection of crime on railways including in running trains is the Constitutional responsibility of the Government Railway Police.

As per the information received from the Railways, no detonators were recovered. However, about 40 Nos. explosive articles containing low aluminum explosive powder used for preparation of crackers were recovered on 25.8.2003 at 18.30 hrs. from railway track in between Kms 124/74 and 130/60 Kasara-Igatpuri Section after the twin bomb blasts in Mumbai. Around that time there was no Kumbh Mela special train scheduled to pass.

(c) and (d) "Policing" being a State subject, prevention and detection of crime on Railways, including running trains, in the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. The cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP).

However, as per the information received from the Railways, Government Railway Police Station/Igatpuri has registered a case vide Crime No. 0/2003 under Explosive

Act 4 and 5 and 150 Railway Act dated 26.8.2003 and later on transferred this case to Kasara Rural, Police Station on the point of jurisdiction, who had registered a case vide Crime No. 10/2003.

Load Dispatch Centres by PGC

1589. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation (PGC) is holding consultations with the power authorities in the USA, UK and Malaysia to have a common approach in the matter of planning, modernization, communication systems and marring of load dispatch centres etc.;

(b) if so, whether the USA, UK and Malaysia have agreed to the involvement of Indian power engineers in the grid management in their countries; and

(c) if so, the details of the discussion held in this regard and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The power experts from North America and European countries as also from other parts of the world, during interaction with officials of POWERGRID at various fora, have expressed keen interest in grid management practices of India owing to its vast network. However, no formal proposal has been received by Government or by POWERGRID in the regard.

**Position of Loktak Downstream
Hydro Power Project**

1590. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 4 Mega power projects under taken under the Prime Ministers special package for development of the North Eastern Region, the implementation of three projects has been delayed and the fate of the fourth one, namely Loktak downstream hydro power project still hangs in balance; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in respect of each power project including clearance of the Loktak downstream hydro-power project, indicating details and cost of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Under the Prime Minister's special package for the socio-economic development of the States in the North Eastern Region, the following schemes/projects have been taken up for development :

1. Approved to two Hydro electric projects in the Central Sector :
 - (i) Loktak Downstream Hydro Electric Project (90 MW), Manipur.
 - (ii) Teesta Hydro Electric Project (510 MW), Sikkim.

2. Advance action to ensure Subansiri Lower Hydro Electric Project (600 MW), Arunachal Pradesh is taken up for execution in 2001.
3. New Scheme for rural electrification of 500 Tribal Villages to be funded by Rural Electrification Corporation.
4. Assistance to be provided for completing on-going critical transmission/sub-transmission system.

Details of the above projects are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Status of the Schemes/Projects under the Prime Minister's special package for the socio-economic development of the States in the North Eastern Region

S. No.	Name of Scheme/Project	Status of Scheme/Project															
1.	Loktak Downstream HEP (90 MW), Manipur	The Project was approved on 30.12.1999 for Rs. 578.60 Crores for completion with in six and half years and execution by NHPC. Active implementation/works could not be started due to law and order problems resulting in high cost of project (cost of security being part of project cost).															
2.	Teesta HEP Stage-V (510 MW) Sikkim	The project was approved on 10.01.2000 for Rs. 2198.04 Crores for completion in 84 months and execution by NHPC. The civil works are in progress as power schedule and 60% of Hear Race Tunnel (HRT) heading has been completed. Power House and Transformer cavern has also been excavated.															
3.	Subansiri Lower HEP (2000 MW) Arunachal Pradesh	Capacity of project is now $8 \times 250 = 2000$ MW. The project was approved on 9.9.2003 for Rs. 6285.33 Crores for completion in 7 years from aproval and execution by NHPC. Infrastructure works are almost completed. Main civil works are under award and active civil works to start shortly.															
4.	Electrification of 500 Tribal villages in North East	An amount of Rs. 12.96 Crores as Grant-in-Aid has been released as Central Assistance from the Central Pool of Resources for electrification of Tribal villages as detailed below : (Rs. in crores)															
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>State</th> <th>No. of Tribal villages</th> <th>Total fund requirement</th> <th>Amount (1st installment)</th> <th>Physical achievements</th> </tr> <tr> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>5</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Arunachal Pradesh</td> <td>60</td> <td>8.97</td> <td>4.48</td> <td>34 villages electrified during 2001-02. Works in the remaining 26 villages are in progress.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	State	No. of Tribal villages	Total fund requirement	Amount (1st installment)	Physical achievements	1	2	3	4	5	Arunachal Pradesh	60	8.97	4.48	34 villages electrified during 2001-02. Works in the remaining 26 villages are in progress.
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Arunachal Pradesh	60	8.97	4.48	34 villages electrified during 2001-02. Works in the remaining 26 villages are in progress.													

S. No.	Name of Scheme/ Project	Status of Scheme/Project				
		1	2	3	4	5
	Assam	20	1.35	0.68	10 villages electrified. Works in 10 villags are in pogress. Works in the remaining 10 villages is in progress.	
	Meghalaya	10	1.49	0.75	3 villages electrified. Work in 27 villages in progress and work in 30 villages will be taken up subsequently.	
	Nagaland	2	0.70	0.35	All 10 villages electrified.	
	Mizoram	3	0.68	0.34	Works in progress.	
	Manipur	60	11.29	5.64	Works in progress.	
	Tripura	10	1.44	0.72	5 villages electrified. Works in remaining 5 villages are in progress.	
	Total	165	25.92	12.96		

The remaining 335 villages would be taken up under other schemes of Central Government like Pradhan Mantri Gramodya Yojana (PMGY), Minimum Need Programme (MNP), etc.

5. Assistance to be provided for completing on-going critical transmission/sub-transmission system

In Arunachal Pradesh the following four schemes have been completed and the work is in progress for the remaining schemes :

1. 2x5 MVA Sub-Section at Nahalagun.
2. 2x3.15 MVA Sub-Section at Nirjuli.
3. 2x5 MVA, 33/11 kV Sub-Station at Old-Ziro
4. 33 kV Express line from Tago to Old Ziro.

In Sikkim the work is in progress. Augmentation of Tadong sub-station for referral hospital has been completed.

Work in respect of other States i.e. Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura is in progress.

Manufacturing of Weapons by Private Sector

1591. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the security experts have voiced concern over the opening up of weapons manufacturing to the private sector;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that it was reported that commercial explosives were used in the recent bomb blasts around the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the decision taken by the Centre for allowing private production of lethal munitions such as missiles, torpedoes, guns and ammunition and going with the hands of extremists has been feared by the experts; and

(d) if so, the safeguards being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) As per available information, no report of any security expert, voicing concern over opening up of weapons manufacturing to the private sector, has been received. However, initial investigations reveal that commercial explosives have been used in some of the recent bomb blasts in the country.

(c) and (d) As per information available, there is no report of experts, who have expressed such fear. However, as per the guidelines issued by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, in connection with grant of licence for manufacture of arms and ammunition required for defence sector, the Government has incorporated adequate safeguards to ensure that the production and sale of arms and ammunition by private manufacturers under licence is monitored by the Ministry of Defence and no sale can be undertaken without the prior approval of the Ministry of Defence.

Adulteration in Kerosene

1592.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of adulteration in the kerosene sold in the country;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to check such adulteration;

(c) whether there is a proposal to ban import of kerosene by Non-Governmental companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent ban imposed on import of kerosene would ensure availability of pure kerosene in the markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (e) There is no report about adulteration of kerosene sold in the country. In view of the reported illegal activities of the Parallel Marketeers, Government, vide its Notification dated 25.11.2003 issued by the

Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has amended the Exim policy on import of kerosene. As per this, import of kerosene shall be allowed through State Trading Enterprises.

[Translation]

SAARC Information Ministers Conference

1593.SHRI MANIK RAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN :

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI RAMMOHAN GADDE :

SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

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

(a) whether the SAARC Information Ministers' Conference was held recently.

(b) if so, the issues discussed and the final decisions taken therein;

(c) whether a Pakistan Minister made some remarks against our Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister in the said Conference; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the meeting India offered to hold the second Conference of Editors and working journalists in 2004 India also offered 12 seats to SAARC countries in training institutions. Member countries were asked to expedite their comments on model guidelines on transnational satellite broadcasting. The meeting also supported the freer movement of media personnel within the region. It was agreed to host the SAARC Information Centre in Nepal and to hold the 4th meeting of the SAARC Information Ministers in Bhutan. India also suggested for institution of SAARC Film Festival on a regular basis.

(c) and (d) It is unfortunate that Pakistan's Minister of Information Mr. Sheikh Rashid Ahmed during his visit to

India for the Third SAARC Information Minister Conference made negative comments about bilateral relations, India and some distinguished Indian leaders.

The Minister of State (IC) for Information and Broadcasting, in his statement on November 14, 2003 stated, inter alia, that the comments made by the Pakistani Minister were in bad taste and were not in keeping with the spirit of SAARC. He added that the process of normalization of relations between India and Pakistan, initiated by the Prime Minister, would continue since it had the support of the people in both the countries.

[English]

VRS in Railways

1594. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Railway has worked out modalities for VRS for elected staff in railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have made any consultation with the various union of the employees;
- (d) if so, the reaction of such unions;
- (e) the time by which said VRS is likely to be implemented; and
- (f) the number of employees of various groups are likely to be benefited after the implementation of said schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) and (b) The details of the Scheme have not so far been finalised.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Organised Federation on the Railways have been consulted.

(d) The Federations have broadly favoured and agreed with the scheme.

(e) The scheme is likely to be implemented shortly.

(f) As the scheme is voluntary in nature, it is not possible to quantify the numbers.

Laying of Crude Pipeline from Paradeep Port to Haldia

1595. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has decided to lay a pipeline to carry crude from Paradeep Port to Haldia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total length of this pipeline;
- (d) the fund allocated to the project; and
- (e) the time by which the project is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. IOCL have decided to lay a 11 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) capacity crude oil pipeline from Paradeep to Haldia with a Single Point Mooring (SPM) system near Paradeep port.

(c) to (e) The total length of the pipeline is approximately 330 Km costing nearly Rs. 1150 crore. The project is likely to be completed within 24 months from the date of issuance of environmental clearance for the project.

Coaching Terminal

1596. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether work of coaching terminal at Shalimar has been completed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and trains run from Shalimar;
- (c) whether work of coaching terminal at Chitpur has been started;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Railway has also examined the feasibility of developing Padampukur as Coaching Terminal; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) and (b) In phase-I, two platforms have been completed along with platform shelter and foot over-bridge. Presently, one pair of express train and ten pairs of local trains are running from/to Shalimar.

(c) and (d) Preliminary works like preparation of plan and framing of estimates etc. have been completed. Sanction of estimates is under process. The tenders for part works have also been processed.

(e) and (f) A preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey has been sanctioned recently for development of Shalimar as suburban and Padmapukur as non-suburban terminal in Kolkata area including allied facilities.

Construction of Bridges in Karnataka

1597. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways has cleared the construction of sixteen important bridges in Karnataka during the current financial year (2003-2004);

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

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) the amount released so far; and

(e) the target fixed for completion of these projects, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) Sanction of rebuilding/rehabilitation of Railway bridges and monitoring of progress of bridge works are maintained zone wise not State wise. As per provision of Indian Railway Bridge Manual, the Railway bridges having total waterway of 1000 square metre or linear waterway more than 300 metre are classified as an Important bridge. No such Important bridges have been sanctioned for construction during 2003-04 on South Western Railway, South Central Railway and Central Railway, which serves Karnataka State.

Similarly, no Road over/under bridge works were sanctioned in Karnataka State during 2003-04. However, for taking up works of construction of Road Over/Under Bridge on cost sharing basis under Works Programme (2004-05), eight Level Crossings having Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) more than 1 lakh have been identified during discussion of Karnataka Government and South Western Railway officials. The firm proposals duly fulfilling the pre-requisites as per the extant rules have to be submitted by the Karnataka Government. Details of these eight level crossings are as under :-

S.No.	LC No.	Section	Division	TVU
1.	4	Bangalore Cantt.-Nayandahalli	Bangalore	155710
2.	5	Bangalore Cantt.-Nayandahalli	Bangalore	328601
3.	10	Nayandahalli-Kangeri	Bangalore	141220
4.	27	Rajankunti-Dodballapur	Bangalore	196384
5.	32	Dodballapur-Oddarahalli	Bangalore	106442
6.	41	Kyatsandra-Tumkur	Bangalore	111228
7.	133	Whitefield-Krishnarajapuram	Bangalore	246840
8.	383	Dungara-Bagumra	Hubli	113184

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Strategic Storage of Petroleum Products

1598. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether the Government has announced a three pronged plan to increase storage capacity of petroleum products for strategic purposes;

(b) if so, whether the Government has the required 90 days strategic storage of Petroleum products and crude oil;

(c) if not, the number of days Government maintain storage of petroleum products particularly LPG;

(d) whether a gradual increase of storage capacity will be built up;

(e) if so, the details of the three pronged plan and its cost;

(f) whether technical know how has been obtained from USA for building storage facility; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (e) The existing storage capacity of crude oil and petroleum products with the oil companies is sufficient to provide for a combined weighted average cover for around 2 months. As regards LPG, the oil industry has proposed setting up of additional tankage to have an overall cover of 45 days by the year 2006-07 at the estimated cost of Rs. 5 crore per TMT (thousand metric tonne).

In addition to the existing storage capacity of crude oil and petroleum products with the oil companies, the Government is considering to gradually build strategic storage of crude oil to provide for 45 days cover. In phase-I, 15 days storage is proposed.

(f) and (g) The systems of maintaining strategic oil storage in various countries including U.S.A. have been

studied with a view to facilitate setting up of aforesaid strategic storage of crude oil in the country.

Improvement of Abilities of Coast Guard

1599. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coast Guard has a few officers seconded from the Indian Navy;

(b) whether studies have shown that this percentage must be enhanced to broad-base the Coast Guard;

(c) the extent to which the Coast Guard is bereft of talent and required personnel;

(d) whether the Government propose to consider ways and means to improve the abilities and also increase the abilities of Coast Guard Officers; and

(e) the steps proposed to have more interaction and personnel inter-change between the Coast Guard and the Navy?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Coast Guard is not bereft of talent and with the present complement of officers and enrolled personnel, it is fully capable of meeting its responsibilities. Posts of medical officers will continue to be filled on deputation, since the Coast Guard does not have a medical cadre.

(d) The present set of training arrangements to improve abilities of Coast Guard officers is adequate.

(e) Deputation of Naval Officers to the Coast Guard and vice versa, against specialised appointments, is already in place.

Permission for Commercial Fishing Activity

1600. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coast Guard has sought permission to engage its retired staff in commercial fishing activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the steps taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) the steps proposed by the Coast Guard to run such business establishments; and
- (e) the steps proposed to avoid such distractions by the Coast Guard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) to (e) Does not arise.

Naphtha Cracker Project in Gujarat

1601.COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL :
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :

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

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) have decided to set up a Naphtha Cracker Complex at Koyali in Gujarat;

(b) whether the detailed feasibility report conducted by the Engineers India Limited has been received for the setting up of this project; and

(c) if so, the capacity of the proposed project and the time by which it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) No firm proposal has been finalized by IOCL for setting up a Naphtha Cracker Complex.

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

Internet Service in Moving Trains

1602.SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has decided to provide internet services in the moving trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the name of trains selected for the purpose;

(c) whether the said service is to be provided in all the coaches of the trains;

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

(e) the manner in which the provision of said service is likely to benefit the railway travellers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) RailTel Corporation of India Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Railways, is planning to provide Internet service on one of the trains, as a pilot project, during 2003-04. Initial technical trials for provision of such services in a running train have already been conducted on "Tughlakabad-Faridabad" section. The train and route on which the pilot project is to be implemented is under finalisation.

(c) and (d) The facility will initially be provided in one coach of the selected train.

(e) It will be possible for Railway passengers travelling on the trains, where such facility will be provided, to access Internet and send/receive e-mails, besides making international calls using VOIP (Voice over IP) Technology.

Deemed University Status to Research Institutes

1603.SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to provide Deemed University Status to the leading Research Institutes under the Ministry, particularly the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped NIIH at Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the list of Research Institutions already provided the Deemed University Status:

(c) the funds allocated to the Research Institutes during each of the last three years and the current year and the major projects to works done by the Institutions during the said period;

(d) the current status of OBCs representations in Group A, B, and C in said Research Institutes; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representations for the OBCs in these research institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) and (b) The matter regarding providing Deemed University status to National/Apex level Institutions in the Disability Sector of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been taken up with Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Government of India time to time. It has been agreed that the proposal for conferring the status of Deemed University on the National/Apex level Institutes should be considered on case-to-case basis. So far no institution working under the aegis of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has got the status of deemed university.

(c) Expenditure incurred during each of the last three years and budget allocated for the current year is enclosed as Statement. These Institutes are forerunners as well as trendsetters in their respective areas of specialization. The thrust areas of the national Institutes are manpower development, development of models of service delivery programmes for rehabilitation of the disabled, reaching services to the unreached through outreach activities and research and development in the area of disability.

(d) and (e) Representation as per Government guidelines is being provided in these Institutions to OBCs.

Statement

Expenditure incurred during each of the last three year and the current year

(Rs. crores)

S. No.	Name of the Institute	Expenditure Incurred in 2000-01	Expenditure Incurred in 2001-02	Expenditure Incurred in 2002-03	Outlay for 2003-04	Expenditure Incurred in 2003-04 as on 30.11.2002
1.	National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata	3.32	3.97	4.46	5.66	4.16
2.	National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai	6.15	6.55	10.05	11.75	11.75
3.	National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad	5.30	5.67	8.14	10.89	5.45
4.	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Physcially Handicapped, New Delhi	4.43	4.99	5.72	6.72	4.06
5.	National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack	6.68	6.90	8.26	10.57	9.80
6.	National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun	5.90	6.39	7.99	10.49	7.24

Funds to NGOs

1604. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has constituted any advisory Committee to advise in regard to provision of funds to NGOs;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) the details of recommendation accepted or rejected by the Government; and

(d) the progress made in regard to implementation of accepted recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A committee headed by Shir S. Satyam I.A.S. (Retd.) and five other Members has been appointed. The final report of the Committee has not been received by the Government.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Private Consultants for Railway Development Programme

1605.SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited has empanelled certain private firms to provide consultancy services for Railway Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of agreement reached with these consultancy firms;

(d) the remuneration to be paid to each of these firms; and

(e) the extent to which this will be helpful for improving the NRVY Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) to (d) Consultancy Services for 17 projects have been awarded by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) as per the details indicated in the Statement enclosed.

(e) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited has to undertake resource mobilization for funding of these projects. The Consultancy Services are for preparation of bankable project reports.

Statement

Name of Project	Name of Consultant	Value (in Rs.)
1	2	3
Palwal-Bhuteshwar	Infrastructure Development Corporation (Karnataka) Ltd.	16,00,000 (Inclusive of Service tax)
Hastavaram-Krishnapatnam	Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation	15,00,000 + Service tax (as applicable)
Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari	Vakksh Capitals	4,61,000 + 27,360 (as 8% Service tax on remuneration)
Tulakabad-Dadri ICD	RITES Ltd.	3,43,192
Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop	RITES Ltd.	5,64,804
Thanjavur-Villupuram	Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation	15,00,000 + Service tax (as applicable)
Rangai-Murkong Selak	Ernst and Young	7,90,000 + Service tax (as applicable)
Jn. Cabin-Palwal	RITES Ltd.	2,55,808
Cuddalore-Salem via Vridhachalam	Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation	15,00,000 + Service tax (as applicable)
Bharuch-Samni-Dahej	Vakksh Capital	6,10,000 + 31,920 (as 8% Service tax on remuneration)
Vallarpadam-Idapatty	Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation	14,00,000 + Service tax (as applicable)

1	2	3
Kalyan-Kasara	RITES Ltd.	5,79,111
Delhi-Rewari	Vakksh Capitals	4,91,000 + 27,360 (as 8% Service tax on remuneration)
Chennai Beach-Attipattu	CRISIL	9,00,000 inclusive of taxes
Surat-Hajira	Vakksh Capitals	5,90,000 + 31,920/- (as 8% Service Tax on Remuneration)
Sahibabad-Anad Vihar	RITES Ltd.	2,86,768
Thane-Diva	SBI Capitals	9,95,000

Funding For Sky Bus Projects

1606. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways is awaiting the clearance of M/o Urban Development for Central funding for launching Sky Bus Projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether technology pioneered by Konkan Railway Corporation (KRC) in this regard has been sanctioned by RDSO;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of proposals received so far from various cities to provide sky bus service and necessary funds required and time to be taken to complete such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Interest has been expressed by 15 cities in India and 7 cities abroad for this technology. The funding and time shall be decided after the technology is proved. Sky Bus System is claimed to be more cost effective than other urban mass transit transportation systems. Sky Bus follows the Road alignment. It is an elevated system of mass transport. The technology has not been sanctioned/evaluated by RDSO. The elevated Metro at present is found

to be costing between Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 120 crores per route km. In comparison, for the same level of performance, the Sky Bus Metro cost between Rs. 45 crores to Rs. 50 crores per route km. Sky Bus does not require land at most of the occasion since it follows roads and hence can be constructed within 2 to 3 years in any city.

Community Radio Project

1607. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI Y.V. RAO :

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

(a) whether community radio project was announced two years ago;

(b) if so, whether the Government are still inviting suggestions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether at a recent meeting held by the Prasar Bharti several suggestions were made on the community radio project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P. AVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The scheme for Community Radio was approved by the Government on 18th December 2002.

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

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

East Coast Zone

1608. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some units/branches of East Coast Railway are being shifted to other States/Zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for shifting those units/branches;

(d) whether the shifting of these units will have very adverse effect on the development of Railways and functioning of East Coast Zone; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to reconsider the proposals and to return those units to Bhubaneswar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

New Design for Railway Stations

1609. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have any plans to design new railway stations so that exit and entry to and from trains becomes easy and less complicated;

(b) whether passengers have to walk long distances to reach trains;

(c) whether any design experts has been consulted by Railways to plan railway stations to meet increasing traffic and also reduce inconvenience;

(d) if so, the details of such efforts; and

(e) the stations selected for new designing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)] : (a) It is Railways' constant endeavour to provide adequate entry and exit points at stations based on the volume of passenger traffic handled. However, no new design of Railway stations has been conceptualized.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Offshore Operations of ONGC

1610. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set up an independent inquiry committee to look into the safety and security aspects of the off-shore operations of ONGC;

(b) if so, whether this committee also propose to look into the hiring process of helicopters;

(c) if so, the other terms and references to this committee; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Terms of Reference of the Committee are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) An interim report has been received from the Committee on 2nd December, 2003. Further, on request of the Committee, its tenure has been extended till 17th February, 2004, by which date the final report is expected.

Statement

The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows :-

- (i) Safety and Security of lives in Offshore Operations, especially air logistics and inspection mechanism.
- (ii) Maintenance/repairs/replacement of offshore installations, related infrastructures, pipelines etc.

- (iii) hiring of helicopters, especially MI-172 helicopters, including the circumstances under which the ill-fated helicopter was hired.
- (iv) Adequacy of efforts made by ONGC in ensuring safety and security of personnel engaged in offshore operation.
- (v) Action taken on complaints/grievances regarding safety matters including condition of helicopters.
- (vi) Any act of omission concerning items (i) to (v) and the role of Management, if any, therein.
- (vii) Both short and long term measures required in respects of above matters.

