

LOK SABHA DEBATES'

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, February 20, 2003/Phalgun 1, 1924 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, HPCL and BPCL. . . .(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given the Notice. . . .(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : We have given in writing on disinvestment and you know it well. . . .(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You please resume your seat for a minute.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : We have given you in writing on disinvestment. You know it well that the Minister's reply has created a confusion. It clearly indicates as to how the national interests are being cornered. . . .(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, the proposed disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL is not in the interest of the country nor conducive for country's security. . . .(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I would give you time during Zero Hour. You can raise your point at that time.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, crores of people are in the dark due to Government's policy. Hence the Ministry of Disinvestment be renamed as the Ministry of selling national assets. . . .(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : This issue was discussed yesterday. You very well know that this subject is proposed to be discussed tomorrow also. I would let you raise this subject during Zero Hour. Hence you please resume your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government that the way POTA is being misused. . . .(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIDAZUMMA (Muzaffarnagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, POTA is being misused to exert political pressure.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, POTA is being misused. Yesterday the hon. Home Minister had made a statement in Rajya Sabha. . . .(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I have not accepted your notice of Adjournment Motion. I have rejected it. All Notices of Adjournment Motion have been rejected. I go to the Question Hour now. Question No 41-Shri Ram Mohan Gadde.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would conclude within a minute. I would like to submit that the statement made by the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs yesterday is very disappointing. The Government had promised that POTA won't be misused at any cost. Various Governments have been misusing POTA. And Union Home Minister is asking as to where it is being misused. He has no information about it. Through you, I would like to request that the Government had constituted a Review Committee when TADA was misused. . . .(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not permitting you, I would give you time to raise this subject during Zero Hour. You please resume your seat.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

FDI in Petroleum Sector

+

*41. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

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

(a) whether the Government have taken certain measures to increase foreign direct investment in the petroleum sector;

(b) if so, the extent of present foreign direct investment in the petroleum sector in the country; and

(c) the targets proposed for FDI in Petroleum Sector?

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

Statement

(a) to (c) With a view to attract more foreign direct investment (FDI) into the various areas of petroleum sector, the Government have been liberalizing this sector on an ongoing basis. Important measures taken by the Government in this regard include :

1. Under the New Exploration Policy (NELP) and the Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM), FDI up to 100% has been allowed through international competitive bidding.
2. In petroleum refining sector, in case of private Indian companies, FDI is permitted up to 100%. In case of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), up to 26% FDI is allowed with PSU holding at 26% and Public holding at 48%.
3. For petroleum product pipeline sector, FDI permitted up to 51% .
4. FDI is permitted up to 74% in infrastructure related to marketing and marketing of petroleum products.
5. 100% Wholly Owned Subsidiary(WOS) is permitted for the purpose of market study and formulation.
6. 100% WOS is permitted for investment/financing.
7. For actual trading and marketing, minimum 26% Indian equity is required over 5 years.

During the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), 166 proposals have been approved in petroleum sector with

an estimated FDI of Rs. 23,413.63 crore. There are no specific target for FDI flow into the Petroleum Sector.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that as per the reply to the question asked in regard to the extent of foreign direct investment in Petroleum sector, it has been said that during the Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997-2002) foreign direct investment to the tune of Rs. 23,413.63 crore, has been made and alongwith it. 1666 proposals have been approved in the petroleum sector.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the country has a major shortage of petroleum goods which we import in large quantities on the cost of huge foreign exchange reserves. In report submitted by Shri P. Govindrajan, the Secretary Industry, Government of India, had made several recommendations on introducing reforms and direct foreign investment in this sector. Hon. Minister has not given detailed information in this reply. I would like know from the hon. Minister that last time the Prime Minister had conveyed him though a letter the need to convene a meeting. Hon. Prime Minister was also present in the that meeting alongwith the Finance Minister, Petroleum Minister and other Ministers. The agenda of the meeting included the ways to maximise the foreign direct investment in petroleum sector. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You directly ask your the Question.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important question. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If both Question and the reply are put together then it can be more comprehensive. I request all the hon. Members that the question asked should be precise and reply should also be pointed and precise. All the hon. Members can be benefited from it.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what decision was taken about the foreign direct investment in the meeting convened by the hon. Prime Minister. I would also like to know the names of companies which have been invited for foreign direct investment in the petroleum and natural gas exploration sector and also the names of those companies which have resumed the operation. Further

how many petroleum and natural gas reserves have been identified as a result thereof. I would further like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many companies are domestic and how many foreign companies are operating in this field.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I have already given the required and important information in my written reply, which I would like to just reiterate so that the issue could be understood properly.

On exploration, we now allow 100 per cent foreign direct investment. International bids are invited. Like that, for coal-bed methane, 100 per cent foreign direct investment is invited.

In the last three years, on exploration and production of oil and gas, we have selected 70 blocks and there, the work has already started.

In this regard, the hon. Prime Minister had taken a meeting in which the Petroleum Ministry made a presentation of the work which we are doing on exploration and production. The issue that we should have strategic reserves, which was the earlier idea, was also discussed.

So far as the exploration and production are concerned, everybody was happy that we are going in the right direction for the last three years. In the Ninth Five Year Plan, so far 166 proposals/projects have been approved. The total investment on that account is to the extent of Rs. 23,413 crore. This is the approximate amount of investment.

On exploration, the total investment is about Rs. 11,400 crore. That is how we are working.

Sir, about the total number of foreign companies, in all 14 foreign companies have invested through FDI in India.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : What about the private companies ? . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the supplementary question. I had asked from the hon. Minister the number of domestic and foreign companies, separately

in this field. Hon. Minister had given the information about the foreign companies but not about private companies. I would like to know the extent of gas as also the number of oil reserves identified through FDA and local Indian investment under the surveys conducted in the Ninth Five Year Plan and how much increase is expected in the future ?

Please clarify as to what will be the situation especially in view of the impending Gulf War. Also inform the House as to what arrangements have been made to keep a reserve stock for two months in the country in case there is Gulf war.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Everyone is of the opinion that there should be no war in Iraq. The House also holds the same opinion and efforts are also being made in UNO for the same. However, if any such thing happens I would like to assure the countrymen that we have reserve stock for two months and we have also decided to purchase the oil from those countries which are outside the war zone, in case there is war. If I use English expression, I would like to submit that we have also prepared a contingency plan for this. So there is no need to worry for two months. It is very difficult for me to predict about the fluctuation in the prices of petroleum products as yesterday its price was highest in the international market in the last 29 months. However rise in the price and the availability of products are two different things. I can certainly give you guarantee regarding the availability of the product. As far as your submission regarding the strategic stock is concerned, earlier Engineer's India Limited had prepared a scheme for maintaining strategic store for fifteen days. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : You have not yet replied to part (a) of my question. I had asked as to how much foreign direct investment has been made for the exploration of oil and natural gas and its production ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : I have told you as to how much foreign direct investment is being made. I have also told you regarding the expected private investment in this field. I have the figure regarding the foreign direct investment with me. I can give you the separate details about the number of the companies and the amount of capital invested by them in the country, however, I do not have figures regarding the private companies. I can at

least submit that the Public Sector Undertakings and the private companies of the country are performing well in this sector.

On 3rd February a meeting was held at the Prime Minister's residence where it was decided by us that we should prepare scheme to maintain stock for 45 days. It was also decided in the meeting on that day that a Committee of Secretaries should be set up with a view to seek proper consultation in this regard as soon as possible.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Are you Kirit Somaiya ?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to him. As hon'ble Minister has submitted, it has been observed in FDI approval that

[English]

there is a vast difference between FDI approval and FDI actual.

[Translation]

I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how much is actual and factual investment. How many people have shown interest in marketing segment and how much actual investment was made, how much investment was made in exploration and how much in refinery sector.

[English]

The core sector is marketing. The core sector is exploration and refining.

[Translation]

Along with this I would also like to know whether Indian Companies have so much of capacity as so far as I know only 2-3 Indian Companies are showing interest in petroleum sector. Out of that one is already a defaulter company. I would also like to know from you about the capacity of the Indian companies and their actual status.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though usually there remains a difference between the approval of limit of investment and the actual investment made in any sector, however, in petroleum sector there remains

remarkable difference as survey has to be done to find out the location of oil and natural gas before the actual production. Thereafter bids are invited and the contracts are awarded. After the survey work is completed, actual work or exploration work is started. It also takes two three years. When it is confirmed that certain area has gas or oil then it takes three to four years to start commercial production. So I have told about the number of approvals in Ninth Five Year Plan. It takes five to seven years in actual implementation.

As far the hon'ble Member has asked about the capacity of the Indian Companies, there are not only two or three Indian Companies in this field which are efficient rather many other companies are performing well in this field. They are in public sector also.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Besides public sector which are the Indian companies ? I would like to submit that if you have any information regarding FDI you please tell us. You please also tell us as to what is actual or what is factual in that. Besides this it will be O.K. if you give us information regarding the time of approval and its number later on.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has replied that it takes time.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : It is not the question of technicality or the time. We have knowledge about other fields also. How much time does it take because of the technical reasons.

[English]

Let him pass on the information later on, I do not mind.

MR. SPEAKER : He has given the information that it will take 2-3 years for actual investment to come. What do you want more ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You are so intelligent?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Now the Minister of Railway cannot ask question from me so allow others for the same.

As far as the efficiency of the companies is concerned, they are performing well. It is a fact that it is due to many reasons that the quantum of capital that was expected earlier could not come yet the Indian companies are doing well.

[English]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Thank you. We all know that, as your friend Shri Kirit Somaiya said, oil sector is divided into two areas – exploration and production, refining and marketing. Between the two, exploration and production is the most capital-intensive area. In this, we have ONGC and OIL, the two public sector companies, investing.

ONGC is doing exploration through ONGC Videsh. The exploration rate is high, but the production rate is not high because our production levels are not high as compared to the international standards. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the plans for increasing the amount of reserves in the exploration area and not the production area.

The second part of my question is in the case of ONGC, yesterday the hon. Minister of Disinvestment clearly stated that they are not going to disinvest ONGC. But it is very ironical to see that a statement is being made that ONGC will not be disinvestment and at the same time, a dividend stripping to the extent of Rs 2000 crore from ONGC is being taken to meet the shortfall in the disinvestment target.

Dividend stripping is only done when the return on investment is lower than what the shareholders can earn. Are we saying that ONGC is not being able to earn the rate of return on that investment that the Government is putting? I would like to know the answer from the hon. Minister. Thank you.

SHRI RAM NAIK : ONGC is doing an excellent and a good work. That is why they have got more profits. When they have got more profits, naturally dividend is paid. This year, we have also paid interim dividend and when the interim dividend is paid, the Government is the major shareholder; and so, the Government gets it. So, ONGC is earning profits.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : This is one-time charge of Rs. 2000 crore being taken away from ONGC. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can go ahead with your reply.

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is why, whatever profits ONGC is having, they declared dividend for the benefit of the shareholders. Since ONGC is doing good work, Rs. 2600 crore is the dividend which the Government got. One should be happy about the performance of ONGC.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Nitish Sengupta.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Sir, he is not getting up. Let me put a question. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is a very disciplined hon. Member.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Sir, he is not interested in putting a question. Let me put a question. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : His neighbours should also learn from him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Sengupta, do you not want to put a question?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your question.

(Interruptions)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Yes, I will ask. My question is on the issue of Iraq.

On the issue of Iraq, we had a longstanding arrangement, a triangular arrangement among Iraq, the then Soviet Union or the present Russia, and India, because of which we used to get oil supplies from Iraq, whereas the then Soviet Union or Russia would compensate them from their own stocks. Now, there is a talk of reviving that arrangement. Where does it stand now?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I have said that we have made contingent plans and I hope the House will, at least, excuse me for the time being to keep those contingent plans with me. Otherwise, if we declare from where we are going to bring it, probably the supplies might be disrupted. So, I am assuring the House that there would not be any difficulty. Well contingent plans are prepared and would be executed if there is a war.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sundar Lal Tiwari, question No. 42.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, it is Oil Minister's day today. The second question is also for me.

[Translation]

Construction of Tanks for Storage of Oil

42. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to construct underground tanks to store oil for purpose of maintaining supply of oil in the country in case of emergency;

(b) if so, the time by which, it is likely to be done alongwith storage capacity of the tanks proposed to be constructed; and

(c) the time by which selection of sites for construction of tanks is likely to be completed?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government proposes to build strategic storage of crude oil to provide for 45 days cover in phases. To begin with, detailed feasibility reports for constructing underground strategic storage to provide for 15 days

cover of crude oil requirement have been prepared. The Government would like to complete all the work on these projects speedily. These storages will be in addition to the crude oil and product tankages maintained by the oil companies for their normal business operations.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply of the Minister is not satisfactory. The matter relating to underground storage of crude oil is being discussed since 1995. In 1998 it was decided that if emergency situation or adverse situation arises then in that case there should be underground oil reserve in the country for the security of the country so that there may not be scarcity of oil. Since 1998 now it is 2003 still nothing substantial has been done in this regard and there is inaction on the part of the Government though meanwhile several critical phases like Kargil conflict came before the nation and a war like situation is still prevailing before the country. Anything may happen at any point of time. The Government is well aware of the intention of our neighbouring countries. Still we are not taking any effective steps in this regard. You have not clarified as to when the Government are going to take measures in this regard and when the said task will be completed. . . . (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, through You I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to when the task for maintaining oil reserve and tanks for the use at the time of emergency situation is likely to be started and when it will be completed. Please clarify all these things.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through it was decided in 1995. I know that why it was not implemented by those who were in the Government at that time. I am aware of the fact that the Government remains the same however now we have initiated action in this regard after seriously deliberating over it. Earlier we had decided to maintain reserve for 15 days only. For that project report was prepared and now we thought it better to maintain reserve for 45 days instead of 15 days. As per the report of the Engineers India Limited if the work for fifteen days is initiated it would cost nearly Rs. 1,225 crore and the management cost will be approximately Rs. 600 crore because the Government will have to pay interest for maintaining the stock.

[English]

But when we go for 45 days, the cost would be Rs. 4,350 crore approximately and the inventory running cost, the maintenance cost would be Rs. 1,800 crore. And when we store crude in that, that cost of the crude would be Rs. 15,600 crore. So, this is a huge thing which we are required to do and in all seriousness, we are now applying our mind and we have started taking action. So, you can take it that that work has started and we will try to complete it as early as possible. For that, the only point is how to raise the resources. There are two options, about which also let me take the House into confidence. One option is that Government gives the grants because ultimately these stocks would be required for the national purposes as such. So, who should bear the cost of that, whether it is Defence or all other things? That is one thing. So, some grant can be given by the Government or some cess can also be levied. When we formulate the scheme, we will come to you and also take your guidance on that.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the main Question has been replied to. There cannot be more supplementary questions on this. It is a very simple Question and a simple reply too.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister in his reply has said just now that our consent will be sought in this matter that means. . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Your consent will be sought. . . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : There is no need to seek advice as you are yourself competent enough in this regard. However, my submission is that the hon'ble Minister has not replied as to when the physical work will be started and when it will be completed. My second supplementary question is whether the hon'ble Minister has discussed this issue with the Ministry of Defence and the Prime Minister and whether any decision has been taken regarding the funds mobilisation for the project and if not, by when the decision will be taken in this regard and the funds will be allocated for starting the work? Whether the matter regarding the selection of the site has been discussed with the Ministry of Defence?

SHRI RAM NAIK : This matter has been discussed with the Ministry of Defence. While I was making presentation the hon'ble Prime Minister and hon'ble Minister of Finance were present there and required information or views in this regard were exchange at that level. I would like to thank you for appreciating my capacity and I am doing my job properly. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : But the people do not accept. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : I do not have any doubt that in the matter of defence of the country, not only my friends and the Minister but you people will also support me. On the issue of the protection of the country we exchange our views collectively and hence I have told that I will seek advise from all of you. As far the question of site is concerned, we have identified some sites however I would like to submit that it will not be proper to make public about the site particularly when the plan is being chalked out. The decision regarding the selection of the sites will be taken after discussing it with the Ministry of Defence.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Sir, it is not an inconvenient question to the Minister. During Gulf war, the Government had imposed a cess but after the war was over, that cess was not removed. Now, it appears from a section of the Press that the Government wants to increase the price of petrol and diesel from 1st March. When the Government has the stock in hand for 45 days and has also made sufficient imports, what necessitates it to raise the cost of petroleum, as it is a heavy burden on the consumers? So far as gas is concerned, the same procedure is being followed. Once the price is hiked, it is not withdrawn even after the war is over.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I would say that the question is very speculative. The Budget is yet to come.

MR. SPEAKER : It is hypothetical question.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The Finance Minister will present his Budget and then on 1st March, we will know as to what are the import and excise duties. Then the oil companies, which decide the day-to-day rates, will work out the rates. It is not done by the Government. The Government only looks into the excise duties and custom duties variations

and in such variations the Government tries to ensure that the customers are insulated against the hike, which we have done. Everyone knows about the LPG and kerosene.

MR. SPEAKER : You need not answer the hypothetical question in detail.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I just want to ensure that nothing is increased at this stage. Only after the 1st March we shall review the situation and then take a decision.

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 43.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to ask something.

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunath Ji, there is nothing left to know in this regard.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Had I asked then you would have known. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunath ji, you please sit down. I will give you opportunity next time. The question regarding the railways is very important, I will give you opportunity at that time.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, I have also given a notice and I would like to have a very short answer. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : No, Sir, then it is useless to send slip in the morning. . . .(Interruptions) I have sent slip to you in the morning. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Look, here I have slip of five Members. I can not permit all of them.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : You may not permit on a particular day but it does not mean that you will never permit. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, it is not so. You get many opportunities. I will give you chance later. I will give you

chance when the question on Railway will be taken up. The question regarding the railway is very important.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : No, Sir, it is not justice to me. . . .(Interruptions) What is this. I had given you notice on Adjournment Motion. You told me to raise it during Zero Hour. Like other Members I could also have approached you, but I follow your order like a disciplined student. When I give slip you do not pay attention to it.

MR. SPEAKER : You are really a good student. I am also a good teacher so you please listen to me.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : That is the problem.

MR. SPEAKER : That is not at all possible, you please sit down. You are an obedient student and I am good teacher.

[English]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, I have given a slip. I want to ask one straight question. I would like to know whether in the eastern region such strategic storage tanks would be given because from Manipur up to the Sunderbans area in West Bengal border, there is an acute shortage.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can send him a reply in writing.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, all right.

Indo-Iran Pipeline Project

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*43. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "India-Iran Pipedream is quietly buried in Delhi" reported in the 'Indian Express' dated 26.1.2003;

(b) if so, whether a meeting was held between him and then Iranian President and their Oil Minister;

(c) if so, whether the issue relating to laying of pipeline was discussed with the Iranian leaders;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether deep sea pipeline for natural gas is expensive, unsafe and technically not viable; and

(f) if so, the alternate arrangements discussed and agreed between the two countries to supply natural gas to India ?

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

Statement

(a) to (f) Yes, Sir. During the recent visit of Iranian President to India, a meeting was held with the Energy Minister of Iran on 25th January, 2003. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 27th January, 2003 between India and Iran for mutual cooperation in hydrocarbon sector including both natural gas and LNG. Earlier, under bilateral cooperation, Indo-Iran Joint Committee had constituted a Joint Technical Sub-Committee to assist it to explore all the options to import natural gas from Iran. The Joint Committee had decided to undertake an offshore feasibility study for laying of pipeline from Iran to India outside the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Pakistan. GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) from India and National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC) from Iran have been nominated as nodal agencies for the pipeline project by the respective Governments. Accordingly, GAIL and NIGEC have jointly commissioned an offshore pipeline feasibility study for the pipeline from Iran to India. Decision to take up the project would depend on technical feasibility and economic viability of the project. No decision on on-land pipeline from Iran to India passing through Pakistan has been taken.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : I also want so.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : I had sought categorical replies to my question from the hon'ble Minister. However the hon'ble Minister has clubbed all the questions and thus my doubt is not being dispelled. Indo-Iran project was an ambitious project. However from the recent development

it seems that the Government have for the time being shelved the project. No one could know about it. The Government are not ready to disclose as to who is behind this. The Government have not thought it necessary to give any clarification in this regard. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Pakistan Government had raised any objection regarding the project. If so what were the reasons of that objection ? I would also like to know at what level the Government of India have discussed the issue with the Pakistan Government ? Whether any effort was made to solve the problem through dialogue or any other method so that Pakistan may not raise objection on this project and Iran may extend its cooperation for the implementation of the project ?

I would also like to know from the hon'ble Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask in second question as the first question has become lengthy

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : It is also related to this. Whether Iran Government made any effort to influence Pakistan in this regard so that Pakistan may change its stand on this pipe line project ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are several questions from (a) to (f) that is why I gave answers to all the questions collectively.

MR. SPEAKER : You give reply to only one question.

SHRI RAM NAIK : As far the question of the hon'ble Member regarding the objections raised by the Pakistan Government is concerned, I would like to inform that we have not held any talks with Pakistan in this regard and we are also not going to do so. This project is concerned with Iran. Presently the feasibility of laying pipeline is not being discussed. MOU has been signed after holding discussion with Iran that the pipeline can be laid through the sea. The estimate in this regard is being prepared jointly by the National oil company of Iran and GAIL company of India.

The work of preparing its estimates and survey work is going on presently.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in reply to my question has said that the decision in regard to starting the project would depend on the

technical feasibility and economic viability of the project. On one hand you maintain that no discussion in regard to laying of a underground pipeline from Iran to India via Pakistan has been held so far, on the other the Joint Committee had initiated the study of viability of laying a off shore pipeline between Iran and India which would be outside the exclusive economic zone of Pakistan and the concerned Governments have nominated the GAIL and the National Gas Exporting Company of Iran as the nodal agencies. I would like to know as to why was the need to nominate those companies was felt if the decision had not been taken in this regard? The President of Iran visited India in the month of January and he had proposed a new route for laying the pipeline through Pakistan to supply the gas at cheaper rate. I would like to know whether the price of 1.8 dollar Million Metric British Thermal Unit for the supply of gas proposed by Iran is half of the price which is being given by the Government for gas at present? Besides, I would like to know as to whether the Government have formulated any scheme to consult any international agency for the insurance of the said pipeline in case of any accident? **M. Speaker**, Sir, it is a very important question.

SHRI RAM NAIK : **Mr. Speaker**, Sir, I have already told that the pipeline is being laid through the sea and not through the land route.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : **Mr. Speaker**, Sir, sea is also a part of the earth.

SHRI RAM NAIK : **Mr. Speaker**, Sir, I accept that there is a seabed under the water of sea. As far as the question of preparing estimate is concerned, I would like to say only this much that the President of Iran visited our country and he was accompanied by his Minister of Energy and the Minister of External Affairs and I had a discussion with both of them. We have signed an MOU in which the views of both the parties have been included and it was decided that I would visit Iran in the next three months and the further discussion would be held there and the work shall proceed after we fulfill some of the minor formalities.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : I would like to know as to whether Pakistan has tried to put hurdles into this matter?

SHRI RAM NAIK : I would like to inform you that we are not discussing this subject with Pakistan.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, for the last one decade we have been hearing that pipeline would be laid from Iran to India for bringing crude oil from Iran. The first proposal was to bring it through Pakistan. The estimate and techno-economic feasibility for that was also prepared. But that plan of laying the pipeline from Iran via Pakistan to get crude oil was afterwards abandoned. Now it has been stated that an agreement has been signed with the President of Iran – who was here on the 25th of January – to the effect that the pipeline for bringing crude oil from Iran would be laid through the sea route. The techno-economic viability report for that would have to be worked out.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, one decade has already passed since we took this decision to lay the pipeline. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much time would be taken to prepare the techno-economic viability report for the project so that the project can be started without any further delay.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, unless the Survey Report comes and the amount is known, it is very difficult to indicate the time in which the project can be started.

Sir, probably the question of the hon. Member is based on a report of *The Indian Express*. I must say that the report of *The Indian Express* is not factually correct. The heading says, 'India – Iraq Pipe dream is quietly buried in Delhi'. I can only say that it is not factually correct. It is a table news and probably that news has to be buried so that there is no unnecessary speculation amongst the Members.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : **Mr. Speaker**, Sir, I only want to know. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : You are calling the Members who do not have questions to ask.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is about the pipelines to be put up.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Athawale, if you are not prepared to ask the question don't ask.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I would like to know as to what would be the share of Iran and India respectively and the total expenditure that is likely to be incurred on the pipeline between Iran and India ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, it would take some time before the estimate about the expenditure likely to be incurred is made and estimate will have to be prepared even to know about the India's share in it and after making an estimate only we shall be in a position to tell something in this regard and till then I and you both will have to wait.

Criteria for Providing Scholarship to SC/ST Students

*45. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for providing scholarship by the Union Government to the students of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes after matriculation for various classes, courses, technical and training courses alongwith the amount of scholarships being provided to such students in different States, State-wise;

(b) whether the existing amount of scholarship is very meager in view of the rising cost of providing food, school fees, books etc; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said amount of scholarship is likely to be increased ?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) Under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste students a proposal to revise the rates of maintenance allowance and other norms of the scheme is being considered.

Similarly for revision of the scheme for Scheduled Tribes, Ministry of Tribal Affairs is processing the matter.