Merger of ONGC with HPCL

1611. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to merge of ONGC with HPCL;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Revival of Dabhol Power Project

1612. SHRI PRABODH PANDA :
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to revive the Dabhol Power Project;
- (b) if so, whether three pronged strategy has been put forward by U.S. based companies to restart DPC;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government of Maharashtra has also submitted a proposal to restart the Dabhol Power Project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, indicating the power tariff payable by the Government of Maharashtra, Union Government organizations, the consumers and the financial viability of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (f) Since closure of the Dabhol power project in May, 2001 following contractual disputes between the Maharashtra State Electricity Board and M/s. Dabhol Power Company, numerous efforts have been made to facilitate revival of the project by the Ministry of Power, Ministry of Finance, Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and Government of Maharashtra (GOM). The latest initiative has been the constitution of an Informal Advisory Committee (IAC) by the Ministry of Finance to evolve a strategy to restructure and revive the project. The Ministry of Finance have informed that the Committee has discussed the various issues with the concerned stake holders and is considering alternative approaches to restructure and revive the project. A specific proposal has not yet been finalized in this regard.

ONGC Stakes in European Oilfields

1613. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether ONGC Videsh Limited is looking for stakes in European oilfields;
- (b) if so, the details of European proposals being considered by ONGC-Videsh;
- (c) the strategy behind ONGC-Videsh entering into high cost oil fields in Europe;
- (d) whether any outside agency assessed the strategy and commercial sense of ONGC-Videsh is going for such European ventures; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) At present ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL)

has no proposal with regard to acquiring stakes in European oil fields.

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

Financial Support for Sick PSUs

1614. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for Central Public Sector Undertakings of financial support or package under revival, closure or disinvestments programme;

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

(c) the total amount involved in the package, PSU-wise; and

(d) the extent to which the package will help in revival of sick PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Present policy of the Government on Public Sector is to :

(i) bring down Government equity in all non-strategic PSEs to 26 per cent or lower, if necessary.

(ii) restructure and revive potentially viable PSEs;

(iii) close down PSEs which can not be revived; and

(iv) fully protect the interests of workers.

In view of this policy, disinvestment of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) is undertaken by the Government on case to case basis. Proposals regarding finalisation of packages including grant of financial support, if any, for revival/closure of loss making/sick CPSUs are initiated by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments either at their own or as per the recommendations of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to whom such CPSUs have been referred for framing suitable revival/rehabilitation plans under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies Act,

1985 (SICA), on case to case basis. This is a continuous process and such information is not maintained centrally.

Revenue from Advertisements for Pay Channels

1615. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :

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

(a) whether pay channels on one hand earn money from the advertising agencies and on the other hand charge money from the viewers through cable operations also;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring a law to redefine rules on revenue from advertisements for all pay channels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the other action contemplated/proposed to be contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The provisions contained in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder do not deal with this aspect.

(c) to (e) The matter of regulation of advertisement of pay channels is under examination.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

[Shri George Fernandes]

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003
- (ii) Annual Report of the Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. 8202/2003]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. 8203/2003]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. 8204/2003]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : Sir I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House :-

1. A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 908(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of

India dated the 6th August, 2003 approving the scheme of division of the Uttar Pradesh Wakf Board issued under sub-section (2) of section 102 of the Wakf Act, 1995.

2. A copy of the Government's view on the division of Uttar Pradesh Wakf Board (Hindi and English versions)

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8205/2003]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.
- (2) Annual Report of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8206/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8207/2003]

[*Translation*]

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

SHANKAR PRASAD : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Cable Television Networks (Second Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Noticiation No. G.S.R. 715 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8208/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Scooters India Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Scooters India Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. 8209/2003]

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. 8210/2003]

(c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. 8211/2003]

(d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. 8212/2003]

(e) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. 8213/2003]

(f) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. 8214/2003]

[Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Scooters India Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. 8215/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Auto Fuel Policy (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. 8216/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. 8217/2003]

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Twenty-seventh Report and Minutes

[English]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka) : Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sitting of the Committee relating thereto on Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on "Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Sixty-fifth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) – Reservation for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Medical Institutes and Colleges including reservation for

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in admission therein."

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Members whose names figure in the list could not speak yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER : The discussion could not be continued yesterday. Now the Prime Minister will reply.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : There was no quorum in the House yesterday. So I did not speak.

MR. SPEAKER : All Members should ensure that there is quorum in the House.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Some Member had raised the issue of quorum. I could not make my point.

MR. SPEAKER : Pappu Yadav ji, you are aware that it is the duty of all the Members to maintain quorum in the House so I cannot ask the Prime Minister to stop.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : The seriousness of the issue should be realised.

MR. SPEAKER : The seriousness of the matter is that we are all Members elected by the people. If we cannot maintain quorum in the House, then that should be condemned.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : That is what I am saying, that it should be condemned.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria) : Sir, what about Zero Hour? There are issues like land erosion, floods, drought and also problems relating to farmers. What will happen to them? Shall we continue to discuss Judeo episode only? You should take up Zero Hour.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not taking Zero Hour. I want to allow Shri Ajay Chakraborty to speak.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Shall we keep raising one and the same issue? . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me a minute to speak. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are given only one minute to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my special thanks to you for enabling me to present an extremely serious situation. I am especially thankful to you because you have permitted me to present my case when the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Deputy Prime Minister are present here.

This is with reference to an extremely serious situation which has arisen where eight of our young Indians are languishing in the prisons of Malaysia. Not only that, people are languishing in Maldives also. Of late, there are incidents of growing atrocities on Indians in Singapore, Afghanistan, Malaysia and Maldives. These eight persons are hailing from my own constituency. Everyday they are pestering me on this case. On this matter I had written to the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, and hon. Minister of External Affairs. I had written to a Minister in Malaysia also. They have been quick enough to acknowledge my letter, but are very slow in reacting.

Our hon. Chief Minister had also written as to how legal assistance can be given, as to how they can be released etc. They must react and they must do something immediately in this regard. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, I may be permitted to raise a similar issue. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a chance after the reply is over.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, in Afghanistan two Indians have been abducted by *Talibans*. Their life is in

danger. . . . (Interruptions) It has been reported in the Telugu newspapers widely. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : During the 'Zero Hour' you can raise this issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister concerned may take note of this issue.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, their life is in danger. I am requesting, through you, the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister and the hon. Prime Minister to negotiate with the Afghanistan Government. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaaidu, you can raise it in 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : They are poor workers. They are working for a Hyderabad company. They are working for some US-based financial projects. They have been abducted from a place which is 280 kilometres from Kabul. . . . (Interruptions)

12.08 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Prime Minister's Statement on the Resignation of Shri Dilip Singh Judev from the Council of Ministers – *Contd.*

MR. SPEAKER : As decided earlier, Calling Attention will be taken up after the Prime Minister's reply would be over.

Yesterday, there were a few Members who could not speak on the discussion under rule 193 regarding resignation of Shri Dilip Singh Judev, Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests from the Council of Ministers. It was very unfortunate yesterday that the debate could not take place further as there was no quorum in the House. Therefore, the hon. Members were deprived of their privilege of speaking on this subject in the House.

Only the Member who was on his legs, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, will be allowed to speak now.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Sir, yesterday I was on my legs. I will conclude my speech very shortly.

MR. SPEAKER : You may speak for only three minutes.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : As students we observed that brilliant students of colleges and universities entered politics after completing their education in colleges or universities. After education, they used to join different political parties and participate in political activities of the country. But now-a-days, young men and the brilliant students of colleges and universities are not eager to join politics. Not only that, they are frustrated with the activities of the political leaders because of their corrupt practices and criminal activities.

Here, I would like to cite an incident. Young engineer, Shri Dubey, who disclosed corruption in the *Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana* was not protected by the administration and he had succumbed to his injuries. Our country's position, in the list of the corrupt countries, is 78. It is a sorry state of affairs. Our people are losing faith in politicians. They are frustrated with the activities of the politicians. They are frustrated not only with the corrupt practices but also with the criminalisation of politics. Many political leaders who are involved in many criminal activities are being detained in jail again and again, times without number, not in any political movement but on account of criminal cases. Under IPC 302 and other laws of the Indian Penal Code, they are detained in custody.

It is a very sorry state of affairs. So, I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to take proper action. You are not only the Prime Minister of this country but you are also the leader of this nation. You are the Leader of this House. You are a most veteran Member of this House. So, please start setting an example. The entire country is behind you. The entire Parliament is behind you. So, please start taking action in this regard. Please make an effort to remove corruption in high places and to stop criminalisation of politics. It is not a question of either Jogi or Judev. It is a question of the entire country. It is a matter concerning the entire country. It is, indeed, a shameful matter that

politicians are involved in corruption and criminalisation of politics. So, I earnestly request you to do something in this regard. I would humbly request you to start setting an example; take recourse to remove corruption. Please make efforts to stop criminalisation of politics. You are in a position to do that. I hope so.

Lastly, I would like to say that I support the contention of Shri Ramji Lal Suman, who was the prime mover of this discussion; Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal said that a wrong message should not go from the supreme authority of this country. A proper message should go to the nation that this House is determined to fight corruption and criminalisation of politics. I also support the contention that there should be a Joint Parliamentary Committee so that a message could go to the nation that this Parliament, the supreme authority of this nation, is determined to fight corruption. So, I demand that a Joint Parliamentary Committee should be constituted to ascertain the position, to ascertain the real truth of what happened in the Judev case.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly allow me to speak on this subject for two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : The discussion could not be completed in the House yesterday for want of quorum. I have decided that the Prime Minister will reply when he completes his speech.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Sir, please allow me to speak for two minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If you are really prepared to speak only for two minutes and put the question to the hon. Prime Minister, I will permit you.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Sir, your order is supreme. The standard of the debate in the House has

gone down. We are talking of each other's corruptions. What does it mean? We used to say – property and land must be divided, corruption would be wiped out – This is the conclusion of the debate. Through you I would like to ask a direct question. 'Forty years versus 4 years of corruption' – we held discussion on this yesterday. That is why I am pained and I had very politely requested you yesterday that you should initiate in maintaining the dignity of the debate in the House so that corruption does not become the rule. We have held discussion on this and also on conversion. Taking bribe by Judeo is different, but Jogi had hatched a conspiracy. I am amazed at what is happening. Can corruption be contained in this manner? Evil can be removed by good, but the less evil cannot remove the big evil. I would like to say that corruption is linked with development. The hon. Prime Minister has shown interest in the cruel murder case of Shri Satendra Kumar Dubey who was posted at Gaya in Bihar NHA. He was the topper of IIT Kanpur. His only fault was that he had written a letter to the PMO about the loot of money and violation of technical norms. The Prime Minister is taking keen interest in the Golden Quadrilateral Highway Scheme because this is a good project for the nation. The Prime Minister has said that he will ensure that the killer of Mr. Dubey would be nabbed from wherever he may be hiding. I would like to tell the Prime Minister that the cases which are referred to the CBI are dumped. This is the latest case of the loot of public money. Any issue concerning corruption which is raised is suppressed. This is an important issue.

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAY (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : Sir, he has made an allegation. Yadavji has said that the only guilt of Dube was that he wrote a letter to the Prime Minister, and so he was killed. This is far from truth. The matter is being investigated. This allegation is wrong. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I had given you two minutes to put your points. Now, you take your seat.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter is under investigation. So, it is not fair to bring such allegations. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister can mention this in his reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, loot and corruption in the country is beyond limit. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would suggest the ways to remove corruption. This problem is often discussed, and have some suggestions to contain it. Since corruption percolates from the top. . . .(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying something else. I want to suggest how to wipe off corruption. We have held a lot of discussion on this. I have a suggestion in this regard. Since, corruption begins from the top so we should pay attention to this fact that corruption cannot be wiped out by cleaning small streams or catching clerks. It's fountain source is from the top from where it flow down to small streams. A high power constitutional commission with fuel autonomy should be set up to wipe off this menace. Since 1947 till now i.e. 2003 all those who have been occupying top posts in legislative or whether they have been Minister or M.Ps. or persons holding high Executive posts. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Pappuji, now you can speak. Your suggestion has come. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You had sought two minutes to put your points. Do not repeat.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The said autonomous commission should have the right to assess the movable and immovable property of the concerned persons. That can be helpful in curbing corruptions. It should be mandatory through a legislation to reduce the details of property. That is all I have to say. It should be compulsory for them to give the details of their movable and immovable properties at the time of oath taking irrespective of the big posts they might be going to hold.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Sir, nothing new is being said in the discussion

[Shri Rajesh Ranjan Alias Pappu Yadav]

that is taking place on the issue of corruption since yesterday. I have been a Member of Parliament for four terms and during that period discussion was held on the issue of corruption on a number of occasions. What I mean to say is that the human being is the Mother of all evils and corruption and human being is the mother of all good things. But the question is as to how this issue can be addressed? At no point this aspect has been touched in the debate. During the discussion when the issue of fodder scam is raised, then there is notice from this side and when Telgi issue is raised, then there is noise from that side. In this way, we find ourselves divided. Earlier people were known for their service, perseverance and sacrifice but now it is the post, Pelf and Power for which they are known. When these things will become the focal point and the whole world will go on dancing around these things, then definitely selfishness comes into play. Corruption originates from the very point from which selfishness starts. It is the money due to which corruption came into being in the country. What is the main cause behind money? Why the matter of Judev and Jogi only was raised and on what issue this matter revolves around. It was done to defend the post. Either Jogi Sahib has entrapped Judev Sahib just to cling to the Chair or Jogi Sahib has been entrapped by someone else. All this has happened to cling to the Chair. So long as we do not overcome selfishness, till then we will not be able to get rid of corruption. Then it is the money that comes into play. These incidents are happening because of lust for power and materialistic pleasure.

Hon. Prime Minister, Sir, it is because of this that talented boys are not in demand in the education sector. You may go anywhere and you will find that children are given admission on the basis of the income of their parents. What is the origin of corruption, either from school or from the house but not from here. Where is the situation that political parties become the central point thereof? From water gate to India gate, from Laloo Yadav to Mayawati and then Jayalalitha, such people. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now you are deviating too much from the subject.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that in India because of power and only once but on a number of occasions. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now you conclude. You were given two minutes time.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, defection took place in Bihar about 10-20 times. CPI, CPI(M), Congress and Bhartiya Janata parties were made to split. Jharkhand Party and BSP were also subjected to split. But what were the reasons behind it?

MR. SPEAKER : Your two minute time is over and thereafter you have taken one minute more.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that the people occupying the treasury benches should sit away from us. When Budget is presented, the capitalists of the world are invited and they are consulted.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. No more time. Hon. Prime Minister is about to reply.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am just concluding.

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister has to reply. You please sit down.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit to you that as far as the budget record is concerned. . . .

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Hon. Prime Minister is about to reply. Therefore I was not going to allow you any time. I acceded to your request. It does not mean that you will get as much time as you want. Please sit down.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going to conclude in a second. The events occurred during 56 years of independence have been discussed at length but their evaluation has not been done. The issue has not been given proper vent in this mental sort of exercise. A different kind of tradition is being

set in the country. Therefore, there is a need to change out inner core and march forward with a strong character and only then we can prevent corruption.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : I had made a Statement on the resignation given by Shri Dilip Singh Judev. Discussion on that issue continued throughout the day yesterday. In my Statement I had not quoted the name of any other person except Shri Dilip Singh Judev. However, a number of names were mentioned in the discussion. Now I will have to clarify. It is essential because charge of adopting dual standard has been levelled against me. Which kind of dual standard? Which kind of test? Do you not see Jogi ji peeping behind the screen. If by levelling the charge you mean that in the case of Jogi ji, action was taken urgently but in the case of Shri Judev, matter is being delayed, then it is not correct. Let the House understand the case of Shri Jogi ji very well but I will not go in detail. There are two cases against Shri Jogi. In one case I myself have been involved. He had written a letter to me and alongwith that letter he had sent a fake document wherein he had said that vigilance officers of the Union Government were hatching the conspiracy to malign the Congress. He had sent a paper as proof which is known as document now. He had not talked to me about that. He even did not wait for my reply. He called a press conference that too in the central office of the Congress Party wherein he circuited that letter. He was the Chief Minister. If he had any complaint against the Intelligence Bureau or any officers of the Intelligence agencies, then he could have spoken to me or he could have spoken to Sonia ji. All the facts would have come out. But he had decided to give it publicity and the whole episode started with it. Now the position is that charges levelled against Shri Judev are being probed and there is no question of delay. Investigation has a set process. If there is any complaint against anyone, first the complaint is investigated. There is preliminary investigation. For example, if we have received one cassette and on the basis of that cassette charges are levelled against any person but this will be decided later on as to how far those charges are correct and who should be punished for all that, but the agency conducting inquiry into the matter would necessarily find out as to wherefrom that cassette

has come and who are the persons behind that. As far as Shri Judev is concerned, the charges which have been levelled through newspapers have not been made by any individual. The CBI has also got such information through newspapers only. Indian Express was the first newspaper to publish that newsitem. When Indian Express was asked to reveal the source of that newsitem, they told that they would not tell that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : The newsitem is correct. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Do we know. . . .(Interruptions) They told that they did not know from where that newsitem has come. It was another method to tell us that they will not reveal the source. They may not be aware of it yet its coming up with the report despite being unaware of it certainly invites a serious allegation against the newspaper. Which I do not intend to level.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Why will they disclose the source?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : What has been told now, does not mention the name of the complainant. There is no complainant. This matter has been handed over to CBI on the basis of the newspaper reports. The cassette does show that money did change hands in the Judeo case, the image of the bribe giver and the amount of money given also show through it, but the cassette is quite hazy. I have tried to see it several times to identify the money giver. Investigation is imperative in the matter. This is what I want to say. When entire cassette is not clear, it is imperative to make it clear. Thus, the CBI is conducting inquiry. . . .(Interruptions) No document is available in this context. It is also not clear who is the donor. He has not been identified so far. The investigation is on.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : But the identity of the bribe taker is certainly well known. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Still complaint is to be lodged against the person who has levelled charges in the matter. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has not yielded.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The matter has been taken up under Prevention of Corruption Act. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When I give you permission after the reply of Hon. Prime Minister, then you can speak.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : After the reply, I will certainly seek your permission.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It will have to be found out for what purpose the money was given.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is very unlike Shri Vajpayee. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Yes, because today I am doing the job of an advocate.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is such a bad case with all his support. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

You know you are very uncomfortable.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The matter has already been examined and the decision has been given against you. Really, this is a very serious matter. I do not want to comment on this matter that in Chhattisgarh, where such a big conspiracy was hatched and the matter is still being examined and the truth is yet to come out, we have won the elections with such a thumping majority in Chhattisgarh. Do you know, how did it happen? Because

you have lost the confidence of the people. While Judeo is still trusted by the people.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He is yielding. . . .(Interruptions) Sir, they should not question him. . . .(Interruptions) I am only requesting the hon. Prime Minister. . . .(Interruptions) The hon. Prime Minister has said that the enquiry is on, and naturally he has not said that the enquiry should be in a particular manner. We are obliged to him that the enquiry should be there. But if the Prime Minister gives a certificate to a person against whom. . . .(Interruptions) I was very politely making that observation. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If it had been my intention to give certificate. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Vajpayeeji, you know that we hold you in high esteem. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please keep silence.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we respect him very much. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I have demanded resignation of Judeo publicly. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Now, even after the political victory, it seems, that whatever allegation was against Shri Judeo, people have rejected it. The Prime Minister is saying that and obviously we will have the same from the CBI. That is the point. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Like an expert advocate Somnathji is distorting my argument. This is not proper. As soon as I got information about Judeo, I asked him to resign and he resigned.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Why did you demand his resignation?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Hon. Member is asking as to why did I seek the resignation. Because wrong allegations were levelled against him and I said that so long as the investigation is not conducted. . . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Hon. Prime Minister complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper. When you were speaking, no one interrupted you. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is on his legs. He has a right to speak. If you do not agree with his arguments, you can use some other device of asking him the question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : When wrong allegation were levelled, why did you seek resignation. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the good way. You please take your seat. Ramji Lal Sumanji, when I am on my legs, you will have to take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is on his legs. Let him complete his reply. After he completes his reply, if I find that there is a need for any question, I will permit you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : If the allegations are wrong, why the inquiry as being conducted? . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I do not intend to give certificate to any body. Charges have been framed against Judeo. The investigation is on into these charges and so long as he is not exonerated, the charges will remain against him. This is the only ground for the entire episode of resignation. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : What was the basis for the resignation of the Minister of Defence. . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : He does not need your attack. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : He has not been given clean-chit till now. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Sonia Gandhi has also not been given clean chit. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Sir, CBI has to see as to what facts emerge out of the forensic test. Thereafter the case would be filed. Presently the preliminary inquiry is going on. It is being asked why the preliminary inquiry is being conducted? The answer is because the facts are not known. Who is Rahul, where did he given money wherefrom the Australian company got involved into it. What is the name of this company and what favour did they receive in lieu thereof, all this has to be found out. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please maintain order.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If there is any charge that should be made public. . . .(Interruptions) I am sorry to listen what has been mentioned here in the House. Levelling of allegations on CBI is not fair.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am Member of Parliament for the last fifty years. The Governments changed but the CBI kept on doing its duty. There are some constitutional institutions in the country whose dignity should be upheld.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : This is exactly what we are saying.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Criticism on same particular stage can be tolerated but it would not be proper to straight forward criticise that CBI cannot be trusted. It is not fair to say that if CBI will gather the facts those facts will not be correct and we cannot trust the CBI. Is there any higher institution to conduct the investigation, are we ready to form any such institution, should we ignore our experience of past fifty years because the circumstance are not favourable for the opposition? At some point of time circumstances were against us also. We had also blamed CBI but it is not proper to launch such a consulted defamation campaign against CBI and it is very necessary to stop it. We had never launched such a defamation campaign against CBI. Tomorrow the opposition may be voted to power. They will also need an agency to gather facts to unravel the truth. Therefore, it is not fair to criticise CBI as an institution.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Nobody has criticised the CBI.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was also referred to constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee to look into the matter. I have been Member and Chairman of a number of Joint Parliamentary Committees. After all from where the Joint Parliamentary Committee will gather facts and evidences. From where it will collect it and to whom it will talk? Ultimately the Parliamentary Committee will ask the CBI to investigation the cases. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARYA (Bankura) : Judgement will be yours.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : How it can be so?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Judgement will be of the Committee.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : There could be difference of opinion. Somnathji, you need not to ask that. You had also been the Chairman of a Committee and were caught in a great trouble. I do not want to go into that. Constituting a Committee will not help. There is no need

and justification for constituting a Committee. We should unravel the truth. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You have lauded the person against whom there is allegation though he has taken money in a luxurious hotel. You should not have done like that. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Dada you are unaware of the facts. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : My friend Shri Advaniji has given him clean chit. It is not fair. You made that person an election mascot against whom there are allegations of corruption. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This allegation is not true.

[English]

MR. SEAKER : Shri Somnathji, Please Co-operate.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Shri Somnathji, since you have raised this question, I would like to ask as to how such an atmosphere was created in the country in which he was made a mascot. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You are right. . . .(Interruptions) But he should not have been made a mascot. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This is the question, the question of making him a mascot does not arise. It is the question of double standard and it cannot be from one side only. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You are also in power. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : What was the situation when we were not in power. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We are also in power for the last 20-25 years and we also understand it. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

We expect some different behaviour from Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, keeping in view the scenario which has emerged after elections and the one happened during elections, it has become imperative for all the major political parties to come together to ponder over whether the direction in which we are heading is will lend us to our welfare. Whether all the political parties are ready to deliberate on this issue or will think about the next elections? . . . (Interruptions) Whether contesting elections and upholding the values cannot go together. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : This cannot be one sided. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Everybody wants to be reciprocal. Some of the Congress Members do understand this gravity and we have high expectations from them. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to ask one question. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, there is no practice of asking questions.

Now, we shall take up calling attention. Shri Dayabhai V. Patil.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The debate is over.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am requesting you, I want your permission. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : After the Prime Minister's statement questions are not asked.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now during the course of his reply the Prime Minister said. . . .(Interruptions) Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is here in the House and I request you to kindly permit to ask one question from the hon. Prime Minister. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister, Sir, Shri Chaturvediji want to ask a question. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, while making his reply the Prime Minister asked a counter question and content of the question was that the opposition has levelled an allegation that the Prime Minister was adopting double standard. At this he asked as to where was the case of double standard. In this context I would like to submit to the Prime Minister that we have two episodes one of Jogi and another of Judeo before us. In the case of Jogi the FIR was lodged immediately within five days without conducting any preliminary inquiry while in the Judeo episode FIR has not been lodged even after 24 days after the case when he was clearly seen receiving money on television. The case has been lingered in the name of preliminary inquiry why it is so? Another example of double standard is that on the one hand the Government want inquiry in Jogi episode. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How long is your question?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Who were the persons involved in this sting operation there? The Hon. Minister of Law has admitted that the hon. Deputy Prime Minister knew all this and with his consent the sting operation against Jogi was undertaken. So why is

[Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi]

it that no legal action is being taken against Shri Arun Jaitley, the Deputy Prime Minister and others involved in it?

I want the hon. Prime Minister to reply to my two questions. . . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : All the questions have been replied to by the hon. Prime Minister. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I made it clear in my speech that both the cases are different. . . . (Interruptions) Case of Shri Jogi was quite clear. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Audio Cassette was quite clear while the video cassette was not clear. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The money that was given, was also there, and that has been deposited in the police station. But what happened to the money relating to Shri Judeo Case?. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : It is with Shri Judeo. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampur, West Bengal) : That money has gone to the BJP Party fund. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Yes, he will reveal the facts during inquiry. However, so far as Shri Jogi's case is concerned there is no acrimony and Shri Jogi had no inhibitions. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Both the cases were corruption cases, but one of them is being unnecessarily dragged to hush up the matter. . . . (Interruptions)

12.46 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Collapse of bridge linking Moti Daman and Nani Daman in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu resulting in loss of human lives and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up Calling Attention.

Shri Dayabhai V. Patel – Not present.

MR. SPEAKER : Since Shri Dayabhai V. Patel is not present, Shri Mohan S. Delkar can call the attention.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) : Sir, I call the attention of the Deputy Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :—

“Situation arising out of the collapse of the bridge linking Moti Daman and Nani Daman in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu resulting in loss of human lives and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto.”

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the issue of Hajjis. It is a very, very important and serious problem. I will refer to it in two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : If there is 'Zero Hour', you can do that.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Now the discussion on the Calling Attention notice is over. Delkar ji, listen please, he is replying.

[English]

During 'Zero Hour' you can raise it.

THE DEPUTY-PRIME MINISTER AND IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF

PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the 298 meter long Damanganga Bridge connecting Moti Daman and Nani Daman caved in around 1330 hours on the 28th August, 2003 and several vehicles crossing the bridge fell into the river. The rescue operations were launched within a few minutes of the incident by the local boatmen, fishermen and divers. The Coast Guard, the Fire Brigade and the Police were also deployed to assist in the rescue and recovery operations. The Coast Guard at Mumbai was also requested to fly another team of divers to assist in the rescue operations. The local police also registered an FIR connected with the incident against officials of the local Public Works Department.

The rescue teams were able to save 12 persons, seven of whom had received grievous injuries. All the 12 persons so rescued were rushed to nearby hospitals for medical treatment. The intensive search and rescue operations were continued till late in the night and again resumed the following day in the morning. The dead bodies of 25 persons were recovered, of whom 23 were school-going children in the age group of 7-15 years. Besides, one Maruti van, one Indica car, four auto rickshaws, five scooters/motorcycles and one bicycle were retrieved from the river.

The Central Government vide MHA Notification No. 13034/39/2003-GP dated 1st September 2003 appointed Shri R.K. Singh, Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs, to conduct an inquiry into the circumstances which led to the collapse of the Damanganga bridge and submit his report by 30th September 2003. In relation to engineering and other technical aspects of the incident, he is being assisted by Shri A. Chakravarthi, Chief Engineer, South Zone.III, Central Public Works Department, Bangalore. The extension of time for submitting the report was also given and the report is now required to be submitted by 15th December, 2003.

The UT Administration have paid an ex-gratia @ Rs. 1 lakh per person to the next of kin of the two adults who lost their lives in the incident. The next of the kin of

28 minors who lost their lives have been paid ex-gratia @ Rs. 50,000/- per person by the UT Administration and Rs. 50,000/- each by the Daman Red Cross Society. The seven persons who were seriously injured in the incident were also paid ex-gratia @ Rs. 10,000/- per person by the UT Administration. The next of kin of the person who died in stone-pelting in an incident of firing and looting which followed immediately after the collapse of the bridge and loss of lives, has also been paid an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 1 lakh by the Red Cross Society, Daman.

The U.T. Administration have engaged private buses and boats for providing free transport services to the public and the school going children. The Administration is spending about Rs. 1,50,000 per day for providing the free transport to the public and the school children till the normal communication link is restored between the two townships.

As a permanent means of communication between Moti Daman and Nani Daman, the Government has approved the construction of a new bridge across river Damanganga at an estimated cost of Rs. 15.739 crore. This work will be executed through Gujarat Public Works Department as a deposit work and the lead time allowed will be 24 to 30 months. In the meanwhile as a short term measure the Government have approved the restoration of the collapsed bridge which shall be executed by Omnibus Industrial Development Corporation (OIDC) through M/s. National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC). The technical consultancy to the latter shall be provided by M/s. RITES, another Central Government Undertaking.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the permission to raise a very sensitive and serious issue. The Daman bridge collapse took away the lives of 28 children. Some of the families lost all their children in the tragedy. So, this is a most sensitive matter. It becomes all the more serious because there had been great negligence in this regard.

[Shri Mohan S. Delkar]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this bridge was constructed in 1983. At that time its life was fixed at ten years. This period was over in 1993. This bridge was built on iron pillars. At that time it was stated that the life of This bridge was not long. Meanwhile, the Engineers' Association intimated that since the life span of this bridge had been over, it might collapse any time. Despite that nobody bothered for ten years and the bridge remained operational. And ultimately the bridge collapsed.

From the photographs of the collapsing of the bridge it is clear that the bridge had become very weak. It is not that it collapsed all of a sudden. It had become so weak that it crumbled under its own weight. This has resulted from sheer negligence and has taken the lives of 28 children. Yesterday, there was total bandh in Daman-Diu. This bandh was supported by all, the parties, the BJP, the Shiv Sena and all other political parties. The bandh was total in Daman and Diu. People are shocked and aggrieved, because 28 children of a number of families died in the incident. The people of Daman are so aggrieved that they did not even celebrate Diwali this year. What do the people of Daman want? They want an impartial inquiry. We respect the hon. Prime Minister. I want to know as to who is conducting the inquiry.

The Disaster Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs is inquiring into case. The entire gamut of Union territory falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The offices of the Ministry should conduct the inquiry. The officers in Administration are under control of the Home Ministry. I apprehend that an impartial inquiry will not be conducted in this case. Two jawans were killed in the fire opened as per the orders of the collector and now another collector will look into the matter. How can people get justice. People do not want compensation, but an impartial inquiry. People want action against the guilty persons. The persons who are at fault should be punished. This is not an accident. It is a case of sheer negligence in which 28 children were killed. I would rather say that the Children did not die, but were killed. To unearth the truth an impartial judicial inquiry should be conducted

in this regard? The people in the Administration are indifferent.

His Excellency the President of India passed through that bridge two month ago. The entire cavalcade of the President had stopped there. At that time the fitness certificate was given to that bridge. It was stated that Rs. One crore had been spent on it. I want to know as to what happened to that one crore rupees and how the certificate was given and repair works undertaken? When I went to meet the family Members of the deceased children, they told me that the whole village is talking of the President's cavalcade passing through the bridge. What would have happened if anything untoward had then taken place? Out of those 28 children anyone could have become the President of the country. Did you think that the lives of these children were so cheap? All these question were put up by the families of the deceased children, but I could not reply to anyone. No hon. Member present in the House can give reply. This is a most serious matter. The transparency of the NDA Government is the main concern. We do not want to punish anybody. We want an impartial inquiry and the unearthing of facts. We want a judicial inquiry. The people of Daman are demanding a judicial inquiry. The whole of Daman was observing total badh and demanding judicial inquiry. This demand is not only mine, the BJP unit of Daman, the Shiv Sena unit of Daman and the Victim Committee of the Daman bridge collapse are also demanding the same. The Committee of 40 societies is demanding it. They have no faith in the inquiry being conducted by the Disaster Committee of the Home Ministry. Not a single person of Daman wants this. It is only the officers who were responsible for that do not want a judicial inquiry in this regard.

I request the hon. Deputy Prime Minister to order an inquiry into this and also have come to know that you are going to Daman on 19 December. The newspapers there have published this. I request you to order a judicial inquiry so that the facts may come out. This is a demand of all the people of Daman and Diu. I request you to fulfill one demand and order a judicial inquiring into the whole matter.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Balua, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after listening to the hon. Members and coming to know about the opinion of the local people, I want to speak only one sentence. Through you, Sir, I would request the hon. Home Minister to announce a judicial inquiry into the matter.

13.00 hrs.

There is no difficulty in it. There is no difficulty in announcing a judicial inquiry into an incident involving death of 28 people including children. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be a judicial inquiry into this matter. This is a matter of carelessness which claimed the lives of 28 children. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : The most serious aspect of it is that the home Ministry is in charge of that union territory and the officers of the home Ministry are inquiry into the matter. It is, therefore, but natural for the people to have their own doubts about the impartiality of the inquiry. How will they expose their own omissions? Therefore, there should be a judicial inquiry into it. This demand is absolutely justified. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolgpur) : Sir, we all support this.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : See, I have two more Member to speak on this subject. They want to speak here.

[English]

This is time for lunch hour. Should I complete this calling attention?

[Translation]

Shall we conclude the discussion before lunch? In fact, there is nothing substantial to speak on this issue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Mohan Delkar ji has narrated everything here and our hon. Prime Minister is a sensitive person. There is nothing to dwell at length on this issue and at the same time our former Prime Minister has expressed his feelings in the House. I do not have much to speak on this issue. I visited Daman, so I want to share the information with the House.

In Daman, where families lost two to three children each, the mothers were waiting and said that they did not expect any relief or compassion. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, Sir, they wanted only one thing that there should not be recurrence of such incident in Daman and they requested to convey this message to the hon. Prime Minister. Secondly, when this incident took place, before this I should tell you that I had met Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, and he had consented to inaugurate the said bridge. But, I want to say that the officers and contractors involved in the construction of the bridge and who, subsequently, spent crores of rupees on its repair works should be held responsible, I want to know whether this money actually used for the bridge or not? This is my question. Is it justified to extend the period of use of a bridge after the expiry of its life span? With whose permission this period was extended and if it all it was extended, why for a second and third time? This is my second question. My third point is that the manner in which the rescue work was done by the fishermen after the incident took place is an example worth emulation. Their work is a symbol of dedicated service to the nation not only in India but the world over as these fishermen put their lives at stake while they saved 12 persons and recovered the dead bodies of 28 children from the sea. This incident was followed by firing. Why did the firing take place? Certainly, the whole Daman bore a gloomy look because the families had lost two to three children each and the children were extremely beautiful and the mothers witnessed the tragic scene. If the people come to the streets then should the administration resort to firing without any sensibility claiming the lives of people? Then the dead bodies of the people are dragged away and never given to their kins. Moreover, leave the compensation

[Shri Rajesh Ranjan Alias Pappu Yadav]

aside, which may be Rs. 50,000/- or Rs. 1 lakh, nobody in Daman is willing to accept the compensation. The sad aspect of the incident is that no administration or any higher officer made a courtesy visit to any house. They did not talk of delivering justice to them by committing that they would not spare any erring officer.

Had the officers of home Ministry and local senior administrative officers declared that whosoever was involved in bungling or had a doubtful role, would not be spared, the incident would not have taken place nor would this issue have been raised in this august House. The people of Daman have faith in the Government. The people representing every party have demanded judicial inquiry into the incident. In view of the feelings of the people of Daman, I urge upon the Government that a judicial inquiry be conducted into it. The judicial inquiry should be completed in a time bound manner. It should not go on for years, as is the practice in this country. Therefore, the judicial inquiry should be completed within six months. If judicial inquiry is not possible, then the inquiry should be conducted by a JPC of the Parliament or any other committee minus officers of the home Ministry. This is my request to you in view of the feelings of the people of Daman. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE (Sheohar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Four or five hon. Members including myself, reached the spot just after the incident took place. We saw that the entire area was under curfew. Condolence meetings were being held at every place. But there was no feeling among the officers that they should go to condole and see those people who had lost their children in the incident. Four or five hon. Members including myself, went to all those houses where dead bodies of children were lying. We talked to those people there, consoled them and assured them. This is a matter of inquiry, so an inquiry should be conducted. It was clear that the life span of the said bridge had expired 10 years back. The concerned

Engineer was also insistingly advising to stop the use of the bridge of transportation purposes. In the meantime, the hon. President was scheduled to go there and an amount of rupees one crore was granted to repair the bridge. I want to tell the hon. Deputy Prime Minister that only 4 or 5 lakh rupees were spent on painting the bridge while rest of the money was retained by the local administration. When this incident took place, the people went to take the bodies of their children. The dead bodies were kept there for 24 hours and postmortem was conducted in a pathetic manner. The people protested and requested the administration to hand over the dead bodies to them without conducting any postmortem. The people went there enmass, when the BSF and the CRPF opened fire on them claiming two to three lives. The manner in which atrocities were perpetrated on the people including fishermen there, would move anybody's heart who witnessed the scene. One would realize that there was no trace of humanity there. There was only cruelty prevalent everywhere.

The hon. Deputy Prime Minister is present here. Our senior colleague Shri Chandrashekarji has just made a demand for judicial inquiry into the incident. It does not mean that the inquiry would continue for four or five months. At present an officer of the rank of collector is conducting the inquiry. This will not deliver justice to the public. Therefore, I request, as Shri Chandra Shekharji has said, that there should be an inquiry into it and it should be concluded in specified time. The hon. Deputy Prime Minister may make a Statement in the House to assure the people. The mourning people have faith in the Government and the hon. Deputy Prime Minister that they would get justice.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Cases of murder should be registered against those due to whom the innocent children lost their lives.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnanni) : It is such a tragic incident to have sent shivers down the spine. Please give directions to the Government to hold a judicial inquiry in this case.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : It is better to have a judicial inquiry.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Home Minister has heard the views of all the hon. Members and will definitely appreciate the sentiments of the House.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the submissions made by the senior hon. Members including the former Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekharji and others definitely reflect the sentiments and mood of the House. The inquiry which was conducted was mainly in regard to this bridge only. The death of 23 children is a grave incident. Twenty three children along with two old people and a man have been killed. I have mentioned the number of casualties and it is a serious incident. Therefore, if everyone opines that a judicial inquiry should be conducted then I think the Government does not have any objection. Our past experience suggests that many a time much time is taken in the judicial inquiry and delays are seen on the contrary in the unearthing of truth. I read the terms of reference of this inquiry today. The main question asked therein is :

“Where extensive repairs in the form of retrofitting of the bridge were undertaken properly and as per the technical specifications recommended by the consultant.”

[Translation]

As pointed out by a hon. Member that expenditure to the tune of Rs. One crore was incurred on the retrofitting of this bridge and was incurred in the year 2001. Second question is that –

[English]

Whether, after these extensive repairs, the day-to-day maintenance work in the form of cleaning of strepsil joints of end bearing etc., was carried out properly, regularly and in conformity with the technical requirements.

[Translation]

There was another query

[English]

“Whether there was any negligence in assessing the roadworthiness of the bridge from time to time:

Whether there was any deficiency in the rescue and search operations launched by the Administration after the bridge caved in on 29th August.”

[Translation]

I myself felt that if proper result could come from this inquiry then the decision to conduct an objective inquiry will definitely unearth the truth and point out the culprits. In this regard, I would only state that the guilty will not be spared and will be punished. Therefore, a Senior Chief Engineer from Bangalore has been appointed for the job who will look into the deficiencies and lapses. However, I will go by the mood and sentiments of the House. The report of the inquiry is likely to be received by 15th December. Therefore, would it be proper to wait till that time or decide that judicial inquiry should be conducted?

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Please give orders for judicial inquiry today, itself.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Alright, I find if proper since the public over there as well the House would only be satisfied with a judicial inquiry. I assure the House that judicial inquiry into this incident shall be conducted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

13.14 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch
till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House shall now take up Matters under Rule 377.

(i) Need to impose a ban on organisations supporting subversive activities

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) : Sir, of late, it is noticed that the fundamentalist groups based in Pakistan, viz., Azad Kashmir Front and Nasreen, are active in Bangladesh. They are providing logistical and ideological support to the Muslim United Liberation Tigers of Assam, and other fundamentalist groups of West Bengal for creating unrest in Assam and West Bengal. These groups are being assisted by the banned organisation SIMI. SIMI has been bringing volunteers from Assam and West Bengal to Madrasas located in Malda and 24 Paraganas Districts of West Bengal and has been imparting instructions for subversive activities in India.

This is a dangerous trend and needs to be curbed immediately. Government of India may take immediate steps to ban the Muslim United Liberation Tigers of Assam and close the Madrasas in West Bengal which are active breeding grounds of subversive activities.

(ii) Need to earmark a minimum of 15 per cent of the allocations under PMGSY for improvement of the existing main roads in the States

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar) : Sir, the Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development is allocating funds to the States under PMGSY to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations having population over 1000 and between 500 and 999. The scheme also envisages upgradation to a prescribed standard of some existing roads. During the year 2000-2001, Rs. 179.70 crore have

been sanctioned by the Government of India and 144 packages have been sanctioned to Orissa. In these packages they have allowed improvement of some existing roads besides providing new connectivity.

During 2001-02, 217 packages amounting to Rs. 350 crore have been cleared by the Government of India for Orissa but the Government of India did not allow inclusion of existing roads which require improvement. The roads approved by them for 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are new roads to provide connectivity to all unconnected habitations. Providing new connectivity to the habitation will not be of much benefit to the rural people unless the main roads to which these are connected are improved as per the IRC standards/specifications.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to earmark, at least, 15 per cent of the allocation for improvement of the existing main roads to provide better connectivity.

(iii) Need to set up a Regional All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Jharkhand

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jharkhand is a newly created State where one third of the population is that of tribals and others such as backward classes, dalits and other poor families also inhabit. The population suffers from contagious diseases and other serious diseases owing to lack of proper nutrition. There are no proper medical facilities particularly to treat serious diseases. As a result people travel to Kolkata or Delhi for treatment. The State has only three medical colleges with just 190 seats. Only recently sanction has been given to open Regional AIIMS hospitals in six States on the lines of AIIMs, where good medical colleges are already existing. Approval has been granted to open Regional AIIMS hospitals in other two States as well which were created along with Jharkhand but only Jharkhand has been left out. There are several central public undertakings in this State like HEC, Maken, SAIL, CCL, BCCL etc. whose employees could also derive its benefits. Jharkhand is a poor State. The people of this State are

too poor to travel to Delhi for availing themselves of medical treatment. The State Government shall allot hundred acres of land for the hospital.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to set up a regional AIIMS hospital in this backward, poor State in public interest immediately. A team of the Union Health Ministry be sent immediately to Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand for the selection of the site.

(iv) Need to set up an Information Technology Park at Bilaspur or Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Information Technology towards Hamirpur Lok Sabha Constituency of Himachal Pradesh where the environment, climate and geographical conditions are fully conducive and favourable for developing information technology park but it has not been set up so far even though all the facilities are available there and the State Government is ready to provide all kinds of assistance too.

Sir, through you, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Information Technology to set up a national or an international level Information Technology Park in either district headquarters Bilaspur or Hamirpur of my Lok Sabha constituency Hamirpur.

(v) Need to take steps to facilitate repatriation of nine youths of Tamil Nadu, facing trial in Malaysian Court

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that nine youths from Sivaganga in Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu are facing trial in Malaysian Court under Dangerous Drugs Act, 1952 for the sentence of hanging and the need of Government of India's intervention for repatriation of innocent youths by engaging lawyers and through diplomatic discussion.

(vi) Need to check increasing militant activities in Block-I area of Karbi Anglong District in Assam

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH (Shillong) : There exists serious and unprecedented situation prevailing in Block-I area of Karbi Anglong District in Assam, bordering Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya. A reign of terror prevailed in the area perpetrated by militant outfits, UPDS and KNV to the extent that since November 11, 2003 more than 4300 Khasi-Pnar Tribe were forced to flee their homeland, taking shelter at Sahaniang Village in Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya. A few people were gunned down and many houses were burnt and reduced to ashes. Extortions and threats were made relentlessly and a fear psychosis gripped the people. It is a human tragedy never experienced in the past in this part of the North East Region. The exodus of such a huge population is unprecedented. It is true that the Chief Ministers of Assam and Meghalaya have taken steps to restore normalcy. If the situation is not brought to early resolution, it may lead to serious ethnic clashes, which would jeopardise the cordial and traditional relationship between the two communities – the Khasipnar and the Karbis. Since militancy is at the root of displacement of such a huge population and thus responsible for fear and uncertainty, I feel that the Government of India has a responsibility to assist the State Governments to combat militancy effectively.

(vii) Need to fund the expenditure on modernisation of State Armed Police Forces, especially in the North Eastern Region

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura West) : I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government that the Sarkaria Commission recommended that the States should strengthen and modernise the State Armed Police to make them self-reliant. This objective, it is felt, is presently not being achieved in view of the existing guidelines of the scheme. As per guidelines of the scheme, the State Government has to share 50 per cent of the total expenditure on modernisation, which is difficult for the State Government in view of the resource constraints. The

[Shri Khagen Das]

Central Government should bear 100 per cent expenditure on modernisation, at least for the States in the North East Region. Further, the scheme for reimbursement of security related expenditure incurred by the States in the North East is restricted to certain specified items only. The scope of the scheme should be extended to cover all items of expenditure, whether recurring or non-recurring on security related matters in the national interest.

I request the Government to consider it at the earliest possible time.

- (viii) Need to review the working of Rural Banks in the country and set up a National Rural Bank for the benefit of farmers**

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rural Banks were set up with a view to provide loans to the farmers for agricultural purposes and for helping the rural people to open small industries by providing them loans so that they may get employment and the young people may be discouraged from making exodus towards cities. Deposits of those banks are increasing but rural farmers are not getting loans from those rural banks and even if they get loans they do not get it timely. Moreover, I would also like to submit that the Government Banks and the Land Development Banks are also not showing any interest in providing loans to the farmers and that is why investments in agriculture sector is coming down and agricultural activity is considered to be a loss making business. In Maharashtra and especially in my Parliamentary Constituency of Hingoli and in Parbhani district the loan amount being given to rural artisans, and to the persons running rural and cottage industries has come down drastically.

Through this House I would like to request the Union Government to review the working of Rural Banks and set up a National Rural Bank. Similarly, the policies of the RBI should be suitably amended corresponding to the convenience of Rural Banks.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Only the approved text will go on record.

- (ix) Need to release adequate funds for proper maintenance and upgradation of National Highway No. 76 in Banda and Chitrakoot districts of Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda) : Sir, the Jhansi-Mirzapur Marg of Uttar Pradesh which crosses through Mahoba-Banda-Prayag-Allahabad has been declared National Highway No. 76 by the Central Public Works Department. Even after three years there has been no significant improvement in the condition of this Highway. This National Highways crossing through Banda and Chitrakoot is in a very bad shape. Stretches upto fifty kilometres on this highway are in dilapidated condition and are narrow. Culverts are weak and damaged which always cause accidents during flood time, floodwater overflows across the bridges disrupting traffic from both sides. New constructions is so poor that the roads are damaged soon after their construction. There are potholes on the roads. People are facing a lot of problems. Therefore there is a need for proper maintenance, new construction, broadening and strengthening of roads.