Statement

(I) The following is the criteria to be fulfilled for receiving scholarship under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes :-

- (i) All recognised post matriculation courses pursued in India in recognised institutions are covered.
- (ii) Scholarship is provided to such students who fulfill the following means test :-

Annual Income Ceiling	Admissibility of Scholarship
Rs. 49,000/-	Full maintenance allowance and full fee
Rs. 65,290/-	(i) Full maintenance allowance and full fee for courses in Group 'A'. (ii) Half maintenance allowance and full fee for courses in Groups* B, C, D and E

*Details of courses under Groups A to E

Group	Courses in brief
1	2
'A'	Degree and Post Graduation level courses in Medical (including B.A. M and S etc.). Engineering, Agriculture, Veterinary Science, Fisheries etc.
'B'	Diploma level courses in Medical, Engg. etc. Commercial Pilot Licence course, Degree and Post Graduation levels courses in Business Admn., Nursing/Pharmacy etc. Post graduate courses in Science subjects. Other diploma courses in professional and technical subjects.
'C'	Certificate courses in Engg./Technology etc. Diploma courses in Agriculture, Pharmacy,

1	2
	Veterinary Science, Fisheries, Dairy Development etc. Degree/Post-graduate and Diploma courses in Teacher's Training, Library Science, Physical Education etc. Post-Graduate courses in Arts and Commerce subjects.
'D'	General courses upto Graduate level (2nd year and onwards)
'E'	Classes XI and XII in 10+2 system, Intermediate courses and first year of general courses upto graduate level.

II. The value of scholarship under the scheme includes maintenance allowance, provision for students with disabilities, reimbursement of compulsory non-refundable fees, Study Tour Charges, Thesis Typing/Printing Charges and book allowance for students pursuing correspondence courses, for complete duration of the course. The details are given below :

(i) **Maintenance allowance**

The details of maintenance allowance rates, as applicable w.e.f. 1.10.95, are given below :-

(Rs. Per Month)

*Group	Maintenance Allowance w.e.f. 1.10.95	
	Hostellers	Day Scholars
A	425	190
B	290	190
C	290	190
D	230	120
E	150	90

(ii) **Reimbursement of fees**

The scheme also provides for reimbursement of compulsory non-refundable fees charged by the institutions.

(iii) **Study tour charges**

Study tour charges upto Rs. 500/- per annum, are also provided under the scheme for students pursuing professional and technical courses.

(iv) **Thesis typing/printing charges**

Thesis typing/printing charges upto a maximum of Rs. 600/- are also paid to the research scholars.

(v) **Allowance for students pursuing correspondence courses**

The students pursuing correspondence courses including distance and continuing education, are eligible for an annual allowance of Rs. 500/- for obtaining essential/prescribed books, besides reimbursement of their course fees.

(vi) **Additional provisions for SC and ST students with disabilities**

The following additional provisions for SC and ST students with disabilities, are applicable w.e.f. 1.4.98 :-

a. **Reader Allowance for blind Scholars**

Level of Course	Reader Allowance (Rs. per month)
Group A, B, C	150
Group D	125
Group E	100

- Provision of transport allowance upto Rs. 100 per month for disabled students, if such a student does not reside in the hostel, which is within the premises of educational institution.
- Escort Allowance of Rs. 100/- per month for severely handicapped day scholar students with low extremity disability.
- Special Pay of Rs. 100/- per month be admissible to any employee of the hostel willing to extend help to a severely orthopaedically handicapped student residing in hostel of an educational institution, who may need the assistance of a helper.
- Allowance of Rs. 150/- per month towards extra coaching to mentally retarded and mentally ill students.

The provisions in (b) to (d) will also apply to such leprosy – cured students.

The disabled students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes covered under the Scheme can also get such additional benefits from other Schemes, which are not covered under the scheme. The disability as defined under the said Act has to be certified by competent medical authority of the State Government/UT Administration.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, crores of people of this country have been the victims of inhuman exploitation and social evils for thousand of years and it is due to this reason that the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have lead very deplorable lives at social, educational economic and cultural level. The Government took several measures for the upliftment of these people and for bringing them at par with the people of higher classes of society after independence and the most prominent of these measures was the expansion and promotion of education among these people. It is the need of the hour to think over as to what is the level of education among these people even after 55 years of independence. The population of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country is 30 crores and the hon. Minister has evaded the reply as how many among these 30 crore are studying at post matriculate level and how much expenditure is being incurred thereon. My question was to how much amount is being given as scholarship to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in each of the State ? This question has not been replied. I wanted to know as to how many students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being imparted education through the State scholarship and what is the statewide number thereof alongwith the statewide funds being spent thereon ?

MR. SPEAKER : You ask a pin pointed question from the Minister.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : The statement that was to be made by the hon. Minister has not been made and I would like to ask from the hon. Minister in this regard.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Sir, I have placed the reply of the part (a) of the question on the Table of the

House and my reply to the part (b) and (c) is as follows : the proposal on amending the rates of sustenance allowance and other conditions of the centrally sponsored scheme for the post matriculate scholarships to the Scheduled Castes is under consideration and a similar move is being initiated by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for changing the scheme for ST students. Alongwith it he has asked the number of beneficiaries and the funds being spent by the Union Government on the scheme. I certainly have an information in this regard. The figures of beneficiaries in the last five years are as follows- 13.21 lakhs in 1997-98, 13.91 lakhs in 1998-99, 13.96 lakhs in 1999-2000, 15.41 lakhs in 2000-2001, 17.04 lakhs in 2001-2002 and 17.84 lakhs are estimated to the benefitted in the year 2002-2003. Similarly the figures in regard to the financial assistance provided by the Centre in these years are as follows- Rs. 41.53 crore in 1997-98, Rs. 58.68 crore in 1998-99, Rs. 84.08 crore in 1999-2000, Rs. 114.15 crore in 2000-2001 and 159.27 crore in 2001-2002.

This way the amount of scholarship and the number of beneficiaries is increasing.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked for Statewise information. The constitution makers implemented the reservation policy very liberally. One of the provisions under the reservation scheme is that the SC/ST candidates can contest from either seats reserved as well as unreserved. Similar provision was made for Government jobs. The SC/ST candidates can be recruited against both reserved as well as unreserved seats in the examination conducted by UPSC and public service commissions. Mr. Speaker, Sir, after 55 years of independence this Lok Sabha is as you are witnessing and you also have the experience of the Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra. Even today very few candidates belonging to SC/ST come here after getting elected against unreserved seats. The recruitment bodies like Union Public Service Commission and State Public Service Commissions select the SC/ST candidates only against the unreserved seats and even the quota of reserved seats is not fulfilled. I am saying so because the system of education and training plays a very important role in shaping the personality of a person. Sociologists are of the view that heredity and environment both play an important role in it. Heredity is there but this system can bring a change

in environment. Today the hon. Minister has stated that.

.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot delivery speech during the Question Hour. You ask a pointed question. Hon. Minister will reply it ?

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not delivering a speech. I am only submitting that the reason for the non selection of the SC/ST candidates despite the passage of 55 years of independence is that they have not gained economic affluence due to which they have not achieved the social prestige. I would also like to know as to whether an amount of Rs. 190 per month for a day scholar, Rs. 425 for a hostellers and Rs. 290 per month for a group 'B' hostellers is adequate to raise a good student and prepare a better social background and also how much efforts are being made by the Government to change the situation ?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, actually this question relates to scholarship and he has asked the question about scholarship only. This amount is being given as per the present rates which have been fixed for each category. This scholarship is being given for degree courses, diploma courses and academic courses separately. This is also given to day scholars and hostellers. We definitely review this amount after two years, and this review is done on the basis of price index. We are reviewing the criterion for granting the scholarship. As soon as the review process would be over, we will make announcement in this regard.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Today, prices of essential commodities are higher than what they were before. Therefore, when you compare the amount of scholarship with the existing prices, it is very low. Is the Minister thinking to raise the scholarship to the level obtaining in other colleges, Navodaya Schools and other educational institutions where he is giving sufficient funds ? When you compare the number of Scheduled Castes students who are getting scholarship in these organisations, it is very less. The number of meritorious students who wish to go abroad has increased in the last two years. But the

Government is not prepared to give them incentives. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why these students are not encouraged even though there are provisions to this effect.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has asked that though the number of meritorious students who wish to go abroad has increased, but why the scholarship amount has not been increased in that proportion. As I have said earlier, we increase the scholarship amount on the basis of price index. We have increased the scholarship amount in October, 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2001. Similarly, in October 2003, we will consider the increase in scholarship amount, as per the figures of last two years. I mean to say that we have been continuously increasing it after every two years.

As far as the issue of giving scholarship to students who wish to go abroad is concerned, it depends as to whether the student files his application through State Government or directly. If such students want scholarship the Government definitely considers it. There are rules for it, under which we grant scholarship.

[English]

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON : Sir, I am aware that this Question relates to providing scholarships to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. So, I request the hon. Speaker permit me to ask the Hon. Minister about students who belong to the poorer sections of my community, that is, the Anglo-Indian community.

Since the last two-and-a-half years, we have been appealing to the Minister to consider restoration of facilities to students of the Anglo-Indian community which were there in the Constitution. We now request hon. Minister to kindly consider restoring the facilities of providing scholarships to students who are orphans or whose parents reside in backward areas or who are below the poverty line. Members of our community are leaving this country as they are not receiving any facilities from the Government which were there earlier. So, I would request the hon. Minister to please consider this aspect keeping in mind our appeals that have been made for the last two-and-a-half years.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will consider the proposal of hon'ble Member in regard to providing scholarship to students belonging to Anglo-Indian community besides Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but it has to be seen that in what form the proposal is presented to us. But the question asked by hon'ble Member is not related to the original question, therefore it has to be seen that what can be done in this regard. Even then we are considering this matter.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government gives scholarship to poor students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This is a very commendable task. There are crores of students who are poor, but do not belong to Scheduled Caste, and belong to other castes. They are talented students, but they have dropped out due to lack of money. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether the Government will provide scholarship to such poor students of society ?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has raised a question of providing scholarship to poor students other than the students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that this is being done, as per the provisions made by my Ministry. Since, this question is not related to the original question, therefore the Government will consider as to what can be done in this regard.

[English]

Leasing out of real Estate of AIR/DD

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*46. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN :

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to lease out the real estate owned by AIR/DD as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated January 18, 2003;

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

(c) the details of real estate which is likely to be leased out;

(d) whether AIR/DD do not require this land;

(e) if so, whether the Government have decided the lease amount according to the market value of the land;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the total revenue likely to be earned therefrom ?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) In its last meeting held on 17.1.2003, Prasar Bharati Board has given in principle approval to a proposal to examine the feasibility of optimal utilization of surplus land available with Prasar Bharati, for the objectives set out in the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 and generate additional revenue for the Corporation.

(e) to (g) At present the proposal is in a preliminary stage and its details are yet to be worked out.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Sir, I am not happy with the statement laid on the Table by the hon. Minister. Parts (c) and (g) of my Question have not been answered.

I have put a specific question as to what is the quantum of surplus land available and what is the quantum of surplus land proposed to be leased out. Instead of answering that, the Minister has said that the Board has given approval to a proposal to examine the feasibility of utilisation of the minimum surplus land to the Doordarshan.

In part (g), I asked about the quantum of revenue which the Prasar Bharati was expecting to earn. As per the news item appeared in *The Hindustan Times*, more than 600 acres of land is proposed to be leased out.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put the question now. Otherwise, the time will get over and you will not get an opportunity to ask the question.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : It is relevant.

More than 600 acres of land is proposed to be leased out. But his answer does not contain that. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to which is true, whether the news item which says that 600 acres of land are going to be leased out or the minimum land which the Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati propose to utilise. What is the quantum of the minimum land they are proposing to utilise?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Sir, the reply is very clear. The decision has been taken only on 17.1.03. It is at the stage of infancy. Due to change in technology many of the equipments etc. require a change. Now, many of the lands are *prima facie* appearing to be surplus. What is their extent, what is their reach etc., have to be considered. Therefore, we are going to have a concept paper and feasibility report. Thereafter, a decision will be taken.

As far as the report of the *The Hindustan Times* is concerned. I have no comments to offer for the simple reason that the entire thing is at the stage of infancy. When the project report comes about, you will come to know about the rest.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : My second supplementary is this: Suppose, in future, there is any plan for expansion of Doordarshan and AIR, if the surplus lands are leased out, what proposal has the Government to meet the future needs of the Prasar Bharati?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : I have already given the reply. Whenever the feasibility report comes about, it would certainly reflect upon the future needs of Doordarshan and Akashvani. After considering that, consistent with the change in technology, the surplus land shall be released. Therefore, your concern will be suitably addressed when the entire feasibility report comes about.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : The private television channels and media are earning a lot. They are purchasing lands and new machineries by earning, that is, by selling their services. Since Prasar Bharati is an independent body, it can have its own imagination and earn more like private channels. Why have they to sell it immediately, that too without having any idea as to how much land is there for making new machineries or for utilising the land? Without all these, how are they coming

out with a clear-cut idea to sell the property even in the initial and infancy stage itself?

MR. SPEAKER : It is a good question.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : I will reply.

There can be no comparison between Prasar Bharati and other channels. They are commercial channels, simpler. Prasar Bharati, that is the Doordarshan and Akashvani, is a public broadcaster. Therefore, the comparison is not there.

As far as the other aspect is concerned, Doordarshan and Akashvani have vast tracts of land which were established in the last fifty or sixty years. There has been a great change in the technology. The space needed earlier for transmission is not needed now because of the satellite technology. All these require focused consideration for the optimum use of the land in question. That is the only issue today. But having said that, let me assure the hon. Member that in the future expansion plans, revenue earning and other potentials of Akashvani and Doordarshan shall be the primary concerns. That is very clear.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : In the light of Geetakrishnan Report of selling some of the media units, including the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, I would like to know whether it is going to be part of the feasibility report. What is the thinking of the Government on that?

THE RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Shri Singh Deo is a very eminent Member and he was ex-Minister also. With great respect to him, I would like to say that this particular Mass Communication Institute does not come within the component of this Question.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Major Rail Accidents

*44. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of major train accidents since December, 2002 till date, State wise;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured as a result of these accidents;

(c) the compensation paid to the relatives of those killed/injured;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government to avoid accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :

(a) and (b) There have been two major accidents on Indian Railways since December 2002 to 15th February 2003. The details are as under :

(i) The train Locomotive and nine coaches of 7685 Kacheguda – Bangalore Express derailed at km 23/8-5 between Pendekallu and Pagidirai stations on Dronachellam – Pendekallu – Gooty Broad Gauge single line non electrified section of Guntakal Division on South Central Railway at 00.35 hours on 21.12.2002. In this unfortunate accident, 19 persons lost their lives and 78 persons were injured.

(ii) 7064 Secundreabad – Manmad Express collided in the rear of Parli BOXN up goods train at Ghatnanadur station on Vikarabad-Parli Vajinath Broad gauge single line non electrified section of Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway at 1.23 hours on 3.1.2003. In this unfortunate accident, 20 persons lost their lives and 72 persons were injured.

The position regarding train accidents are maintained zone-wise, and not as State-wise.

(c) Compensation for death or injury of rail passengers in train accidents are decided by Railway Claims Tribunal. So far no compensation has been paid in the two accidents. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by the Tribunal.

However, enhanced ex-gratia has been paid to the tune of Rs. 22.90 lakhs in the accident on 21.12.2002 and in the case of collision at Ghatnandur Rs. 23.30 lakhs so far for the immediate relief of affected persons.

(d) to (e) Statutory Inquiries into the two accidents are being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety/ South Central Circle. He has submitted his Preliminary Inquiry reports and has concluded in provisional findings that :

(i) 'Derailment of 7685 Kacheguda – Bangalore Express occurred due to tampering with the track by way of cutting of left hand side rail by hacksaw and thereafter pushing its Pagidirai end inside by an unauthorized persons other than Railway staff' The accident falls under the category of "tampering with track by persons other than railway staff".

(ii) 'Rear end collision occurred due to human failure, reception signals for main line, which was already occupied by Up Parli N Goods train most probably were taken off for 7064 Up. The accident falls under the category of "Failure of Railway staff".

Action on the immediate recommendations made by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, in his preliminary reports, has been initiated.

(f) To prevent accidents, following measures are taken :

(i) A non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000/- crores has been set up for renewal of over aged assets and the safety enhancement works.

(ii) Enhanced financial powers to the General Managers for faster implementation of safety works.

(iii) Safety Department to be made broad based.

(iv) Safety officer is to be given powers to recommend punishments on the lines of the Vigilance advice.

(v) All safety related vacancies will be filled up on a programmed basis.

(vi) Extended field trials of Anti Collision Device (ACD) have been completed on Northern Railway. Installation of Anti collision Device (ACD) in certain sections is being planned.

- (vii) Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark (FM to FM) track circuiting on entire 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'D Spl.' routes where speed is more than 75 kmph. have been completed. Remaining portion of the work is under progress.
- (viii) Last vehicle check by Axle Counter have been introduced on over 190 block sections and more sections are being progressively added.
- (ix) Drivers and Guards are also being progressively provided with LED based electronic flashing lamps and hand signal lamps having better visibility.
- (x) Closer liaison is being maintained with State Police Departments, wherever required for prevention of crime on Railway tracks and bridges.
- (xi) Instructions have been issued to reduce the number of fish plated joints, wherever feasible and for burring of two fish bolts, one on each rail, at joints located in the stretches considered vulnerable.
- (xii) An anti-theft elastic rail clip and fish bolt fastening is under development.
- (xiii) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and Ballast Cleaning Machines for track maintenance. Track Renewal Trains are also being used.
- (xiv) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.
- (xv) For detection of rail fractures/weld failures, adequate double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors have been procured. Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Cars are being procured.
- (xvi) All the Production Units, majority of repair workshops and large number of Sheds/Depots have achieved ISO 9002 certification for their Quality maintenance system.
- (xvii) Derailment prone four wheeler wagons (CRT wagons) are being phased out of service.

- (xviii) Periodic Safety Audit of inter-disciplinary teams is being conducted.
- (xix) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation are being modernized, including use of Simulators for training of drivers.
- (xx) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal/removal from service is being imposed on officials causing serious accidents.
- (xxi) Comprehensive safety drives are conducted covering various aspects of safe passage of trains, involving cross sections of inspectors, supervisors and officers.
- (xxii) Train passing staff are screened for their Safety consciousness and efficiency and categorized accordingly. Those found deficient are monitored closely and retrained and appropriately counseled.

Tapping the Reserves of Gas and Oil Proposed by ONGC

*47. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC propose to embark upon an ambitious plan for tapping Gas deep under the sea-bed in the Tenth Five Year Plan as there is a likelihood of huge reserves of gas and oil under the sea-bed;

(b) if so, whether any exploration has been done in this regard;

(c) if so, the results of the exploration;

(d) the assessment about the expected quantity of gas and oil to be found and the total investment proposed to be made to tap the reserves; and

(e) the details of ONGC's future long term plans to tap oil and gas to make India self-sufficient in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) During the X Five Year Plan, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) plan to

acquire a total of 30,500 Line Kilometre (LK) of 2-Dimensional (2D) and 30,900 Sq. Km. of 3-Dimensional (3D) seismic data and drill about 150 exploratory wells in the offshore shallow and deep water areas of both East and West coasts of India.

(b) and (c) During the first year of the X Plan, 2002-03, as on 1.1.2003, ONGC has acquired a total of 16,252 LK of 2D and 4,308 Sq. Kms. of 3D seismic data in the offshore areas of East and West coasts. In addition, during the same period, they have drilled 15 exploratory wells in the Mumbai offshore and KG offshore basins, of which 5 showed hydrocarbons.

(d) Exploration being probabilistic in nature, no definite outcome therefrom can be predicted. Hence, no estimate to investment to be made to tap the resources can also be done.

(e) The long term strategy of ONGC, formulated in light of the "India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025", envisages the following :

- (i) Intensive exploration in the producing basins to upgrade YTF (Yet To Find) hydrocarbon resources to in place volume.
- (ii) Extensive exploration of hitherto non-producing – poorly explored and yet to be explored basins.
- (iii) Major thrust on deep offshore and frontier areas.

The above strategy is expected to enhance ONGC's in place hydrocarbons from present 6 Billion Tonne (BT) to 12 BT in the next 20 years. In addition, efforts are being made by ONGC through Increased Oil Recovery/Enhanced Oil Recovery methods in its producing fields to improve the overall recovery factor from the present level of 28% to 40% over a period of next 20 years.

Profit earned by PSU

*48. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under his Ministry have earned only meagre profit than the target fixed by the Ministry during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the profit earned in domestic and foreign markets, year-wise, PSU-wise; and

(c) the reasons for shortfall in profit ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) There are 8 Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSUs) under the Ministry of Defence. The total profits for these undertakings for the last three years have been more than the targets as indicated below :

(Rupees in crores)

Year	Target	Profit
1999-2000	359.19	610.33
2000-2001	445.38	472.08
2001-2002	561.58	634.90

(b) A statement showing the position of total profits of DPSUs earned in domestic and foreign markets during the last three years is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the PSU	Profit		
	1999-2000 Actual	2000-2001 Actual	2001-2002 Actual
Hindustan Aeronautics Limited	368.26	243.65	344.78
Goa Shipyard Limited	2.35	4.93	14.37
Bharat Electronics Limited	107.93	155.21	199.68
Mazagon Dock Limited	13.07	(-)18.36	(-)18.62
Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engg. Limited	21.22	31.42	16.41
Bharat Dynamics Limited	80.76	48.99	72.55
Bharat Earth Movers Limited	14.60	6.00	5.35
Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited	2.14	0.24	0.38

**Requirement, Availability and
Shortage of Power**

*49. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR .

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite a number of measures taken, Government have not been successful in meeting the shortage of power in most of the States;

(b) of so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total requirement, availability and shortage of power noticed as on December 31, 2002, State-wise; and

(d) the further steps proposed to be taken to meet the shortage of power in the country, State-wise;

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) Electricity is a concurrent subject. However, supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned. The Central Government has tried to supplement the efforts of the State Government by way of capacity addition through the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). Presently, about 30% of the total power generated in the country comes from the Central generating stations. Though a number of measures have been taken, most of the States in the country are not meeting their demand of power fully. The main reasons for shortage of power are :-

- (i) Growth in demand for power outstripping the growth in generation and capacity addition.
- (ii) Shortage of peaking power in the grid.
- (iii) Poor performance and low Plant Load Factor of some of the thermal generating units in the State sector.
- (iv) The existing generation capacity from naphtha/liquid fuel based plants in the States are not being fully utilized.
- (v) Low generation from hydro stations during the period April-December, 2002 due to inadequate rainfall in view of weak south-west monsoon last year.

(vi) inadequate sub-transmission and distribution network in the State due to inadequate funding by State Power Utilities.

(vii) Capacity of 19015 MW could only be added during 9th Plan against a target of 40245.20 MW due to reasons such as delayed financial closure of private sector projects, delay in land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement problems, law and order problems and inter-State disputes relating to some hydro projects.

(c) State-wise power supply position in the country April-December, 2002 (as on December 31, 2002) is given in the Statement.

(d) The following steps are being taken to improve the generation and availability of power in the country :

- (i) A capacity addition of 41,110 MW has been targeted for 10th Five Year Plan.
- (ii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned units and overall increase in PLF of thermal units.
- (iii) Strengthening/Augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution systems. Funds are being provided for undertaking schemes for transmission and distribution systems to States under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme.
- (iv) Demand side management and promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures.
- (v) Disbursement of loans with interest subsidy by the Power Finance Corporation for restoration and modernization of old and inefficient generating units.
- (vi) Enhancement of Inter-State and inter-regional power transfer by strengthening of inter-regional transmission links and finally formation of National Grid.
- (vii) Exploitation of hydro potential at a faster pace.
- (viii) A major cause for power projects not materializing has been the poor paying capacity of the State Utilities which are the ultimate purchasers of power from the private sector projects and

CPSUs. A number of steps have been initiated to reform and restructure the State Utilities. 26 States have already signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for undertaking reforms and restructuring in a timebound manner. Further, to bring about reforms in distribution, Ministry of Power has launched the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme as a major step towards reduction of aggregate transmission and commercial losses and attaining commercial viability of the power sector. 25 State Electricity Boards/Utilities have signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Ministry of Power which is a pre-requisite for release of APDRP funds. The commitment of the State Government in these MoUs/MoAs include setting up of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission, 100% metering of 11 KV feeders, effective energy audit identification and elimination of

power theft and thereby attainment of commercial viability in distribution.