- (x) Need to provide financial assistance to the sugarcane Growers of Bihar whose crops have been affected by drought**

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Balua, Bihar) Sir, the sugarcane growers of Bihar had been growing the sugarcane namely, B.O. Prabhed 128 variety for the last several years. Last year, there was good production of this variety of sugarcane but during the existing year this crop was completely affected by drought. Now, it is good for firewood only. In Hasanpur Sugar Mills area, majority of farmers had grown this very variety of sugarcane. Being affected by drought not even one percent of the cost price could be realised. Farmers are crying.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to find out the cause of drought by sending a team of experts

and provide suitable compensation to the sugarcane farmers of the drought affected areas and arrangement should be made to provide them loan on lower rates of interest and provide good variety of stems of sugarcane for the next season.

- (xi) Need to construct a platform and a foot over-bridge on the Southern side of the Suisa railway station in West Bengal**

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia) : The West Bengal Agriculture Marketing Department has decided to construct a marketing complex on the southern side of Suisa Railway Station in Adra Division of S.E. Railway. At present a large number of vegetable growers sell their agriculture produce. A daily market has been organised by the local people. Sometimes goods trains remain standing for a long time. Sometimes Up and Dn passenger trains also meet there very often. People are facing a lot of difficulties.

Under the above circumstances, I urge upon the Railway Ministry to construct a platform on the Southern side of the Suisa Railway Station along with a foot overbridge.

- (xii) Need to ensure that the dues of sugarcane farmers of Bilari Tehsil of Moradabad district, Uttar Pradesh are paid by the sugar mill at Raja-ka-Sahaspur**

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (Moradabad) : Farmers in Bilari Tehsil of Moradabad District in Uttar Pradesh have not been paid arrears due to them by the Ajudhia Sugar Mill at Raja-ka-Sahaspur for many years. Added to this is the Uttar Pradesh Government's unclear policy on cane prices. The salary dues of workers of the said mill run into crores. I request the Central Government to help the cane growers said mill workers of Bilari Tehsil.

- (xiii) Need to provide Central assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to tackle the drought situation in the State**

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : This is the third consecutive year that drought prevailed in the Andhra

Pradesh State. As the rainfall was minus seven, deficient and scanty in many mandals, the total crop loss on account of severe drought conditions in the State is to the tune of Rs. 966.12 crores. Besides, due to insufficient rains, the farming community and agricultural labour community have been rendered unemployed and are suffering for want of succor/livelihood. It has also affected 6.7 lakh cattle population and fodder scarcity. The deficient rainfall has also affected drinking water supply position adversely. The Andhra Pradesh Government have spent all the available sources at its disposal and now looks forward for Central assistance.

We, therefore, request the Union Government that an amount of Rs. 996.12 crores may be granted as Central assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). It is also requested that 15.00 lakh metric tonnes of rice may please be sanctioned for taking up Employment General Works under SGRY (SC) in the coming months which would help the unemployed agricultural workers as well as the old aged people, blind people and infirm who are worst hit in this drought situation.

- (xiv) Need to provide mobile telephone services in Bharuch Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHABHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no mobile telephone service in Ummala, Rajpadri, Netran, Dadiyapada, Mangrol under my parliamentary constituency of Bharuch. All those areas are tribal dominated and they are developing. I have met the Chief General Manager of this department in Gujarat and also the Manager, Telecom of Bharuch district in this regard. I have also informed in writing but there is no progress in this regard. I have also raised this issue in the meetings on several occasions.

Through this House, I would like to request the Union Government to provide mobile telephone services in the aforesaid areas immediately.

14.22 hrs.

SICK INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) REPEAL BILL, 2001

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : I beg to move :

“That the Bill to repeal the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, be taken into consideration.”

The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, (SICA) 1985 was enacted to tackle the problem of industrial sickness. The Act has not been effective in checking the problems because it suffers from several deficiencies. And, it is in view of the problems observed in the BIFR mechanism, Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill, 2001 for the repeal of SICA, 1985 and the abolition of BIFR/Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) was introduced in this House on 30th August, 2001.

Simultaneously, the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2001 was introduced in this House to provide an alternative mechanism in lieu of BIFR/AAIFR with the main objective of facilitating and expediting revival/rehabilitation of sick companies and adequate protection of workers' interest, also where necessary, winding up of companies. This Bill was passed in this House in the Winter Session, 2002 to provide for setting up of a National Company Law Tribunal. The powers and jurisdiction presently being exercised by various bodies viz. Companies Law Board, BIFR, AAIFR under SICA and powers of High Courts in relation to winding up of companies are proposed to be consolidated and entrusted to the Tribunal with a view to avoiding multiplicity of fora to decide the matters regarding revival/rehabilitation/mergers/amalgamation or winding up of companies.

The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance for examination. The Committee's report to Parliament submitted on 19th December, 2002, reflected

a broad consensus that BIFR set up under SICA, has to a large extent, failed to achieve its objective because of its inherent deficiencies. The Standing Committee on Finance recommended that SICA may be repealed and also approved the SICA Repeal Bill, 2001, which is what is here presently. The Committee, however, observed that the issue of pending cases, which shall abate on the repeal of SICA, had not been addressed in this Bill and recommended that Government should bring suitable amendments in the Bill to deal with such cases.

After considering the Standing Committee's report, amendments in the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2001 are now proposed amongst others to provide for registration of abated cases by NCLT and removal of the limitations as to time; for saving the rehabilitation schemes already approved by BIFR/AAIFR to be monitored by NCLT; and for waiver of fee in respect of abated cases when they get registered afresh with NCLT.

Sir, I commend that Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Repeal Bill be taken up for consideration and be passed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, four hours have been allotted for this Bill.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, this is a very small Bill. I do not think we need four hours for this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The BAC has allotted this time. If we can do it earlier, it is better.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That the Bill to repeal the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, be taken into consideration.”

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : Sir, the hon. Minister, while moving this Bill, mentioned orally that the proposed National Company Law Tribunal will take care of the abated cases. I still wonder why the Minister has given an oral assurance to this House and that too very vaguely.

As the hon. Minister himself suggested, this Bill came in 2002 and was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is an extension of this House itself and the Standing Committee consists of representatives from all political parties. Whatever one might say, the Standing Committee system in our Parliament is functioning very satisfactorily and we can feel proud in claiming that.

The Standing Committee on Finance looked into this very elaborately and made its recommendations. I am reading one of the recommendations. It says :

"The Committee are deeply concerned to note that the issue of pending cases with BIFR/AAIFR which shall abate on repeal of SICA has not been addressed in the above mentioned Bill. They find that the transfers through provisions are conspicuous by their absence in the proposed NCLT set up. This, the Committee feel, will cause great hardship to the sick companies whose cases are pending with BIFR/AAIFR and they are of the opinion that a lot of time will be wasted in registering the said abated cases afresh with NCLT. Hence they recommend that Government should bring a suitable amendment in the present Bill itself to deal with the abated cases."

Sir, I do not know whether the hon. Minister has read this recommendation. There are only three recommendations and the second and the most important recommendation is this. This House will be astonished to know the details of the pending cases before BIFR/AAIFR.

The number of draft schemes circulated was 77; cases in which winding up notices were issued are 117; 1151 cases are under enquiry; schemes filed and re-opened are 64; pending cases recommended by BIFR/AIFR was 44 and the number of cases on which stay order from courts was obtained were 45. In all, there are 1498 cases that are pending before the AIFR and BIFR. This Bill has to be now passed by this august House. Then it has to be passed by the Rajya Sabha and then it has to be sent to the hon. President for his assent and then only it will become an Act. It has been said here that NCLT is being proposed to be set up. This House has to take note of the

fact that NCLT has not yet been constituted. I do not know whether the provisions, as contained, in the Company (Amendment) Bill, as passed by this House, have been enunciated properly or not. It will take its own time, at least one year. I am not pessimistic. It would take at least six months. The Report of the Standing Committee must have reached the Government in January this year. It is because the Report of the Committee was submitted in December, 2002. Almost one year has elapsed since then. This amendment Bill should have contained a section by which these 1948 pending cases could have been taken care of by the NCLT. I do not wish to attribute any motive. But the thing is that the Finance Department or the Law Department has not taken the recommendations of the Committee seriously. This is not a casual reference. About 1498 cases of companies are pending there. I am more worried about the workers who had been working in these companies.

Sir, I agree with the hon. Minister that SICA has been misused very much. One industry is either declare sick or made sick and referred to BIFR and then under section 22 of the Act. they do not have to pay any of the statutory dues like the Provident Fund, ESI etc., to their employees and also they do not have to pay their debtors. It was almost like a fashion to declare the companies sick as early as possible and the promoters easily escaped from it. I agree that because of erosion of quasi-judicial authority of the BIFR and intervention by the judicial authorities, the number of pending cases has increased over the years.

But at the same time the hon. Minister must take into consideration one aspect. The Act came into existence in the year 1985. Till date the BIFR never had its full share of 14 Members as was stipulated in the Act. Leave alone the previous Governments, even the present Government after having governed this country for more than five years have not appointed the full quota of 14 Members in the BIFR. Never in the history of BIFR, the full quota of 14 Members was appointed. We expected that with the coming of the BIFR into existence, cases would be disposed of within a year but cases in BIFR had gone on

[Shri A.C. Jos]

for years. My main grievance is that the Minister should have made adequate provisions in this repeal Bill, instead of allowing cases to get abated. This aspect should have been taken care of in the Bill itself so that the moment this Bill is passed, the moment NCLT comes into existence, these cases could have automatically got referred to that.

Instead of that, the hon. Minister now assures the House that a new registration has to be done. Money may not be there. Many other things have taken place. Even then, it will take at least one year to make the NCLT effective and take care of these cases. My friend, Shri Muniappa just now mentioned to me that BGML of Karnataka has not given two years salary to the workers. So, the case of Shri Muniappa is that two years salary has not been given and VRS has been implemented. But you have not paid the money and they cannot go out. The High Court has passed the order and you have not complied or obeyed it. So, it has not been implemented. Fifty people of that company have died. It is one of the old gold mines which we have in India.

Now, what is going to be the situation? One year or whatever time necessary will be taken for the formulation of the proposed NCLT and then, how many months will it take to transfer all the cases? During this period, the workers are deprived even of their daily bread. The same is the case with Dunlop Company. At a particular point of time, Dunlop Company was a very lucrative and prosperous Company. It went sick. I do not want to say that it was made sick. But the result is we are vitally affected by that. The rubber traders of Kerala who have supplied rubber have to wait for their money. They are not getting it. Now, the case of Dunlop is in AAIFR. As the hon. Minister knows, AAIFR has no Members at all. The AAIFR has died its natural death few months back. We are not going to revive it. Because of this Act, again it is going to be abated and it has to be registered. So, my submission to the hon. Minister is, before passing it, a clause has to be brought into this Bill itself so that *suo motu* or automatically those pending cases will get transferred as it is. I urge upon the hon. Minister to take immediate steps for the formulation of NCLT and speed up the cases.

The hon. Minister also said that NCLT has got the powers of the Company Law Board, the powers of the Sick Industries Act and also the powers of the High Court Judge who deals with the company. I agree that three things are joining there. There can be some good things which may happen about it. But the thing is, it is going to get delayed because even now, there are so many cases which the Company Law Board has to deal with. There are so many cases in the High Court which, according to it, will be transferred to the Company Law Board alongwith these cases. As it is, 1498 cases are there. So, how much time will it take to dispose of the cases? My request to the hon. Minister is, when the proposed NCLT would be formed, it should have the safeguard and the time limit by which these cases can be disposed of. As I mentioned to you about Dunlop Company, crores of rupees are to be given to the rubber traders and debtors. I do not mind about debtors. But what about the rubber traders? It is because once it goes to the BIFR, the liquidation process is stopped.

So, liquidation process alone will help the workers to get the money. Even before the case goes to BIFR, workers will be deprived of salary. Once it goes to the BIFR, workers cannot even claim salary. Again they have to wait for liquidation process. I do not know what provision can be made in the Law Board by which workers are paid their salary. As per the old system of law, the Government debts and bank debts get the priority. Workers get only the second preference in getting their salaries and other benefits.

My submission is that a provision should be made in this Act that workers have to be paid their salaries at the first instance itself. When the case goes before the BIFR, it first gives notices. Then it goes through all sorts of rigmarole and all kinds of circuitous ways of doing things like legal proceedings etc. Then they appoint some agency to look into it.

My submission to the hon. Minister is that when an industry becomes sick, when the law applies to that company, and when it goes before the National Company Law Tribunal, the management itself bring in a scheme of revival. Now, it is not there. Their only responsibility is to make a company sick. Then it automatically, as per the present Act, before repealing, goes to the BIFR. Then, it

is the job of the BIFR to find out an agency which would bring in a revival package. They have to submit the revival package, bankers should agree to it, all the debtors or creditors should also agree to it, etc. Then the management has nothing to do. I do not want to go into all those details because of the paucity of time. Five thousand and odd private companies have gone before BIFR. We have to make a study of these companies. They all have become NPAs. These people get a lot of money from the banks either with the knowledge and the connivance of the managers or due to their innocence. Money is siphoned off in many ways and finally the company is made sick.

There should be a distinction between private sector companies and public sector companies. In the case of private sector companies, the management should be liable for making it a sick company. Now, once the company becomes sick, they are not answerable for anything. It is the Company Law Board that has to look into that. They will bring a scheme and the scheme is that for creditor this much money is written off, workers may forego six months' or one year salary, electricity charges are to be paid, etc. That situation has to go. Managements of private sector companies should be made answerable to the Tribunal as to how it happened like that, who siphoned off the money, what is the reason for that, etc.

Then, I come to the public sector. That is in the most pitiable situation. In the case of public sector, the Government itself can take a decision. I do not want to go into the controversy of Ministers interfering in the functioning of public sector undertakings, like asking money or other favours. Everybody is silent about it.

I do not know whether it has happened or not, but the names of some Ministers also came up in the newspapers. But one thing is definite. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Later on, an apology was also printed by the newspapers.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Yes, an apology was also printed by the newspapers. I am not going into it. That is all politics. But one thing is definite. Due to political intervention, which has become the order of the day, two things happen. One,

the managers are not taking any action and, two, sufficient money is not given to the public sector industries. I very seriously accuse this Government of killing all the public sector industries, somehow or the other.

The most important thing of globalisation is competition. For competition, it is the decision that is most important. What is the decision that is to be taken is most important. What happens is that a Joint Secretary will put a spoke in its wheel. No Managing Director, however strong, influential and efficient he may be, can take any decision because it has to come to Delhi. For everything, the Central Government has to vet it, a Joint Secretary has to vet it. I do not say that the Ministers are responsible.

Take the example of my State of Kerala. The FACT is the mother industry of Kerala functioning from 1946. Even before our Independence, it was started, it was functioning very well till three years ago. It was making a lot of profits. Now it incurs loss. Then, on 25th or 26th, a meeting has been convened to decide whether it should be referred to the BIFR by reporting the financial situation of the company. What is the reason? The FACT has requested for Rs. 360 crore from the Central Government. The Central Government says that some concessions are to be given by the State Government regarding electricity, sales tax, etc. The State Government says that so long as the Central Government retains it in the public sector, it is ready to give the concessions. But no decision is taken. The State Government is ready to do it.

A VRS was formulated by the company. It is before the Government. Money has to be given by the Government because it is the Government's child. But no decision has been taken so far. In a business world, whether it is public sector or private sector, if you have to compete in the world, you have to take decisions quickly and pass on them to the concerned. None of the public sector industries in this country can take a decision independently. I do not want to go into so many details that are available. So, my plea to the Government is that first of all the Government should allow the public sector industries to function. I know

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Shri Arun Shourie has categorised the companies. According to that, certain companies cannot be revived; certain companies can be revived and certain companies are running well. Companies which can be revived should be revived immediately by pumping money into them or providing sufficient personnel without loss of time so that they cannot become sick.

The point is that once a company becomes sick, however much you may struggle with it, it will be difficult to revive. It will dance to the tunes of the powers that be. My submission is that the public sector industries and the private sector industries, before going sick, should be segregated and viewed differently. So, as far as possible, the public sector industries should not be made sick. Quick decisions should be taken. They should be made possible to work properly.

Now, I come to the abated cases. If the Government is not coming up with any amendment to this present Bill before this august House to register the pending cases with the National Company Law Tribunal, at least, when the units are transferred, the dues of the workers should be taken care of. I know that in the papers it can be taken care of. My submission is that by some provision, the salaries and allowances of the workers are to be paid by the management or by any agency immediately before going into it.

Sir, this can be paid because it is public money and provident fund and ESI dues may also be paid, but the Government should not deprive workers of their daily bread and butter. The Government can pass this Bill and then say that the company has been referred to the BIFR. But what will happen to workers? When we pass a Bill in this House, the Government and this august House should think about the welfare of workers. Instead of thinking about workers' welfare, we are thinking about the credit and Government dues. So, my submission to the hon. Minister is that in the abated cases and also in future cases, the interests of workers should be safeguarded by making a special provision in the rules of the National Company Law Tribunal or through some other agency.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I know I am taking time. But I will conclude soon.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is one more speaker from your party who wants to speak on this Bill. So, please conclude soon.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I know you are gazing at me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am not gazing at you. You can take the entire time allotted to your party, but the other speaker will not be able to speak in this debate.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, four hours have been allotted for this debate. Kindly allow me one minute more.

Sir, there should be some finality with regard to the cases which are dealt with by the National Company Law Tribunal. I know the NCLT has got powers of the High Court and it deals with Company Law. But there can also be an ingenious way of taking it again to the High Court. I do not know whether the President of India has given his assent to that Bill. So, when rules are framed for the functioning of the National Company Law Tribunal, there should be some finality to such cases.

I would submit to the hon. Minister that he need not wait for the proposed NCLT to come into shape and then take these cases before that body. I would request the Minister to take these things into consideration and then bring the Bill before the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I want to congratulate hon'ble Minister of Finance for bringing this Bill. Since the day Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji has taken over charge of this country, revolutionary laws have been enacted one after another during the last five years which are likely to bring revolutionary changes in the economy of the country.

Our hon'ble President Abdul Kalam ji and our Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji have dreamt of making

India a developed country by the year 2020. Such Acts would prove to be very useful for us to achieve that goal. Today we are happy that mid-term-appraisal conducted in the country has shown our GDP to be at 7 per cent. 8 percent growth in Agriculture Sector has been achieved. 6 percent growth has been reported to be in the industrial sector and 7 percent in the service sector. BIFR and Act like SICA enacted in 1985 are also in operation in our country for the last several years. It was expected that this Act would play a vital role in the revival of the sick industries and would yield results in disposal of the liquidation process within the stipulated time. But I am sorry to say whichever cases have been referred to the BIFR, 90 per cent of the cases out of them have remained pending with the Board from 10 to 15 years. When such a long process is adopted, some cases are not likely to reach to their logical end even after 20 to 25 years. The Government of India is of the view that Indian companies should participate in international level competitions and for ensuring their participation in the above competition, what is required is that our sick industries become viable well in time or procedure for their closure should be simplified in a manner that it may not take long time. I want that after the passage of this bill, the persons whosoever are appointed as directors of the Board, they should be qualified C.A., eminent lawyers and company secretaries so that the cases are disposed of at an early date. Two thousand crore rupees of our labourers are involved in such pending cases of sick industries. I want that the cases should be disposed of at an early date so that interests of the working class are protected. There were 2,52,947 sick industries in our country as on 31st March, 2001 out of which 2,49,630 units fall under SSI sector and 3317 units fall under non SSI sector. Approximately 23,656 crore rupees of the banks are involved in these units. As such BIFR is now considered to be the Bureau of Industrial funeral rites. It has become redundant. As such a new legislation should be brought in this regard.

Sir, India has got talents in abundance and people from India have contributed in reviving the long term. Credit Banks of Japan which had become sick. Now these banks

are counted amongst the top banks. When we can display ability to the world, then we can also solve our problems through our ability. I am happy that I.T. industry of our country has exported to the tune of more than 45,000 crore rupees in a year. Similarly there are leading car manufacturing companies like Maruti, Indica and companies like Mosar-Beer has been pushed to the number third position in the world.

15.00 hrs.

The way the electronic industry has become the subject of pride for our country, I wish that with the implementation of this Act, the industries of our country would become viable and they will prove helpful in making the country strong. The Government of India has set up a separate department for development of small scale industries. From that it appears that Ministry would be able to mobilise resources for revival of the sick industries. I would like to ask from the Minister as to why the industries become sick in our country? In this connection I would like to draw attention towards utensil industries located in Jagadari area of my parliamentary constituency. The copper utensils of Jagadari are world famous. But 16 per cent excise duty is charged from this industry whereas on the other hand concession has been given to the SSI Aluminium industry by levying only one per cent excise duty on this industry. Likewise there is a scientific industry and a lamp blown laboratory Glassware industry in Ambala. There are the famous industries of India. The items manufactured by these industries are used in research and development laboratories of the country. Glass items are made by blowing wind from the mouth but huge excise duty is charged on this item. I would request the hon'ble Minister that if he extends concessions on such items, then these SSI units will not become sick and they will help in increasing production in the country.

At the end I support this Bill and thank you very very much for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, this is a repeal statute, repealing something that was in

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

existence long before. Now we all know that the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act was passed in 1985 with a definite purpose. The purpose was to restructure the sick industries. That was the main purpose.

Even if we go through the discussion when SICA was passed in this House, it was suggested from all sides about the deficiency in passing such a legislation. One thing is about the definition of 'sickness'. The Government did not take into consideration the proposals that were brought forward by the Opposition in giving a strict definition with regard to sickness. Unfortunately, the Government took the decision in a hurry without giving a definite understanding about the sickness that was growing in almost all the public sector undertakings. A restrictive definition was given. When SICA was passed, even at the outset, there were apprehensions that the Bill would not be effective. It will not save the sick industries as such. But the Government was not prepared to hear those arguments. They were not prepared to hear the arguments advanced from the Opposition sides for saving the sick industries. The Government was adamant that they have given a very restrictive definition. Now they admit that the definition was restrictive. The Government was helpless in salvaging the sick industries.

Now, they have come with a Statement, let me say, a confession statement as we do in criminal cases. The Central Government has come before this House with a confession Statement. What are the confessions? One is about restrictive definition of sickness and related cognisance thereof. All these things were not new. They were expected. There was an inordinate delay in taking cognisance of the sickness. In spite of the repeated requests from the public sector undertakings, the Government gave a deaf ear to all these developments which are taking place in the sick industry or it was sleeping along. They did not take any action.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It is a very good point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : They were silent and the most important thing is that the BIFR was

constituted 15 years ago and the Bench was never fully constituted, never in the life. Never the BIFR had a case with a full Bench Strength. It will always be left vacant. No decision could be taken when cases are coming before the BIFR because of lack of strength. Who is responsible? It is the workers? I do not say that the workers are not liable. Is the House liable or not? It was the Government's bounden duty to constitute Benches to effectively deal with the cases.

When a case is referred to BIFR, it will last there for long. For the last 15 years still cases are pending without a decision. As was pointed out by Shri Jos, there are about 1498 cases pending before these two tribunals which are constituted under a special Statute. When it is the case with special Statute, what will happen to the ordinary Statute? Special provisions were enunciated in this Statute. Even the name is given as Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act. So, these are special provisions in the Act. Everybody knew that it is a special provision but the special provision was dealt with in a casual way as in any other case where in-built instructions were implemented. The net result is that there is no hearing of the case before BIFR.

Sir, I am sorry to say, can we find out in any industrial nation in the whole world such a lamentable situation as is available in India?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : That is why the amendment is there.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am sorry to say that. They could have done it earlier. I am not finding fault with him, where politicians are also equally liable. I am not finding any fault with the hon. Finance Minister. He is not responsible for this. It is the persons who are governing the country for long before, the persons who are dealing with industries, who are dealing with finance. They are responsible for the catastrophe or for this lamentable situation which has now developed.

So, the BIFR or the AAIFR is the most important thing. But never an attempt was made to constitute it and no case was dealt with it. Now, they say that the corporate sector

failed. It was done with a view to save the corporate sector. But now, they want to change the whole edifice into the private sector. All these things have been thrown away. In the case of BIFR, nothing was done; then about excessive protection to sick industry, under section 22, providing for automatic stay of all proceedings, nothing was done. Everybody know that the court would interfere. Almost, all the proceedings of the BIFR were stayed. We all know that. If any case or any proceeding pending before the BIFR had gone to the court or for a judicial decision, it would get stayed and that stay would be there for years together. Nobody is interested in vacating the stay.

So, the workers were at a loss. The industry could not proceed. The people who are interested in the industry are all in despair. They were rejected. Now, the question is what to do next. This is a special provision. This is the way in which a special statute was implemented in a democratic State. We are bound by the decision of the House to implement a special provision to save the corporate sector. For saving the corporate sector from ruin, this was a special statute enacted by the House with specific provisions, establishment of Tribunal for deciding cases. Nothing was done. There was no revival scheme. Even BIFR had given a revival scheme that was never implemented. Nobody took the initiative of revival structure ordered by BIFR. Nothing was done.

Lastly, even in winding up of sick industries, there was inordinate delay, accruing penal interest. All such things happened on every occasion and the Government was very very sleepy. They did not take any action. Now, they have come with these law for repealing the entire proceedings. The sick industry, as a whole, is to be repealed. When we are discussing the Repeal Bill, what is the situation? Even it is still there. It was reported in the Press that the private sector is allowed even in their service. Indian Airlines and Air India are being put to private sector and private airlines are allowed to operate foreign service and the entire Air India and Indian Airlines will be running at a loss. Even without the risk involved about the national security, nobody is worried about it and a Committee Report is before the Civil Aviation Minister. He has taken

some decisions which have appeared in the Press and there is a very strong criticism with regard to the way these have been implemented.

Then, there is another thing which we all know that when this House was discussing about a resolution with regard to the privatisation of petroleum industries, there were different opinions. We all knew that the nationalisation of petroleum industries was by a statute of this House. A statute was passed by this House. Why? It was because two foreign companies were operating in India at that time. So, to take over the two foreign companies, the Parliament will have to pass a law and we had passed it. In utter disregard of the existing statutory provisions, the Disinvestment Minister had the audacity to proceed with the privatisation of petroleum industries. But, the Supreme Court interfered and gave a direction not to proceed with the privatisation.

In my State, In Kerala also we have a bitter experience. FACT is the oldest industry in Kerala which was found when the King was ruling the country. when Travancore was a kingly State. This industry was established in those old days and it was functioning properly with a profit. But, now, due to reasons beyond their control, the FACT has gone into loss. Why? It is because the High court of Kerala has taken a decision to transfer the plan from Cochin to some other place by investing some Rs. 60 crore or more. It was because of the Court's judgement, the Government did not come to their rescue. The Central Government did not help them. The net result was that FACT ran into loss. Now, they have taken a decision to privatise not because of any workers' strike or not due to lack of work among the workers, nothing of that sort, but it was due to reasons beyond the control of the workers.

It was due to a judicial decision that the biggest industry in Kerala is getting privatised, leading to unemployment of thousands of workers and they are now thrown out of employment. This is the situation that has developed.

We all know that in this sick industry, nothing has been done, the Government did not interfere and the Government

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

did not come to the rescue of the industry. That is the position.

KELTRON, a flourishing industry, is now running in loss and the Government is proposing to privatise it. All these happened because there was the bureaucratic delay, inordinate delay in implementing the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies Act. At last, the Government has come with a proposal to repeal the Act and that also will land in trouble because the consequential provisions are not properly dealt with in the Act. There are questions of gratuity and provident fund. These things have not been properly dealt with in the Repeal Bill. It only says that the Act will be repealed but the consequential provisions are not dealt with. I think, the Government will have to come before the House again with a new statute to legalise the actions that have been taken under the Repeal Act. So, I advise the Government to take abundant caution in dealing with those cases of the workers' dues which are still pending before BIFR and AIFR, and all these will have to be dealt with. There is no proper provision for that. The only provision is that the Government is having a right to make rules and as per rules, things will be done but that is not sufficient. There must be a specific provision in this regard. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please now conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : By the repeal of this Act, what will happen to the workers' benefits that have been accrued? It need not be referred back to the respective Government and it must go to the workers who have held it but there is no such provision to safeguard the interest of the workers.

I request the hon. Minister to see that no worker is losing anything because of the repeal of this Act. Even though the Government could not give them employment, at least they should save them. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, will you now conclude your speech?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : With these words, I conclude.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has come out with this Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Repeal will, 2001.

The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act was enacted in 1985. The main purpose of this Act is to see that the sickness of the industry is reduced and the industry is revived as early as possible. Subsequently, we saw the Board of Industrial Financial Reconstruction in operation. Earlier also, I mentioned that the functions of BIFR were very slow and the decisions were not taken in time. I am not sure how far the Government is serious about the purpose for which it had been introduced.

Enough judges in the Benches have not been appointed and really it has not helped the revival of the industry. But anyhow, the hon. Finance Minister has taken a serious view now and come out with a new National Company Law Tribunal with more powers to see that it acts much faster than BIFR and others. He also made a provision for 10 special Benches to operate quickly.

There must be a special provision for this. A monthly review as to how much action they have taken must be made. The Government should also see whether we can also spread these things to different parts of the country so that it is accessible to various industries which are spread all over the country and also people will have the access to come to them quickly to see that they operate.

Today, in this country, lakhs of industries have become sick units and lakhs of crores of rupees have been locked up, equipment has become idle and many persons have become unemployed.

I can only tell you that the sickness is there not only in this country but in other countries also. The action as to how to avoid the sickness and how fast we can amalgamate and utilise all these things through merger and amalgamation process is very important.

I feel that the main purpose of this Bill is not only to make the provisions, but also it should have a provision so that the institutions should also have experts. The financial institutions and the banks should also follow up and their representatives in these companies should also take more active interest and guide them properly. Then only should they be able to help reduce this sickness because there is no point in bringing it to the doctor when it becomes absolutely sick. At an early stage, if they are able to make provisions and examine them, they can always give proper guidance. Unfortunately, that is not going on. That is why, the hon. Finance Minister should look into this aspect and see that all the financial institutions and banks have experts in various industries in which they are advancing the money. They should also see that money is advanced at the right time and proper guidance is given to them. The guidance of the Government is also required at every stage. The process of liberalisation, anti-dumping and all these things are there on which they have to act. They require proper assistance so that they should be able to help these industries before they become sick.

Earlier we have suggested a number of measures. He should be able to take those things into consideration. The hon. Finance Minister also said that this provision would be able to take care of two important items. The Tribunals will have the right to take action quickly. Also, they have more powers. So, this will reduce the entire process which is presently taking several years. The time taken for winding up the company will be reduced and they should be able to act quickly. The second thing is that stripping of assets of sick companies will be avoided. Since individual affidavits will be filed with the National Company Law Tribunal which will have powers of contempt of Court, there will be an in-built seriousness. The more important thing is that the Fund will be used for interim payment of the dues of workmen of the company which has been declared sick or is under liquidation. It will be used for protection of the assets of sick companies and for revival and rehabilitation of sick companies and industrial undertakings of various categories. So, they should be able to protect those things, but this is not done in the case of BIFR.

I am quite happy that these provisions are made and I hope they will really be serious on these things. They should try to work out the maximum. But I think the term sickness does not include certain small-scale industries and Public Sector Undertakings.

There is also another special assistance Fund, what is called, Rehabilitation and Revival Fund, which, I hope, will be able to help these institutions at the appropriate time so that they should be able to take the action immediately. In any case, I feel that there should be some continuous monitoring both by the financiers, lenders and by the Ministry of Finance. Or, somebody should be able to make a proper monthly or quarterly review and make sure that progress is made.

Then, the Benches should be distributed in different parts of the country. It should not concentrate only in Delhi or in one single place so that it should be accessible to all the people. Then only, it would be easy for them to operate and take all these things into consideration.

There is another thing which Shri Jos mentioned. Before it comes into operation, what will be the action of the BIFR? Is this going to be wound up immediately? Or, will there be some lapse of time? What is the method of operation? Will the existing cases before the BIFR be completed before they are taken into the new system of National Company Law Tribunal? How should this be operated? They should make all the provisions before the Bill is passed. I hope this is what they have to take into consideration. At the time of securitisation in the case of NPA of the banks, we expected that there would be a lot of immediate assistance. Unfortunately, the banks and the financial companies, which have come into operation, do not know how to operate. So, there should be some precaution and caution that they should take. I hope the Finance Minister should take these things into consideration to see that they reduce the sickness. Also, they should take immediate action for amalgamation and rehabilitation. They should give more powers for the banks and the financial institutions to help them operate.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an

[Shri C. Kuppusami]

opportunity to speak on the Sick Industrial companies (Special Provisions) Repeal Bill introduced by the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, this Bill seeks to replace the existing SICA Bill and abolish the BIFR. But there is no provision made as to what would happen after dissolution of these two authorities, namely BIFR and AIFR. Perhaps the Government does not want to take care of sick units. I suppose. Of course, they have mentioned their intention in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that they would bring forward another amending Bill in the Companies Act to take care of rehabilitating sick industrial units. I would request the Government and the hon. Minister of Finance to ponder over why more and more industries are becoming sick. It is because of the liberalisation and globalisation policy adopted by the Government of India and not giving protection to the indigenous industry.

In a welfare state, it is the duty of the Government to see that there is a balanced development and all sections of the people get equitable justice, workers are assured of their fair wages and are not exploited and the economy grows, and that the divide between haves and have-nots is not widened further, rather narrowed down.

The House is well aware that unemployment is growing and a number of industries are getting sick. closed. The workers are not getting their due wages. In Tamil Nadu, there is a classic case of Salem Steel Plant, a unit of SAIL. Because of the wrong management policy, wrong choice of production policy, the SSP which is still now doing very well and doing lot of export orders, is made to suffer. The workers of SSP have done well and because of their commitment and untiring efforts, it was going on profit. However, the Government has decided to sell it off to private people and the workers are now agitating. It was a dream of Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi and it was realised during the tenure of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. I would request the Government to revive this company even at this stage so that the Steel Plant is saved and the interest of worker are protected.

In Tamil Nadu, transport undertakings are giving very good service to the general public; they are also running on profit. But, unfortunately, they are in the process of taking to the path of privatisation by the Tamil Nadu Government. It would be a suicidal attempt on their part, since the general public would be put to a lot of hardships and more than two lakh workmen and their families would be on the street. The general public will be fleeced by the private transport sector, as we have seen in other sectors.

Textile industries and other sick industries also need to be revived. Thousands of textile mills have become sick because of the policy of the Government. Lakhs of workers are rendered jobless. When we declare our country as a welfare State, it is our bounden duty to find out ways and means to revive and rehabilitate the sick units so that the economy grows, all round development takes place and the Government may not be forced to refer sick units to any other authority.

Hence, I request the hon. Minister to Finance to provide enough safeguards to revive the sick units while amending the Companies Act and the rules made thereunder before abolishing BIFR and AIFR.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Deputy Speaker, Sir, the bill aimed at repealing SLCA and dissolving BIFR was first sent to the standing committee before introducing the said Bill here. The committee examined it. Standing Committee has not ever been able to come out with a unanimous opinion. A group of Ministers was formed but even in that the labour department opined that they should focus on the employees. Department of industries also had a different opinion and they advocated that the term 'sick industries' should be redefined. Finance department was in favour of diluting the term. There was no unanimity among the group of Ministers and the Government for the sake of their own interest claimed that the definition of sick industries was not clear and this led to problems. The delay was on part of the BIFR. Keeping in view of all reasons, Department of Labour opined that BIFR which was set up after the enactment of the law in

1985 and since then it has so far received more than over four thousand cases but the rehabilitation work could not be found to be satisfactory and at the same it did consume too much time. The policy of dilly dallying was adopted as a result of which 'Justice Bal Krishna Eradi Committee was appointed. After contemplating over the issue it was recommended to do away with SICA and BIFR both and they should be replaced by NCLT by amending the company law.

From the very beginning, we were of the opinion that this law was defective. Doubts were raised from several quarters about the vaibility of the law during the debate held in this regard. The said legislation was bound to fail since the definition of sick industires was itself not appropriate. How a disease can be treated unless the root causes is diagnosed. Generally, if an Industry is closed down following the losses suffered by it, it is understood that the industry is sick. But if such things are done deliberately, it is bound to go sick. After several manipulations, sugar industry lobby succeeded in getting the law enacted in 1985 which was meant to help them and trap the labourers. This is how SICA was implemented. In this way, this law was framed to shield them against laboureres. In the meantime it was observed that the law was not of that much use, as was expected of it and as result of this NCLT Act came into existence in 2001. Thereafter NCLT Act of 2001 was proposed to be amended the but the said proposal remained under the consideration of the committee. Now it has been brought here out the opinion of the committee has not been taken note of.

I would like to say that without industries development cannot thought of because industries also contribute in the GDP. Several reasons have been attributed to the closure of industries like mismanagement, lack of capital, bungling, mismanagment, absence of market and non-availability of raw material. There should be some arrangement so as to avoid closure of the operational mill, country suffers huge losses on account of the closure of the mills. But the worst hit among them are the labourers working in such mills. Labourers frequently resort to agitation but the mill owners close down their mills on various pretexts such as

lay off and lock up. All acts till now have been enacted to serve the interest of the capitalists. That way I do not know as to how NCLT, which is yet to come into existence, will fill the vacuum likely to be created by repealing of SICA and dissolution of BIFR. It will help in reviving the sick mills. Earlier an act was enacted with the purpose of winding up and liquidation. I would like to cite an example. . . .
(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :
He has understood your example. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : How did he get it without hearing the example? There were 15 sugar mills under Sugar Corporation in my constituency in Bihar. Due to the mismanagement, they were in mess. The cost of production of one kg. Sugar worked out at rupees four hundred. In this manner the losses continued to mount and it raised to 600-700 crore rupees. When the workers did not get their wages there they moved the court. The court directed to either restart or wind up the mills or pay the arrears of the labourers. The Government was told that the easiest way was to wind up and without complying with the law in respect of Sugar Corporation, the case was field in the High Court. Now after filing the case in the court, we are interpreting the law. People there who have knowledge of the field tell us that it will take ten years a liquidator of the company would have to be appointed and there would be many other procedural hurdles too. Special judges are appointed. In this way, all old companies and industries are being closed down. I would like to ask as to what would be their fate? Such mills have not been referred to the BIFR. They were not considered under SICA. There are 15 mills in my constituency which are lying closed.

15.37 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

I would like to remind you of the announcement made by the hon. Minister during his budget speech. He had announced that the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Finance would jointly resolve the problems being faced by the sugar industry and propose to formulate a

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

comprehensive scheme for sugar industry. What action has been taken thereon? The most important problem of the sugar industry is that sugar mills are closing in north Bihar. The sugarcane growers who supply their sugarcane to those mills and the labourers engaged therein are calling for mercy. When you made this announcement you kindled high hopes into us that this is certainly going to do something. But we have no knowledge as to what has been done so far in this regard. What provisions were made for the closed sugar mills, whether the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Finance will jointly do something or not, whether anything is going to happen or not and what has been done by you? All this we would like to know.

The people in Bihar are mainly agriculture dependent. Sugar Industry is the only industry there. In days of yore when the country produced nine lakh tonnes of sugar, three lakh tonnes of it was produced only in Bihar. There are sugar mills which were opened in 1930-32 and they are quite old and dilapidated. All these sugar mills have been closed because they were running in loss. Now only the Government of India can do something to revive those mills. Your announcement kindled high hopes into us that this was bound to do something in this regard. I also made correspondence with you in this regard. I also wrote a letter to you on 23.7.2003. Then I also sent a reminder to you. But I got no reply to that. I don't know where that letter has lost. Since you are doing away with Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act (SICA) through this Bill, then the BIFR is going to end, what will happen to the sick or closed industries? What will be their future. NCLT was not constituted yet the legislation was passed. If NCLT is in place it should be done through it. Now how can the 15 sugar mills of Bihar be revived because the sugarcane growers there are demanding nothing other than this. They are demanding that anyhow the sugarmill should be revived. The work force there also demands that the sugar mills be revived. So I would like you to suggest some concrete measures in your speech from which we may derive satisfaction. When we go there we will tell the

farmers and the labourers that the hon. Minister has said such and such thing. Whatever assurance you give or whatever measure you suggest, we will tell them about it. We have been endowed here with the power to speak only. "Ladna bhar mera kaam raha, yeh janata ka sangram raha." We can only fight for it and speak for it. It is the Government, which has to do all this. This is your job. You took into it and find ways to revive the closed sugar mills and also devise ways to formulate a concrete programme to save all the industries of the country from closure. By the way, you are implementing the laws in the reverse gear. The central PSU's were disposed of through disinvestment. The closed industries are not fetching good prices so you are out to sell the profit making companies. Under which law are you doing this? This came in 2001 and it is still where it was. So it would be better if it is revived after NCLT is constituted and you have made an announcement particularly about the closed sugar mills and you have also brought a legislation which will revive the closed industries. So the hon. Minister of Finance may please state something worthwhile so that the people, the farmers could get some relief.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the industrial sickness is a universal phenomenon. Every country has its own laws to tackle this problem. Sickness is due to various reasons. But one of the most important reasons is mismanagement.

In our country, multiple laws and agencies are existing to solve the problem of industrial sickness. Unfortunately, there is no coordination between these agencies and the multiple laws and the Government is giving the conflicting pills.

The passage of the Securitization Bill and the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2000 is, no doubt, monumental as it gives a pendancy rate, but it also embodies lack of clarity on the basic issues as the Government approaches sickness. Of course, the Finance Minister is here. He has been addressing this problem of sickness through various agencies. It is strictly not coming

under his purview, but when we are discussing this repeal Bill, I think, that a serious thought has to be given on this issue also.

The industrial sickness is one of the major reasons for our backwardness. With great ambition, we have passed the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act (SICA) law in 1985 to protect the viable sick units and to revive and rehabilitate the sick units which are viable and also to wind up those sick units which are totally un-viable.

The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) was set up on 12 January 1987 to provide a speedy mechanism for amalgamation, merger and other solutions to revive the units. And the Justice Balakrishna Eradi Commission has rightly pointed out that the BIFR has failed on this issue. It consumed maximum time for resolving or disposing of various un-viable units. Concrete steps were not taken for reviving all these sick units, and speedy action has not been taken by the BIFR. These are the main complaints or the issues before the Government for contemplating, for thinking, and for coming forward with a new legislation. Actually speaking, when we are repealing the SICA, we have to give a serious thought to the industrial sickness also. Will the new agency be able to deliver goods and give proper results?

Even the Standing Committee on Finance had examined this issue. Some Members stated in the dissenting note :

"Strangely enough the SICA has been repealed in the alternative proposal of the Company Law second amendment, even before the Standing Committee on Finance has considered SICA repeal, has expressed its views on this report."

This shows how casually these things are being taken up. The Standing Committee on Finance were yet to express their views, and before that the alternative NLCB was proposed and the Lok Saba had passed it. This is very strange. The Government has not given a serious thought as to how the sick units can be revived. In this respect, I would like to draw the attention of the Finance

Minister, who is here, towards the attitude of the banks. Unfortunately, the banks and the financial institutions are not helping the industry. They are not sincerely attending to these problems.

I can give you so many examples, but I do not want to take much of the time of the House. Honest attempts to save the sinking firms by converting deficit into equity and such other measures are not being taken by the banks and the financial institutions. Whenever we argued before the BIFR Bench for a revival package, the banks and the financial institutions are always coming on the way. For example, in the State of Kerala, take the case of ALIND, an aluminium industry, which was making profits. One of its subsidiaries, the switch Gear Factory in Mannar, which falls in my constituency, is a viable company. It is supplying switches and gears to the Indian Railways. However, in the changed economic atmosphere, this company is finding it very difficult to compete with the multinationals and corporates. When ALIND, as a whole, was referred to the BIFR, we asked the BIFR Bench to separate the Switch Gear Unit, which is a viable unit so that it can be revived. Unfortunately, the banks' consortium and other financial institutions came in the way and they have not allowed any decision to be taken on this. The workers' cooperative society is coming forward to take over this firm. The workers came together, formed a cooperative society and they are ready to take over this firm, but the banks are coming on their way.

As rightly pointed by Shri A.C. Jos, in respect of FACT, the Government of Kerala came forward and said that a cooperative society would be formed and that they were ready to take over FACT. Even then, the banks and other financial institutions are coming in their way and they are not ready to accept any kind of proposal and, as a result, these institutions are becoming more sick. The attitude of the banks and the financial institutions should be changed; viable institutions which can be revived should be helped honestly, which is lacking today.

I urge upon the Finance Minister to take a lenient view on this and see that honest attempts are made so that we can turn the sinking firms into viable units.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

A lot of apprehensions were expressed in various quarters about this NCLT. Some quarters are saying that this is an old wine in a new bottle. BIFR was an ambitious agency and people had a lot of faith in it. A lot of exercises were done. All the data is with us, but I do not want to refer to all that data. Since the expected results were not there, we are now thinking about a new agency, that is, NCLT. I would like to refer to one important thing here, that is, the overburden of cases before these Benches. Why was BIFR not functioning effectively? It is not because of any inefficiency; it is because of the overburden of cases. The number of Benches was less and enough infrastructural facilities were not provided to BIFR. The Chairman of the BIFR appeared before the Standing Committee on Finance and explained these constraints, that is, how he functioned, what were the problems which he faced.

We cannot just ignore these aspects. So, when we are forming another agency, we should provide them with more infrastructural facilities and it should not be overburdened. 10 Benches are not adequate because of the enormous powers and jurisdiction of NCLT, BIFR, AAIFR, Company Law Board, powers of the High Court in relation to the sick companies – all these are coming under the new Agency. That means, this new Agency will be over-burdened. If we are not providing them with more Benches and more infrastructural facilities, after ten years, the Government will again come forward and say that this Agency is not properly functioning and so, we have to replace it. So, I want to caution this Government in this regard.

The question is whether the Government is re-evaluating the whole issue of sickness and rehabilitation from a new angle. One Agency has failed and so, we are coming up with another Agency. This will not help. Total evaluation of the whole issue is needed. The approach of the Government is most important; the approach of the financial institutions is most important. rehabilitation package is most important. Where will we find money? What are the other mechanism which the Government is having for revival and rehabilitation of these units? These are the most important issues to be addressed.

I will conclude in two minutes. There are certain apprehensions regarding workers' interests – how will the interest of the workers be protected? As rightly pointed out by my colleagues Shri Radhakrishnan and Shri Jos, once these units are referred to BIFR, all the benefits enjoyed by the workers will be taken away. In the new dispensation, the new Agency should protect the interests of the workers.

Secondly, speedy implementation of the decisions and speedy disposal of pending cases should be there. Regarding pending cases, the hon. Minister has clarified the position, but it is vague. It should be clarified properly; clarity should be there as to what will happen to the cases which are now pending before the BIFR. It is not the question of registration fees; it is the question of consumption of time and energy. How will we be compensated? How will we help people to make this as a speedy venture?

Revival of these units within the shortest possible time is the cardinal issue which is to be addressed by the Government. Secondly, unfortunately in this august House, the Government is always coming out with amendments to the original Act, but the rules are framed after many months; and because of this, inordinate delay in implementing the Act is very evident.

Already these units did not have anything for months; and the workers were left with nothing for many years. If there is going to be inordinate delay in notifying the rules, proper implementation of the Act and the new Agency will get further delayed. It will be highly detrimental to the interest of the workers, to the interests of the units and to the interests of the public at large.

Thank you very much. With these words I conclude.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to take part in this debate on the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2001.