Besides capacity addition target of 18,278 MW in 10th Plan period of States in State/Private Sectors, a capacity addition of 22,832 MW in various regions has also been planned in the Central Sector in which States/UTs of the region will generally have entitlements. Region-wise capacity addition planned in Central Sector during 10th Plan is given as under :

Northern Region	7090 MW
Western Region	5367 MW
Southern Region	4140 MW
Eastern Region	5650 MW
N.E. Region	585 MW
Total	22832 MW

Statement

Actual Power Supply Position for the month of December 2002 and Apr.-Dec. 02

(Figures MU net)

Region/State/System	December 2002				April 2002 – December 2002			
	Require- ment	Availability	Shortage	(%)	Require- ment	Availability	Shortage	(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Northern Region								
Chandigarh	79	78	1	1.3	883	882	1	0.1
Delhi	1469	1443	26	1.8	15529	15310	219	1.4
Haryana	1632	1473	159	9.7	15401	15076	325	2.1
Himachal Pradesh	296	296	0	0.0	2586	2524	56	2.2
Jammu and Kashmir	666	590	76	11.4	5362	4695	667	12.4
Punjab	2150	2911	239	11.4	24397	22786	1611	6.6
Rajasthan	2310	2121	189	8.2	19581	19234	347	1.8
Uttar Pradesh	4010	3188	822	20.6	34727	27623	7104	20.5
Uttaranchal	324	319	5	1.5	2833	2753	80	2.8
Northern Region	12936	11419	1517	11.7	121293	110883	10410	8.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Western Region								
Chhattisgarh	770	745	25	3.2	7343	7093	250	3.4
Gujarat	5631	5048	585	10.4	45129	40091	5038	11.2
Madhya Pradesh	3347	2895	652	19.5	22946	19726	3220	14.0
Maharashtra	7948	6716	1232	15.5	64432	55870	8562	13.3
Goa	152	152	0	0.0	1371	1371	0	0.0
Western Region	17848	15354	2484	14.0	141221	124151	17070	12.1
Southern Region								
Andhra Pradesh	3860	3757	103	2.7	36132	33104	3028	8.4
Karnataka	2779	2618	161	5.8	23680	21164	2516	10.6
Kerala	1106	1044	62	5.6	10302	9469	833	8.1
Tamil Nadu	3868	3780	88	2.3	34560	31857	2703	7.8
Pondicherry	104	104	0	0.0	871	871	0	0.0
Southern Region	11717	11303	414	3.5	105545	96465	9080	8.6
Eastern Region								
Bihar	547	480	67	12.2	6350	5967	383	6.0
DVC	725	718	7	1.0	6252	6163	89	1.4
Jharkhand	272	270	2	0.7	530	527	3	0.6
Orissa	1119	1102	17	1.5	10100	9864	236	2.3
West Bengal + Sikkim	1495	1485	10	0.7	15683	15435	248	1.6
Eastern Region	4158	4055	103	2.5	38915	37956	959	2.5
North-Eastern Region								
Arunachal Pradesh	13.4	13.4	0	0.0	122.4	121.4	1	0.8
Assam	302	302	0	0.0	2622	2524	98	3.7
Manipur	49.4	49.4	0	0.0	359.4	355.4	4	1.1
Meghalaya	85.2	85.2	0	0.0	713.2	711.2	2	0.3
Mizoram	26.7	26.7	0	0.0	218.7	216.7	2	0.9
Nagaland	29.1	29.1	0	0.0	214.1	213.1	1	0.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tripura	54.3	54.3	0	0.0	529.3	496.3	33	6.2
North-Eastern Region	560.1	560.1	0	0.0	4779.1	4638.1	141	3.0
All India	47219.1	42631.1	4528	9.6	411753.1	374093.1	37660	9.1

Note : Cumulative figures in respect of Jharkhand w.e.f. November, 2002.

Peak Demand/Peak Met

(All figures in MU in MW net)

Region/States/System	December' 2002				April 2002 – December 2002			
	Peak Demand	Peak Met	Surplus Deficit (MW)	Deficit (%)	Peak Demand	Peak Met	Shortage	(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Northern Region								
Chandigarh	155	155	0	0	206	206	0	0.0
Delhi	2905	2827	78	2.7	3347	3101	246	7.3
Haryana	2962	2641	321	10.8	3411	3325	86	2.5
Himachal Pradesh	673	673	0	0.0	673	673	0	0.0
Jammu and Kashmir	1250	980	270	21.6	1250	1041	209	16.7
Punjab	3800	3562	348	8.9	5849	5455	394	6.7
Rajasthan	3880	3820	60	1.5	3880	3820	60	1.5
Uttar Pradesh	6700	5750	950	14.2	6700	5750	950	14.2
Uttaranchal	750	705	45	6.0	771	705	66	8.6
Northern Region	22500	20488	2012	8.9	24092	21889	2203	9.1
Western Region								
Chhattisgarh	1448	1411	37	2.6	1548	1492	56	3.6
Gujarat	8548	7334	1212	14.2	8641	7336	1305	15.1
Madhya Pradesh	5889	3994	1875	31.9	5869	4157	1712	29.2
Maharashtra	13650	10534	3116	22.8	13697	10984	2713	19.8
Goa	271	271	0	0.0	296	296	0	0.0
Western Region	28677	22337	6340	22.1	28677	22853	5824	20.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Southern Region								
Andhra Pradesh	6931	6702	229	3.3	8491	6858	1633	19.2
Karnataka	4971	4706	265	5.3	5289	4781	508	9.6
Kerala	2803	2242	561	20.0	2710	2264	446	16.5
Tamil Nadu	6900	6619	371	5.3	7236	6629	607	8.4
Pondicherry	178	178	0	0.0	176	176	0	0.0
Southern Region	21456	20428	1028	4.8	22419	20428	1991	8.9
Eastern Region								
Bihar	912	796	116	12.7	1389	1325	64	4.6
DVC	1182	1144	48	4.0	1212	1150	62	5.1
Jharkhand	478	452	24	5.0	476	452	24	5.0
Orissa	1899	1796	103	5.4	2125	1988	137	6.4
West Bengal	3318	3060	256	7.7	3752	3418	334	8.9
Eastern Region	7696	7340	368	4.6	8076	7676	400	5.0
North-Eastern Region								
Arunachal Pradesh	44.0	44.0	0	0.0	45.0	44	1	2.2
Assam	606	523	83	13.7	650	589	61	9.4
Manipur	99	99	0	0.0	101	100	1	1.0
Meghalaya	176	147	29	16.5	189	189.0	0	0.0
Mizoram	74	74	0	0.0	74	74	0	0.0
Nagaland	62.0	62.0	0	0.0	62	62	0	0.0
Tripura	147	120	27	18.4	182	156	26	14.3
North-Eastern Region	1143	954	189	16.5	1161	1135	26	2.2
All India	81472	71547	9925	12.2	81698	71547	10151	12.4
			6240	65.7				

Note Uttaranchal included in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand in Bihar during April-December 2001

Subscription Rates for Cable T.V. Connections

50. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

(a) whether subscription rates for cable TV connections can now be prescribed and regulated;

(b) if so, the steps taken to do so;

(c) whether some cable operators are enhancing the subscription charges without any restraint;

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

(d) whether the Government have any plan to encourage Residents' Welfare Associations to establish their own MSOs and cable signal distribution systems to save subscribers from the whims of private operators; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) As per sub-section (4) section 4A of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2002, if the Central Government is satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify the maximum amount which a cable operator may demand from the subscriber for receiving the programmes transmitted in the basic service tier (i.e. free-to-air channels), provided by such cable operator.

(b) The Government has set up a Task Force consisting of representative(s) of Ministry of I and B, Multi System Operators (MSOs), Electronic Equipment Manufacturers, Broadcasters, Cable Operators and Consumer Groups, to examine various issues and oversee implementation of the Conditional Access System as per the Act. One of the terms of reference of the Task Force is to make recommendations regarding the size and cost of the basic service tier. The Task Force has started functioning.

(c) There are no legal provisions in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to regulate subscription charges. Subscription charges depend upon market forces. Some representations and news reports regarding increase in the cable subscription charges have come to notice from time to time.

(d) and (e) While the Government has no such plans, Resident Welfare Associations are free to set up their own cable distribution services, within the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

[Translation]

Financial Aid from World Bank and ADB for Power Projects

*51. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank and Asian Development Bank have shown keen interest in jointly financing certain power projects;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals received from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank in this regard; and

(c) the number of power projects proposed to be set up in Bihar with assistance from the Asian Development Bank ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) World Bank and Asian Development Bank have not proposed to jointly finance any Power Project in the country.

(c) Purnea sub-station in Bihar is being constructed by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited with the assistance from the Asian Development Bank. The Sub-Station is targeted for commissioning in March, 2003.

Rail Accidents

*52. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to do the maintenance work of the Railways through machines in order to avoid rail accidents;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been formulated in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which entire maintenance work is likely to be started through machines in the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) The machines are already being deployed for maintenance of track wherever the track structure is suitable for the same and their number is increasing progressively. The maintenance work of Railway track with machines is one of the asset maintenance activities undertaken for delivering superior track geometry and making the rail travel more comfortable and safe.

Machines are also being used extensively in various Railway workshops and maintenance depots for maintenance of rolling stock and other railway assets having a bearing on safety.

(b) to (d) An action plan has been drawn to procure more number of machines for complete mechanization of essential activities of track renewal and maintenance. According to the action plan, additional track machines worth about 2,100 crores are required to be procured apart from replacement of existing machines on age-cum-condition basis. The additional machines are likely to be in position by the year 2012 subject to availability of funds. Certain activities will however continue to be done through manual means as the same cannot be done by machines.

[English]

Procurement of AJTs

*53. SHRI J.S. BRAR :
SHRI V. VETRISILVAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made regarding procurement of Advance Jet Trainers (AJTs);

(b) the number of trainee pilots died during the last three years till date and the number of aircraft lost in the absence of AJTs;

(c) the details of measures taken by the Government to enhance the quality of training with a view to improve the skill level, ability to exercise sound judgement and improve the situational awareness among the pilots, keeping in view the increasing incident of aircraft accidents; and

(d) the extent to which success have been achieved in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Various options for procurement of Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) have been under examination by the Government. No contract for the AJT has been finalized, as yet. It would not be possible to lay down a time limit for such a major procurement project. However, the Government is keen on early finalization of the issue.

2. The details of pilots killed and aircraft lost during the last three years are given below :—

Year	Pilots Killed	Aircraft lost
2000-2001	15	27
2001-2002	09	20
2002-2003 (as of 17th February, 2003)	07	21

There is no direct relationship between the aircraft crashes and the absence of an AJT.

3. The following measures have been taken to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill and confidence level of pilot trainees :—

- For ab-initio training the flying syllabus of stage-I training have been increased by 7 hours which includes 04 sorties of 0:45 hours each of night flying dual and 04 sorties of 1:00 hour each of Close Formation;
- Practice Procedure Platform (PPPs) and Cockpit Procedure Trainers (CPTs) for all ab-initio trainer aircraft have been planned to be inducted. This would enhance the ability of trainees to exercise sound judgement, improve emergency handling capabilities and situational awareness; and
- In Stage-II training for fighter pilots, the syllabus has been increased by 04 hours to include Medium Level Tactical Formation exercises. This would enhance the level of confidence in a trainee to handle complex operational exercises in next phase of training.

4. The effect of the above measures can be assessed in next two to three years when the pilots gain operational status at various squadrons.

Responsibility fixed for Rail Accidents

*54. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- whether the Government have fixed responsibility on any railway general managers and divisional railway managers for any accident under their area;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines laid down for enforcing safety norms with clear-cut responsibility;

(c) whether for enforcing safety measures, the financial powers of General Managers of zonal railways have been increased from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 10 crore;

(d) if so, whether the spurt in railway accidents is due to lack of financial powers of General Managers of zonal railways;

(e) whether it is a fact that accidents occur due to the huge backlog in maintenance and renewal of tracks, bridges, rolling stock and also lack of modernisation of signalling system; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :

(a) and (b) Each accident is inquired into. The inquiry establishes the cause and the responsibility. Primary, secondary and blameworthy responsibility are fixed as brought out in the inquiry reports for lapses committed by individuals or officials immediately controlling the functional units. Safety norms include maintenance practices and standards, observance of rules and guidelines. Violation of any of these rules are identified and responsibility fixed accordingly. Stringent punishments are imposed on the officials held responsible. Such punishments include removal and dismissal from service. Responsibility is also fixed up at higher levels in case of continued system failure, depending upon the severity of lapses. During 2001-2002, two Divisional Railway Managers were held blameworthy for an accident.

(c) and (d) There has been no spurt in train accidents. The number of consequential train accidents have in fact come down from 473 during the year 2000-2001, to 414 during the year 2001-2002 and 304* during the current year 2002-2003* (April 2002 – January 2003) (*Figures are provisional). However, in order to further improve safety by expediting completion of safety related works, the financial powers of General Managers of Zonal Railways have been enhanced. Safety related works in Plan Heads 'Bridge Works', Signalling and Telecommunication' and 'Track Renewals' can now be sanctioned by General managers upto Rs. 50 lakhs per item, as compared to Rs. 30 lakhs per item earlier. The annual financial ceiling

has also been increased from Rs. 6 crores to Rs. 10 crores per annum.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Maintenance of assets like track, rolling stock, and signalling gears etc. is a continuous process and, normally, there is no accumulation of maintenance backlog. In order to clear the backlog of replacement of overaged assets (as on 01.04.2001) within a fixed time frame of 6 years, a non-lapsable "Special Railway Safety Fund" of Rs. 17000 crores has been created from October, 2001. In case of arrears in maintenance or replacement of an asset, the speed of operation is suitably reduced along with other safety precautions so that safety is not jeopardized in any manner.

Proposal for Solar Power Plants during Ninth Five Year Plan

*55. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received from various State Governments for setting up of solar power plants during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the details of proposals sanctioned and implemented alongwith the cost of each project, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to set up more solar power plants in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The details of the proposals for setting up of stand-alone and grid connected solar power plants received from State Governments during the 9th Plan are given in-Statement.

(c) Grid interactive photovoltaic (PV) power projects of 5 MW capacity are proposed to be set up during the 10th Plan for voltage support in the rural grids, peak shaving in urban centers, diesel saving in islands/remote locations and captive power units by industry. It is also proposed to set up stand alone PV power projects aggregating to 3.6 MW during the 10th Plan. Central Financial Assistance (CFA) and interest subsidy for the PV Power projects is provided. Commercial organizations setting up solar power plants are eligible for accelerated depreciation benefits.

Statement

*State-wise and Year-wise Status of Solar Power Plant Proposals received
from State Governments during the 9th Plan*

1997-98

Sl. No.	State/UT	Location	Nos. and Capacity (kWp)		Estimated/ Sanctioned Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Central Financial Assistance (Rs. in lakhs)	Status
			Nos.	kWp			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	EPTRI Building, Hyderabad	1	3	13.50	6.16	Sanctioned and Installed
2.	Assam	Azaan Peer's Dargah Complex, Dikomukh, Sibsagar	1	1.5	Not Implemented due to non allocation of funds by the State Government		
		Changini Satra Complex, North Lakhimpur District	1	1.5	Not Implemented due to non allocation of funds by the State Government		
		Bihumela Community Centre, Silapathar, Dhimaji District	1	1.5	Not Implemented due to non allocation of funds by the State Government		
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	9 Nos. of Primary Health Centres in Remote Areas	1	45	Not Implemented due to non allocation of funds by the State Government		
		Leh District/Nyoma Town	1	40	144.90	73.10	Sanctioned and Installed
4.	Meghalaya	East Khasi Hills/Pynusla/Mawati	1	1	4.00	2.10	Sanctioned and Installed
		South Garo Hills/Beghmara/Bamanjadugiri	1	1	4.00	2.10	Sanctioned and Installed
5.	Punjab	Mukatsar/Lambi/Badal (I)	1	1	85.00	43.00	Sanctioned and Installed
		Mukatsar/Lambi/Badal (II)	1	3			
		Bhathinda/Kal Jharani (I)	1	1.5			
		Bhathinda/Kal Jharani (II)	1	1			
		Bhathinda/Kal Jharani (III)	1	3			
		Mansa/Bhunder	1	1.5			
		Ropar/Padiala	1	1.5			
		Patiala/Chhatt	1	3			
		Patiala/Tohra	1	1.5			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Mukatsar/Jhorar	1	3			
6.	West Bengal	South 24 Parganas/Sagar Island/Khas Mahal	1	25	321.00	136.34	Sanctioned and Installed
		South 24 Parganas/ Sagar Island/Gayen Bazar	1	25			
		South 24 Parganas/Sagar Island/Mahendra Gunj	1	25			

1998-99

S. No.	State/UT	Location	Nos. and Capacity (kWp)		Estimated/ Sanctioned Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Central Financial Assistance (Rs. in lakhs)	Status
			Nos.	kWp			
1.	Assam	Laisong Village, Impoi Area, NC Hills District	1	1.5	6.94	3.10	Sanctioned and Installed
2.	Himachal Pradesh	Himurja Office, Shimla	1	1.5	9.00	3.10	Sanctioned and Installed
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	Primary Health Centres in four Districts	4	4x8.40	not indicated	67.60	Sanctioned, but not Installed
4.	Kerala	Kanjalkoda-Palakkad	1	100	256.00	—	Not sanctioned
5.	Punjab	Gurudwaras at Keshgarh Sahib, Keeratpur Sahib, and Anandgarh Sahib	3	3x5.00	57.00	28.80	Sanctioned and Installed
		Village Bajak, Bhatinda	1	50	140.00	99.00	Sanctioned and Installed
6.	West Bengal	3 Villages, i.e., Natendrapur, Uttarhardhanpur and Mandir Tala in Sagar Island in South 24 Parganas	3	3x28.5	209.75	105.17	Sanctioned and Installed
		Bikalpa Shakti Bhawan Kolkata	1	25	51.92	34.61	Sanctioned and Installed
7.	Chandigarh	Punjab Mini-Secretariat, Chandigarh	1	50	135.73	90.48	Sanctioned and Installed
8.	Lakshadweep	Minicoy Island	1	100	298.04	193.00	Sanctioned and Installed

1999-2000

Sl. No.	State/UT	Location	Nos. and Capacity (kWp)		Estimated/ Sanctioned Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Central Financial Assistance (Rs. in lakhs)	Status
			Nos.	kWp			
1.	Himachal Pradesh	KEE Monastery District – Lahaul and Spiti	2	2×5.00	Not indicated	20.20	State Government decided no to install the project
2.	Karnataka	Nagasandra Bangalore	3	3×3.00		18.30	Sanctioned and Installed
3.	Maharashtra	Chalkewadi District – Satara	1	25	82.00	–	Not sanctioned as State Government did not provide matching funds
		Kondalwadi, Biloli District – Nanded	1	100	335.00	–	
4.	Orissa	Interim Test Range Balasore	2	2×1.50	9.14	4.77	Sanctioned and Installed
5.	West Bengal	Mousani Island, Sunderan region South 24 Parganas	1	55.00	178.00	70.39	Sanctioned and Installed
6.	Uttar Pradesh	Shakti Bhawan Lucknow	1	25.00	80.00	–	Not sanctioned as State Government has not provided matching funds

2000-01

S. No.	State/UT	Location	Nos. and Capacity (kWp)		Estimated/ Sanctioned Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Central Financial Assistance (Rs. in lakhs)	Status
			Nos.	kWp			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Secretariat Annexe – Hyderabad	1	50	150.00	–	Not sanctioned as State Government did not provide matching funds
		CM's residence Hyderabad	1	50	150.00	–	
		Raj Bhawan Hyderabad	1	25	85.00	–	
2.	Arunachal	Kambang Village West Siang District, New Elope Village Bulang Valley District, New	3	4.50, 2.50, and	36.05	32.50	Sanctioned and Installed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Aloni Village Dulang Valley District			2.20			
3. Assam	Umananda Island Guwahati; Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya and Hostel Sonitpur District	3	3×1.50	14.87	7.28		Sanctioned and installed
4. Haryana	TCP/TERI Gwalpahari Gurgaon	1	50	150.00	—		Not sanctioned as State Government did not provide matching funds
5. Jammu and Kashmir	Lalok Residential School, Durbuk Block, Leh	1	4.9	20.84	—		Clarifications sought
6. Karnataka	Poorna Prajna Schools at 5 locations in Karnataka	5	5×1.184	24.75	11.84		Sanctioned and Installed
7. Kerala	11 remote SC/ST Colonies in Idukki, MPM, Palakkad, TCR, Thiruvananthapuram Districts	11	40.04 total	174.33	81.18		Sanctioned and Installed
	Legislature Secretariat	1	100	299.00	199.00		Sanctioned and Under Installation
8. Meghalaya	14 tribal and remote villages in South Garo hills, East Garo hills, West Garo hills, Ri-Bhoi, Jaintia hills, West Khasi hills, East Khasi hills Districts	14	35.5 total	216.00	71.00		Sanctioned, One Plant of 5 kWp installed
9. Mizoram	Civil Hospital, Aizwal; De-addiction cum Rehabilitation Centre, Siloam Centre; TNT Kalvari Hospital, Zuangtui; Maternity Centre, Kulikawan	4	4×25	290.68	261.12		Sanctioned, Under installation
10. Orissa	Tourist Complex, Atri, District Mayurbhanj	1	25	—	—		Revised proposal awaited
11. Punjab	Village — Khatkarkalan, District — Nawashahar	1	200	436.42	285.00		Sanctioned and Under Installation
12. Rajasthan	RICO Building, Jaipur	1	25	74.00	—		Not sanctioned as State Government did not provide matching funds

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		State Secretariat Building, Jaipur	1	25	72.70	46.67	Sanctioned and Installed
		New Rajasthan Vidhan Bhawan Jaipur	1	25	72.70	46.67	Sanctioned and Installed
13. Tamil Nadu		SISI Building, Chennai	1	85	295.00	—	State Government has been requested to modify the proposal
		CECRI, Karakikudi	1	2.5	9.00	—	
14. Uttar Pradesh		Secretariat Annexe Building, Lucknow	1	25	80.00	47.00	Sanctioned, project cancelled
		IREP Training Centre Lucknow	1	25	75.00	50.00	Sanctioned during 2002-03
15. West Bengal		Gosaba Island	1	50	129.00	—	Not yet sanctioned State Government to modify proposal
16. Lakshadweep Islands		Bitra Island	—	25 Capacity Addition	219.80	50.00	Sanctioned and Under Installation
		Bangaram Island	—	40 Capacity Addition	180.20	80.00	Sanctioned and Under Installation
		Agatti Island	1	100	1882.00	1227.00	Sanctioned, Installed at Agatti and Kavaratti during 9th Plan and Andrott and Kadmat during 2002-03. Three projects are under installation
		Amini Island	1	100			
		Andrott Island	1	100			
		Chetlat Island	1	100			
		Kadmat Island	1	150			
		Kalpeni Island	1	100			
		Kavaratti Island	1	100			
17. Chandigarh		PEDA Office Building, Chandigarh	1	25	80.00	47.00	Sanctioned and Under Installation

2001-02

S. No.	State/UT	Location	Nos. and Capacity (kWp)		Estimated/ Sanction- ed Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Central Financial Assistance (Rs. in lakhs)	Status
			Nos.	kWp			
1.	Chattisgarh	Electrification of 30 Villages	30	76.65	337.21	140.97	Sanctioned Under implementation
2.	Karnataka	Institutions of Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreeswara Mahavidyapeetha	2	100 (2×50)			Proposal to be modified by State Government
3.	Orissa	Tourist Complex, Atri, Khurda	1	25			Details awaited
4.	Sikkim	(i) Singtam District Hospital	2	5.7	26.64	20.05	Sanctioned, Under implementation
		(ii) STC Bldg. Gangtok		9.0	38.51	31.60	
5.	Tamilnadu	CECRI, Karakudi	1	30	150.00		State Government has been requested to modify the proposal
6.	Tripura	Kalachara	1	25	82.61		State Government has been requested to modify the proposal
		Vigyan Bhavan, Gorkha Basti, Agartala	1	25	82.61		State Government has been requested to modify the proposal
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Electrification of Villages in Uttar Pradesh	14	220	910.00	397.40	Sanctioned, Under implementation
8.	West Bengal	Mousani Island, Sundarbans	1	100	330.00	165.00	Sanctioned, Under implementation
		Brojoballabhpur and Indapur villages in Sundarbans	2	200 (2×100)	720.25	300.08	Sanctioned, Under implementation
9.	Rajasthan	In Village Rampur District Tonk	1	20	Under implemenation using PMGY funds		
10.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Havlock Island	2	100 (2×50)	320.00	200.00	Sanctioned

De-Mining of Forward Areas

*56. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to provide safety to the people living in the villages in Indo-Pak border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether de-mining of the forward areas has been agreed to by India and Pakistan after the withdrawal of troops from the forward positions;

(d) if so, whether the de-mining has been completed on the border;

(e) if not, the time by which de-mining process is likely to be completed;

(f) the number of personnel and civilians killed/wounded due to mine blasts since December 2001; and

(g) the compensation paid to the victims ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (g) Adequate measures have been taken to ensure safety to the people living in the villages close to the border from inadvertently stepping onto the minefields. The minefields have been fenced, marked, guarded and are patrolled. Further, villagers have been informed and sensitized regarding the presence of the minefields.

There is no agreement with Pakistan on the issue of de-mining of the forward areas. However, reliable inputs suggest that the Pakistan Army is also undertaking similar de-mining on its side of the border.

Mines laid on the International Border (IB) during "OP PARAKRAM" are being removed and the requisite number of troops have been deployed for the mine clearance operations.

As per records available casualties suffered due to mine blasts since December 2001 are as follows :—

Nature of Casualties	Mine Laying		De-mining Operations		Total
	Army	Civilian	Army	Civilian	
Killed	60	21	4	Nil	85
Wounded	142	100	45	3	290
Total	202	121	49	3	375

Compensation is paid to each of the dependent(s) soldiers in accordance with a comprehensive welfare package for battle casualties. For civilians a scheme "Ex-gratia compensation package for land mine casualties" has been sanctioned and made effective retrospectively from 19th December, 2001, the day when "OP PARAKRAM" started.