The Bill seeks to repeal the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. It also envisages dissolution of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction

and Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction and all proceedings pending before BIFR and AAIFR prior to their dissolution shall continue.

It is a welcome Bill. BIFR was constituted for the revival of sick industries. So many years have passed to find out the deficiencies of BIFR. If the Government is going to take so much time just to find out the discrepancies within the BIFR, how are we to revive the sick industries? Whenever a Committee or a Commission is formed, we have to take a lesson from its omission or commission. We have to see what all discrepancies were there and how the people have suffered from that. The sad part of the whole thing is, there is no proper monitoring at the implementation level.

Having said this, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister for the revival of Hindustan Photo Film, Ooty situated in Tamil Nadu. It is situated in a tribal area. It is the only one in Asia and sixth at the international level in having infrastructure and also the manpower to cater to the needs of the poor, downtrodden and common people of this country. Of the products manufactured by the HPF, 60 per cent are being utilised in the medical field. This includes X-Ray films and whole body-scan films of international standards. These films are being utilised for modern medical treatment. The other area to which the HPF is catering to is the Industrial X-Ray and the third area is the Defence. I would like to ask this august House, through you, Sir, whether the House is aware that but for HPF we would not have got victory in the Kargil war. What is the role played by products manufactured by HPF in the Kargil war? The film supplied by the HPF for the aerial survey conducted at the fag end of the Kargil war was an important factor in our success in Kargil.

Will the hon. Minister constitute an interdepartmental Committee consisting of Members from Health, Industry as also Finance and the Members of Parliament to look into this aspect and come to the House with all its deficiencies? Why HPF, having got all the infrastructure facilities and manpower for all these years, was referred to BIFR, which has put it in cold storage? This has resulted in the tribal

people of that area as also the surrounding districts to face a lot of difficulties in earning even their one-day meal.

I would plead, through the House, and urge upon the hon. Minister to look into this aspect. I myself had gone to this factory and had inspected it. I may be allowed to give a copy of my inspection report to the hon. Minister and request him to consider reviving HPF.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, as regards IDPL, are we having something in our mind? After WTO, how are we going to solve the medical problem and the problems being faced by the pharmaceutical industry? Shall we always look upon the foreign countries when we have the manpower as also the human resources? We have this resource at our disposal in IDPL, Chennai. It is the only subsidiary unit. I have pleaded in this House many times that the IDPL unit, Chennai has to be revived because it is facing the consequences of WTO.

As regards Salem Steel Plant, all of us know that it is showing profit. But till now the Government of India has not come forward to extend the financial support to have more profits and also to sort out the unemployment problem.

Last but not least, the sugar industries, not only in Tamil Nadu but also all over India, are facing a lot of problems. The problems are being faced not only by the workers and industrialists but also by the farming community which depend on sugar industry.

I once again plead that for the benefit of the people of Tamil Nadu and the people of India, the hon. Finance Minister has to take the States into confidence before referring the units to BIFR or before putting them in sickness list. I urge upon the Government of India to take the opinion of the State Government before it is finalised.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Sir, I rise to support the Bill because it is a part of the structural reforms. In the present economic scenario, the BIFR or the Sick Industrial Companies Act, which was enacted in 1985, virtually became redundant because from 1985 till the

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

present day, thousands of cases are pending before it. The State which has been the most hard-hit by the delay in BIFR proposals is the State of Orissa. Hundreds of proposals have come of revival of industries which were devastated by the cyclone. Till day, they have not been rehabilitated or re-settled. So, this is a part of structural reforms for the growth of our country which is heading for 7.2 per cent GDP growth. Winding up of BIFR and Sick Industrial Companies Act will definitely hasten the process of rehabilitation and revival of sick industries through National Companies Law Tribunal which has already been enacted under the Companies Act. I presume the Tribunal will be formed shortly.

Therefore, I support this Bill. At the same time, I would like to say that this Government has not been sitting idle. They have created Insolvency Fund with 0.10 per cent contribution for the revival of public sector companies. That means 0.10 per cent on turn over of companies would go as contribution on Insolvency Fund which was never thought of before. It is because from 1985, the Congress Governments were in power. They were full of corruption. During that period, the bodies like BIFR had completely become redundant. They were non-functional. The proposals were pending for years.

Sir, as I am being hastened to conclude my speech, I am stopping here. I support the Bill and I thank you for allowing me to speak.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Sir, I rise to oppose the SICA Repeal Bill. The SICA of 1985 was enacted in the public interest with a view to ensuing timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for speedy determination by a Board of experts for the preventive, remedial and other measures which need to be taken up.

We can say today that its purpose has not been fulfilled. If we look at the statistics we would find that more than a thousand of cases are still pending before the BIFR. At the same time, we may say that there are quite a number of flaws in this. Firstly, there is delay in decision-making.

Secondly, BIFR has, in fact, become the heaven of the defaulting companies and, thirdly, the BIFR has no teeth to enforce its decisions. These are the problems.

Sir, my point is that in the present scenario of economic globalisation, when Indian companies and industries are faced with the threat of becoming sick, would it be right to wind up the BIFR? Rather, we should provide sufficient teeth to the BIFR so that it becomes viable and more effective. The relationship between the Indian companies and the AIFR and BIFR is very significant today. The healthy companies of earlier years have now fallen into bad ways. They urgently require re-structuring to be able to be competitive and withstand the onslaught of the foreign companies. This is the need of the hour. Winding up of the BIFR is not the need of the hour.

I am of the firm opinion that repealing of SICA, 1985 is not warranted at this moment. All that is necessary is that some changes be made so that the misuse of SICA could be stopped. Merely forming a new Tribunal and giving it powers to rescue corporate bodies and winding up with minor cosmetic changes in the provisions of corporate rescue operation is no solution. This is the most important point. This is nothing but old wine in a new bottle. It would be more complicated. NCLT would be burdened with a workload of enormous magnitude. The process is likely to lose focus on revival and rehabilitation of sick industries. It would only focus on rescuing the corporates.

Sir, I oppose this Bill and would like to request the hon. Minister, through you, not to press for passing this Bill. He should concentrate more and more on ways of revival and rehabilitation of the sick Indian companies.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with regard to the bill moved by the hon. Minister I would like to draw his attention towards three or four things. First of all he will have to think as to why indeed the mills become sick. The private organisations which run factories and are engaged in productions are all becoming successful.

All the public sector units are becoming sick. All the mills of the NTC and the BIC in our Uttar Pradesh are becoming sick one by one. It has not become today, it has been continuing for the last 10-15 years. Ten, twelve and fourteen years have lapsed since the NTC and BIC cases were sent to the BIFR but the BIFR has not so far taken any decision regarding the future of those mills while you have been bringing amendment after amendments. I think the Government may not be able to capitalise on these amendments.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has moved an amendment bill, but a greater requirement is that you call a State level meeting in respect not only of Uttar Pradesh but also of every State. The condition of the Government sector may not be so bad in any State as it is in Uttar Pradesh. You may call a meeting of authorities and leaders of trade unions related to all the mills of Uttar Pradesh in Delhi and ask them as to how these mills can be revived. You will keep on making amendments but after five years these mills will remain in the same condition. This is all because the responsibility for all this is not fixed on any authority.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government constituted the BIFR. If their officers and judges are asked as to why they have not been able to decide the future of these mills during the last 12-13 years, they will have no reply. If the officers who have run the mills for 10-15 years are asked as to why they did not modernise the machines, they will have no reply. They have no reply if they are asked as to why they did not try to run those mills as per the market principles. Unless responsibility is not fixed on the officers, you may make any number of Acts, I think the Government are not going to derive any benefit from that so this is my request to the hon. Minister to call a meeting of the officers and the leaders of the trade Unions of all the old mills of the Government sector, the local leaders, public representatives – MPs and MLAs and ask them as to why these mill could not run and how we can revive them. Some proposal should be brought before the Government which they could adopt and practise. This can provide employment to the workers and the sick

industry of the Government sector in the country may get a boost.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members for their valuable contributions that they have made. The interest that they have shown in this debate is indicative of the interest that they have in the industrialisation of the country as also the reasons behind sickness and the various difficulties that we, as a country, face in correcting some of the wrongs that have crept as we have travelled down this path.

The issue was about the repeal. We have been travelling with SICA since 1985.

The repeal itself is in accordance with what the Standing Committee on Finance had recommended. Despite that if hon. Members have shown the interest that they have, I am very grateful to them and I am very grateful for the advice that they have tendered. It has been at two levels. One is understandably and inevitably about State issues because one would utilise such an occasion to advocate parochial or State-interest issues. Thereafter, there are issues dealing directly or specifically with the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Repeal Bill.

Let me first deal with the State level issues. For example, all the Members belonging to Kerala have pointed out to the difficulties of Kerala. It is understandable because here is an opportunity for hon. Members to give voice to the difficulties even though the debate may be on some other subject. Hon. Members know how much I personally have addressed myself to the issues of plantation industry of Kerala. So far as the plantation industry of Kerala is concerned, I am able to now assert that the situation is not as difficult as it was earlier. I will continue to do so. There are some other difficulties with the industrial sector of Kerala. I am attending to it along with the Chief Minister of Kerala. It is not possible for me

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to address each industry cited. I assure you that we will do so.

[Translation]

Hon. Raghuvansh Babu has scolded us a lot on the issue of sugar. Now, we are aware that the taste of sugar has become bitter, especially in Bihar. This is a fact that I had assured this august House that we would make a comprehensive scheme for sugar in consultation with the Minister of Food. That I have made. I am firm on my words. Even, the scheme has been announced. Relief has been given in the scheme. the relief to the southern States has been extended in a way different from that given to the northern States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana. His point was that the relief was not given at all. The Minister of Food hails from his place. He knows him well. He may please ask him. He will have every information.

As far as the issue of revival of closed sugar mills is concerned, the scheme formulated in this regard is in order. Some of the sugar mills are closed in Bihar and some in eastern Uttar Pradesh. We have talked to the Minister of Food on this issue also. He will learn all about the scheme when he talks to the Minister of Food.

[English]

The hon. Member from Tamil Nadu, who is the leader of the AIADMK, spoke particularly of three specific industries of Tamil Nadu. One is Hindustan Photo Films, the other is Salem Steel and the third was about the IDPL. Another Member also spoke about Salem Steel. These are not directly the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance. You will appreciate that they are part of the various other Ministries. I do recognise and take on board that the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had written about the Hindustan Photo Films. It is not necessary for me to go into the antecedents of this Company. But we are endeavouring and we are doing our best to see that these are supported as best as we can under the circumstances. In the case of Salem Steel,

we have supported. With quite a difficulty, we have supported.

In similar fashion, hon. Member Shri B.K. Deo spoke of Orissa and sickness in Orissa. I recognise the difficulties and the Government is attending to them.

[Translation]

Hon. Member has made mention several times about closed cloth mills in Kanpur like British India etc. It is a fact that the industries specially the cloth industry and the leather industry in Kanpur have suffered a down hill trend and faced other difficulties. To this, my submission is that these things are in no way directly related to the Finance Ministry. He should rest assured about it.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Chairman. Sir, I know that the Finance Ministry has no direct interference in the matter of revival of a dozen of closed cloth mills in Kanpur. But I want to bring this to the notice of hon. Finance Minister that whenever we call upon the Minister of Textiles to know if he has any plan to revive a dozen of cloth mills in Kanpur or the closed mills at any other place in the State, he says that hon. Finance Minister does not give us permission, he does not provide us funds then how they can revive these mills.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Finance Ministry is the hub of all activities and that is the big problem with it. Therefore, if you want to pass the buck to anybody, the Finance Ministry comes in handy for that. and I accept it. Now, the last thing is that if funds are required for any plan, the union Government does not have unlimited funds to provide.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister is a very senior leader he has a lot of experience to his credit. I have suggested earlier also that let us call a meeting of the people related to the sick industries, their labourers, their local leaders and also call the Minister of textiles and let us ask all those concerned as to how those closed cloth mills can be revived. If you are convinced, then provide them funds otherwise tell them accordingly.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we shall consider the suggestion of hon. Member, but I want to make one thing clear that it is the textile Ministry only to take any step whatsoever.

[English]

So far as SICA is concerned, the hon. initiator of the debate is unfortunately not here. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister that the Dalmiya Nagar factory, PCCL and Pyrites factories in Bihar are being closed as they are sick, are they doing something for their revival as it is becoming a naxlite belt? In such a situation, all the cement and pyrites factories existing in that belt are forced to close down. Have you thought something for their revival.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : As I have said earlier, the hon. Members are curious to know about specific company situated in a particular constituency. I agree, this is natural, but it is not possible for me to reply to such particular questions while speaking on SICA amendment bill, nor I find it appropriate. I would like to tell them that I would convey their contention to the Ministry concerned and whatever action is possible would be taken.

[English]

The hon. Member Shri A.C. Jos has spoken of FACT. He also said that we have not done anything. Regrettably, he said that we have not done anything. I would like to say that we have accepted the recommendations of the Standing Committee. There are already some amendments in this Bill regarding the registration of abated cases, rehabilitation scheme already approved by the BIFR, the waiver of fees, etc. I will not go into the other details. But very briefly I do wish to say that one of the principle concerns, and understandably again, was about the workers' dues, workers' rights and their interests. Workers' interests have been, I assert this authoritatively, preserved in the NCLT Bill. Section 22 of the SICA was routinely misused for not paying workers' dues. A principal change has taken place. There is no provision in the NCLT now

which is similar, which has the same authority of power as Section 22 of the previous SICA. Apart from this, the NCLT now provides for a Rehabilitation Fund which also can be used for paying of the workers' dues. These are some of the measures that have already been incorporated here. I am sure they will get the hon. Members' approval.

The other query related to the transition process. A number of Members, again quite understandably, said that transition must be quick and the Government must not delay this. Let me clarify this position to you. The pending cases with the BIFR are those where 100 per cent net-worth has been eroded. Under NCLT, even those with 50 per cent erosion of net-worth shall be referred to the Tribunal. Therefore, reference shall be automatic. However, and understandably again, the companies' concerned, the Board of Directors will have to furnish necessary particulars in an application along with their rehabilitation scheme.

Otherwise, there is no fee for registration or anything. This kind of simple activity, you will appreciate, will have to be done.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : That means, they have to apply afresh.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : This is not applying afresh. The company itself will, therefore, have to wait for that. Now, from 100 per cent network, it is becoming 50 per cent network. So, everybody will be equal. But the Board of Directors of the concerned company will have to make an application. This is the rehabilitation scheme, this is what we wish to do and that is perfectly understandable.

Sir, I said that there are 1,569 cases pending with the BIFR. Let me share the anguish of the hon. Members on this aspect. Some of the cases have been pending since 1985-86 in BIFR. That means, these cases have been pending for over 15 years now. The cases have not been disposed of, for whatever reason it may be, and I accept what the hon. Members have said in this regard like, 'I did

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

not appoint Members and Chairman. I have not been in this chair for 15 years; but that is a different matter altogether. Therefore, whatever the reasons, if they have not been able to deal with the cases in 15 years, I do appeal to the hon. Members to have some faith on us. Now, these transitional changes have been made only to overcome the problem of delay and it is our expectation that under NCLT, cases would be disposed of, I believe, within a period of a year or so. In any case, let me also share that the NCLT law would be more effective.

Sir, there is one more aspect and it is that unlike the BIFR, which had only one Board, the NCLT would have one Principal Bench and 10 other Benches in various parts of the country. Apart from that, with improvement and time-bound procedures, I believe that decisions would be quicker. These are some of the principal points that the hon. Members have raised.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Will the judges be appointed in time to the said benches? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : You are right to point out how will the benches be constituted without judges, but I believe, the judges will be available.

[English]

So, with these words, I move that the Bill now meet with the approval of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to repeal the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 4 Consequential Provisions

Amendment made :

Page 2,-

after line 43, insert-

"Provided that a company :-

- (i) in respect of which such appeal or reference or inquiry stand abated under this clause may make a reference under PART VIA of the Companies Act, 1956 within one hundred and eighty days from the commencement of this Act in accordance with the provisions of the companies Act, 1956;
- 1 of 1956
- (ii) which had become a sick industrial company as defined in clause (46AA) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 1956, before the commencement of the Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 2002 may make a reference under PART VIA of the Companies Act, 1956 within one hundred and eighty days from the commencement of the Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 2002 or within sixty days final adoption of accounts after such commencement, whichever is earlier.
- 1 of 1956
- 11 of 2003
- and reference so made shall be dealt in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 :
- 1 of 1956
- Provided further that no fee shall be payable for making such reference under PART VIA of the Companies Act, 1956 by a company whose appeal or reference or inquiry stand abated under this clause :

Provided also that any scheme sanctioned under sub-section (4) or any scheme under implementation under sub-section (12) of section 18 of the repealed enactment shall be deemed to be a scheme sanctioned or under implementation under section 424D of the Companies Act, 1956 and shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions contained in PART VIA of that Act." (3)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 Saving

Amendment made :

Page 3, line 24,—
omit "preparation and" (4)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 Short Title and Commencement

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 4,—
for "2001"
substitute "2003" (2)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clauses 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 1,—
for "Fifty-Second Year"
substitute "Fifty-fourth Year" (1)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*The Enacting Formula, as amended,
was added to the Bill.*

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.33 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF
NATIONAL TAX TRIBUNAL ORDINANCE, 2003
AND
NATIONAL TAX TRIBUNAL BILL, 2003

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we will take up item Nos. 14 and 15 together. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi are not here. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this house disapproves of the National Tax Tribunal Ordinance, 2003 (No. 3 of 2003) promulgated by the President on 16 October, 2003."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to move :*

"That the Bill to provide for the adjudication by the National Tax Tribunal of disputes with respect to levy, assessment, collection and enforcement of direct taxes and also to provide for the adjudication by that Tribunal of disputes with respect to the determination of the rates of duties of customs and central excise on goods and the valuation of goods for the purposes of assessment of such duties as well as in matters relating to levy of tax on service, in pursuance of article 323B of the Constitution and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, there are compelling circumstances and reasons which have motivated me to move this Resolution urging the House to disapprove the National Tax Tribunal Ordinance, 2003. I am sorry to point out that it seems to have become the practice of this Government to circumvent the procedure of the House and rule through Ordinances. I said that the other day. In this particular case, I say it with much greater emphasis.

Sir, as you know, the House has a well established practice now duly fortified by the rules that all the substantive Bills go to the Standing Committees to enable the Standing Committees to discuss those Bills at length. There, we sit in the Standing Committee, discuss the matter, cutting across party lines, deliberate upon the clauses of the Bill, the wordings of the provisions of the Bill and then talk to other people, the stake holders, persons concerned with the subject and then come to a

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

decision and report that to the Parliament through a Report. Thereafter, based on the recommendations or the amendments suggested by the Standing Committee, the House deliberates thereon and takes the final decision.

Sir, that is – I am sure, the hon. Minister would also agree with me – the practice. The only deviation is, and that has also been accepted by this House, where the Government says that the Bill is just of a very casual nature, only a small amendment here and small amendment there is called for and if the Bills were to be referred to the Standing Committees much time would be taken therein and that might, in fact, frustrate the very objective of the Bill. We have accepted that position and taken up for discussion various Bills here though, strictly speaking, even those Bills should have gone to the Standing Committees.

Now, in this particular case, this is a new Bill, introducing a new concept, wanting to introduce a new forum for decision of matters relating to taxes, all the disputes relating to taxes. Earlier after the decision of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal etc., the appeals would go to the High Court. Now that provision of appealing to the High Court is being sought to be substituted by the National Tax Tribunal, a very substantive change in the law followed till this date.

Please see the statement explaining the circumstances which had necessitated legislation by the National Tax Tribunal Ordinance, which has to be the rarest of rare routes to be followed by the Government. Here casually they are doing it. There is a three-para Statement giving the reasons where the Chowksi Committee and the Law Commission of India had recommended the setting up of tax courts, which they feel, with all the trappings of the court, would again delay the matter, therefore, the Tribunal, under article 323 (B).

Having said that, now, see the last para, only three lines. Please permit me to quote that.

"As huge revenue is blocked in litigation because of pendency of appeal and references is before the

High Court, which has adverse impact on the national economy, immediate action was taken."

Now, they are arrogating to themselves the power that way :

"Immediate action was taken by promulgating the National Tax Tribunal Ordinance, 2003 so that the said Tribunal is established at the earliest to take up pending matters before the High Courts".

Have they set up the courts? Have they set up the Tribunal within this period? If the Tribunal has been set up, which are the cases which have been referred to the Tribunal? If the cases have been referred to the Tribunal, what is the number of cases which the Tribunal has decided during this period since the day this Ordinance was passed? What for was this Ordinance promulgated? With utmost respect, going all the way out to assure the House, to assure the hon. Minister that we mean to assist the Government in passing the law, but at the same time, the due procedure has to be followed.

Sir, sitting here, I was reading the Bill. With all respect to the people who have taken pains to draft this. I find mistakes in the Bill, mistakes of drafting, of language also in this Bill. Now, we will just discuss it in half an hour or one hour and this Bill will be passed. I would urge that this matter should not be taken up and it should be deferred and this matter should go to the Business Advisory Committee. In the Business Advisory Committee, we should discuss this matter. Heavens are not going to fall if this Ordinance lapses. Often we find this argument from the Government, 'Oh, this is a constitutional provision. If this Bill is not passed in so many days, it would lapse.' Nothing is going to happen if this Bill lapses.

Sir, I would urge with all humility that this matter should not be taken up, and this Ordinance should be allowed to lapse. The Bill may be introduced. The Bill should go to the Standing Committee on Finance for discussion at length, and then only the Bill should be passed. That is the way the Parliament should function. We should not rush through provisions like this where the jurisdiction of the High Court is being ousted for the sake of tribunals. I am

not expressing my opinion on the merits, I am saying about the procedure. This is undue, indecent haste which this Government is showing in this matter and this Bill should not be taken up for consideration. I oppose the Ordinance.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : As has been rightly shown by hon. Shri Bansal, this is a new Bill which proposes to set up a National Tax Tribunal, in order to hand over the cases that are pending before the hon. High Courts to this Tribunal. The number of the cases which are pending before the High Courts has increased like anything and the disposal are only very little compared to the number of. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Please tell us what have you done after 16th of October? What was the urgency?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Let me complete first. I am coming to the urgency.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him complete.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : You do not have any urgency. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I am coming to the urgency. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : You have slept over this matter for five years. What is the urgency that it has crept up immediately?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bansal, you are a senior Member. Please take your seat.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Then you might have slept because in 1992 itself there was a report. It appears that people might have slept in this case. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : 1992 is about 10 years back.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I am just suggesting that the number of disposal was too low when compared to the

[Shri P.C. thomas]

number of cases which is getting into the pendency list and even one-fifth of the cases were not being disposed of. As on 1.4.2002, about 28,095 cases were pending whereas the disposal was only 6015. This is a very grave issue. Now, the point is that many of the cases are of big amounts belonging to big companies and big parties and those are getting stayed and the huge amounts which are not coming to the exchequer, to the Revenue Department that has been the cause, and that has been the concern of the Finance Ministry. The Finance Ministry has reported again and again that immediately some action has to be taken and the tribunal has to be formed. Sir, it has been found that since huge amounts have been brought. . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I am sorry for the interruption. Kindly yield for a moment.

Sir, I am saying for the purpose of this Resolution. What was the urgency? This is on the merits. I will not dispute that. Maybe if I were to speak, I would participate in the discussion, maybe I would even welcome the setting up the tribunals. I am on a different point. Do you want the Parliament to deliberated on the Bills dispassionately at length or do you just want to rush through the Bill? As far as bringing in a Bill replacing an Ordinance is concerned, this point you have mentioned in the Business Advisory Committee not once, but a number of times. It is because you cite the Constitutional provision. Here I would only like to know from you one thing. The Ordinance was issued on 16th October. What have you done from 16th October to this date? Please tell us.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I will come to that.