[Translation]

Allotment of Land for Commercial Use

*57. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Defence Estates has allotted the land under its control to the private parties for commercial purposes;

(b) if so, the rules framed in this regard;

(c) whether some private parties have misused the land allotted to them; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to check such practices during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) No transfer/alienation of defence land to private parties for commercial purposes is permitted except with the prior approval of Cabinet. However, various Defence Estates authorities are permitted to allot land, under their respective management, to private parties on short term licence basis for purposes like public meetings organised by political parties, social/religious functions and other purposes.

Certain instances of misuse of defence land have come to notice. Appropriate action in such cases is taken as per the terms and conditions of the lease/licence.

Dilapidated Condition of Railway Coaches

*58. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the dilapidated condition of the Railway coaches of metre gauge line;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to replace such coaches to mitigate the difficulties of the railway passengers; and

(c) the time by which new coaches are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) As a result of progress of gauge conversion, some metre gauge (MG) sections have got locked up temporarily due to which some overaged coaches had to be continued in service duly ensuring complete safety. This has affected the condition of coaches to some extent, but corrective action has been taken by manufacturing new coaches and arranging support of overhauling workshops in locked up sections by transshipping the coaches. Further, Railways have recommenced production of metre gauge coaches with effect from the year 2000-01 and total 299 nos. Metre Gauge coaches have been introduced from April 2000 to January 2003. Such need-based production of Metre Gauge coaches shall be continued.

[English]

Augmentation of Ground Infrastructure along Coast

*59. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to augment the ground infrastructure of Coast Guard along the Indian Coast;

(b) if so, whether the Coast Guard has prepared any programme for the purpose;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have allocated funds for the strengthening of Coast Guards patrolling in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea;

(e) if so, the details of funds allocated during the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the patrolling in Coastal regions, particularly the coasts of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (f) Coast Guard has identified areas where maritime activity is increasing and coastline is vulnerable. Coast Guard has a plan to set up ten new Coast Guard Stations. Five Coast Guard Stations are proposed to be set up in Phase-I during the 2002-2007 Plan period and the remaining five Coast Guard stations in Phase-II during the 2007-2012 plan period. The locations of these Coast Guard Stations are :-

- (i) Ratnagiri (Maharashtra)
- (ii) Beypore (Kerala)
- (iii) Kavaratti (Lakshwadeep Islands)
- (iv) Pondicherry (Union Territory)
- (v) Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh)
- (vi) Vadinar (Gujarat)
- (vii) Jafrabad or Pipavav (Gujarat)
- (viii) Gopalpur (Orissa)
- (ix) Kamorta (Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands)
- (x) Bhatkal/Malpe (Karnataka)

Funds, allocated in the annual budget of Coast Guards during last three years are as follows :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Capital	Revenue	Total
2000-2001	185.84	229.16	415.00
2001-2002	235.00	251.00	486.00
2002-2003	241.74	269.51	511.25

Following steps have been taken to strengthen patrolling :-

- (i) One additional Advance Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV) has been positioned at Chennai.
- (ii) Two Hovercrafts are based at Mandapam for patrolling Palk Bay/Gulf of Mannar.
- (iii) Domier squadron activated at Kochi.
- (iv) Coast Guard Stations at Vizhinjam activated and one Interceptor Boat (IB) positioned.
- (v) One additional Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) positioned at Kochi.
- (vi) One Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) is being positioned at Kochi by April 2003.

Law to Stop Piracy

*60. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the Indian Film Industry is facing lot of problems of piracy and incurring loss as a result thereof;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether there is no concrete law to stop the piracy and to punish the guilty;
- (d) if so, whether there is a demand to amend the existing laws to make them more strict; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (e) According to the FICCI-Arthur Andersen Report of 2002, the film industry is losing approximately Rs. 3.6 billion per annum on account of piracy.

The Copyright Act, 1957, which falls under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development provides the legal basis for the subsistence of copyright in cinematograph films and music. The responsibility for dealing with offences under the Copyright Act rests with the police authorities of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Copyright Enforcement Cells have been set up in most States/UT Administrations headed by a senior police officer to deal with such offences.

The Copyright Act is amended from time to time to keep it in consonance with International Copyright law. The last major amendment of the Act was in 1994 and in 1999 there was a minor amendment to make certain provisions of the Act compatible with the TRIPS Agreement.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken several initiatives to mitigate piracy of films as follows :

- (i) On the basis of a recommendation made by the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, the Indian Institute of Mass Communication has been asked to formulate appropriate training modules for police officers to train them for anti-piracy work.
- (ii) To create an anti-piracy mind-set and to promote cooperation among stakeholders, this Ministry had brought film producers, multi-service operators and cable operators together, and they had jointly resolved not to exhibit films without valid permission from the copyright holders.
- (iii) In an effort to check cable piracy, the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act has been amended in 2000, enabling the Government to prohibit a Cable operator from transmitting or retransmitting any programme or channel for which he has not been granted a license by the Copyright holder.
- (iv) A recommendation made by the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, that a realistic ceiling level for entertainment tax to be

imposed by the State Governments could be 60%, since high rate of entertainment tax facilitates piracy, has been communicated to all State Governments.

Infiltration in Southern States

376. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to Coast Guards, infiltration and arms smuggling in the southern States has considerably gone down; and

(b) if so, the comparative figures during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Indian Coast Guard provides surveillance in the coastal areas of the southern States. With the intensification of surveillance by Coast Guard aircrafts and ships, the infiltration in southern States has considerably gone down. There has been no reported case of arms smuggling in the southern States.

The comparative figures of infiltration during the last three years are :-

Year	No. of infiltrations (infiltrations from Sri Lanka)
2000	1588
2001	497
2002	74

Guruwayur-Tanur Rail Line

377. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cabinet sanction has been accorded to the new railway line between Guruwayur-Tanur of Southern Railways in Palakkad Railway Division;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to expedite matters concerning the railway line specially as the same had been announced long time back;

(c) the details with respect to the alignment and the route of the railway line and whether Ponnani has been included; and

(d) the time by which the work is expected to commence and be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) The Government have accorded necessary clearance for new line from Guruwayur to Tanur. Preliminary arrangements have been taken up like preparation of plans and estimates etc.

(c) As per the survey report, the alignment of the line is via Mangalam, Ponnani and Punnaiyurkulam.

(d) The preliminary work has already been taken up. No target date has yet been fixed.

[Translation]

Supply of Coal to Thermal Power Plants

378. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of quantum of coal allocated by the Government to the thermal power plants during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the States had demanded more coal during the said period; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) State-wise details of quantum of coal allocated to the Thermal Power Plants during the last three years are given in Statement.

(b) and (c) The quantity of coal supplied by Coal Companies to Thermal Power Stations were adequate to maintain their generation in full and no generation loss on account of inadequate coal supply has been reported. However, in view of cash-and-carry scheme in operation for supply of coal, at times, supply of coal is regulated on account of non-payment of coal dues by power utilities.

Statement

Coal Data for Year 1999-00, 00-01, 01-02

Fig. in '000 Tonnes

Sl. No.	Name of TPS	1999-00				2000-01				2001-02			
		Linkage	Receipt	Consump- tion	C/Stock	Linkage	Receipt	Consump- tion	C/Stock	Linkage	Receipt	Consump- tion	C/Stock
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
NORTHERN REGION													
DELHI													
1.	Badarpur	4300	3516	3425	112	4320	3668	3767	23	4380	4079	3818	298
2.	I.P. Stn. (DVB)	795	625	686	55	855	734	695	78	735	677	650	73
3.	Rajghat (DVB)	765	721	730	9	840	636	612	33	720	578	542	50
Total		5860	4862	4841	176	6015	5038	5074	134	5835	5334	5010	421
HARYANA													
4.	Faridabad	885	735	829	0	1020	750	772	11	930	740	731	32
5.	Panipat	2475	1983	2249	33	2745	2082	2180	39	3870	3373	3289	132
Total		3360	2718	3078	33	3765	2832	2952	50	4800	4113	4020	164
PUNJAB													
6.	Bhatinda	1830	1954	1909	94	2100	2142	2048	159	2340	1923	2036	82
7.	Lehra Mohabbat	2175	2283	2139	161	2565	2156	2201	133	2400	2159	2063	205
8.	Roper	5325	5492	5490	408	6050	5589	5800	220	71252	6011	5950	268
Total		9330	9729	9538	663	10715	9887	10049	512	11865	10093	10049	555
RAJASTHAN													
9.	Kota	4470	3677	3679	186	3990	4044	3862	334	4350	3938	3881	406
10.	Suratgarh	1440	1142	1039	142	2310	1828	1795	183	3375	2679	2590	272
Total		5910	4819	4718	328	6300	5872	5657	517	7725	6617	6471	678

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
UTTAR PRADESH													
11. Anpara		8880	7896	8118	409	8520	7848	7962	295	8655	8302	8299	330
12. Harduaganj		750	617	617	21	645	726	771	20	990	774	733	49
13. Odra		4950	4422	4532	197	5700	4857	4989	65	5150	4865	4669	348
14. Panki Extn.		810	704	682	80	960	681	719	34	945	862	804	124
15. Paricha		990	498	495	46	1050	503	538	33	1020	955	915	66
16. Tanda (NTPC)		1390	681	710	111	1530	987	1109	86	1860	1979	1948	131
17. Unchahar (NTPC)		3180	2566	2514	241	3960	3660	3725	138	5100	4707	4460	395
18. Rihand STPS		4950	4759	4778	348	4896	4824	4943	230	4896	5005	4909	322
19. Singrauli (STPS)		9825	10023	9962	644	9411	10024	10312	333	9411	9811	9632	478
20. NCTPP (Dadri)		5190	4747	4681	196	5100	4377	4421	161	5115	4608	4288	470
Total		40915	36913	37089	2293	41772	38487	39489	1395	43142	41868	40657	2713
Total N.R.		65375	59041	59264	3493	68567	62116	63221	2608	73367	68025	66207	4531

Coal Data for Year 1999-00, 00-01, 01-02

Sl. No.	Name of TPS	1999-00			2000-01			2001-02			Fig. in '000 Tonnes		
		Linkage	Receipt	Consump- tion	C/Stock	Linkage	Receipt	Consump- tion	C/Stock	Linkage	Receipt	Consump- tion	C/Stock
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
WESTERN REGION													
GUJARAT													
21.	Ahmedabad	1110	1006	1060	78	900	870	1503	22	900	863	1473	58
22.	Gandhinagar	3960	2907	2950	74	2665	2392	2825	165	2325	2135	3081	226
23.	Sikka	765	626	592	47	660	690	682	47	900	764	743	63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
24. Ukai		2900	3298	3112	267	2750	3293	3700	99	3600	3362	3402	132
25. Wanakbori		6450	7326	7162	301	6520	6872	7140	322	6175	6039	7170	97
Total		15185	15163	14876	767	13495	14117	15850	655	13900	13163	15869	576
MADHYA PRADESH													
26. Amarkantak		990	877	845	106	900	784	853	32	1140	796	756	54
27. Birsingpur		3030	2465	2627	49	4320	3702	3612	231	4155	3474	3447	259
28. Satpura		7500	5935	6035	87	6840	6233	5908	324	6975	6237	6205	122
29. Vindhyachal STPS		6720	6258	5945	891	6000	8306	8835	83	6000	10286	9787	745
Total		18240	15535	15452	1133	18060	19025	19208	670	18270	20793	20195	1180
CHHATTISGARH													
30. Korba East		2310	2176	2150	92	2070	1951	2007	51	2040	2074	2141	43
31. Korba West		4890	4122	3937	259	4575	3229	3644	7	5115	4198	3935	296
32. Korba STPS		11715	10843	10843	340	10575	10770	10860	433	10500	10967	11158	270
Total		18915	17141	16930	691	17220	15950	16511	491	17655	17239	17234	609
MAHARASHTRA													
33. Bhusawal		2580	2459	2457	78	2310	2081	2042	118	2355	2362	2364	117
34. Chandrapur		11340	11165	11101	299	11250	11154	11051	401	12600	11936	12059	257
35. Koradi		5710	4820	4956	129	5325	4443	4221	323	4620	4398	4454	245
36. Khaperkheda		1800	1904	1894	166	2850	2728	2619	276	4640	4043	4175	139
37. Nasik		3880	3694	3791	98	3780	3823	3807	115	3360	3729	3581	262
38. Parli		3240	2962	2959	89	3210	3229	3238	78	3300	3093	3080	121
39. Paras		330	296	280	38	270	289	298	28	300	267	281	13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
40. Trombay	120	82	82	106	16	60	0	232	56	0	0	456	21
41. Dahanu	1760	1523	2203	329	329	2130	1598	1946	175	2340	1797	2065	236
Total	30760	28905	29747	1242	31185	29345	29545	1570	33515	31625	32515	1411	
Total W.R.	83100	76744	77005	3833	79960	78437	81023	3386	83340	82820	85813	3776	

Coal Data for Year 1999-00, 00-01, 01-02

Fig. in '000 Tonnes

Sl. No.	Name of TPS	1999-00				2000-01				2001-02			
		Linkage	Receipt	Consump- tion	C/Stock	Linkage	Receipt	Consump- tion	C/Stock	Linkage	Receipt	Consump- tion	C/Stock
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
SOUTHERN REGION													
ANDHRA PRADESH													
42. Kothagudem	6465	5835	6032	230	6450	6092	5884	419	6195	6186	6294	348	
43. Ramagundam B	360	303	321	8	390	357	362	9	315	277	316	9	
44. Vijayawada	6450	6622	6688	247	7050	7223	7095	374	6750	7000	7170	204	
45. Ramagundam STPS	10800	10457	10448	702	11400	10527	10488	707	11325	9919	9963	642	
46. Nellore	210	118	135	6	165	189	181	13	165	165	172	6	
47. Rayalaseema	2700	2607	2596	121	3030	2919	2802	244	2355	2310	2364	161	
Simhadri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	313	0	313	
Total	26985	25942	26220	1314	28485	27307	26812	1766	27405	26170	26279	1683	
KARNATAKA													
48. Raichur	7050	5273	5525	132	7200	6106	6024	238	6285	5756	5702	348	
TAMIL NADU													
49. Ennore	990	985	1335	40	1485	1096	842	294	2310	1037	1190	135	
50. Mettur	3690	4275	4469	120	5130	5235	4893	457	4335	4812	4779	490	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
51. Tuticorin		3660	3570	4707	105	5115	5591	5393	425	5220	5193	5312	336
52. North Chennai		2670	2875	3175	38	3315	3476	3301	199	3330	3654	3624	229
Total		11010	11705	13686	303	15045	15398	14429	1375	15195	14696	14905	1190
Total S.R.		45045	42920	45431	1749	50730	48811	47265	3379	48885	46622	46886	3221
EASTERN REGION													
BIHAR													
53. Barauni		750	398	322	82	540	385	337	17	660	477	350	90
54. Muzaffarpur		750	415	345	78	630	342	403	18	660	394	344	67
55. Kahaigaon STPS		3900	343	3661	163	3465	4296	4245	169	3690	4201	4124	242
Total		5400	4216	4328	323	4635	5023	4985	204	5010	5072	4818	399
JHARKHAND													
56. Patratu		2280	1478	1507	53	2100	1304	1340	14	1920	1257	1221	49
57. Tenughat		1560	804	852	78	1290	897	931	38	1200	1083	818	302
58. Bokaro (DVC)		1950	1921	1878	283	1470	1782	1832	208	1740	1794	1729	270
59. Chandrapura (DVC)		1110	1396	1434	295	960	1268	1261	256	930	1386	1392	191
Total		6900	5599	5671	709	5820	5251	5364	516	5790	5520	5160	812

Coal Data for Year 1999-00, 00-01, 01-02

Fig. in '000 Tonnes

Sl. No.	Name of TPS	1999-00			2000-01			2001-02					
		Linkage	Receipt	Consump- tion	C/Stock	Linkage	Receipt	Consump- tion	C/Stock	Linkage	Receipt	Consump- tion	C/Stock
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
WEST BENGAL													
60.	Durgapur (DVC)	1140	1006	1097	40	1650	1070	1063	39	1230	844	828	57

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
61. Mejia (DVC)		1455	1505	1279	255	1830	1924	1865	224	2430	2100	1942	381
62. Bandel		1200	1337	1350	75	1485	1256	1319	20	1500	1274	1226	71
63. Santaldih		870	852	892	53	900	742	695	72	990	773	744	38
64. Kolaghat		5610	4723	4758	57	5250	4782	4688	158	5130	4722	4742	106
65. Bakreswar		645	84	57	27	1305	660	669	29	2100	1810	1746	95
66. Calcutta (CESC)		735	728	731	27	600	585	601	12	645	533	535	13
67. Titagarh (CESC)		960	852	878	16	990	923	922	16	1130	982	976	22
68. S.G.St (CESC)		570	451	456	6	570	414	404	15	570	481	485	7
69. Budge Budge (CESC)		1545	1290	1285	64	1860	1792	1793	64	2285	1933	1944	49
70. Durgapur (DPL)		800	622	616	106	600	348	432	24	1005	695	718	1
71. Faralla STPS		6300	5546	5903	76	6600	7424	7078	440	6810	7173	6855	714
Total		21830	18996	19302	802	23640	21920	21529	1113	25825	23320	22741	1554
ORISSA													
72. Talcher Old		2310	2234	2118	233	2022	2153	2212	177	2013	2176	2190	169
73. Talcher STPS		3675	4042	3883	391	3654	3757	3755	394	3669	4183	4333	228
74. Ib Valley		2400	2746	2709	44	2580	2505	2567	18	2460	2224	2175	84
Total		8385	9022	8710	668	8256	8415	8534	589	8142	8583	8698	481
Total E.R.		42515	37833	38011	2502	42351	40609	40412	2422	44767	42495	41417	3246
N.E. REGION/ASSAM													
75. Bongaigaon		240	108	116	5	273	83	84	8	195	47	40	11
Total All India		236275	216646	219827	11582	241881	230056	232005	11803	250554	240009	240363	14785

PSUs in Uttar Pradesh

379. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Central Public Sector Undertakings in Uttar Pradesh alongwith their location and location of their headquarters;

(b) the total investment made by the Government in each of them;

(c) the details of profit making, loss incurring and sick undertakings separately alongwith number of PSUs referred to BIFR, undertaking-wise; and

(d) the details of schemes formulated for revival of sick undertakings ?

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

(a) to (c) As per Public Enterprises Survey 2000-01, which is a published document, as on 31.3.2001, there were 16 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) whose registered offices are located in the State of Uttar Pradesh (U.P.). The details regarding address of their headquarters are available in volume-II of Public Enterprises Survey 2000-01. A statement giving names of these CPSUs along with location in U.P. and their performance in terms of profit/loss, investment and the status of sick CPSUs registered with the Board For Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (B.I.F.R.) is enclosed.

(d) Schemes for revival of sick undertakings differ from enterprise to enterprise, some of which include waiver of loan/interest, conversion of loan into equity, infusion of fresh funds, provision of Government guarantee for raising funds, rationalisation of manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) etc.

Statement

List of CPSUs in Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) with the location of their registered office, Total Investment and Net Profit/Loss as on 31.3.2001.

(Rs. in Lakhs).

S. No.	Name of PSU	Total Investment	Net Profit/ Loss	Location in U.P.	Status of Company
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Artificial Limbs Mfg. Corpn. of India	5328	51	Kanpur	Profit Making
2.	Bharat Immunological and Biologicals Corp. Ltd.	7491	87	Bulandshahar	Dismissed as Non Maintainable*
3.	Bharat Leather Corpn. Ltd.	2849	-242	Agra	Loss Making
4.	Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd.	11532	-559	Allahabad	Winding Up Notice Issued*
5.	Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd.	18321	1	Allahabad	Profit Making
6.	British India Corporation Ltd.	40868	-3741	Kanpur	Draft Scheme Circulated*
7.	Broadcast Engg. Consultants India Ltd.	148	88	NOIDA	Profit Making
8.	Brushware Ltd.	14	-5	Kanpur	Loss Making
9.	Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.	12627	-1398	Kanpur	Winding Up Recommended*
10.	Elgin Mills Company Ltd. National Handlooms Development	6976	-6156	Kanpur	Winding Up Recommended*

1	2	3	4	5	6
11. Corporation Ltd.		1700	32	Lucknow	Profit Making
12. NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.		106259	-13568	Kanpur	Revival Scheme Sanctioned*
13. Scooters India. Ltd.		6139	510	Lucknow	Declared No Longer Sick*
14. Tannery and Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd.#		32125	-3143	Kanpur	Winding Up Recommended*
15. Triveni Structurals Ltd.		11292	-4592	Allahabad	Winding Up Notice Issued*
16. U.P. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.		473	3	Kanpur	Revival Scheme Sanctioned*

*BIFR Referred Sick CPSEs (10)

#Since been closed.

Electrification of Manmad-Secunderabad-Nanded Rail Line

380. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to electrify Manmad-Secunderabad-Nanded broad gauge section in Maharashtra during the year 2003-2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Telecast of Gyan Darshan-III

381. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast Gyan Darshan-III;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with duration of the programmes; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to telecast ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that Gyan Darshan-III has been launched on 26th January, 2003.

(b) This is a Technical Education Channel which has been launched in collaboration with Technical Education Department of Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Indian Institutes of Technology, IIT, Delhi is the nodal Institution. It will beam 16 hrs of programmes per day.

(c) Does not arise.

Disinvestment Policy in the PSUs to Deprive SCs/STs

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

(a) whether the disinvestment policy in the PSUs would deprive the weaker sections of the society including SCs/STs of the social securities provided through the reservation scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government would consider bringing a new legislation making mandatory the continuation of reservation schemes in the divested units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and

(b) Government is committed to protect the interests of all the workers including those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In the case of strategic sales, the interests of the workers are protected by incorporating suitable provisions in the Transaction Agreements, signed at the time of disinvestments. The recital of the Agreement state that the strategic partner recognizes that the Government in relation to its employment policies follows certain principles for the benefit of the members of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, physically handicapped persons and other socially disadvantaged sections of the society and that the strategic partner shall use its best efforts to cause the Company to provide adequate job opportunities for such persons. Further, in the event of any reduction in the strength of the employees of the Company, the strategic partner shall use its best efforts to ensure that Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are retrenched at the end.

(c) and (d) It would not be possible to introduce reservation in private sector without the cooperation of the sector. The representative organizations in the private sector support empowerment of disadvantaged groups by way of promoting human capital formation and entrepreneurship among the SCs, STs.

Electrification of Shoranur-Mangalapuram Rail Line

383. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal regarding the electrification of Shoranur-Mangalapuram rail line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala has submitted a Memorandum containing various issues including Electrification of Shoranur-Mangalore section on 20.12.2002.

(c) Due to constraint of resources and relative priority for electrification of other high density routes, there is, at present, no proposal to electrify Shoranur-Mangalore section.

Launching of Luxury Tourist Trains

384. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka and Indian Railways have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch a luxury tourist train on the lines of Rajasthan's Palace on Wheels in the State;

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

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

(d) the total share, the State Government has agreed to provide in this regard; and

(e) The date on which this train is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the MoU, the Indian Railways will be responsible for operating the train whereas the State Government will provide all onboard and on-ground hospitality services.

(c) and (d) A Joint Working Group, to be constituted in this regard, will decide on these issues.

(e) The project is to be commissioned by the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC).

[Translation]

Indian Women Publically Sold in Pakistan

385. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the International human right organization 'Amnesty International' in its latest report has stated that Indian women are being sold in Pakistan and Pakistan has become base of women trafficking and these women are publically sold in backward areas of Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent this social evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Construction of ROB at Level Crossing
between Muchipara and Durgapur**

386. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a road over bridge at level crossing between Muchipara and Durgapur barrage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be constructed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) The Work of construction of a Road Over Bridge in replacement of existing level crossing No. 113B/T at Km. 169.82 near Durgapur station has already been sanctioned during Works Programme of 2000-01 on cost sharing basis. However, the State Government has not yet fulfilled the preliminary requisites like furnishing acceptance of sharing of cost. Hence, work could not be progressed. Execution of work depends upon State Government's fulfilling the preliminary pre-requisites and taking up of work on approaches. Railway will complete its portion of work (over tracks) alongwith or before the completion of approaches.

Derailment of Kamrup Express

387. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the derailment of Kamrup Express on January 10, 2003;

(b) if so, whether due to severe cold chinks developed in rail lines resulting in derailment;

(c) if so, the practice for weather/climatic acclimatization of rail lines for years has been abandoned; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) to (d) As per provisional findings contained in Preliminary Inquiry Report of Commissioner of Railway Safety/Northeast Frontier Circle, derailment of Kamrup Express on New Bongaigaon-Guwahati Section of Alipurduar Division on 10.01.2003, was due to failure of the right hand rail in the heat affected zone. Hence, the cause of accident is attributed to the 'failure of equipment'.

Rail steel is subject to contraction and expansion depending upon temperature. In case, the rail temperature goes beyond the specified limits, hot weather and cold weather patrolling is introduced as per laid down instructions. Rail, as a material, neither needs weather/climatic acclimatization nor had there been ever such a practice.

Cross Subsidy on Power

388. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to abolish cross subsidy on power;

(b) if so, whether this step of Government would usher in problems for the poor; and

(c) if so, whether the Electricity Bill 2001 would pave the way for privatisation of generation, transmission and distribution facilities and lead to dismantling of the State Electricity Boards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Distribution of electricity is the responsibility of the State Government. Retail tariff for supply of power to the various consumers is determined by the State Government or State Electricity Regulatory Commission, wherever in operation.

Section 29(2)(c) of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (ERC) Act, 1998 requires the State Commission to ensure inter alia that the tariff progressively reflects the cost of supply of electricity at an adequate and improving level of efficiency. Section 29(3) of the Act, provides that State commission which determining the tariff under this Act, shall not show undue preference to any consumer of electricity, but may differentiate according to the consumers load factor, power factor, total consumption

of energy, during any specified period or the time at which supply is required or the geographical position of any area, the nature of supply and the purpose for which the supply is required.

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

The Electricity Bill, 2001 which has been introduced in Parliament gives flexibility to States in terms of reform model.

[Translation]

**Inferior Quality of Food in Pantry Car of
Jharkhand Swarnajayanti Express**

389. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for less quantity and inferior quality of food prepared in the pantry car of Jharkhand Swarnajayanti Express 8603/8604 and Muri express 8101/8102; and

(b) the action taken by Railways against the guilty persons in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) There is no complaint recorded for the last three years regarding less quantity and inferior quality of food in Pantry Car of these trains.

Restroom for Loaders

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item captioned "Narkiya Sthiti hai Purani Dilli Railway Station par Kuliyon ke Vishramgrahon ki" appearing in *Rashtriya Sahara* dated 6th January, 2003; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto ?

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

(b) A new rest shelter is proposed so as to improve the resting facility for the licensed porters of Delhi Railway Station. The present shelter is repaired regularly as a part of maintenance work and there is no leakage at present. Besides, arrangements have been made to ensure regular cleanliness of the existing premises.

Mixing of Solvents in Petrol and Diesel

391. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the chemical industry in the country is mixing solvents in Petrol and Diesel illegally instead of using it for prescribed jobs; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check such type of adulteration ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Chennai industry is one of the prime sources of naphtha and other miscible solvents used for adulteration of petrol/diesel by unscrupulous elements for pecuniary gains.

(b) 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). Action is taken by the OMCs against erring dealers under the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Dealership Agreement. The State Governments 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.

[English]

Extension of Solapur-Pakni Line

392. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether while inaugurating the double-lining extension project on January 5, 2002, he also announced further extension of the Solapur-Pakni double-lining to Mohol;

(b) if so, the present status of said extension work alongwith the estimated cost thereof;

(c) whether this double-lining is being undertaken as a part of double-lining of the Bhigwan section; and

(d) if so, the details of over-all double-lining projects between Solapur and Bhigwan ?

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

(b) and (c) The cost of doubling from Pakni to Mohol has been assessed about Rs. 40 crore. The budget for 2003-2004 is under finalisation and the position will be known when the budget is passed in the Parliament.

(d) The patch doubling of Solapur-Pakni on Solapur-Bhigwan section is in progress.

Misbehaviour by Parking Contractors

393. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the misbehaviour of the car parking lot contractors with the car owners and their staff including MPs;

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure that the contractor behaves properly and in the event terminate the contract;

(c) whether there are two different types of rates for car park on Ajmeri Gate side car parking at New Delhi Railway Station;

(d) whether the outer car parking at Ajmeri Gate Railway complex are much less than charged inside parking near platform No. 12; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Some complaints regarding misbehaviour of the parking lot contractors at stations with the users are received.

(b) The complaints are investigated and apart from the fines imposed, the parking contractors are counselled to be courteous while dealing with passengers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) There are two car parking stands as Ajmeri Gate side at New Delhi Railway station, i.e., (i) general car parking and (ii) Drive lane parking. The parking charges are higher at Drive lane parking near platform No. 12 because of added advantage of alighting near the platform and also to avoid congestion.

ROB at Pattambi Town

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

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a railway over bridge at Pattambi town;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on the said project is likely to be started and completed ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Computerised Reservation Facilities

395. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the major Railway Stations in Orissa have not been provided with computerised Reservation facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which all these stations are likely to be provided with such facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) As per the extant policy, computerized reservation facilities are provided at the stations registering a reservation related workload of 100 transactions per day or more, District Headquarters, important tourist centers and other important stations. All major stations satisfying the workload criteria

in the State of Orissa have already been provided/sanctioned with computerized reservation facilities. List of stations having computerized reservation facilities and the list of stations where work is underway for provision of computerised reservation facilities in the State of Orissa are given in the Statement. Provision of computerized reservation facilities is an on going process. These facilities are sanctioned at number of new locations every year depending upon the availability of funds.

Statement

List of Computerised Reservation facilities provided in the State of Orissa

S.No.	Location	Railway
1	2	3
1.	Balasore	SE
2.	Bhadrak	SE
3.	Bhubneswar	SE
4.	Bhubneswar Assembly	SE
5.	Bolangir	SE
6.	Brahampur	SE
7.	Chandrasekharpur (Bhubneshwar)	SE
8.	Cuttack	SE
9.	Dhenkanal	SE
10.	Hirakund	SE
11.	Jharsuguda	SE
12.	Kesinga	SE
13.	Khurda Road	SE
14.	Koraput	SE
15.	Paradeep	SE
16.	Puri	SE
17.	Puri City Booking Office	SE
18.	Rayagada	SE
19.	Rourkela – City Booking Office	SE
20.	Rourkela	SE

1	2	3
21.	Sambalpur	SE
22.	Sambalpur Road	SE
23.	Talcher	SE
24.	Titlagarh	SE

List of Stations where work is under progress to provide computerised Reservation facilities in the State of Orissa

1. Kendrapara Town
2. Jaipur Keonjhar Road
3. RDC Office Cuttak
4. Angul
5. Parlakhemendi

Changes in Routes of Jan Shatabdi Express

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

(a) whether the Railways considering to change routes of some Jan Shatabdi trains specially train running between Durg-Raigarh into Nagpur-Bilaspur due to low occupancy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of losses incurred to railway due to low occupancy of these Jan Shatabdi Express; and

(e) the efforts made by Railways to make it profitable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) Feasibility of increasing the utilisation of 2069/2070 Durg-Raigarh Jan Shatabdi is being examined and action as found feasible and justified will be taken.

(d) and (e) Profitability/losses of individual trains are not maintained on Indian Railways.

[Translation]

Establishment of Mega Thermal Power Station

397. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish Mega Thermal Power Station in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any efforts in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to set up two mega power projects by National Thermal Power Corporation viz., Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project Stage-II (2x500 MW in phase I and 1x500 MW in phase II) in Bhagalpur district and Barh Super Thermal Power Project (3x660 MW) in Patna district of Bihar. Various clearances like Techno-Economic Clearance, environmental clearance etc., are obtained/being obtained for these projects.

[English]

Hike in Price of Petroleum Products

398. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to frequent price hike of petrol and petroleum products, the inflation rate has gone unpredictably high in the recent months.

(b) if so, the steps the Government have taken so far to check the recurrence of such price rise in future; and

(c) the extent to which the Government propose to curb the inflation in prices to meet the budget deficit and check the rising burden of debts in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The annual point to point inflation rate based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) remained below 2 per cent till the end of May 2002,

and rose thereafter only to remain between 3-4 per cent level during much of the current financial year. The uptrend in global oil prices caused some inflationary undercurrents towards mid January 2003 pushing up the inflation rate of over 4% level for the first time in 2002-03 which is still quite moderate. The latest annual point to point inflation rate for the week ended February 1, 2003 is 4.9 percent.

(c) Inflation in prices is monitored by the Government on a regular basis and appropriate fiscal measures are taken to check inflation. To check the rising burden of debts in future, Government have taken steps including prepayment of costly debts.

Royalty on Crude Oil

399. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee set up to evolve a new scheme of royalty on crude oil has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme recommended by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Government had constituted a Committee in April, 2000 to devise a New Scheme of Royalty on indigenous crude oil from areas outside New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) regime. The Committee submitted its Report in November, 2001 and had, inter alia, recommended the criteria for determining royalty on crude oil, the royalty rate/rates, the principles for periodic revision and consequential amendments in Rules and Acts, if any. The Government had considered the Report of the Committee. On 04.02.2003, the Government approved the proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas regarding the New Scheme of royalty and revision in the rate of royalty on indigenous crude oil from 01.04.1998, from which date dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) was initiated by the Government.

Reducing of Speed in Trains

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

(a) whether most tracks and rolling stocks are unsuitable and badly designed for high speed;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to enhance safety in railways by reducing speed by 5% of all trains in the country;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to reduce the speed of trains immediately; and

(d) the time by which the speed of passenger trains will be slow down?

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

(b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to reduce speed of all trains.

(c) and (d) Do not arise. However, in the wake of miscreant activity, endangering safety of trains, the maximum train speed on certain sections, considered vulnerable from sabotage point of view, has been temporarily reduced during night time as a precautionary measure:

Research Design and Standards Organisation

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

(a) whether the Research Development and Standards Organisation at Lucknow has been unable to equip itself with modern gadgetry and personnel to give relevant suggestions or proposals to the Government on rail safety;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering to start a new institute on the lines of the IIT to make available a highly qualified cadre of railway engineers and personnel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to change the style and manner of functioning of RDSO in the interest of modernisation and safety programmes of the railways?

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

Research Development and Standards Organisation (RDSO) is equipped with test and design facilities for safety monitoring of track and Over-Head Equipment and also to evolve safety related new equipments and modifications to improve safety.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Recently an internal re-organisation of RDSO has been done in order to segregate the Research and Development activities from that of routine activities so that more thrust can be given to research and development.

Requirement of LPG in Maharashtra and Karnataka

402. SHRI A. VANKATESH NAIK :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) the estimated monthly requirement of LPG in various districts of Karnataka and Maharashtra at present and the supply position thereof;

(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to meet the full requirement of LPG in those districts;

(c) whether the rural areas of the Karnataka and Maharashtra are being neglected in supply of LPG;

(d) if so, the details therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) The present monthly requirement of LPG of registered consumers with Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in the State of Karnataka and Maharashtra is 38,763 Metric Tonne (MT) and 1,07,514 MT respectively. OMCs have met the requirement of consumers by and large in full, in both the States.

OMCs are releasing the LPG connections on demand in all the existing markets of the country.

Project for Fast Train Services

403. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a project connecting Bijnore with Delhi by fast train service is pending for long time;
- (b) if so, since when this project is pending; and
- (c) the time by which this is likely to be completed ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Expansion of Talcher Project in Orissa

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

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has taken up 500 MW expansion project at Talcher in Orissa and 420 MW at Neyveli Lignite Corporation in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the present status of these projects; and

(c) the details of Megawatts of power proposed to be given to Karnataka after these projects are completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have taken up expansion of Talcher Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) in Orissa for 4x500 MW. The construction work at Talcher Stage-II (4x500 MW) project is progressing as per schedule. The first unit of Talcher Stage-II (4x500 MW) has been test synchronized in January, 2003 and preparation for operation on coal is in progress.

The Neyveli Thermal Power Station (TPS) - I expansion consisting of 2 units of 210 MW is also under execution in the State of Tamil Nadu by Neyveli Lignite Corporation. The unit-I (210 MW) was synchronized in October, 2002. Regarding unit-2 (210 MW), boiler and Turbine Generator erection are in progress.

(c) From Talcher STPP Stage-II, Karnataka has been allocated 396 MW of power. Karnataka is entitled to a share of 60 MW of power from Neyveli TPS-I expansion.

Pumping of Arms/Ammunition from Kerala Coast

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

(a) whether the Kerala Coast has been combed after intelligence reports that underworld don Dawood Ibrahim had sent a shipload of arms to the extremists groups working in India; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the joint combining operation by Navy, Coast Guard, Custom and Revenue intelligence agencies ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) On the basis of information received, on likely landing of RDX/arms off Kasargod in Karnataka by a country craft which left Dubai on 14th December, 2002, intensive sea/shore patrolling was conducted. All the units at sea were alerted and regular surface and air surveillance was maintained on the Western seaboard.

(b) No, suspicious movement/vessel has been sighted.

National Commission for Minorities

406. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister has assured the Centre to make all out efforts to rehabilitate the ousted Pandits;

(b) whether the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister had forced the National Commission on Minorities to seek permission of the Election commission before the proposed visit; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) The new State Government of Jammu and Kashmir in its common Minimum Programme has reaffirmed that the return of Kashmiri Pandits to their motherland is an essential ingredient of Kashmiriat. It has been stated that the Government will seek the cooperation of all elements in the society to create an atmosphere conducive to their safe return, will take all necessary steps

to ensure their safety and devise effective measures for their rehabilitation and employment.

(b) and (c) The State Government asked the National Commission for Minorities to seek clearance from the Election Commission for the proposed visit to the State in view of the elections to the State Assembly and the applicability of Model Code of Conduct. The National Commission for Minorities being a statutory body, suo moto decided not to visit the State during this period.

Disability Act

407. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission Chairman has written to Government that disability being a rights issue, the Government should bring rights of the disabled to the center stage of the developmental agenda;

(b) whether the chairman has also asked for constitution of a task force to frame a national policy and plan for the creation of a barrier free infrastructure for the disabled in accordance with the provisions of the Disabilities Act; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this direction ?

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

(c) The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 provides for a multisectoral approach towards empowerment of disabled persons particularly in relation to education of children, rehabilitation services, barrier free access and economic empowerment. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, other Central Ministries and the State Governments have programmes/schemes for the welfare of persons with disabilities. Many State Governments are also providing pensions for persons with disabilities. Attempts are constantly made to improve the quality of service delivery. The Chief Commissioner for Disabilities, a statutory body under the Act, ensures redressal of grievances and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. Besides, the PWD Act, 1995 already provides for creation of barrier free infrastructure in transport sector, roads and public buildings by the appropriate Governments

within the limits of their economic capacity and development. Action to create barrier free facilities for persons with disabilities in public buildings, on roads and in transport sector has been initiated by various authorities in Central Government. The Urban Development Ministry has prepared Model Buildings Bylaws and guidelines for construction of barrier free buildings and circulated the same to all States/UTs for adoption. While old buildings are being modified to facilitate access to persons with disabilities, instructions have been issued to Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and other agencies to incorporate barrier free features in the designs for new buildings. The effort of making public buildings barrier-free is a continuous one and progress depends on the resources available.

ONGC'S Deal with Sudan

408. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

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

(a) the present status of ONGC's deal in Sudan oilfield, and

(b) the details of blocks explored since its inception ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), signed the Purchase and Sale Agreement with Talisman Energy Inc., Canada on 30th October 2002 for buying the latter's 25% stake in Greater Nile Oil Project (GNOP), Sudan, subject to consent from the Government of Sudan and the other Consortium Members, namely, China National Petroleum Company (CNPC), China, Petronas, Malaysia and Sudapet, Sudan, as well as waiver of pre-emption rights by CNPC and Petronas.

(b) OVL was incorporated as Hydrocarbons India Pvt. Ltd. on 5 March 1965 under the Companies Act, 1956. Since its inception the company has worked chronologically in the following blocks :

1. Block in Persian Gulf, Iran (1965)
2. Western Desert, Iraq (1974)
3. Block 06.1, Vietnam (1988)

4. North Zafarana Offshore Block, Egypt (1994)
5. Block 38, Socotra Offshore, Yemen (1996)
6. Fejaj Permit, Tunisia (1995)
7. Exploration Block # 8, Iraq (2001)
8. Sakahlin-I Project, Russia (2001)
9. Exploration Block A-1, Myanmar (2002)
10. Exploration Block NC-188 and NC-189, Libya (2002)
11. Exploration Project in South Louisiana, USA (2002)
12. Farsi Offshore Exploration Block, Iran (2002)

Technology from Abroad

409. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have urged the Indian Diaspora to help the country in getting key technology from abroad and in marketing Indian Defence products and technology abroad; and

(b) if so, the response/assurance received in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) During the session on 'opportunities in defence and internal/homeland security R and D' matters relating to internal/homeland security were discussed and the participants of Indian Diaspora at 'Pravasi Bharati Divas' conference organised from 9th January 2003 to 11th January 2003 expressed desire for sustained collaboration on matters of internal security needs of the country.

Construction of Broad Gauge line between Madurai-Chennai

410. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of laying of parallel broad gauge rail line between Madurai-Chennai;

(b) whether sufficient funds have been allocated for the completion of this work;

(c) if so, whether the Government are aware of the fact that there exists a terrible traffic density between Madurai and Dindigul; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ease the traffic density on this sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) On Chennai-Madurai section, the work on conversion of meter gauge line between Chennai and Chengalpattu is in progress which, on completion, will provide double broad gauge line from Chennai to Chengalpattu.

(b) The funds are being allocated to the ongoing work as per the requirement keeping in view the availability of resources.

(c) Madurai-Dindigul section is over-saturated from traffic considerations.

(d) Line capacity works on the section have been taken up.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Allotment of Petroleum Outlets

411. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has given its final orders on the cancellation of petrol pumps, LPG agencies and Kerosene outlets by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bench of the Supreme Court has also decided to examine controversial allotments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The Supreme Court of India vide its judgement dated the 20th December, 2002, has quashed the order of the Government, cancelling allotments of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG

distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships made on the recommendations of the Dealer Selection Boards since January 1, 2000, except in respect of certain cases which were reported in the media. The Court has also appointed a Committee comprising a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India and a retired Judge of the High Court of Delhi and has referred these media-reported cases to this Committee for its examination. The Court has asked the Committee to submit its report to the Court within a period of three months.

[English]

Laying of New Railway Lines

412. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for increasing the rail network during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to pay special attention in laying of new rail lines in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Following projects covering 1331 km of BG lines have been targeted for completion during 2002-03;

Sl. No.	State in which the project falls	Section
1	2	3

New Lines : 214 km

1.	West Bengal	Buniadpur-Balurghat of Eklakhi-Balurghat
2.	Orissa	Jaroli-Keonjhar of Daitari-Banspani
3.	Tripura	Kumarghat-Manu of Kumarghat-Agartala
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Katra-Faizabad
5.	Bihar	Duraundha-Maharajganj restoration

1	2	3
6.	West Bengal	Bajkul-Kanthi of Tamluk-Digha
7.	Bihar	Fatuha-Islampur
8.	Himachal Pradesh/Punjab	Una-Churaru Takrala of Nangal Dam – Taiwara
Gauge conversion : 867 km		
1.	Maharashtra	Latur-Latur Road of Miraj-Latur
2.	Rajasthan	Luni-Samdari-Jasai of Luni-Munabao
3.	Tamil Nadu	Vadalur-Vriddhachalam of Salem-Cuddalore
4.	Karnataka	Mangalore-Puttur of Arasikere-Mangalore
5.	Andhra Pradesh/Maharashtra	Dharmabad-Nizamabad and Jankampet-Bodhan of Mudkhed-Secunderabad
6.	Andhra Pradesh/Tamil Nadu	Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati
7.	Gujarat	Rajkot-Jetalsar-Junagarh of Rajkot-Veraval
8.	Gujarat	Surendernagar-Rajaula City-Pipavav
9.	Tamil Nadu/Kerala	Virudunagar-Rajapalayam of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudunagar
Doublings : 250 km		
1.	West Bengal	Chandanpur-Gurup
2.	West Bengal	New Alipur-Akra
3.	Bihar	Parsa Bazar – Punpun
4.	Bihar	Siho-Karpurigram
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Colonelganj-Sarju of Gonda-Jarwal Road
6.	Karnataka/Kerala	Calicut-Mangalore (balance 50 km)
7.	Karnataka/Andhra Pradesh	Bangarpet-Cisanatham of Whitefield-Kuppam

1	2	3
8. Andhra Pradesh	Gudur-Renigunta (4 block sections-40 km)	
9. Andhra Pradesh	Ballapalle-Pullampet (4 block sections-30 km)	
10. Chhattisgarh	Naila-Champa of Akaltara-Champa	
11. Chhattisgarh	Champa-Balpur of Champa-Saragbundia	
12. Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur-Dagori and Nipania-Bhatapara of Bilaspur-Urkura 3rd line	
13. Chhattisgarh	Gevra Road-Kusumunda of Korba-Gevra Road	
14. Orissa	Kesinga-Norla Road of Titlagarh-Lanjigarh	
15. Orissa	Salegaon-Nergundi of Rajatgarh-Nergundi	

It is planned to add over 5,000 km of BG track by way of New Lines, Gauge Conversions and Doublings during 10th Plan. The project wise targets are finalised on year to year basis keeping in view the availability of resources and the progress of individual project.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Allocation of Gas to Pipavav Power Project

413. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been made by the Government of Gujarat for the additional allocation of gas to Pipavav Power Project;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have since given their approval;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government have agreed for additional allocation of 0.5 MSCMD gas for Gujarat Power Projects in the year 2001;

(e) if so, whether the demand has been fully met; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Gas Linkage Committee in its meeting held on 26.5.2000 approved an 'in principle allocation' of 2.25 MMSCMD of natural gas effective from 2003 for the proposed 650 MW gas based power project to be set up at Pipavav, Gujarat. The allocation was subject to investment decision to be taken by the Management Committee of the Tapti field for the additional development of the field. The Management Committee has not taken any decision.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. To overcome the power shortage additional quantity of gas to an extent of 0.5 MMSCMD was given to Gujarat Industries Power Company Limited (GIPCL). Due to shortage of gas it has not been possible to meet the full demand of natural gas.

Mixing of Ethanol with Petrol

414. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
YOGI ADITYA NATH :

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

(a) whether the sale of ethanol mixed petrol will reduce import bill on crude oil;

(b) if so, the amount of foreign exchange likely to be saved as a result thereof;

(c) whether the production of ethanol is sufficient in the country to cater to the needs of the people;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the quantum of petrol to be saved after mixing ethanol with petrol;

(f) whether any research has been conducted to find out the possible biofuels which could be blended with petrol and diesel; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Reduction of import bill on crude oil and savings to the foreign exchange due to sale of ethanol blended petrol would depend upon the supply demand balance of petrol, diesel LPG and kerosene.

(c) and (d) The projections made by Indian Sugar Manufacturers Associations, Indian Sugar Mills Associations, Ethanol Manufacturer Associations and Department of Food indicate that it is sufficient but All India Chemical Manufacturers Association have expressed their reservations. However, additional ethanol manufacturing units are coming up to fill up the gaps, if any.

(e) It is estimated that about 5500 lakh litres of ethanol would be required for blending with petrol @5% in the country and thus equal quantity of petrol would be saved.

(f) and (g) Ethanol has been identified for blending with petrol and bio-diesel has been identified for blending with diesel. Bio-diesel is being produced from non-edible oil seeds in India.

[Translation]

Incidents of Theft and Eve Teasing during last three years

415. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidents of theft and eve-teasing have increased while travelling in trains during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to enact an Act and delegate the powers to Railway Protection Force to take stern action in order to check such crimes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) "Policing" being a State subject, prevention and detection of crime on Railways, including running trains, is the

constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. The cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP). Therefore, information asked for in the Question is not readily available with the Ministry of Railways.

(c) and (d) Two cabinet notes for amending the RPF Act 1957 and The Railway Act 1989 has been initiated to empower the RPF for escorting the passenger trains in vulnerable area, providing access control regulation and general security at the platforms and Security of the Railway Projects.

Unprofitable Rail Routes

416. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently conducted any survey to identify the non-profitable rail-routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rail services on these routes are going to be withdrawn;

(d) if so, whether withdrawal of rail services on those routes is likely to have adverse impact on the development of those areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a review of financial results is undertaken every year to identify the Uneconomic Branch Lines run by the Indian Railways. There were 115 Uneconomic Branch Lines and 11 New Lines, which incurred an aggregate loss of Rs. 511.91 crores during 2000-01.

(c) to (e) Based on the recommendations of various Committees, which have studied this problem, the Railways take action to close such lines. Since 1985 till 1999-2000, 21 such lines have been closed as per the details given in the statement. These lines are closed after taking into account all relevant factors including availability of alternative roads and road transport services. Concurrence of the State Government is also obtained before a decision is taken to close down the Uneconomic lines and rail services thereof.

Statement*Name of Uneconomic Branch Lines
Permanently Closed*

S.No.	Names
1.	Sahebpur-Kamal-Monghyr Ghat
2.	Dudwa-Gauri Phanta
3.	Dudwa-Chandan Chowki
4.	Senchoa-Silghat
5.	Haibargaon-Mairabari
6.	Nidamgalam-Mannargudi
7.	Morvi-Tankara
8.	Hadmatiya-Jodiya
9.	Khambaliya-Salaya
10.	Than-Chotila
11.	Ningala-Godhadha Swaminarayan
12.	Bhavnagar-Mahuva
13.	Shapur-Sardiya
14.	Piplod-Devgadh Bariya
15.	Kunkavav-Bagasara
16.	Botad-Jasdan
17.	Chasma-Harij
18.	Morvi-Ghantila
19.	Jorawarnagar-Sayala
20.	Champaner-Pani Mines
21.	Godhra-Lunawada

Functioning of New T.V. Transmitters

417. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of television transmitter towers installed at various places of the country have not started functioning despite being technically ready;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefore, place-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for posting of staff at these transmitters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Twenty one (21) TV Transmitters are presently technically ready for commissioning, as per details at the Statement. These transmitters could not be commissioned due to non-availability of staff for operation and maintenance. Steps are being taken to make staff available.