The main concern of the Government is that the revenue was getting Blocked and the national economy was being affected. Sir, my learned friend said that what action was taken thereafter; and what was the intention of the Government in order to malign the Government. I would like to say that there was no specific intention here.

Sir, every action has been taken to implement the law, and the matter was under process. But, it is a fact that

several cases were filed and there has been a stay also. The stay orders were also there.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : He said that I was maligning the Government. He said this. I do not wish to malign the Government but I wish to enquire from him again, has the Tribunal been set up.

Please say 'yes' or 'no'. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : That is what I am saying. You please have the patience. Shri Bansal knows that the National Tax Tribunal has not been formed yet and I do not dispute that. I was saying that when steps were being taken, several cases were filed against the implementation of the Ordinance itself and stay orders were given by several High Courts. That also is pending. So, the Government had some difficulty in setting up the Courts in between. That is what I was trying to impress. It cannot be said that the Government was not acting upon the urgency. Though steps were being taken, it is true that the final setting up of the Tribunal is yet to take place.

Now, Sir, a lot of actions have to be taken. It is not just immediately that the Tribunals can be formed. The actions are on the way. It cannot be said that the Government has taken no steps so far.

Sir, it has also been pointed out that the Business Advisory Committee should again meet. This has been taken up with the Business Advisory Committee. It is the Business Advisory Committee which has allotted the time. I think, we can take full time, and if more time is necessary, that also can be requested and it is for the Members to decide.

Sir, at this stage, we have to see how fast we can set up the courts. We also have to see that the interest of the Legislature in discussing the matter at length is not forfeited in any way. So many infrastructural arrangements have to be made. Even if the Bill is passed, it is not that immediately on the next day, the Tribunal will be formed.

Sir, this Bill envisages about setting up of 25 Benches, 15 plus 10, in the Direct Tax Section. All these Benches are also to be formed. All the cases are already standing

transferred. My learned friend was asking as to how many cases have been transferred. As far as the Ordinance is concerned, the day when the Ordinance is implemented, it stands transferred. That is how we have to legislate and it has to be implemented.

The intention of the Government is not to see in any way that it is not sent to the Committee for further discussion or it is not sent for further discussion in this House. I think, the Bill can be discussed at length and I would plead that. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : The hon. Minister, in fact, has fortified my argument by saying that after the passage of the Bill or issue of the Ordinance, it takes a lot of time to set up 25 Benches, infrastructural facilities, etc. That rather fortifies my argument. Where was that plea? Between 16th October and this date, there is period of two months. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : That cannot be sought. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Why was then the procedure of Parliament circumvented? When I say 'Parliament', I mean 'Standing Committees of Parliament'. Why are those Standing Committees being bypassed in this House? Is this the way the Government is going to follow?

Sir, I say, with all humility, that this is a matter, where if the High Court or the Supreme Court – I was not aware of that, that there is a stay – stayed the matter, after all, they would have applied their mind to it. If nothing has happened during this period and if this Bill were to go to the Standing Committee, nothing could happen whatever. Sir, I suggest, with all humility, that this Bill should go to the Standing Committee. . . .*(Interruptions)* The Government should not stand on prestige. Nothing is going to happen if this Ordinance lapses. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to add one more point. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the hon. Minister complete.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, about 12 cases have been filed. It is a fact that anybody can file a case, especially those who may be affected, those who want more time to have their amounts to be stayed for a further time and others might have gone for cases, and we cannot stop them from going for cases. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Include a new provision for tax. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bansal, please take your seat. Let the hon. Minister complete.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : So, I would think that the matter is well-explained, though there is no intention, of course, on the part of the Government to stand in the way of sending it to any Committee. . . .*(Interruptions)* That is true.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, you may kindly refer it to the Speaker. Do not take it up today. . . .*(Interruptions)* Kindly refer it to the Speaker and leave the decision to the Speaker.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : They should look in themselves when they were in power, how many Bills they had referred to the Standing Committee. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. Let him complete.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Therefore, I would request that the hon. Member may kindly either withdraw the objections at this stage, or I would request that the House may be pleased to take up the Bill for consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motions moved :

"That this house disapproves of the National Tax Tribunal Ordinance, 2003 (No. 3 of 2003) promulgated by the President on 16 October, 2003."

"That the Bill to provide for the adjudication by the National Tax Tribunal of disputes with respect to levy,

assessment, collection and enforcement of direct taxes and also to provide for the adjudication by that Tribunal of disputes with respect to the determination of the rates of duties of customs and central excise on goods and the valuation of goods for the purposes of assessment of such duties as well as in matters relating to levy of tax on service, in pursuance of article 323B of the Constitution and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know that right now a Repeal Bill has been discussed and passed. If that Repeal Bill had gone to the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee would have spent enough time. All the Standing Committees of this Parliament are spending enough time and they are going into the details of every Bill which is referred to them. This is not an amendment Bill. This is an original Bill. This original Bill has to go to the Standing Committee. Otherwise, what is the need for the Standing Committee? A Repeal Bill had gone to the Standing Committee. It was discussed threadbare and the suggestions were given to the Government. Some of the suggestions were approved by the Finance Minister.

As Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal rightly pointed out, this is a Bill which is going to have far-reaching implications in the society. This is an original Bill. How can the Speaker allow them to introduce this Bill? This is an Ordinance replacing Bill. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : You can not challenge the rights of hon. Speaker. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I will take one more minute. This Government is making the Parliament a rubber stamp. All the Ordinances are coming. This is an original Bill. This is defeating the spirit of the Standing Committee. So, I urge upon you Sir, kindly refer this original Bill to the Standing Committee so that the Standing

Committee can examine, scrutinise the Bill and give its suggestions. That is my humble request.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : It is just a matter of one hour. It is 5 p.m. now. Kindly adjourn the House today. This matter may be taken up tomorrow. You may refer it to the hon. Speaker, Let a decision be taken on this. We will see tomorrow what we can do with this.

If that is not being done, then I raise the question of quorum. We are serious about this matter. Sir, please ask for the quorum. They are rushing through the Bill with only five Members sitting on their side. Sir, if you are not adjourning the House, then I insist on quorum. They want the Bill to be rushed through with five Members sitting.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Yes, Sir, we are demanding quorum.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The bell is being rung—

Now, there is a quorum. The hon. Member. Shri Ramesh Chennithala may speak now.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : We are requesting the Government, through you, that in all good practices, it should be sent to the Standing Committee because this is the usual practice. This is an original Bill. Otherwise, please refer this Bill to the hon. Speaker. Let the hon. Speaker go into the details and examine the merit of the Bill. Let him kindly take a decision on this Bill. You can take the other item. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : When Ordinance has been presented for ratification by the Government and entire situation has been explained then you should begin the discussion on this subject. Hon. Chennithala ji is requested to start his speech. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rasa Singhji, you may start.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heartily welcome and support the National Tax Tribunal Bill, 2003 introduced by the Government. Hon. Chairman, Sir, just now the Congress Members objecting to the

Government as to why an Ordinance was promulgated, I would ask them to peep into their conscience and explain that when they were in power how many times did they resort to promulgating ordinances. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan's name is there in the list. He should be given the first opportunity. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : One Member has already moved the Resolution. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal has moved the Resolution.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Resolution has already been moved.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : We need funds since revenue is being adversely affected and several schemes need to be implemented and the expectation of hon. Members are to be fulfilled. Where from will the money come into Government exchequer? It will come from the revenue. . . .(Interruptions) When campaign for the recovery of direct taxes or indirect taxes, excise duty or customs duty, income tax or service tax used to be launched, the parties used to move the Court. As it is the High Courts are already so over burdened with other cases that they have little time for the cases relating to revenue, taxes and finance and the procedure is so lengthy that the Government is unable to achieve the set targets and revenue collection is hindered. To remedy this situation the Government has. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : What is he speaking on?

MR. CHAIRMAN : On the Bill.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan is one of the Members who have to move the Resolution. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Both the Bill have been moved.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : What is happening in this House? Is he speaking on the Bill?. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : The Minister has not commended the Bill. How can Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat speak on the Bill?. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : The hon. Minister has to move the Bill. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has already moved the Bill.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I am sorry. We thought that he was speaking on the Resolution. . . .(Interruptions) He cannot speak on the Bill. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has already moved the Bill.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : All the cases are pending in the Court. . . .(Interruptions) All the cases be it regarding finance, taxes will be handed over to the Tribunal for disposal. These cases shall be settled which would enable the flow of revenue into the Government's exchequer.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, they want to save the big companies. . . .(Interruptions) These people are not able to digest the revamped economy, the growing forex reserves which has all been the result of the efforts of NDA Government.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are setting a wrong precedence. Please stop him. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : Sir, what is going on here?. . . .(Interruptions) You have called Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. . . .(Interruptions) The Bill has not been moved for consideration.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : No, Sir; how can he continue to speak? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, he is speaking on the Bill. We were speaking on the Resolution. . . . (Interruptions) You asked him to speak on the Bill. . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, the hon. Minister did not move the Bill for consideration. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, please stop him from speaking. . . . (Interruptions) I am sorry, Sir. Please stop him. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Sir, it is not correct. . . . (Interruptions) It is not the way. . . . (Interruptions)

17.01 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and some hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats first.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may go back to your seats and then speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are ready to listen to you. Please go back to your seats first.

17.02 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and some other hon'ble Members went back to their seats)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am giving the floor to Shri Shivraj Patil. Let us hear him.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister has already moved it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sir, we very strongly oppose to the promulgation of this Ordinance. This should be taken note of by the Government. We have objected to the Ordinance moved by the Government a few days before. In Committees also we have taken objection to it. Now, this Bill is a very important piece of legislation. This Bill was introduced in the House. It was suggested that it should go to the Standing Committee. Why should it go to the Standing Committee? It is because in the Standing Committee, those who have the knowledge of these kinds of things, without following the directions given by their Parties in majority of the cases, could come to the correct conclusions and then a report could have been given to this House.

Hon. Speakers from time to time in this House have ruled that any Bill which is introduced here has to go to the Standing Committee unless and until it is approved by this House that without going to the Standing Committee it should be passed. In order not to see that this requirement of referring this Bill to the Standing Committee, if the Government has issued the Ordinance and has come before this House, it is a colourable exercise of the executive powers by the Government.

It is denying the opportunity to this Legislature to look into the minute details of the provisions of the Bill in the Committee and in this House. Now, this kind of exercise of the Executive power is suggesting to this House that you may be sitting in the Legislature, but we will use the provisions in the Constitution in such a fashion that your right to hold us accountable does not hold us accountable at all. Should it be allowed? This is not an easy piece of legislation. This is not a Bill with one or two clauses. This

is not a technical Bill. This is the original Bill. This original Bill is ousting the jurisdiction of the established judiciary in the country.

Sir, a Bill of this nature, which ousts the ordinary jurisdiction of the judiciary in the country, has implications and it is provided in the Constitution of India that this kind of a Bill can not only be passed by Parliament, but it has to be passed by the State Legislatures also. The constitutional provisions are there. You are not taking any step here, but you are coming to the House through the Ordinance route. This is not acceptable. The Anti-Defection law was passed by this House, without its going to the State Legislatures. When the Anti-Defection law had said that no other court shall have the jurisdiction to go into the merit of the decision given by the Presiding Officer of this House, it was discussed by the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court said that you are curtailing the jurisdiction of the ordinary judiciary in the country and that is why, that provision is null and void. It was struck down. They were on the verge of striking down the entire Bill as such, but they did not strike down the entire Bill and struck down only that provision in the Bill which said that ordinary judiciary shall not have the jurisdiction. You are providing something of this nature. It has various implications.

What are the reasons given? The reasons given for promulgating this ordinance is that a huge revenue is blocked in litigation because of the pendency of appeals and references before the High Court, which has an adverse impact on the national economy and an immediate action was taken by promulgating the National Tax Tribunal Ordinance, 2003 so that the said tribunal is established at the earliest to take up matters pending before the High Court.

Sir, I charge the Government that this is being done to give relief to the people who have to pay money to the Government. They would like to oust the jurisdiction of the High Courts. They would not establish the tribunals and they will allow those people to continue to use the money which is to be given by them, to the Government. Where there were laws passed to establish the debt tribunals, tribunals have been established, but judges are not

appointed and clerks have not been given. They do not have places to sit and they do not have other wherewithal required to look into the matters, and those tribunals are not functioning. If the matters have to go to such tribunals, it is not the Government which will get revenue; it will be those people, who do not want to pay the taxes to the Government, who will get relief.

You, sitting there, ask us to act as Opposition Members. Now, we would like to act as Opposition Members. This legislation will not go in this way. You shall have to send it to the Standing Committee. We will not allow it to be passed in this fashion. What is the difficulty? You are saying that the taxes are not being recovered. For how many years the taxes are paid. Arrears are there for 20 years and more. One month's period would not have created any difficulty. You are playing tricks with the Legislature; you are playing tricks with yourself; and you are playing tricks with the judiciary. These kinds of things cannot be allowed. We will not allow.

Sir, if you are not in a position to give the judgement – I do not doubt your authority to give the judgement – as a Member sitting as a Chairman of this House and feel little hesitant, let the hon. Speaker come. On this point, we are not going to compromise. Let this Bill follow the regular procedure laid down for this purpose.

Sir, I have not done. How many crores of tax arrear are there? There are 80,000 crores of tax arrears. The existing courts are not in a position to recover them and you are again coming to establish the tribunals.

May I tell you, we have to ask questions from the officers of the Finance Ministry as to why the Judges are not appointed to man the tribunals, and so on. We will certainly not allow such tricks until the time we are sitting here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is only one clarification.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I strongly oppose this Ordinance for the simple reason that it will be the blackest day in the history

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

of this House when you are the Chairman. Take it from me. I am saying this because we are now implementing a Constitutional provision by an Ordinance unheard of in the Parliamentary democracy.

Now, what is it? Article 323 B of the Constitution is being implemented by an Ordinance. Have you ever heard of a Constitutional provision being implemented through an Ordinance? I can understand if there is some emergency, an unforeseen circumstance, and because of that an Ordinance provision is used. Only in exceptional cases and in emergency cases it is done, but here is an instance where there is a Constitutional provision pending for long. Article 323 B is there and they want to implement the provision of the Constitution through an Ordinance. They are making a mockery of the Parliamentary democracy.

They are making a committed legislation. The people on the other side may not get the opportunity to express their opinion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. No. You have already made your point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : This is a committed legislation, which is unprecedented and unheard of, and I strongly oppose it because it will be the blackest day in the history of Indian Parliament that we are implementing a Constitutional provision. . . .
(Interruptions) I strongly oppose it.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Shivraj Patil is a Senior Member of this House and is also former Speaker of this House. He is well versed with the rules. The questions raised by him can become topics of a very comprehensive debate. He has put forward his view point on the merit contents of the Bill and has opposed the promulgation of Ordinance. Being an Opposition Member he reserves the right to oppose the Bill. He has

given notice for disapproval and, therefore, he can oppose it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, limiting any observations to the rules of the Bill, through you I would like to tell him that this piece of legislation has been introduced in the form of an ordinary legislation to repeal the Ordinance. As you know it is constitutional compulsion that an Ordinance has to be moved as a Bill within six weeks otherwise it gets lapsed. That is why, this has been introduced during this session as a Bill. If you send this Bill to the Standing Committee instead of passing it then the reason could be. . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Why did you promulgate the Ordinance?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I told you that it is a subject of comprehensive debate but I would like to clarify why we have introduced it as a separate issue.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : You give us a Statement which. . .

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Statement in respect of an Ordinance is laid but today we are in such a position and I shall tell you the reasons for it which have already been explained by the Minister concerned. The Ordinance has been promulgated, why was it promulgated now becomes redundant, that is why as I told you, I would restrict my observations.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : You are answerable to us and to the Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The Minister concerned has explained the urgencies which necessitated the introduction of this Bill. I am only talking about the situation which was created. The ordinance has already been promulgated and the Bill is before you to be passed as

an Act. Now there can be two things either this Bill will become an Act or the promulgated ordinance will lapse within six weeks. . . .(Interruptions) If the Government thought it necessary to promulgate an ordinance there was a compulsion behind it. If they think it should be referred to the standing committee to report on it I think it will not be possible for the committee to report on this within six weeks, nor will it be possible to convene the next session of the parliament within six weeks. It means this ordinance will lapse within six weeks. If the Government consider it necessary then it will want to repromulgate the ordinance. If the ordinance is before the standing committee the question of propriety will be raised as was raised in the case of the Indian Telegaraph amendment Bill as to why the Government repromulgate the ordinance when the same was before the standing committee. They are bringing us into the dock for promulgating this ordinance. If the ordinance is repromulgated after six weeks when it lapses we will be brought into the dock and asked as to why this has been repromulgated when it is already with standing committee. I request you humbly that we should not enter in a discussion as to why this ordinance has been promulgated because the ordinance is before us and it will be better to have a debate on it as per our wisdom after all the standing committee is also a mini-parliament. We should have a discussion on it. They can give their suggestions or they can oppose the provisions of the ordinance wherever they think it proper. We will reply to their queries and we will reply to the arguments which they will put forward. Thereafter we can reach a consensus on it. But if we move it in the form of an ordinary Bill they will say that it should be referred to the standing committee. I do agree that it should be referred to the standing committee. In my briefing I have said about the Bill passed by the cabinet yesterday that we will introduce it in the House and it will be referred to the standing committee.

Sir, all the Bills introduced in the last session were referred to the standing committee before your instructions in this regard. This Bill has been brought in the form of an ordinance and not as an ordinary Bill, and it is because the Government think it proper to bring this in this form. Now if this ordinance lapses we will have to repromulgate

this ordinance unless it is made an Act by the Parliament and this ordinance is before the standing committee a question of propriety will be raised and we don't want to commit that impropriety.

Therefore, I humbly request them to kindly have a discussion on it. They should express their views in this regard or should express their view in this regard or should oppose the provisions of the ordinance they don't like. The hon'ble Minister will reply to every point put forth by them. If they are convinced they will pass it and if not then they will oppose it. If it gets majority support it will be through otherwise this ordinance will lapse and will have to be repromulgated after six weeks and it will be introduced as it is in the Budget session. Shri Patilji you know that the Bill brought in the form of an ordinance is not referred to the standing committee and if it is referred to it we will be committing yet another impropriety.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Members of this House that this Bill should be debated and they may put forth their views in this regard. If it takes more than the time allotted by the Business Advisory Committee it can be extended It should be passed after listening to reply of the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, I would like to say that the Government has committed a mistake and the Government should realise its mistake and rectify the same. The Bill on Reservation for Women was referred to the standing committee and introduced here also. We know that the Members opposed that vehemently and the Government did not try to get that Bill passed. Why did they bring this ordinance. They are saying that they have brought this Bill in the form of an ordinance therefore this House should pass this. If they have brought an ordinance it doesn't mean that this House is bound to pass it. Only that ordinance and Bill can become an Act which is acceptable to all of us.

Sister, I would like to tell you that we are ready to accept any of your right concept but we don't want to fall victim to any misconceptions and/or tricks. I would like to tell you as to what is your intension behind it. It is said :-

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

[English]

"All matters and proceedings pending in appeals and references under the direct tax laws and indirect tax laws before the High Courts shall stand transferred to the National Tax Tribunal on the date on which it is established".

[Translation]

After promulgating the ordinance have you taken any steps to establish the tribunal. How much time do you need to establish it?

[English]

Heavens were not going to fall.

[Translation]

They have an NPA of rupees one lakh crore. How many tribunals have you established in order to recover that NPA. We have asked about this from your officers, from your finance Secretary as to what have they done in this regard but they cannot give any satisfactory reply of our queries and without recovering even a panny of NPA, they are taking away even the jurisdiction of High Courts. They will neither set up tribunal and will continue to allow NPA to remain with them and will also take away the jurisdiction of the High Courts. They are running the Government in this fashion and say that it is an efficient Government and term it a good Governance and say as they have promulgated an ordinance and it has to be passed. If it is not passed.

[English]

Twenty five benches have to be set up. This itself will take time.

[Translation]

If they want to promulgate an ordinance and want to enact a law then they should get prepared for that. The Government should do this preparation. It does not matter

if this law does not take shape. Where these tribunals will be house of which judges will be selected for the tribunals. What sort of provisions will be made because there is no binding of executive powers. It is the matter of delegation of authority only. Whether any prior preparation has been made in this regard? Not at all. They just want to transfer the jurisdiction of the High Courts to this proposed national tribunal. If after establishment of this national tribunal 25 benches are not set up and 25 judges are not appointed what will happen then? I have told it verbally and have written letters of intent and have also stated before the committee but nothing has been done, tribunals have been set up and judges have not been appointed therefor and recovery has not been made at all. Why do they want to make it a prestige issue? If I insist they may come here and let me come to their position and then think. I am not cursing them at all. But I ask them to come here and then think. Then they will definitely not say like this. They are sitting there and say that we are not realising the responsibility of opposition. I would rather say they people do not know how to run the Government while being in ruling side. Should I read out the reason given by them for promulgating this ordinance. The reason they have given is :

[English]

"As huge revenue is blocked in litigation because of pendency of appeals and references before the High Court, which has adverse impact on the national economy, immediate action was taken by promulgating the National Tribunal so that the said Tribunal is established at the earliest to take up pending matters before the High Court."

Is this the urgency? Is this the situation in which you should issue an ordinance? Is this the situation in which such a thing has to be done?

[Translation]

If they understand the provisions and don't use them then we would not say that they do not have any understanding of the Constitution. They are deliberately not using those provisions. We will say that they are inefficient,

they don't know as to what governance is? They don't want to blindfold us and want to establish tribunal to work arbitrarily but we will not allow this to happen till we have the authority. It cannot go like this.

They brought other Bills like IDBI Bill and we cooperated in passing that. They know in what circumstances that bill was passed. They brought it other Bills also. We know as to how they have worked. But we will oppose, wherever we see a trick, we will oppose, wherever we see a colourable exercise. If we fail in understanding your intentions, they will call us fool, but if we give a befitting reply to your tricks, then this will be the duty of the opposition and even if we sit in the treasury benches, we will work in the similar manner. This is a colourable exercise of executive power, you are misusing the provision of the Constitution. You are bringing it here for no reason. We did not use to speak in such a high tone but we are forced to speak, we have to speak at least on the issues of principle. If we do not speak, then you will keep on playing tricks on us but that will not benefit you either. I want to tell you that it is not possible to reduce the NPA by rupees ten thousand crores in a year by passing a Bill and appointing 25 tribunals, if you can do so, I will come and salute you. It is next to impossible. Even the tribunals you have appointed earlier, have not showed any results then how can we expect from these. You want to pass the Bill in such circumstances. I beg your pardon behenji, you should not mind it, but we are not going to cooperate you on this issue. You may take it as our determination and accordingly find some way out, otherwise we are not going to cooperate you on this issue.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : You talk to the hon. Speaker tomorrow as now it is only half an hour left. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the first place I fail to understand as to why Patilji is not speaking in his well known style. This style is quite new to us. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

It does not go with you at all.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : You take that style as our weakness. . . .(Interruptions) You tend to take our sober way of talking as our weakness. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You never used to speak in high pitch. Your speech is more effective when you speak in normal voice. Today your speech is not that effective as you are speaking in a high tone. I would request you with folded hands to stick to your original style howsoever excited you may be. . . .(Interruptions)

SHIR MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : You do not try to cast the spell of your sweet voice. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : His style is very magical. Let that style be intact. . . .(Interruptions) I can not understand as to why this Bill is agitating you so much. . . .(Interruptions) You speak firmly but in the style peculiar to Shivraj Patilji. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Everything proper will be done.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, Madam, you are responding to the style with gracefulness.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say that it is the public to decide as to who will sit in the treasury benches, neither Shivraj Patilji nor me. For years the public mandated to sit them in the treasury benches and for us in the opposition and we honoured the mandate. Now, when the public mandated for us to sit in the treasury benches for five years, then we sat on this side. Now the public will decide as to who will sit on this side, we or any other party. Therefore, we cannot decide as to who will sit on which side. This is a matter of people's mandate. Again, I repeat, I cannot understand as to why you are objecting to the contents of this Bill. You say that the reason given is that.