Statement*Transmitters Technically Ready*

Location	State
1	2

High Power Transmitters

1. Guna	Madhya Pradesh
2. Chandrapur	Maharashtra
3. Kanpur (DD2)	Uttar Pradesh
4. Mysore	Karnataka
5. Mysore (DD2)	Karnataka

Low Power Transmitters

1. Satrasal	Assam
2. Pirawa	Rajasthan
3. Punganur	Andhra Pradesh
4. Mudhol	Karnataka
5. Sindhnur	Karnataka
6. Vadodara (DD2)	Gujarat
7. Bhavnagar (DD2)	Gujarat
8. Sindhwa	Madhya Pradesh
9. Pandaria	Chhattisgarh
10. Kolhapur (DD2)	Maharashtra
11. Akola (DD2)	Maharashtra
12. Sangli (DD2)	Maharashtra
13. Amravati (DD2)	Maharashtra

1	2
14. Nasik (DD2)	Maharashtra
15. Nanded (DD2)	Maharashtra
16. Malegaon (DD2)	Maharashtra

[English]

Gauge Conversion

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

(a) the total length of rail track still to be converted into broad gauge in the country. State-wise;

(b) the route length converted into broad gauge during Ninth Five Year Plan period, alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon. State-wise;

(c) the target fixed for gauge conversion work during the Tenth Five Year period;

(d) the details of sections likely to be completed by December, 2004;

(e) whether additional fund are likely to be considered to speed up the projects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The Statewise details of metre gauge/narrow gauge lines as on 01.04.2002 are enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) A total of 2103 km route length was converted into broad gauge during 9th Five Year Plan period, the details of which are enclosed as Statement-II. The details of expenditure on projects are not maintained Statewise. However, the total expenditure incurred on gauge conversion projects during the 9th Five Year Plan was Rs. 3880.36 crore.

(c) As per the Xth Plan document, a target of 2365 km of gauge conversion has been fixed. However, targets for individual projects are fixed on year to year basis as per the overall availability of resources and the progress of individual project.

(d) The details of sections completed/likely to be completed in 2002-03 are as follows :-

Sl. No.	Section completed/likely to be completed in 2002-03	Km
1.	Latur-Latur Road of Miraj-Latur	42
2.	Luni-Samdari-Jasai of Luni-Monabao	196
3.	Vadalur-Vriddhachalam of Cuddalore-Salem	27
4.	Mangalore-Puttur of Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore	40
5.	Virudhunagar-Rajapalayam of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Trichchendur, and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar	50
6.	Dharmabad-Nizamabad and Jankhampet-Bodhan of Secunderabad-Mudkhed and Jankhampet-Bodhan	56
7.	Katpadi-Tirupati of Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati	104
8.	Rajkot-Jetalsar-Junagarh of Rajkot-Veraval	102
9.	Surendernagar-Pipavav of Surendranagar-Bhavnagar-Rajula-Mahuwa with the extrn. upto Pipavav and Sihor-Palitana	250
Total		867

However, sections targeted for completion in 2003-04 will be known only on presentation of Budget 2003-04.

(e) and (f) This would depend upon the overall availability of funds. However, some projects have been identified for implementation under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY).

Statement-I

Statewise statement of balance MG/NG Lines
as on 01.04.2002

State	Kms.
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	754
NE Region	1429
Bihar	1287
Gujarat	3222

1	2	1	2
Haryana	236	Punjab	25
Himachal Pradesh	244	Orissa	143
Karnataka	651	Rajasthan	2756
Kerala	114	Tamil Nadu	1992
Madhya Pradesh	1369	Uttar Pradesh	1860
Maharashtra	1197	West Bengal	795

Statement-II*Details of Gauge Conversion completed during 9th plan*

S.No.	Name of Project	Completed during 9th Plan		
		Section	State	Km
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jodhpur-Luni and Luni-Marwar	Jodhpur-Luni-Marwar	Rajasthan	102
2.	Sholapur-Gadag	Sholapur-Hotgi-Bijapur	Maharashtra/ Karnataka	112
3.	Gondia-Chandafort	Nagbir-Chandafort-Ballarshah	Maharashtra	122
4.	Secunderabad-Dronachellam	Mehboobnagar-Dronachellam	Andhra Pradesh	185
5.	Mysore-Hassan	Mysore-Holenarsipur	Karnataka	87
6.	Lumding-Dibrugarh	Lumding-Dibrugarh	NE Region	186
7.	Hajipur-Bachwara	Bachwara-Hajipur	Bihar	72
8.	Trichy-Nagore	Tirchy-Thanjavur	Tamil nadu	50
9.	Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore	Hassan-Sakleshpur	Karnataka	42
10.	Chickballapur-Yellahanka and Kolar-Bangarpet	Kolar-Bangarapet	Karnataka	18
11.	Narkatiaganj-Gorakhpur	Narkatiaganj-Gorakhpur	Bihar/UP	159
12.	MadrasBeach-Trichy	Arakkonam-Chengalpattu and Tambaram-Tiruchchirapalli	Tamil Nau	366
13.	Trichy-Dindigul	Tiruchchirapalli-Dindigul	Tamil Nadu	93
14.	Indara-Phephana	Indara-Phephana	Uttar Pradesh	55
15.	Miraj-Latur	Pandharpur-Kuruduwadi	Maharashtra	52
16.	Kashipur-Lalkuan	Kashipur-Lalkuan	Uttaranchal	60
17.	Salem-Yeshwantpur	Yelahanka-Yeshvantpur	Karnataka	17

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Wankaner-Maliya-Miyana	Wankaner-Morbi to Maliya-Miyana and Dahisara to Navlakhi	Gujarat	96
19.	Guna-Etawah	Nonera-Soni-Bhind	Madhya Pradesh	50
20.	Muzaffarpur-Raxaul	Raxaul-Birganj	Bihar	8
21.	Gandhidham-Bhuj	Gandhidham-Bhuj	Gujarat	58
22.	Hassan-Mysore	Lakshmanatheertha Br.	Karnataka	1
23.	Guntur-Guntakal and Guntakal-Kalluru	Pendekallu-Gooty	Andhra Pradesh	29
24.	Dhranghara-Kuda	Dhranghara-Kuda	Gujarat	33
25.	Mudkhed-Secunderabad	Mudkhed-Dharmabad	Maharashtra/ Andhra Pradesh	50
				2103

Raid in Bangalore Jaipur Express

419. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a raid was conducted by the CBI and I.T. officials in the Bangalore Jaipur Express;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any railways officials has been found guilty after the raid;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against them ?

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

(b) Based on a source information that one Railway official was carrying huge unaccounted cash in the train, CBI in coordination with the Income Tax Department had carried out a raid on 21.12.2002.

(c) and (d) CBI have registered a Regular Case against the concerned officials and further investigations are in progress.

(e) Suitable action will be taken by the Government on receipt of the investigation report from CBI, in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission. In the meantime, the official has been placed under suspension and has been transferred to a distant location.

Employment to Oustees

420. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether compensation/job is given to the displaced family whose land is acquired for defence purpose;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) For the land acquired for Defence purposes, land compensation is paid as awarded by the competent land acquisition authorities under the Land Acquisition Act. There is no policy for providing jobs to persons whose lands are acquired.

Decline in Passenger/Freight Earnings of Eastern Railways

421. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a sharp drop in the passenger/freight earnings of Eastern Railways after its bifurcation;

(b) if so, the details of earnings of Eastern Railways during the said period with data regarding earnings for the corresponding period last year;

(c) whether the expenditure of Eastern Railways is at a higher rate in comparison to its earnings in the said period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to overcome the problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Eastern Railway's earnings for the period before and after operation of new zones with effect from 01.10.2002 are not comparable as the number of Divisions are not the same. However, passenger and freight earnings on originating basis of Eastern Railway with revised jurisdiction for the period from October, 2002 to December, 2002 show an improvement as compared to the corresponding months of the year 2001 for the same jurisdiction.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However, the expenditure has been at a higher rate than the earnings of Eastern Railway even before the operation of new zones. This has been due to the fact that revenue generated by Eastern Railway was not enough to meet the entire expenditure on account of Ordinary Working Expenses, Appropriation to various funds and meeting dividend liability.

(e) Although earnings on originating basis for revised jurisdiction have shown an improvement, the following steps are taken/proposal to be taken.

(i) to further increase the earnings :—

1. Ticket checking has been intensified.
2. Marketing efforts have been rejuvenated to attract more high rated traffic.
3. Additional coaches have been added, wherever required, to cater to the long distance passengers.
4. More number of passenger reservation windows and additional booking counters have been opened.
5. Introduction of new trains, extension of train services and increase in frequency.

(ii) to reduce the expenditure :—

1. Reduction in lease/Wagon hire charges.

2. Reduction in consumption of fuel and material cost.

3. Man Power Planning.

Fire in FTII and NFAI, Pune

422. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :
SHRI S. MURUGESAN :

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

(a) whether in a recent fire in the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Pune, rare film prints and rare documentaries were completely destroyed;

(b) if so, the details of the loss and reasons which caused the fire;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government into the fire incident in FTII and NFAI, Pune;

(d) if so, the result thereof;

(e) whether there are any copies of these films stored elsewhere;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the deficiencies in the preservation of the rare films prints, pre-independence era films and other important rare documentaries by the FTII and NFAI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (f) National Film Archive of India (NFAI) has informed that 607 films (5095 reels) in the custody of NFAI and stored in nitrate base were destroyed in the fire on 08.01.2003. NFAI has further reported that most of the films destroyed in fire were copied on to the safety base and are safely preserved in NFAI and only 544 reels could not be transferred to the safety base. A high level inquiry has been ordered into the incident to pin-point inter-alia the exact cause of the fire, if possible; assess the safety systems being followed and preventive measures for the future.

(g) NFAI has intimated that all archival material in the custody of NFAI is stored on safety (acetate) base in

their vaults where temperature and humidity are controlled. The films kept in the vaults are subjected to periodic checking to monitor their condition and modern preservation techniques are applied to prevent deterioration in the quality of the prints.

[Translation]

Merger of Oil India Limited with HPCL

423. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to merge Oil India Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for merger of both the PSUs with other companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for merger of Oil India Limited (OIL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

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

Setting up of District Power Committee in Uttar Pradesh

424. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up District Power Committee in each State specially in Uttar Pradesh for effective monitoring of power distribution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria adopted for nominating members of the said Committees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Electricity Bill, 2001 envisages, inter-alia, a committee in each district to be constituted by the Appropriate Government to :

- Coordinate and review the extension of electrification in each district
- Review the quality of power supply and consumer satisfaction
- Promote energy efficiency and its conservation.

As per the guidelines framed by the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission, Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. has issued orders to set up District Electricity Advisory Committee in each district of Uttar Pradesh for effective monitoring of power distribution and redressal of consumer related grievances.

[English]

Track Maintenance Projects

425. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of amount spent annually by each Railway Division on rail track and related feature maintenance; and

(b) the number of maintenance projects under each Railway Division and the estimated time fixed for completion of each project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) Repair and maintenance of Railway track is an on-going process. Maintenance works are carried out regularly depending upon the need. For ensuring safety of traffic, track is regularly inspected and corrective action taken promptly wherever required. However, safety is ensured at all levels and at all times and the Permanent Way Supervisors are authorized to impose speed restriction, as warranted, without any reference to their superiors.

Renewal of track is also carried out on age-cum-condition basis depending upon availability of funds. In certain cases, the maximum permissible speed of a section is also reduced if the condition so warrants.

The track renewal works are presented to Parliament for approval.

The works sanctioned against renewals are normally completed in time span of 3-4 years subject to availability of funds.

Statement

Details of Amount spent during 2001-02 by each Railway Division on track maintenance

		Divisions and Amount spent during 2001-02										(In Crores of Rs.)
Railways	Divisions	Mumbai (CST)	Bhusawal	Jhansi	Jabalpur	Nagpur	Solapur	Bhopal	Pune			
Central	Amount	37.44	41.67	44.48	47.48	31.74	18.07	30.05	7.57			
Eastern	Divisions	Howrah	Sealdah	Asansol	Dhanbad	Danapur	Mughal Sarai	Mukta				
	Amount	33.28	29.42	37.14	44.80	30.78	23.38	13.51				
Northern	Divisions	Allahabad	Bikaner	Delhi	Ambala	Ferozpur	Moradabad	Lucknow	Jodhpur			
	Amount	58.01	32.68	37.54	31.64	35.23	45.89	41.94	25.85			
North Eastern	Divisions	Izalnagar	Lucknow	Varanasi	Sonpur	Samastipur						
	Amount	21.42	29.96	25.55	22.89	20.34						
Northeast	Divisions	Katihar	Alipurduar	Lumding	Tinsukhia							
Frontier	Amount	27.76	46.59	31.42	10.91							
Southern	Divisions	Chennai	Palghat	Trivandrum	Bangalore	Mysore	Trichy	Madurai				
	Amount	56.35	44.28	28.97	26.42	13.08	22.97	28.69				
South Central	Divisions	Secunderabad	Vijayawada	Guntakal	Hubli	Hyderabad						
	Amount	55.20	55.10	40.80	27.60	26.00						
South Eastern	Divisions	Khurda Road	Waltair	Sambalpur	Nagpur	Bilaspur	Kharagpur	Chakradharpur	Adra			
	Amount	35.86	44.75	18.60	32.15	55.96	38.91	49.21	44.81			
Western	Divisions	Mumbai Central	Vadodara	Ratlam	Kota	Ajmer	Jaipur	Bhavnagar	Rajkot			
	Amount	34.89	36.64	33.80	39.84	21.72	25.78	18.17	17.32			

**Reservation Facilities given to
SC/ST in Jobs**

426. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enlist provisions relating to reservation facilities being given to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in jobs in the country in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Reservation policy of the Government has been articulated through executive instructions, which have the force of law, as per the Supreme Court Judgement in the Indra Sawhney case. Since there is no Act on reservation, the question of including the Reservation Policy of the Government in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution does not arise.

[Translation]

**Concessional LPG to Educational and
Social Institutes**

427. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide LPG gas at concessional rate to educational and social institutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the revenue losses likely to be incurred every year by the Government by providing LPG gas at concessional rate;

(d) the commercial rate of LPG at present; and

(e) the subsidy provided per cylinder by the Government to the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are providing subsidised LPG to Government/municipal hospitals, hostels of all schools and colleges or for mid-day meal schemes and the social welfare institutions being run for child welfare/women welfare/social welfare institutions.

(c) to (e) The total subsidy on domestic LPG supplied to all consumers in the country is estimated at Rs. 3,781 crores for the year 2002-03. At present, the subsidy per cylinder (14.2 kg.) is Rs. 67.75. The commercial rate of LPG per 19 kg. cylinder vary from location to location ranging from Rs. 650 to Rs. 750.

[English]

Health Maintenance of Army Troops

428. SHRI B. VENKATESWARLU :
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Army is suffering from acute fatigue on account of counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and operation Parakram; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to ensure health maintenance of Army Troops and boost their morale ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The morale of the Indian Army is very high. In order to maintain high morale and keep the soldiers stress-free, the Medical Directorate of Army Headquarters has taken the following action :-

(i) The Regimental Medical Officers (RMOs) have been instructed to identify and counsel individuals who show any signs of stress.

(ii) The Zonal Hospitals hold seminars for training the RMOs with appropriate skills to fulfil their role.

(iii) Commanders at all levels have been apprised about how to identify the stress victims and about action to be taken at various levels.

(iv) In addition to the above, short training capsules of relaxation exercises, regular Sainik Sammelan

and visits by religious teachers are organised. Regular rotation of Units and individuals, regular leave, prompt attention to grievance, congenial working atmosphere and provision of family accommodation etc. are ensured to the maximum extent so that stress related incidences are kept to the minimum.

Silchar-Lumding Rail Line

429. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring Silchar-Lumding Railway Line under the National Railway Vikas Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The National Rail Vikas Yojana includes only the projects pertaining to (i) Strengthening of Golden Quadrilateral (ii) Strengthening of Rail connectivity to ports and development of multimodal corridors to hinterland (iii) Construction of four Mega Bridges.

Progress in Broadcasting of Programmes

430. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati have any planning for future broadcasting programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which said planning is likely to be implemented in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that during the 10th Plan period it has given priority to creation of high quality content with long shelf

life in various genres including inter-alia culture, arts, history, women's issues, regional language programmes, children programmes and programmes on musical rendering of ancient Indian classics.

Blending of Ethanol with Petrol

431. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether the Government have launched the scheme for blending ethanol with petrol;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, indicating the percentage of ethanol blending and the dates from which blended petrol is to be introduced in different States and Union Territories; and

(c) the quantum of ethanol produced in various States and to what extent it is utilised in blending of petrol ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 9 major sugar producing States and 4 Union Territories would be covered with 5% ethanol blended petrol by 30th June 2003 in the first phase of implementation of the scheme of 5% ethanol blended petrol.

(c) Presently the manufacturing capacity of anhydrous ethanol is 1,94,220 KL per year in the above 9 States and 4 UTs. To match the demand and supply figure additional units for manufacture of anhydrous ethanol are coming up in next 3-6 months.

Generation of Power from Waste and Wind in Orissa

432. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of power projects established in Orissa with the help of Union Government for generation of power from waste and wind;

(b) the quantum of energy generated by these power projects;

(c) whether the State Government have sent some more proposals for generation of power from waste and wind in the State;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the assistance given by the Union Government to the State for generation of power from waste and wind during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) One demonstration project of 1.1 MW capacity for generation of power from wind was established at Puri, Orissa in two phases with the help of Union Government during the years 1986 and 1987. No project for generation of power from waste has been established in Orissa with the help of Union Government.

(b) This project generated a total of about 11 lakh units of electricity before it was disposed of during 1997 due to poor and unstable grid quality and massive corrosion of the equipment.

(c) and (d) No proposal has been received in this Ministry from the State of Orissa for generation of power from waste and wind.

(e) As no proposals were received, financial assistance was not provided to the State of Orissa for generation of power from waste and wind during the last three years.

Gas Discoveries by Reliance In Gujarat

433. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH :
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

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

(a) whether Reliance Group of companies have recently found huge reserve of Natural gas in Gujarat and exploration is being carried out at various sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the quantity of gas found;

(d) whether further exploration work is being carried out; and

(e) if so, the areas in which this gas is likely to be utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Reliance Industries Ltd., the operator, is drilling a well in an offshore block, GK-OSJ-1, in the Gulf of Kutch.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of the reply to parts (a) and (b) above.

Technology Mission for Rural Electrification

434. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Technology Mission for rural electrification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main purpose of setting up of this mission;

(d) whether the mission have any aim at development of appropriate technologies that suit rural conditions; and

(e) the extent to which the setting up of a Mission is likely to prove useful ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) Government has set up a Rural Electricity Supply Technology Mission (REST) under the auspices of the Minister of Power. The composition of the Mission is as under :-

- | | | |
|-------|---|----------|
| (i) | Secretary (Power) | Chairman |
| (ii) | Secretary, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources | Member |
| (fii) | Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development | Member |
| (iv) | Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research | Member |
| (v) | Chairman, Central Electricity Authority | Member |

- (vi) CMD, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. Member
- (vii) CMD, National Thermal Power Corporation Member
- (viii) Director General, Central Power Research Institute Member
- (ix) Joint Secretary (Dist), Ministry of Power Member

The Chairman may co-opt representatives from institutions who are actively involved in distributed generation and who are representatives from industries.

The main purpose of this Mission would be to evolve a strategy based on technology which could provide for low cost power generation and low cost of delivery in the rural areas which can be managed by local institutions like Village Panchayats and NGOs; identify feasible size of generating units for different fuels, which are locally available, and for mini and micro hydel projects; suggest type of technologies to be adopted for setting up local distribution networks with or without connectivity to the Grid and to cover at least 25% of the villages in the country under the Mission, and to access funds requirements for the next two Plans.

It is envisaged that REST Mission could be in a position to accelerate the process of technology development and technology adoption for distribution generation in a manner that the rural areas will have qualitative and reliable power at affordable prices.

Gas Pipeline from Kakinada to Goa

435. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to lay a gas pipeline from Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh to Goa for transportation and marketing of the gas discovered in the Krishna-Godavari basin;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the target for completion of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, M/s

Gas Transportation and Infrastructure Company Limited (GTICL) a company promoted by Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) propose to lay pipeline from Kakinada-Hyderabad-Goa for which process of acquisition of land under Petroleum and Mineral Pipeline (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962 is on.

- (c) Depending on various statutory clearances, tentatively the project may be completed by the year 2005-06.

Pension or Insurance Schemes for Journalists

436. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate Pension Schemes and Group Insurance Schemes for working Journalists;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Government is considering a proposal for introduction of Group Insurance Scheme for Journalists. No decision has yet been taken in the matter.

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

FM Radio Station to Universities

437. SHRI S. MURUGESAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to allow to all universities, IITs, IIMs and residential schools in the country to set up their own FM band radio stations;
- (b) if so, whether it is also proposed to charge any license fees for the purpose;
- (c) if so, whether any rules/guidelines have been framed in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) No license fee is proposed to be charged for the purpose. The licensee will be required to furnish a Bank Guarantee for a sum of Rs. 50,000 only, to ensure performance of the license agreement. The licensee will however be required to pay spectrum usage fee, as determined by the Wireless Advisor in WPC Wing of Ministry of Communications.

(c) and (d) A copy of the guidelines is enclosed as Statement. These are also available on the Ministry's website (<http://mib.nic.in>).

Statement

Guidelines for Applying Licenses for Setting up Community Radio Stations

Preamble

The Union Government has decided to grant Community Broadcasting licenses to well established educational institutions/organizations recognized by the Central Government or the State Government. These will include the Universities and Institutes of Technology/Management and residential school.

The salient features of eligibility criteria, basic conditions/obligations and procedures for obtaining license to set up and operate Community Radio service are briefly described below :- For further details reference may be made to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. Technical parameters :

2.1 Licence will be granted for FM transmitters for power of 50 Watts or less.

2.2 Licence will be issued in the shared frequency band from 87.5 to 100 Mhz. However, in the event of frequency not being available in this band, the exclusive broadcast band of 104 to 108 Mhz may also be considered, as in

case of private FM broadcasters. The frequency band from 100 to 104 Mhz. earmarked exclusively for the use of AIR, Prasar Bharati will not be disturbed.

3. Procedure to be followed :

Applications :-

3.1 Any eligible institution/organization desirous of setting up of Community Radio broadcasting service may make an application to the Ministry of I and B in the prescribed proforma. ([Download application form](#))

3.2 The Ministry of I and B immediately on receipt of an application will consult the Wireless Advisor in WPC wing of Ministry of Communications and also Prasar Bharati to determine the availability of frequency at the place requested by the applicant.

3.3 The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will refer the eligible applicant case of the Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, Human Resources Development and External Affairs and letter of intent and/or license will be issued only after getting the requisite clearances from these Ministries. The licensee will be required to sign a licence agreement after allotment of frequency by WPC. The license agreement shall specify detailed terms and conditions under which the licence is to be operated.

3.4 Within one year from the date of signing of licence agreement, the applicant will complete all necessary formalities such as obtaining SACFA clearance etc. set up the necessary broadcast facilities and obtain a Wireless Operating Licence from the Wireless Advisor in the WPC Wing of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

3.5 In the event of more than one claimant for a single frequency at a given place. The licensee will be selected by a Committee constituted by the Ministry of I and B on the basis of standing, commitment, objectives and resources of the applicant organization.

3.6 Licensee will be charged only the spectrum usage fee as determined by the WPC. The Ministry of I and B will not levy any licence fee.

4. Terms and Conditions

4.1 The basic objective of the Community Radio broadcasting would be to serve the cause of the

community in the service area of the licensee by involving members of the community in the broadcast of their programmes. For this purpose community would mean people living in the coverage zone of the broadcasting service of the licensee.

4.2 The licence shall be for a period of three(3) years.

4.3 The licence shall not be transferable.

4.4 An applicant will not be permitted more than one licence.

4.5 The licensee shall provide its services on free to air basis.

4.6 The licensee shall not use its channel/broadcast services in whole or part for commercial purposes.

4.7 The programmes on the community radio service will focus on issues relating to education, health, environment, agriculture rural and community development. The content must be confined to social, cultural and local issues and the format, subject, presentation and language must reflect and exude the local flavour and fragrance.

4.8 The licensee shall not be permitted to broadcast any news and current affairs programmes and shall not air election and political broadcasts.

4.9 The licensee shall not air any advertisement or sponsored programmes.

4.10 The licensee shall ensure that nothing is included in the programme of the licensee which :

- a. Offends against good taste or decency;
- b. Contains criticism of friendly countries;
- c. Contains attack on religions or communities or visuals or words contemptuous of religious groups or which promote communal attitudes;
- d. Contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half truths;
- e. Is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promote anti-national attitudes;

- f. Contains anything amounting to contempt of court;
- g. Contains aspersions against the integrity of the President and Judiciary;
- h. Contains anything affecting the integrity of the Nation;
- i. Criticises, maligns or slanders any individual in person or certain groups, segments of social, public and moral life of the country;
- j. Encourages superstition or blind belief;
- k. Denigrates women;
- l. Denigrates children;
- m. May present/depict/suggest as desirable the misuse of drugs including alcohol, narcotics and tobacco or which may stereotype, incite, vilify or perpetuate hatred against or attempt to demean any person or group on the basis of ethnicity, nationality, race, gender, sexual preference, religion, age or physical or mental disability.

4.11 The licensee shall ensure that due care is taken with respect to religious programmes with a view to avoiding :

- a) improper exploitation of religious susceptibilities; and
- b) offence to the religious views and beliefs of those belonging to a particular religion or religious denomination.

4.12 That the licensee shall ensure that due emphasis is given in the programmes to promote values of national integration, religious harmony, scientific temper and Indian culture.

4.13 The licensee shall follow the Programme Code of All India Radio.

4.14 The licensee shall pay spectrum usage fee as determined by the Wireless Advisor in WPC Wing.

4.15 Though the licensees will operate the service under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, the licensing will be subject to the condition that as and when any regulatory authority to regulate and monitor the broadcast services in the country is constituted,

the licensees will have to adhere to the norms, rules and regulations prescribed by such authority.

4.16 The licensee shall provide such information to the Government on such intervals as may be required. In this connection, the licensee is required to preserve tapes of programmes broadcast during the last six months failing which the Government will be at liberty to revoke the license.

4.17 The Government or its authorized representative shall have the right to inspect the broadcast facilities of the licensees and collect such information as considered necessary in public and community interests.

4.18 The Government reserves the right to take over the entire services and networks of the licensee or revoke/terminate/suspend the licence in the interest of national security or in the event of national emergency/war or low intensity conflict or similar type of situations.

4.19 All foreign personnel likely to be deployed by way of appointment, contract, consultancy, etc. by the licensee for installation, maintenance and operation of the licensee's services shall be required to obtain security clearance from the Government of India.

4.20 The Government reserves the right to modify at any time the terms and conditions if it is necessary to do so in the interest of the general public or for the proper conduct of broadcasting or for security considerations.

4.21 Government may revoke the licence at any time in public interest or for breach of any terms and conditions of the licence by giving a notice of 15 days.

4.22 Notwithstanding anything contained anywhere else in the licence the Government's decision shall be final and conclusive.

4.23 The licensees shall furnish a bank guarantee for a sum of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand) only to ensure timely performance of the licence agreement.

4.24 If the licensee fail to commission services within the stipulated period, he shall forfeit the amount of bank guarantee to the Government and the Government would be free to cancel the licence awarded to the licensee.

4.25 A license will be subject to such other conditions as may be determined by the Government.

[Translation]

Rail Projects

438. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the projects of railway are abandoned very often due to lack of funds;

(b) if so, the number of projects abandoned during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken to ensure that the new projects will be introduced only in case abundant funds are available; and

(d) the details of the schemes announced during the last three years, but have not been taken up for execution till date ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the past, projects had been included in the Budget without prior clearances. Government have taken a decision that no new project is to be included in the budget unless prior approvals are obtained.

(d) The projects, included in last three budgets, but not yet taken up, are as under :

(i) Restoration of Azimganj (Nasipur) – Jiaganj upto the Ghats.

(ii) Thane-Mumbra 5th and 6th line.

(iii) Delhi Sarai Rohilla – Gurgaon Rly. Electrification.

Demand of Petroleum Products

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

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

(a) whether the demand for petroleum products has been on the increase in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of demand of various petroleum products, separately during the said period, year-wise;

(c) whether the production of these petroleum products has been more than their actual requirement in the country;

(d) if so, the details of difference during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the details of use of the surplus petroleum products by the producing institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The details of product-wise demand and production of petroleum products during the last three years are given at the Statement.

(e) During the year 2001-02, 10.1 MMT of products were exported against an import of 7.0 MMT of products.

Statement

The details of Product-wise Demand and Production of Petroleum Product during the last three years :

(Fig. in MMT)

Products	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Demand	Production	Demand	Production	Demand	Production
LPG	6.42	4.48	7.02	6.15	7.73	6.99
Petrol	5.91	6.23	6.61	8.07	7.01	9.70
Naphtha/NGL	10.90	9.63	11.68	11.49	11.76	10.84
Aviation Turbine Fuel	2.20	2.26	2.25	2.51	2.26	2.59
Kerosene	11.90	5.97	11.31	8.90	10.43	9.91
Diesel	39.30	34.77	37.97	39.05	36.55	39.94
Light Diesel Oil	1.51	1.63	1.40	1.48	1.59	1.69
Lubes/Greases	1.24	0.73	1.04	0.68	1.14	0.65
FO/LSHS#	12.45	11.35	12.65	11.46	12.98	12.24
Bitumen	2.88	2.49	2.71	2.72	2.58	2.56
Others	2.38	3.40	5.44	7.07	6.40	7.23
Total	97.09	80.94	100.08	99.58	100.43	104.34

#FO : Furnace Oil/LSHS : Low Sulphur Heavy Stock

[English]

Persons Apprehended without Tickets

440. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI :
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH :
SHRI SURESH PASI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons apprehended travelling in trains without tickets during the last three years, zone-wise;

(b) the amount of money recovered therefrom, zone-wise; and

(c) the action taken to curb such tendencies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) Regular and surprise checks are conducted frequently to check ticketless/irregular travel in association

with Railway Magistrates and Police. In addition, the Zonal Railways also conduct special types of checks on specific

dates and periods at various places and sections prone to ticketless travel.

Statement

Persons Apprehended without Tickets

Railway	No. of ticketless/irregular travellers apprehended (in lakhs)			Amount of railway dues recovered (in crores)		
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Central	19.94	22.00	25.82	26.12	28.01	33.24
Eastern	15.74	16.38	17.26	14.39	14.91	15.11
Northern	33.82	36.46	40.44	37.78	42.05	48.43
North Eastern	8.78	10.58	11.23	10.56	12.63	13.63
Northeast Frontier	1.93	1.90	2.16	2.75	3.16	3.41
Southern	4.49	5.01	5.16	5.98	6.75	7.44
South Central	8.65	10.33	11.27	15.82	17.12	18.31
South Eastern	7.64	8.66	9.31	8.00	9.29	10.47
Western	17.61	19.00	19.63	22.34	24.43	25.68

Waiving of Outstanding dues from B.S.C.L.

441. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to waive Rs. 295.71 crores of outstanding Government loans and interest due from Burn Standard Company Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said waive off the above said amount was meant for attracting Joint Venture proposal for the above company; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) :
(a) and (b) Government have decided to waive Rs. 295.71 crore of outstanding loans and interest subject to the selection of a joint venture partner.

(c) and (d) In order to improve the prospects of success of joint venture exercise it was felt desirable to make the net worth of the company positive by financial restructuring of Government dues.

[Translation]

Ticket Home Delivery Scheme

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

(a) whether the Government have recently launched 'Ticket Home Delivery' Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the cities where the said scheme has been initially launched; and

(d) if not, the time by which the scheme will be launched ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b)

Reservation on Internet, where reserved tickets can be home delivered, has been started through the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

(c) This project has commenced in Delhi and has since been extended to major cities viz. Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Baroda, Bhopal, Chennai, Chandigarh (which includes Mohali, SAS Nagar, ManiMajra, Panchkula) Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai (which includes municipal limits of Thane, Kalyan and parts of Navi Mumbai), Nagpur, Pune and Delhi National Capital Region which includes parts of New Delhi, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Gurgaon. Tickets can be home delivered by courier in any of these cities or can be picked up in New Delhi.

(d) Does not arise.

Gap between Supply and Demand

443. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

~ SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether 70% villages in the country have been electrified;

(b) if not, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the gap between power supply and demand in various States have increased even after expansion of power supply system; and

(d) if so, the details of gap between power supply and demand during the last three months of current year along with details of changes occurred in the said gap in comparison to previous year, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) According to Central Electricity Authority (CEA), there are 5,87,258 inhabited villages (1991 census) in the country. Of these, 5,09,724 villages have been electrified (87%) as on 31.12.2002.

(c) The energy shortage during April-January, 2003 has been of the order of 9.1% as against 7.4% during the corresponding period last year.

(d) The details are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Energy Shortage Percentage(%)

Sl. No.	State	Nov. 2002	Dec.2002	Jan.2003	Nov.2001	Dec.2001	Jan.2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Chandigarh	0.0	1.3	2.2	1.4	0.0	0
2.	Delhi	0.1	1.8	6.8	1.0	2.1	5.3
3.	Haryana	0.6	9.7	8.2	0.7	2.1	3.1
4.	Himachal Pradesh	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	1.4	1
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	3.6	11.4	14.3	5.8	6.1	7.7
6.	Punjab	3.6	11.1	3.6	1.6	4.5	5
7.	Rajasthan	0.1	8.2	5.1	0.0	0.6	2.5
8.	Uttar Pradesh	20.8	20.5	12.3	6.9	8.5	10.2
9.	Uttaranchal	8.4	1.5	2.9	—	—	—
	N.R.	7.6	11.7	8.0	3.1	4.5	6.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Western Region							
10.	Chhattisgarh	2.7	3.2	3.0	5.4	4.3	2.5
11.	Gujarat	9.9	10.4	12.3	13.1	12.9	12.5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	13.7	19.5	20.1	15.3	16.2	15.2
13.	Maharashtra	13.2	15.5	16.0	12.5	12.7	10.8
14.	Goa	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
W.R.		11.6	14.0	14.9	12.8	13.0	11.7
Southern Region							
15.	Andhra Pradesh	2.6	2.7	0.7	6.3	6.0	6.2
16.	Karnataka	5.7	5.8	4.8	18.0	17.1	17.3
17.	Kerala	5.5	5.6	3.6	6.8	6.6	7
18.	Tamil Nadu	2.4	2.3	0.5	6.3	6.1	5.9
19.	Pondicherry	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—
S.R.		3.5	3.5	1.9	9.2	8.8	8.9
Eastern Region							
20.	Bihar	10.2	12.2	16.4	5.1	0.6	1.3
21.	Jharkhand	0.0	0.7	0.7	—	—	—
22.	D.V.C.	0.4	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0
23.	Orissa	1.1	1.5	1.4	0.0	0.0	0
24.	West Bengal + Sikkim	0.1	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.8	0.8
25.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	0
E.R.		1.7	2.5	3.3	1.1	0.4	0.6
North-Eastern Region							
26.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	0.0	0
27.	Assam	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0
28.	Manipur	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
29.	Meghalaya	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
30.	Mizoram	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31. Nagaland		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
32. Tripura		0.0	0.0	4.9	0.0	0.0	0
N.E.R.		0	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	0
All India		7.5	9.6	8.6	8.0	8.3	8.2

[English]

**US Aircraft Forced to Land at
Mumbai Airport**

444. SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an US registered Aircraft was forced to land at Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the matter;

(c) whether the Pilot and other crew members have been interrogated to know exactly the motive behind flying over a restricted zone;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether similar intrusions have been reported by unidentified aircraft over Indian air space recently; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A non-scheduled American registered Boeing 757 aircraft on flight from Karachi to Male was advised to land at Mumbai airport at 1811 hours on 3rd February, 2003 as it violated the authorised Air Traffic Service route.

(c) and (d) The Captain of the aircraft was interrogated. In his written statement to the concerned authorities he stated that he was not aware of the restriction on this route. The aircraft was directed by Karachi air traffic control to fly from Karachi to Male via route N-519 to Mumbai. From investigations by the concerned agencies it was found that the straying by the pilot was not intentional. The violation occurred due to his lack of knowledge about the route. Besides, the crew were not guided properly by the Karachi air traffic controller prior to their departure from Karachi.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Corporatisation of Indian Railways

445. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to corporatise the Indian Railways into Indian Railway Corporation for efficient management as recommended by the expert group on Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Connecting Ports with Broad Gauge Line

446. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to connect all Ports to Broad Gauge Railway Line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which all ports are likely to be connected with unigauge line; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (d) All the major ports in the country are already connected with the Broad Gauge rail network. Port connectivity is planned based on traffic justification.

*[Translation]***Privatisation of Maruti Udyog Limited**

447. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to privatize the Joint Venture Maruti Udyog Limited;

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

(c) whether the production is likely to be affected by privatization of the said company; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) and (b) The Government have decided to exit from Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) in line with their policy to exist from all non-strategic enterprises. The Revised Joint Venture Agreement (RJVA) amongst Suzuki Motor Corporation, (SMC), MUL and the Government provides for two phase disinvestment of Government's share holding in MUL. In the first phase, a rights issue of Rs. 400 crore has been completed with SMC subscribing to the total rights issue, including rights shares renounced by the Government in favour of SMC. SMC has also paid a sum of Rs. 1000 crore as control premium to the Government for fully taking over management control. In the second phase, as per the provisions of the RJVA, the remaining shares of the Government are to be sold through public offer in two tranches.

(c) and (d) The Government do not envisage any negative impact of the current process of privatization on the production of the company.

Development of Oil and Gas Sectors

448. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount allocated for the development of oil and gas sector during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount proposed to be invested for the purpose during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the amount utilised out of the amount allocated for the purpose during the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The Planning Commission had approved an outlay of Rs. 78401.00 crores for oil and gas sector including petrochemicals during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) The Planning Commission have approved an outlay of Rs. 103656.00 crores for oil and gas sector including petrochemicals during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) The total plan expenditure incurred for the oil and gas sector including petrochemicals is Rs. 50920.80 crores during the Ninth Five Year Plan period.

*[English]***Privatisation of Railway Reservation Centres**

449. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to privatise the railway reservation centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for privatisation of these centres; and

(c) the name of the zones where the privatisation of railway reservation will be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) In order to facilitate Rail reservation and to improve Customer Service, Passenger Reservation System terminals have been allotted to three Rail Travellers Service Agents (RTSAs) in Mumbai area of Central Railway on an experimental basis.

Telecast of Regional News on Doordarshan

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide uplinking facilities for foreign channels;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Doordarshan is planning to enhance regional news telecast on Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RÁVI SHANKAR PARASD) : (a) and (b) As per existing uplinking policy, all TV channels, irrespective of their ownership (including equity structure) or management control aimed at Indian viewership, are permitted to uplink from India, subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria and adherence to various terms and conditions including, inter-alia, adherence to programme and advertisement codes.

(c) and (d) Increasing the coverage of Regional News bulletins of Doordarshan, is a continuous process. Recently, three regional language bulletins (Malayalam, Cujarati and Tamil) have been introduced in DD India. In all, DD is producing 61 bulletins in 16 languages from 20 RNUs all over the country. Three Regional News Units at HISSAR, RANCHI AND RAIPUR were started in 2002.

[Translation]

Reservation to OBCS

451. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to make any provision to provide reservation to Other Backward Classes in the educational and vocational institutions including Medical and Dental colleges;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Production of CNG and Petrol

452. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total production capacity of CNG and petrol in the country;

(b) whether the ONGC has chalked out a scheme for increasing the production capacity of oil;

(c) whether any other Corporation is also engaged in such schemes;

(d) whether the aforesaid scheme is being implemented in other States as well; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) About 81 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) of natural gas is produced in the country out of which about 1.5 MMSCMD is used for CNG purposes by Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) in Mumbai and Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) in Delhi. The total refining capacity of the country is 116.07 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) out of which the actual production of petrol during the year 2001-02 was 9.7 (MMT) and during the year 2002-03 it is estimated to be 10.4 MMT.

(b) to (e) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL), and other operating companies have undertaken various steps such as :

(i) to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) to increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the three rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 70 blocks.

(iii) to attract technology and investment, PSCs for 9 discovered fields, 8 in Gujarat and 1 in Assam, were signed on 23.2.2001 with consortia of Indian and foreign companies.

- (iv) to explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.
- (v) to develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

[English]

**Power Projects Executed by
NTPC in Orissa**

453. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of power projects executed in Orissa by NTPC;
- (b) whether a large number of people have been displaced due to the execution of these projects;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, project-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken to rehabilitate those displaced persons at the earliest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have executed the Talcher Kaniha Power Project Stage-I (2x500 MW) in Orissa in the district Angul. The Stage-II of the project with 4x500 MW capacity is under construction.

(b) and (c) Due to execution of Talcher Kaniha project 144 homesteads have been displaced. All the 144 homestead oustees have been resettled after providing them requisite resettlement benefits.

(d) About 1593 Substantially Affected Persons (SAPs) including the 144 homesteads displaced were required to be rehabilitated, as per the list certified by the Government of Orissa. The rehabilitation efforts are being undertaken by the projects for these SAPs in coordination with the Rehabilitation Cell set up for the purpose by Government of Orissa.

Development of Jet Trainer

454. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Intermediate Jet Trainer development by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has been tested;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it would serve IAF's technical gap in the training of pilots; and
- (d) if so, the time by which the intermediate Jet Trainer would be inducted into IAF ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT) is presently undergoing ground tests, including engine ground run, leading to its first flight.

(c) Indian Air Force (IAF) are presently using Kiran trainers to train their pilots. These aircrafts have technologies of the sixties and seventies and are approaching their fatigue life. The IJT is being developed for Stage II training of the pilots. It will have state-of-the-art Avionics, Display Systems, Fuel Efficient Engine and increased armament capabilities, incorporating latest technologies. This will improve pilots' training effectiveness with better speed, range, endurance and advanced avionics systems.

(d) Initial operational clearance of IJT is expected by 2005-2006 and deliveries to Indian Air Force (IAF) are expected to start from 2005-2006 onwards.

**Dilapidated Condition of Bridges in
Thiruvanthapuram and Palghat Division**

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the dilapidated condition of some bridges in Thiruvanthapuram and Palghat division of Southern Railway; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the repair and reconstruction of such dilapidated bridges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) There is no dilapidated bridge in Thiruvanthapuram and Palghat Division of Southern Railway. However, slight damages had occurred to substructure of Bridge No. 161 in Thiruvanthapuram-Nagarcoil section and to Bridge No. 873 in Shoranur-Calicut section. The details of damages and corrective measures taken/repairs done to these bridges are as under :

- (i) Bridge No. 161 was damaged due to illicit sand mining which has been prevented by the Railways by deploying watchmen; by doing rail barricading on the down stream side and by dumping boulders around the substructure to improve foundation grip. The State Government of Kerala is also assisting the Railways in protecting the Railway Bridge by seizing the trucks, tempos and boats carrying illegal sand, by banning use of boats near the substructure of the bridge and by taking criminal action against illicit quarrying.

- (ii) The square return wall of abutment no. 2 at Calicut end of Bridge No. 873 started bulging slightly. Rail support was given to the bulged return wall. Further, cement concrete wall has also been constructed and the gap filled with earth, pucca pitching and necessary repairs have been done.

[Translation]

Stoppage of Intercity Express

456. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide stoppage of Intercity Express running between Motihari-Muzaffarpur at block headquarters railway station;

(b) whether the local people are demanding to provide stoppage of Intercity Express at Kanti which is block headquarter and where Thermal Power Station is located;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to provide stoppage of Intercity Express at Kanti railway station; and

(d) if so, by what time and if not the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) to (d) Some representations were received for provision of stoppage of trains at Kanti Railway station and these were examined. However, stoppage of additional trains at Kanti has not been found commercially viable, at present.

[English]

High Level Meeting on Rail Accidents

457. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level meeting in the wake of a series of railway accidents had convened recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion took place and conclusion arrived at;

(c) whether it was revealed in the course of discussion that there is a huge backlog of vacancies in the safety category; and

(d) if so, the zone-wise details of such vacancies and steps being taken to fill up the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a special meeting of General Managers of Zonal Railways on safety was held on 08.01.03. Detailed issues pertaining to safety were deliberated upon and the following major decisions were taken :-

(i) Enhanced financial powers to the General Managers for faster implementation of safety works.

(ii) Intensive supervision and control by the General Managers and the Divisional Railway Managers.

(iii) More effective and intensive inspections at all levels.

(iv) Decision to make safety wing organisation broad as recommended by the Railway Safety Review Committee.

(v) Empowering Safety Officers to recommend punishments on the lines of the Vigilance advice.

(vi) Installation of Anti Collision Device (ACD) on successful completion of trials.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The information regarding the number of vacancies as on 01.01.2003 in the safety categories is being collected and will be placed on the table of the

Sabha. In order to ensure that vacancies do not remain unfilled especially in Safety categories, the extant procedure provides for laying down an annual calendar/schedule in advance for conducting selections/suitability/trade tests to fill up vacancies on a regular basis. The position is also required to be reviewed and monitored in various high level meetings periodically. However, since occurrence and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process, a certain number of vacancies are bound to exist in this continuous process at any given point of time. Efforts are made to fill up the vacancies promptly.

**New Rail Line between Mettur-
Chamrajnagar**

458. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal for construction of a new line between Mettur and Chamrajnagar in Karnataka has been pending since long;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Defence Agreement with Italy

459. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any discussion has been held with Italy regarding defence cooperation; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof ?

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

(b) Consequent to the discussion held between the two sides, an agreement was signed in February 2003, to enhance Defence cooperation between India and Italy.

[English]

Committee on Bio-Fuels

460. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether inter-ministerial committee set up by the Government on bio-fuel has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has set up a Committee on Development of Bio-fuel which has not submitted its report so far.

(c) A final decision in this regard would be taken only after the Committee submit its report.

[Translation]

Setting up of Energy Park in Jabalpur

461. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to set up an Energy Park in Government Engineering College, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh is lying pending;

(b) if so, the time by which Energy Park is likely to be set up;

(c) whether there is any cost overrun due to delay in starting of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry had sanctioned an Energy Park in November, 2000 to Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam (MPUVN) to be set up at Jabalpur

Engineering College, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. MPUVN have taken necessary steps for the implementation of this project. Energy devices such as, solar PV street lights (4 nos.), solar PV domestic lights (2 nos.), solar PV lanterns (2 nos.) solar cookers (2 nos.) and a biogas plant (cut model) have been installed in the Energy Park. Few remaining system are under installation.

(c) The cost of the Energy Park project has not overrun.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Research on Rail Fractures and Track Maintenance

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

(a) whether despite incurring huge expenditure on research on rail fractures and tracks maintenance equipment, no tangible results have been achieved so far;

(b) if so, the estimated annual expenditure incurred by the Government on this account;

(c) the reasons for non-achievement of the objectives in this regard; and

(d) the steps being contemplated by the Government in this matter ?

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

(b) Does not arise. However, Railways decided in 1997 to associate with the International Union of Railways (UIC) in the research project "Rail Defect Management". The final report of UIC is expected in the financial year 2003-04.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Irregularities by LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps

463. SHRI SURESH PASI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints registered with the Government regarding less measuring/weighing petrol and diesel by the petrol pumps and LPG agencies during the year, 2002;

(b) the action taken thereon;

(c) whether such a practice is prevailing at most of the petrol pumps and LPG agencies situated in various States including capital of the country, Delhi;

(d) if so, the action taken so far by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any work plan to check this practice of less measuring/weighing by the petrol pumps and gas agencies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (f) Several complaints alleging irregularities including less measuring/weighing petrol and diesel have been received from different parts of the country including Delhi. Based on the complaint received, Anti-Adulteration Cell under this Ministry carried out 482 inspections during the year 2002. The Inspection Reports were sent to concerned Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for taking action as per the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Dealership Agreement.

Department of Legal Metrology in the States put their seals on the dispensing units at Retail Outlets for ensuring correct delivery. However, Oil Marketing Companies undertake regular and surprise inspections at Retail Outlets to detect irregularities of any kind including less measurement/weightment.

LPG distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to supply the cylinders of right quantity and quality to their customers. The Oil Company Officials carry out random checks at distributor's godown, delivery point as well as enroute to ensure that no pilferage takes place. During the period April to December, 2002, 20 complaints of supply of under-weight cylinders to customers were established and action against erring distributors has been taken in terms of Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Distributorship Agreement.

[English]

**Assistance Sought by Iran for
Oil Tankers**

464. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Iran has sought India's help to safeguard trade transiting oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto ?

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

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

[Translation]

**Survey of New Rail Line between
Panipat and Muzaffarnagar**

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

(a) whether survey for laying new rail line between Panipat and Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh) via Kairana has been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the time by which rail line is likely to be laid;

(d) if not, the reasons for not completing the survey work; and

(e) the time by which the above survey work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (e) A survey for construction of new broad gauge rail line between Panipat and Muzaffarnagar via Kairana was conducted in February, 2001. As per survey report, the cost of construction of 83.687 km long line has been assessed as Rs. 256.41 crore with a rate of return as (-) 16.25%. In view of constraint of resources and heavy throwforward

of new line projects, it has not been considered feasible to take up construction of this line.

**Introduction of New Trains and
New Lines in Delhi**

466. DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are working on a policy regarding introduction of new trains and laying of new rail lines separately to the new States;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for Uttaranchal which is the most backward State in respect of railways; and

(c) the details of new trains and rail lines likely to be introduced in Uttaranchal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) Trains are not introduced State-wise but on the basis of traffic justification, operational feasibility and availability of resources. Introduction of trains is an ongoing process and the following train services have been provided during 2002-2003 for the passengers of Uttaranchal :-

- 1) 4609/4610 Jammu-Haridwar Express.
- 2) 2055/2056 Dehradun-New Delhi Jan Shatabdi Express.
- 3) 4043/4044 Delhi-Kotdwar Express.
- 4) 5005/5006 Dehradun-Gorakhpur Exp. (tri-weekly) extended to Muzaffarpur via Narkatiaganj once a week.
- 5) Frequency of 4319/4320 Kathgodam-Dehradun Express increased from 1 to 2 days a week.

As regard new lines, there is no such policy being considered separately for the new States.