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

[English]

Huge revenue is blocked.

[Translation]

Is this a less important reason. If, in order to recover that blocked revenue involved in so many cases, yes, this is not happening for the first time that we are taking it out of the jurisdiction of the High Courts. We are only increasing the number of benches, there is nothing new in it. You only established benches out of the jurisdiction of the High Courts. We are increasing the number of benches. . . .(Interruptions) We are not doing anything new. . . .(Interruptions) You are saying in a way as if we have committed a grave sin by taking it out of the (High Court's) jurisdiction. This work of establishing benches and tribunals out of the jurisdiction was begun by your Government. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : We are opposing the procedures. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It was less at that time so there were only four. After that the number increased to six and now it is ten. Now we are increasing it because the NPA is too much. Regarding the Objects and Reasons you are talking about, it is no less important an object for the fulfilment of which we are doing this. Therefore, I want to tell you. . . .(Interruptions)

As regards what we did after the ordinance, there is a long list of that, but it is the jurisdiction of the Minister concerned which I do not want to encroach upon. As Minister of Parliamentary Affairs I am limiting myself only to the rules, otherwise I have got the full list of what have been done after issuing the Ordinance. But it would be better if the Minister concerned makes a reply thereto. So I am saying that we did not sit idle after issuing the ordinance. After issuing the ordinance a number of steps

have been taken to set up the tribunal. The Minister concerned will reply in this regard. You allow a discussion on this Bill.

Let me reply to one thing only. You complained that the Government have said that since we have brought this ordinance it should be passed, but it is not so. Whatever items are listed here, are first decided by the Business Advisory Committee. The Business Advisory Committee has allotted time for it. The contents are fixed by the BAC. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The BAC has fixed the contents?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : They fix the contents, they fix the subject. . . .(Interruptions) You gave an hour. . . .(Interruptions) I am not saying that the BAC allotted time for the discussion, it could have referred it to the Standing Committee. If the BAC allotted time for discussion, I go even further and say that you may extend the time. If you want a long discussion, you may ask for more time but you must discuss it. . . .(Interruptions) You can oppose the Bill through discussion. By opposing the bill you cannot stall the discussion. Shivraj ji, you cannot stall the discussion. You can oppose the bill. . . .(Interruptions) You while in opposition you should play the role of opposition. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Why don't you bring in the Women's Reservation Bill?. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I am saying that you may oppose it. But how can you stall the discussion. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am also telling you that the BAC allotted time for it, put it in the list of business. You allow a discussion. If they have to oppose, they may vote against it. They can defeat it in the division. But they cannot stall the discussion, it cannot be stalled. The BAC has allotted time. You allow the discussion. If the opposition is out to oppose the contents of it, vote against it, let them do so, you should allow the discussion. How can they stall the discussion. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a point of order. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : How is it your point of order?

SHRI SHIVRANJ V. PATIL : You may listen to his point of order after hearing my submission. . . .*(Interruptions)* The Government cannot spend even a single paisa without the approval of this House. The Government cannot spend even a single paisa of tax collection without permission of this House. You want to disinvest public sector undertakings involving thousand crores of rupees without the permission of this House. The Supreme Court in their directive have stated that barring the public sector undertaking which came into being with the sanction of law, the Government can go ahead with the disinvestment process. Here also the efforts should be made to invite capital investment from outside. You have said that court has issued stay orders in the matter of constitution of the tribunal. You are saying that the court have given stay. Even then you are bringing it through ordinance and that too with such a practice that you want to get it passed in a hurry just in four hours. If it goes before the committee, the committee will take ten hours to discuss it, and if it comes to this House where there are around 550 Members, then you want to get it through within four hours and out of four hours half the time will be consumed in the political and other remarks. You are not going to gain much by getting such piece of legislation passed and that too in such a fashion. The treasury is not going to get any money. You will feel satisfied that you have got this bill passed but it is not going to serve any purpose. That is why I am opposing it. You are not listening to my reasoning and that is why we shall have to adopt other course which you want us to adopt. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you want to speak on the point of order.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Yes, Sir. I want to say something under Rule 75(1)(2) and 2(a). Generally what objection is being raised now that should have been raised at the stage of introduction. They did not object at the time of introduction. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : You were not present in the House at that time. I had done that. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : I was not present in the House. Introduction took place earlier. Today the Member incharge has moved the motion to consider it. There is a difference between introduction and consideration. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : By introduction time the House means that the objection should have been raised at the stage of introduction. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I know it. It is an ordinance. They are talking wrong. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : The Bill has been introduced even after the ordinance. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : You tell me when it was introduced.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : I go by what you say. But please listen to the rule which I am reading out.

Rule 75(i) says :

On a motion referred to in rule 74 being made, the principle of the Bill and its provisions may be discussed generally, but the details of the Bill shall not be discussed further than is necessary to explain its principles.

(2) At this stage no amendments to the Bill may be moved, but—

- (a) If the Member in charge moves that the Bill be taken into consideration any Member may move as an amendment that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee of the House, or a Joint Committee of the Houses with the concurrence of the Council, or be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by a date to be specified in the motion;

They have got this opportunity. They may move the motion if they so wish. You may seek the opinion of the House and allow discussion thereon. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is an ordinance. You do not have a point of order on it. When a bill seeking to replace an ordinance is brought, this does not apply on that.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : But this thing applies on the Bill and the Chair has accorded his approval to consider the Bill. The Chair has approved to raise discussion on this bill. And now how it does not apply? . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. You may speak.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I was saying the whole thing about it. I was obeying your order and supporting the bill. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : What are we discussing Sir? . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Please refer to Rule 71. It says :

"Wherever a Bill seeking to replace an Ordinance with or without modification is introduced in the House, there shall be placed before the House along with the Bill a Statement explaining the circumstances which had necessitated immediate legislation by Ordinance."

I emphasise the work, "immediate legislation". Here, that statement does not justify.

[Translation]

He is saying that what the legislation is. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It may be your point of view that it is not justified but the Statement has been

laid and all the procedural formalities have been observed. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister. I request the hon. Minister to give reply to one of my points. I want to know whether they intend to adopt the procedure of the resolution for good so as to byepass the standing Committees.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already raised this point.

SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ : I would like to give reply to his query. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Let me complete my point first. . . .(Interruptions) Thereafter you may promulgate an ordinance on any of the matter; you wish to. You may bring a comprehensive bill and are at liberty not to refer the bill to the Committee on the pretext that an ordinance has already been promulgated on the subject. The exactly is what will happen. We would have agreed if we had been told that it has a special feature and that.

[English]

It requires immediate legislation.

[Translation]

And we have been told here that the ordinance has been promulgated but its implementation has been stayed. Till now, not a single step has been taken in the direction of constituting any of its benches and as has been cautioned by Shri Shivraj Patil that not one, but 25 tribunals would have to be set up and the work may last beyond one year and here they are appealing for early execution of the work and if it is not executed early, heavens may fall and immeasurable loss may occur. We understand that the manner in which this work has been executed amounts to an insult to the Parliament. There is a set way to introduce and pass the bill here under which discussion should be held on it here in thread bare manner and experts should be invited from outside to know their

opinion and thereafter it may be sent to the Committee to elicit their opinion. But if you want to do it in an arbitrary manner, repeal the rules. You were talking of majority. Repeal the rules too. Do away with the standing Committee. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, I am on a point of order. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : First of all, I would like to give reply to the point raised by him. Bansalji has raised two points. First, he read out the rule 71 and then stated that.

[English]

A statement has to be laid. The statement has been laid. . . .(Interruptions) Yes it was requiring immediate legislation. The hon. Member says that it does not justify. This is his point of view but the Government thinks that it is justified. A statement has been laid and all the procedural formalities have been observed.

[Translation]

Secondly, he questioned whether this was the only way and Shivraj ji stated that we did not know governance. He said that although, we were in power but we did not know governance. It is so because we promulgate ordinances, so we do not know Governance. I would like to quote the number of times they promulgated ordinances when they were in power for so many years and the number of times we promulgated ordinances in comparison to it. Let us take an instance of governance. When they were in power in the year 1975 they promulgated 29 ordinances. In 1996. . . .(Interruptions) You may listen to me. If you raise a question on our capability, on our governance you may listen to it as well. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ramesh Chenninthala ji, since you have raised the question, now you must listen to her. Hon. Minister may continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, if question has been raised on our capability to govern that we are ruling by promulgating ordinances and we do not know governance then there is a figure. We came to power in 1998. In 1996, 32 ordinances were promulgated, in the year 1997, 31 ordinances were promulgated when they and their allies were in power. As compared to it, when we came to power in 1998, 20 ordinances were promulgated. Ten ordinances were promulgated when we were in power in 1999, only five ordinances were brought in the year 2000 and 12 ordinances came in the year 2001. You promulgate 29, 32 ordinances and you claim that you know governance while we bring five, ten or 12 ordinances as compared to that and you tell us that we do not know governance. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs be heard. You raised the question, now listen to her.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : We do not know governance, so we must sit in the opposition.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : When one is confronted with truth, one does feel bad. You must have felt bad.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I am referring to Rule 71(2) which says :

"Whenever on Ordinance, which embodies wholly or partly or with modification the provisions of a Bill pending before the House is promulgated a statement explaining the circumstances which had necessitated

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

immediate legislation by Ordinance shall be laid on the Table."

The statement has been laid. Rule 72 talks about the procedure when introduction of a Bill is opposed. There is no specific rule with regard to the opposition to an Ordinance.

17.42 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : You are wrong. There is a provision in the Constitution. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, he is raising a point of order. Let me listen to him.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, my point is that there is no specific provision mentioned in the rule book with regard to the opposition to an Ordinance. Actually, Ordinance and the Bill are just the same. Rule 72 talks about the procedure when introduction of a Bill is opposed. Paragraph 3 of Rule 72 says :

"Provided further that the Speaker shall forthwith put to vote the motion for leave to introduce a Finance Bill or an Appropriate Bill."

Sir, what I mean to say is that if they oppose it, you could put it to vote whether it should be introduced and debated upon or not. So, you should put it to the vote of the House.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, this is the only case, you would permit me to say, where the statement explaining the circumstances which had necessitated legislation does not mention the facts that because these things had happened, the Parliament was not in Session, immediate action had to be taken, otherwise this world have happened, etc. I have seen all the statements and everywhere it is mentioned that since it was to be done but Parliament was not in Session, therefore, the Government was compelled to take this action. This is the

sole case where I find a casual and a very flippant statement where they just say that they have ousted the jurisdiction of the High Court with all the arrogance that the hon. Minister had shown. . . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Was it arrogance?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Please understand what this word means.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I understand it but you have to use the word which should be appropriate.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Well, I think, I do not need really that guidance from you howsoever senior you may be. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : You would have forgotten what you said earlier. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I said what I said because it was said that.

[Translation]

You think as you please, but everything would be done the way we think.

[English]

I would humbly submit that this is the first case where the statement does not refer to the urgency which is why that action had to be taken during the time when the Parliament was not in Session. Invariably, not invariably but always any statement which is laid, talks of that. It would say that it was done because of a certain emergent situation. There is no emergent situation here. This situation has been prevailing over the years. In the statement itself, they say that the number of cases pending in the High Courts are as many as 28,000. This has not suddenly cropped up which require some very immediate action. What we are saying that it is the prerogative of the Government to bring in a piece of legislation, but then that piece of legislation goes to the Standing Committee. . . .(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I was asked to speak. When I spoke for five minutes all these people came in the well.

[*English*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : In the Standing Committee, all these things are discussed. That is what we are saying. We are not saying that you do not have the right to bring forward a Bill.

We are not saying so. We are saying that when the Government brings in original Bills like this, they should not call for the ordinance route. Ordinance route is resorted to when something is emergent and for something that happens overnight. When there is a sudden happening and on that some immediate action is called for as it was in the case of the People Representation Act. The provisions were like that. It was because the Election Commission had suggested something; the officers had to be appointed; the elections were pending and the Parliament would not have met before the elections, therefore, an ordinance was called for. We did not say that it should have gone to the Standing Committee. We have not said that in case of other ordinances. But here is a matter where in the long-term perspective one feels that instead of the High Court, this matter should go to a Tribunal, whatever be our views on that otherwise. That is a matter on which we say that it should not have gone through the route of ordinance, particularly as you have got the lessons yourself when the setting up of the Tribunal had been stayed. There was no action whatever. They have to justify that from the date of promulgation of the ordinance till this date, when the Government has given us this statement, they have done something. All that the hon. Minister of State for Law says is that under the Act all the cases stand transferred. Where have these cases been transferred? The hon. Minister says, 'cases shall stand transferred to the Tribunal on the date the Tribunal is established'. I asked the hon. Minister, before you came to the Chair, one simple question. I asked him to tell us whether the Tribunal has been set up or not. How many benches have been set up? Have the cases

been transferred to that? Have they started dealing with the cases? If nothing like that has happened so far during this period, then that by itself knocks down the argument of the Government that there was some urgency, some immediate need to promulgate an ordinance. If that has not been done, then the Government should not stand on prestige.

Sir, now I would request you, since you, the custodian of the House are here, that this is a matter that should go to the Standing Committee. What would happen? As has been said by the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, the ordinance would lapse. But there will be no loss of face in this case. The Government need not stand on prestige. Had some action been taken, then we would have accepted it. Why should the collective wisdom of the Standing Committee be not applied in discussing the provisions of this Bill? I can point out to you so many errors in this, including grammatical errors. This has been our experience that no Government accepts anything here. Only in the Standing Committees we discuss the provisions of the Bill dispassionately cutting across party lines and we come to a consensus and then recommendations are suggested and the Government for that matter accepts those and then a Bill is brought before the Parliament. We are only wanting that course to be followed. In your absence we had made that submission. We are happy that you are here now before this matter could be disposed of. That is the request we made. This matter is not for the Government to decide. It is the prerogative of the hon. Speaker to refer any Bill to the Standing Committee and nothing is coming in his way, whether it be an ordinance or anything else. You would only have to exercise your discretion keeping in view the circumstances where something of that nature could happen in the meanwhile unless you take action under the ordinance or the law stipulated by the ordinance, some such thing could happen that could lead to an irretrievable situation. That is not the situation here.

Sir, therefore, we urge upon you to exercise your jurisdiction that such original bills that call for a massive change in the existing law should be referred to the

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

Standing Committee. That is the request we are making to you.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going into the details of the Bill. But before I say something on this, I know and as I understand, it has been discussed a number of times in the BAC that all Bills should be sent to the Standing Committee. This point was raised a number of times by Shri Shivraj Patil and generally the Government also has agreed. In the last Business Advisory Committee when it was decided that this particular Bill in the form of an ordinance is to be brought sometimes, I think four hours time was also allotted to this, it was agreed in the BAC. Was it not possible to stop it there only and say that this was not possible? That is the only question that I would like to ask.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I being a Member of the BAC, do not know whether it is competent for me to refer to that here or not. But you would recollect that I raised a general opposition to the ordinance. We did not discuss the contents of this Bill. I hope I am not wrong when I am saying this.

MR. SPEAKER : May not be in details but what the ordinance is, was explained.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, maybe something is lacking in me but it is for the first time I am seeing this Bill today.

We did not discuss the contents of the Bill there. Sir, you would know that time is often marked for many many Bills which do not come up and there have been instances in the past where the Business Advisory Committee had allocated time but when the Bills were taken up for discussion here, there had been demands raised. I raised a demand about one Bill here and it was sent straightaway to the Standing Committee. And after that, during the course of discussion, it has happened on many many occasions that the Bills have gone to the Standing Committee.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Was it an Ordinance?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : No it does not really matter.

[Translation]

Had we gone forward, it would have been difficult to come back. That would have been a different thing. That time Shri Ram Naik ji was not here. I am not saying anything like that. That was the first thing I had asked the Law Minister if anything like that had happened? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : I was here only.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : You should have told the names of the persons. In that case I would not have had any objection. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No cross-talk please because I want to conclude this point.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shivraj Patil, you are also very well aware that as far as possible, in the case of a Bill in the form of an amendment, normally – there are exceptions – it is passed as soon as it comes to the House. It is not referred back again to the Standing Committee normally.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, it is an original Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, this is an original Bill.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : This is not an amendment.

MR. SPEAKER : I know. But this is replacing an Ordinance and in such cases, discussion has taken place in the House. There are a few exceptions.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Let me make a very humble submission. We generally value your views very greatly and, as Members of this House, we are expected to abide by your ruling also. Ordinances are not discussed in the House. In the Business Advisory Committee, we fix the

time. But you know how the time is fixed. I had raised that they wanted to repeal 30 Bills by just passing one Repeal Bill. Is it possible for the Members to have read all the 30 Bills and say 'yes' or 'no'? We wanted to know that kind of Bills are there and read them. As regard this Ordinance also, was it not necessary for the Government to explain that this is an Ordinance and this has to be passed for certain reasons? It was not suggested to us. We were just thinking that it is a routine matter. Moreover, may I submit that in the Business Advisory Committee, we do not consider the contents of the Bill because time is not available. We consider the time, the sequence of the Bill and not the contents of the Bill in the Committee. The contents of the Bill should have been explained to us. It should have been explained that the jurisdiction of the High Court is going to be ousted by passing this Bill. This is a very important matter. May I read out the provisions of the Constitution, specially article 368? . . . (Interruptions)

Sir, there are three methods by which the Constitution is amended. One method is by simple majority when the boundaries and other things have to be changed, the second method is by two-thirds majority, and the third method is by two-thirds majority and ratification. These are the three methods. Now, in which cases two-thirds majority and ratification are required? Whenever we deal with matters relating to Judiciary, whenever the jurisdiction of the High Court or the Supreme Court has to be curtailed or is going to be affected, then it has to go for ratification. Here, in this case, what is the Bill trying to do?

This Bill is saying that the cases which are with the High Courts will be transferred to this Tribunal. This is not an amendment to the Constitution. This is a Bill to make a law. Yet this Bill is trying to oust the jurisdiction of the High Courts. This Bill is trying to transfer the appeal cases from the High Courts to the Tribunal. Previously the Tribunals were there, but the appeals could go to High Courts. But this Bill is saying that the High Courts shall not have the jurisdiction and all the cases will be transferred from the High Courts to the Tribunal. Is it a simple thing? Anything relates to the Executive, anything

relates to the Legislature, anything relates to the Judiciary, there are special provisions as far as the Constitution is concerned. If it were a Constitutional Amendment, it could not have been passed by simple majority and without sending it to the State Legislature. But what could not be done by amending the Constitution by this Parliament, this Parliament is trying to do it by passing the law saying that High Courts shall not entertain these cases and these cases shall go to the National Tax Tribunal. Now, is it not a big thing? Was it discussed in the House? We have not read everything here. The Ordinance was promulgated. The only thing in this case is that the Government has promulgated the Ordinance, so it says that it has to be passed by us. Should the Government stand on prestige? Supposing we have doubts, let them clear the doubts in a proper manner.

If this reasonable argument of ours is not acceptable to the Government, you know that the House is adopting unreasonable methods. When unreasonable methods are adopted, we succumb to it. But when reasonable arguments are advanced, we just brush them aside. Is that a correct thing to do? What is going to happen if this Ordinance is not passed excepting that the prestige of the Government will be dented? They would say that you should have understood the implications of this Bill. It should not have come before the House in the form of an Ordinance and that it should have come before the House in the form of a Bill which you have not done, so we are objecting. Excepting that what is going to happen?

They have to constitute 25 Tribunals. These 25 Tribunals will not be constituted by them within a short period of time. There were debt Tribunals constituted, but they have not appointed judges for those Tribunals, clerks are also not appointed and nothing has happened. How is it urgent? Is it simply because you say that it is urgent we have to accept it? Is saying that there are pendency of cases in the High Courts and one lakh crores of rupees of tax arrears, a logic? For 25 years this could not be done. By issuing the Ordinance you will do it! Is this what we should accept?

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

I am very humbly submitting to you, Sir, that we are subject to your direction, yet in this case we are not going to submit. If we adopt a method which we think is correct in this case, please do not mind.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a detailed discussion has already been held before you assumed the Chair. I would not repeat all these things, I would rather like to put forth only one point. So far as the question of referring the new Bills to the Standing Committee is concerned, the Government is fully agreed to it and is lending full cooperation. You might remember that all the Bills were referred to the Standing Committee last time. Even now all the new Bills would be referred to the Standing Committee. However, there is a difference between the introduction of a normal Bill and the ordinance being brought about here as a Bill. Ordinance is promulgated in case of urgency.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have just heard Shivraj ji's views. He said that there is an NPA of one lakh ten thousand crore rupees. Reducing the piling of cases in High Court and disposing them through 25 tax tribunals is not a small achievement. I fail to understand how they assess it as a small one.

[*English*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : This is playing trick with words.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : This is not for the first time that tribunals have been set up by taking away the jurisdiction of the High Court. Even his party's Government in the past did the same thing in scores of cases. We are not the only exceptions, they have also resorted to issuing ordinances in the past. I have shown him as to how many ordinances have been promulgated and by whom. I have already submitted to you that I do not want to stretch this argument further. I only want to submit to you that the Government have promulgated this ordinance and it has to become an Act within six weeks otherwise it will lapse.

18.00 hrs.

If you want to refer it to the standing Committee neither we will receive its report within six months nor there will be Parliament session before that and the Government will have to repromulgate the ordinance. We have the past experience of Indian Telegraph Bill which was before the Standing Committee and the Government had to repromulgate the ordinance and allegation of impropriety was levelled on the Government. That is why I am repeating it.

[*English*]

There is the collective wisdom of the Standing Committee. Also there is something called the collective wisdom of the House.

[*Translation*]

Now to say that their argument is reasonable and our argument is unreasonable. It is their view but I am of the view that the time allotted for this we can have a discussion on it but if any how it is not possible to complete the discussion on it within the allotted time you can take more time and put forth your view in the collective wisdom of the House. You may say that the Government has done wrong and the tribunal should not be established, NPA's should remain and the cases should remain piled up in the High Courts and within the jurisdiction of the High Courts. You may say whatsoever you want to but you have to take a decision.

[*English*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Is this the way that the Parliamentary Affairs Minister should respond to this issue. . . .(Interruptions) I do not expect this from you, Madam. . . .(Interruptions) If this is your argument, then I will also ask my other friends to argue in the same language in which you do. . . .(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : If he feels that the Government have done the right thing then he should say

so. This is the content of the argument advanced by Shri Shivraj V. Patilji, but I would like to say.

[English]

Well they are within their right to say that.

[Translation]

Tax tribunals should not be set up. . . .(Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : You are drawing this meaning.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It's meaning can be that one can realise the spirit of the Bill. I request you that this Bill is to be made an Act during the current session. If it is not converted into an Act the Government will have to repromulgate it. If it is referred to the standing committee it will lead to a new impropriety. The BAC has even allotted time for it. It should be discussed. You can oppose it if you want to nobody is going to stop you from doing that. It could be that your argument may carry conviction with us and the concerned Minister may agree to that during his course of reply to the debate and he could bring that as an official amendment. The House should have a discussion on it. It can be passed in amended form. If you want to oppose it that is right but it is not right to say that the Bill should be referred to the standing committee.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, you are aware that today there is an important function of Rajya Sabha in the

Central Hall. Therefore, the House has to be adjourned now. We can take it up again tomorrow or whether it comes up for discussion.

Before adjourning the House, there is only one report of the Business Advisory Committee to be presented to the House. May I ask the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to present it?

18.02 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fifty Seventh Report

[Translation]

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I beg to present the 57th Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 12th December, 2003 at 11 a.m.

18.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of
the Clock on 12th December, 2003/
Agrahayana 21, 1925 (Saka)*

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