[English]

**Construction of ROB at LC No. 172
in Kerala**

467. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for construction of railway over bridge at TIRUR and TANUR, LC No. 172, Railway km. 629/11-12 (Southern Railways, Palakkad Division);

(b) whether any decision has been taken by the Government thereon;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the Government would consider expediting the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (e) The work for construction of Road Over Bridge between Tirur and Tanur at Km. 629/11-12, in lieu of existing level crossing No. 172, has already been sanctioned during the Works Programme of 2002-03, on cost sharing basis, at the cost of Rs. 1024.80 lac to be shared equally by the Railways and the State Government.

[Translation]

Allotment of Retail Outlets in Maharashtra

468. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

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

(a) whether selection process for allotment of petrol and diesel outlets in Maharashtra, particularly in Mumbai has been started;

(b) if so the number of new outlets to be allotted and whether any quota has been fixed for the people belonging to backward classes of the society;

(c) the number of retail outlets allotted to backward classes in Maharashtra till date; and

(d) the time by which these petrol/diesel pumps are likely to become functional, particularly in Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH

KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Consequent upon dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector w.e.f. 1.4.2002, the selection of dealers for retail outlets (petrol and diesel outlets) for different locations in the country, including those in the State of Maharashtra, will now be made by the oil marketing companies themselves as per the guidelines to be adopted by them. While preliminary action like selection of suitable sites for setting up of retail outlets, etc., has been initiated, selection of dealers will be done after finalisation of guidelines in this regard. Further, the number of retail outlets to be set up in a particular State/Union Territory will depend on the viability norms, commercial consideration, etc.

While, at present, there is no reservation provided for allocation of retail outlets to other backward classes, there were, as on 1.4.2002, 113 retail outlets in operation in the State of Maharashtra, which were allotted to persons belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories.

[English]

Proposals from Tamil Nadu

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

(a) the number of proposals for introduction of trains and laying down the new rail lines in Tamil Nadu have been received by the Government during the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals out of them found feasible; and

(c) the present position of those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) Indian Railways do not introduce train State wise. Seventeen pairs of trains serving the passengers of Tamil Nadu have been introduced during last three years.

Position regarding proposals received for construction of new Rail line in Tamil Nadu is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Some of the proposals received from State Government of Tamil Nadu for construction of new lines in the last three years with their present position is as under :

Sl.No.	Proposal	Status
1.	Rail link between Avadi and Sriperumbudur	Survey has been completed. As per the survey report, the cost of the line was assessed as Rs. 52.20 Cr at 2001-2002 price level with a return of 8.27%. Link will be financially viable if State Government or stakeholders share cost.
2.	New line between Tindivanam-Cuddalore via Pondicherry	A survey is in progress.
3.	Chennai to Sriperumbudur via Irungattukottai	No survey has been taken up in view of heavy throw-forward of ongoing works.

Purpose of Kashir Channel

470. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan had launched the Kashmir (Kashir) Channel with the sole purpose of nailing the propaganda spreading by PTV in the valley;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to find out the utility of the channel for which it was set up; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and how far the utility have been achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan has launched DD Kashir Channel to provide education, information and entertainment to the viewers in Kashmir, besides countering anti-India propaganda.

(b) and (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan had got a survey conducted through Media Research Group, New Delhi to assess the viewership of television programmes in Jammu and Kashmir. The findings of the survey indicate that Doordarshan has a predominant reach in all the three Regions of Jammu and Kashmir, as compared to other channels, and that the viewers in Jammu and Kashmir have the highest

preference for News on Doordarshan. The survey has recommended that telecast of counter propaganda programmes should be increased and more good quality serials and films and film based programmes shown on this channel.

[Translation]

Budgetary Support to Railways

471. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the budgetary support to the Railway Ministry has reduced coupled with an increasing of burden during the last few Five Year Plan as per the status report on Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether due to the increase in liabilities, the new projects could not be taken up and even the old ones could not be completed as per the schedule; and

(d) if so, the Government's view point in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (d) While Budgetary Support to the Railways had reduced from a level of 75% of the total Plan Size in the Fifth Five Year Plan to 23% in the Eighth Five Year Plan, there has

been an increase in the percentage of Budgetary Support to 34% (inclusive of contribution to the Special Railway Safety Fund) in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

The Ministry of Railways projects its corresponding requirement of Budgetary Support both at the time of finalisation of Five Year Plans and the Annual Plans. The allocation of Budgetary Support is decided on an annual basis by the Planning Commission in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, taking into consideration the availability of resources and requirements projected by the Railways.

Cost sharing arrangements with some State Governments have been entered into for certain projects. Cost of some projects undertaken on strategic consideration is now borne by the Ministry of Defence. Jammu and Kashmir National Project is now being funded from General Exchequer outside Railway Plan.

[English]

Funds to Welfare Schemes

472. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the funds allotted to each State for the implementation of welfare schemes during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government has appointed its own audit and inspection branch to monitor the implementation and the utilization of the allotted funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if no, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) No State-wise allocation is made under welfare schemes. Details of funds released under these schemes during last two years are given in the statement enclosed at the Statement.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The Ministry implements its various schemes through State Governments/Union Territories Administrations/Voluntary Organizations. The progress of implementation of these schemes is monitored through a mechanism comprising periodical progress reports submitted by the implementing agencies and inspection/evaluation and recommendation by the nodal Departments

of the State Governments. The grants for the ongoing programmes are released after taking into account the performance report, audited accounts and utilization certificates in respect of grants released during the preceding years.

Statement

Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3720.00	3551.51
2.	Assam	1810.69	127.14
3.	Chattisgarh	500.00	414.68
4.	Gujarat	1521.88	1227.91
5.	Goa	8.00	0.00
6.	Haryana	930.63	443.53
7.	Himachal Pradesh	440.00	368.66
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	218.00	201.84
9.	Jharkhand	500.00	578.84
10.	Karnataka	2643.64	2985.43
11.	Kerala	1251.07	533.44
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1720.00	1148.23
13.	Maharashtra	2722.00	3314.14
14.	Manipur	38.96	2.73
15.	Orissa	1884.00	2480.19
16.	Punjab	1784.00	0.00
17.	Rajasthan	3738.96	3005.41
18.	Sikkim	23.87	16.68
19.	Tamil Nadu	3558.00	5020.32
20.	Tripura	476.48	83.45
21.	Uttar Pradesh	9398.00	11816.86

1	2	3	4
22. Uttaranchal		500.00	433.21
23. West Bengal		5450.63	7421.59
24. Chandigarh		25.00	25.00
25. Delhi		149.91	0.00
26. Pondicherry		25.18	50.00

Scheduled Castes Development Corporation

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	State/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Andhra Pradesh	792.65	Nil
2.	Chandigarh	38.43	Nil
3.	Gujarat	200.00	48.79
4.	Karnataka	727.39	391.00
5.	Kerala	33.60	Nil
6.	Maharashtra	487.98	1191.47
7.	Rajasthan	Nil	118.74
8.	Tripura	12.69	Nil
9.	Uttar Pradesh	300.00	350.00
10.	West Bengal	169.95	Nil

National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of scavengers

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	224.70
2.	Assam	372.00	0.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	1500.00	0.00
4.	Jharkhand	1085.00	0.00
5.	Karnataka	0.00	695.17
6.	Maharashtra	2135.00	0.00
7.	Uttaranchal	1000.00	0.00

Post Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3099.56	6426.72
2.	Assam	233.75	272.31
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	229.97
4.	Gujarat	149.39	60.14
5.	Haryana	126.25	275.61
6.	Himachal Pradesh	21.23	21.84
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	85.36
8.	Karnataka	1111.61	732.13
9.	Kerala	301.90	938.16
10.	Madhya Pradesh	382.47	490.53
11.	Maharashtra	727.78	658.33
12.	Manipur	43.71	48.15
13.	Meghalaya	4.17	5.47
14.	Orissa	196.98	0.00
15.	Punjab	0.00	239.90
16.	Rajasthan	411.36	470.13
17.	Tamil Nadu	1950.46	1168.95
18.	Tripura	141.20	138.71
19.	Uttar Pradesh	1383.22	2304.94
20.	Uttaranchal	0.00	411.74
21.	West Bengal	1098.42	911.06
22.	Daman and Diu	1.68	2.50
23.	Pondicherry	30.00	35.00

Pre-Matric Scholarship to the Children of those engaged in unclean occupations

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	63.90	57.94

1	2	3	4
2. Bihar		20.00	15.47
3. Goa		0.34	0.72
4. Gujarat		459.25	510.07
5. Haryana		Nil	38.20
6. Himachal Pradesh		22.05	Nil
7. Karnataka		3.03	3.36
8. Maharashtra		160.96	154.41
9. Orissa		Nil	4.00
10. Rajasthan		107.51	59.69
11. Tamil Nadu		170.25	49.72
12. Tripura		2.45	3.08
13. West Bengal		Nil	2.87
14. Pondicherry		5.16	Nil
15. Chhattisgarh		Nil	2.24
16. Jharkhand		Nil	30.20
17. Uttranchal		Nil	2.21

Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste boys

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1. Haryana		Nil	2.00
2. Himachal Pradesh		Nil	60.13
3. Jharkhand		Nil	245.80
4. Karnataka		495.00	563.19
5. Kerala		Nil	4.00
6. Madhya Pradesh		764.95	284.37
7. Orissa		12.75	21.12
8. Punjab		Nil	11.57
9. Tamil Nadu		Nil	182.59

1	2	3	4
10. Tripura		Nil	18.58
11. Uttar Pradesh		Nil	155.64
12. Chandigarh		45.00	50.18

Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste girls

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1. Haryana		140.04	Nil
2. Himachal Pradesh		67.30	Nil
3. Jharkhand		Nil	245.80
4. Karnataka		148.96	207.42
5. Kerala		Nil	45.50
6. Madhya Pradesh		437.51	665.74
7. Orissa		12.75	25.00
8. Tamil Nadu		258.34	43.50
9. Tripura		22.05	9.49
10. Uttar Pradesh		Nil	196.04

Book Banks for Scheduled Castes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh		116.59	Nil
2. Bihar		7.38	Nil
3. Goa		0.59	Nil
4. Haryana		3.27	Nil
5. Himachal Pradesh		1.00	Nil
6. Jammu and Kashmir		3.45	Nil
7. Karnataka		20.50	33.27

1	2	3	4
8. Kerala	13.92	40.00	
9. Madhya Pradesh	12.79	Nil	
10. Maharashtra	27.03	85.79	
11. Mizoram	1.59	Nil	
12. Orissa	9.00	Nil	
13. Punjab	8.28	Nil	
14. Rajasthan	Nil	9.40	
15. Tamil Nadu	15.21	13.38	
16. Tripura	1.68	1.86	
17. Uttar Pradesh	Nil	103.16	
18. Chandigarh	0.72	Nil	
19. Delhi	5.89	12.00	

Upgradation of Merit

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	37.80
2.	Chhattisgarh	4.20	9.23
3.	Goa	1.05	1.43
4.	Haryana	8.70	7.93
5.	Jharkhand	5.25	Nil
6.	Kerala	Nil	4.50
7.	Madhya Pradesh	16.80	Nil
8.	Rajasthan	Nil	8.24
9.	Sikkim	0.75	Nil
10.	Tripura	1.20	1.20
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	30.87
12.	Uttaranchal	2.40	Nil
13.	West Bengal	6.01	Nil
14.	Pondicherry	0.50	Nil

Coaching and Allied Scheme for Scheduled Castes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Haryana	Nil	2.19
2.	Kerala	8.69	20.86
3.	Madhya Pradesh	44.03	Nil
4.	Meghalaya	1.79	Nil
5.	Orissa	Nil	2.50
6.	Punjab	2.39	Nil
7.	Rajasthan	43.10	Nil
8.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	11.15
9.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	2.61
10.	West Bengal	Nil	2.68
11.	Delhi	2.95	1.90

Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

Sl. No.	States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	208.60	165.01
2.	Assam	2.00	0.00
3.	Bihar	34.03	0.00
4.	Gujarat	325.79	178.20
5.	Haryana	11.53	13.78
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4.89	0.00
7.	Karnataka	150.44	174.59
8.	Kerala	41.95	44.15
9.	Madhya Pradesh	977.24	812.86
10.	Maharashtra	190.44	6.48
11.	Orissa	0.58	0.97
12.	Punjab	18.39	33.10

1	2	3	4
13. Rajasthan		150.00	317.38
14. Tamil Nadu		150.00	502.48
15. Uttar Pradesh		448.20	700.00
1. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		27.00	25.00
2. Pondicherry		28.64	31.50

Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Assam	62.50	0.00
2.	Karnataka	425.71	278.15
3.	Tripura	95.79	110.04
4.	Manipur	16.00	0.00
5.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	1222.21
6.	Uttaranchal	0.00	73.19
7.	Sikkim	0.00	5.00
8.	Jharkhand	0.00	31.45
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	20.00

Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	559.25	357.77
2.	Assam	94.47	32.79
3.	Bihar	0.00	500.00
4.	Goa	25.00	0.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	55.02
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	8.00	42.00
7.	Jharkhand	0.00	191.88

1	2	3	4
8. Karnataka		110.72	145.57
9. Maharashtra		0.00	452.84
10. Manipur		91.36	0.00
11. Sikkim		0.00	0.22
12. Tripura		0.00	63.31
13. Uttar Pradesh		10.20	329.00
14. Uttaranchal		0.00	25.92

Hostels for OBC boys and girls

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Bihar	0.00	149.58
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	188.74
3.	Jharkhand	0.00	147.28
4.	Karnataka	183.23	216.99
5.	Manipur	46.91	0.00
6.	Sikkim	0.00	20.00
7.	Tamil Nadu	259.86	157.28
8.	Tripura	10.00	0.00
9.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	265.13

Scheme of Employment of Handicapped

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.17	0.00
2.	Gujarat	14.25	0.00
3.	Haryana	0.52	0.00
4.	Karnataka	0.00	14.44
5.	Kerala	0.00	64.46

1	2	3	4
6. Mizoram		0.00	15.21
7. Punjab		6.46	6.27
8. Rajasthan		39.26	10.41
9. Uttar Pradesh		17.63	29.05
10. Chandigarh		4.56	5.72
11. Delhi		0.00	6.03
12. Pondicherry		8.71	1.97

*National Programme for Rehabilitation of
Persons with Disabilities*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh		136.40	108.20
2. Arunachal Pradesh		198.35	156.05
3. Assam		260.30	203.90
4. Bihar		322.25	251.75
5. Chhattisgarh		207.00	156.05
6. Goa		74.45	60.35
7. Gujarat		198.35	156.05
8. Haryana		136.40	108.20
9. Himachal Pradesh		136.40	108.20
10. Jammu and Kashmir		136.40	108.20
11. Jharkhand		210.85	156.05
12. Karnataka		198.35	156.05
13. Kerala		136.40	108.20
14. Madhya Pradesh		384.20	299.60
15. Maharashtra		198.35	156.05
16. Manipur		136.40	108.20
17. Meghalaya		136.40	108.20

1	2	3	4
18. Mizoram		74.45	60.35
19. Nagaland		136.40	108.20
20. Oissa		198.35	156.05
21. Punjab		136.40	108.20
22. Rajasthan		198.35	156.05
23. Sikkim		74.45	60.35
24. Tamil Nadu		198.35	156.05
25. Tripura		74.45	60.35
26. Uttar Pradesh		446.15	347.45
27. Uttranchal		148.90	108.20
28. West Bengal		136.40	108.20
29. Andaman and Nicobar		74.45	60.35
30. Chandigarh		74.45	60.35
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		74.45	60.35
32. Daman and Diu		74.45	60.35
33. Delhi		74.45	60.35
34. Lakshadweep		74.45	60.35
35. Pondicherry		74.45	60.35

*Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social
Maladjustment*

Sl.No.	States/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh		0.00	78.76
2. Bihar		0.00	30.08
3. Goa		7.33	4.04
4. Gujarat		35.98	47.50
5. Haryana		25.06	3.09
6. Himachal Pradesh		24.58	0.00
7. Karnataka		87.00	49.44

1	2	3	4
8. Kerala	21.30	25.28	
9. Madhya Pradesh	159.27	113.58	
10. Maharashtra	251.16	710.77	
11. Manipur	5.35	0.00	
12. Meghalaya	5.62	5.89	
13. Mizoram	4.26	8.99	
14. Nagaland	6.67	3.22	
15. Punjab	24.06	13.37	
16. Rajasthan	8.00	12.17	
17. Sikkim	1.70	1.70	
18. Tamil Nadu	118.21	190.51	
19. Uttar Pradesh	184.45	64.95	
20. West Bengal	80.90	73.49	
21. Chandigarh	3.10	0.00	
22. Delhi	0.00	82.03	

**Details of Unmanned Level Crossings
in different Zones**

473. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of unmanned level crossings in the different zones of railways as on date;

(b) the number of accidental deaths occurred on these crossings till the end of January 2003; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent accidental deaths on these crossings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) :

Railway	Unmanned Level Crossings
1	2
Central	1456

1	2
Eastern	988
Northern	4011
North Eastern	2612
Northeast Frontier	1241
Southern	2259
South Central	1869
South Eastern	3386
Western	3970
Total	21792

(b) In the accidents at unmanned level crossings during the period from April 2002-January 2003, 120* persons have died and 179* others got injured. (*Figures are provisional).

(c) Following steps are taken to prevent accidents at unmanned level crossings :-

- (i) Whistle Boards/speed breakers and road signs are provided to forewarn the road users about unmanned level crossings.
- (ii) Audio-visual publicity campaigns are undertaken to educate road users on how to do safe crossing.
- (iii) Level crossings, having heavy traffic density are being progressively manned.
- (iv) Joint ambush checks are made to nab errant road vehicle users.

Bifurcation of Eastern Railways

474. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a period of two months upon division of Eastern Railway, its net income came down by 36.7%;

(b) whether the income on account of passenger fare declines by 27.3% and freight by 77.7%.

(c) whether the main source of income for the Railway comes out of freight charges;

(d) whether the most important departments like safety and repair are out of hand of Eastern Railway; and

(e) if so, the time by which these infrastructure are expected to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Net results of the Zonal Railways indicating the excess/shortfall are worked out at the end of the financial year. However, passenger and goods earnings on originating basis of Eastern Railway with revised jurisdiction comprising of Howrah, Sealdah, Malda and Asansol Divisions for the period from October 2002 to November 2002 show an improvement as compared to the corresponding months of the year 2001 for the same jurisdiction.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Captive Power Generation Capacity

475. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the available captive power generation capacity in the country is not being used properly;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared any plan to use captive power plants to their full capacity;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there are many such power plants in private sector in the country which are not generating any power even after installation; and

(e) the measures being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) Under Section 44 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the State

Electricity Boards (SEBs) give consent to setting up of captive power plants by various industries. As per information available with the Government, as on March 31, 2001, selected industries (i.e. those having an installed capacity of 1 MW and above) have set up a captive generating capacity of 15,823 MW in the country and their gross generation during 2000-01 was 56,812 GWH. Therefore it cannot be said that available captive generation in the country is not being used properly.

On July 11, 2001 the Ministry of Power has circulated a Captive Power Policy prepared by the Ministry of Power in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority to all the State Governments and Union Territories which recommends purchase of power by State Utilities from spare capacity in captive power plants. The policy suggests that State Utilities could purchase power from captive power plants at the tariffs which may be fixed after mutual discussion and could be based on pooled variable charge of thermal power station operating in the SEB plus some percentage of the pooled variable charges as incentive. Tariff could also be based on the highest variable cost in the system or actual variable cost of CPP, whichever is lower and some percentage of the variable cost as an incentive.

In the Conference of the State Power Ministers held at New Delhi on 5th August, 2002, a strategy was evolved to tackle the power demand during the then prevailing drought situation. The strategy is evolved included, inter-alia, increase of generation from existing thermal power plants, utilization of spare capacity of captive power plants and inter-regional transfer of power from power surplus regions to deficit regions.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Bulk Line Railway Station in Shoranur

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

(a) whether the Government have received representation for the construction of a 'Bulk Line' Railway Station at Shoranur in Kerala;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government received representations demanding provision of a new junction arrangement at Shoranur for facilitating stoppage of trains from all three directions namely Palghat, Tiruchur and Calicut.

(b) and (c) A Reconnaissance Engg-cum-Traffic Survey for construction of 'bulb line' at Shoranur was conducted. The proposal is found financially unviable, and therefore, it has been decided not to proceed with the proposal. The present junction arrangement at Shoranpur is considered adequate to meet the existing passenger traffic.

Trial of Madgaon-Roha Express

477. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Konkan Railway has conducted successfully the trial of Madgaon-Roha Express at the speed of 150 Km/hr;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether after taking into account of safety considerations, the Government have granted permission for commercial operation of the train;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which permission is likely to be granted;

(e) whether there is any plan to start such train on other sections of the railways; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. High speed trials at the speed of 130/140/150 kmph between Madgaon-Roha were conducted from 26th to 29th Dec., 2002.

(c) to (f) A number of preliminary steps to ensure safety, as prescribed by Commissioner for Railway Safety, are being formalised and will determine the introduction of the high speed train on the Railways.

Development of Missiles

478. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to develop indigenous missiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be develop; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. Already development of different types of missiles has been undertaken by the Government under Integrated Guided Missiles Development Programme.

(b) and (c) Prithvi and Agni strategic class of missiles in different versions have been developed and are being inducted. The other missile systems are in the advanced stage of development. In addition, BrahMos, a supersonic cruise missile is being developed as a joint venture with Russia.

Mudkhed-Adilabad Rail Line

479. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of laying rail line between Mudkhed-Adilabad

(b) the amount earmarked therefor; and

(c) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) The work of gauge conversion of Mudkhed-Adilabad section, which was earlier taken up under BOLT (Build-Own-Lease-Transfer) scheme is now being executed through Railway fund, as the contractor could not progress the work due to financial crisis and the contract was terminated. Earthwork and bridge works are in progress. An outlay of Rs. 30 crore has been allocated for the work in Budget 2002-2003. The work is expected to be completed during 2004-2005 depending upon availability of resources.

Deputing of Staff at Level Crossings

480. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to depute staff at all railway level crossings which are manually operated in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof especially in the State of Kerala ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Unutilised Railway Land in West Bengal

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

(a) the area of unutilised railway land in West Bengal as on date;

(b) the area out of above which has been encroached as on date;

(c) the steps taken to get the encroachments removed and to make best use of this land; and

(d) the time by which it is to be utilised even as green belt near railway tracks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Some area of land is lying vacant, and some of it is under encroachments. However, data on unutilised land, and area under encroachments is maintained Railway Zone-wise, and not State-wise.

(c) and (d) Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to remove encroachments from their land as per provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971, and the Railways Act, 1989. Railway land wherever vacant is required for their future development. Utilisation of such land either for Railway projects, or for development of green belt near tracks, is a continuous exercise. Railway land along tracks are given for cultivation to Railway employees, afforestation etc. and major stretches are kept for Borrow pits, Railway material

movements etc. and hence land near Railway tracks cannot be identified fully for Green belt.

New Rail Bridge at Kovvur-Rajahmundry

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

(a) whether the new rail bridge across the river Godavari at Kovvur-Rajahmundry has developed defects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the construction was not upto the required standards; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the bridge ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a), (b) and (d) There is no structural defect in the new rail bridge across the river Godavari at Kovvur-Rajahmundry. However, during periodical inspections of the bridge, settlement of one of the piers (pier no. 27) and minor hair cracks on the bottom surface of the top slab of the girder near diaphragms have been noticed. It has been planned to lift the span no. 27 and 28 and carry out necessary repairs and this work has already been awarded.

(c) No, Sir. The construction was as per required standards.

[Translation]

Electrification of Villages of Bihar

483. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the villages of Sheikhpura, Lakhisarai, Jamui and Begusarai districts of Bihar have been electrified;

(b) if not, the number of villages remaining to be electrified; and

(c) the time by which all the villages of the above said districts are likely to be electrified ?

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

Sir. Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) has informed that 266 villages in Sheikhpura, 302 villages in Lakhisarai, 1275 villages in Jamui and 243 villages in Begusarai are yet to be electrified.

(c) Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) has planned to electrify all the remaining villages by 2007 under different schemes.

[English]

Yatri Niwas in the Country

484. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Yatri Niwas in the country under Railways and their locations;

(b) whether a reasonable return has been ensured in each Yatri Niwas;

(c) if so, details thereof for the last three years;

(d) the date on which the construction work of Yatri Niwas at Madurai junction for which foundation was laid by the Minister during 1998 would be taken up; and

(e) the time by which the construction is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) Two Yatri Niwases, one at New Delhi and another at Howrah is functioning on Indian Railways and the profit earned in the past three years by both the Yatri Niwases is as under :—

New Delhi	1999-2000	Rs. 35.41 lacs
	2000-2001	Rs. 33.84 lacs
	2001-2002	Rs. 95.46 lacs
Howrah	1999-2000	Rs. 10.92 lacs
	2000-2001	Rs. 9.74 lacs
	2001-2002	Rs. 12.30 lacs

(d) and (e) The construction of Rail Yatri Niwas at Madurai has been suspended. However, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation will set up Budget

Hotels at various locations in the country, including Madurai in Tamil Nadu, subject to availability of land and private participation.

Concession on AIDS Appliances

485. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up six member Committee on concessions/exemptions of customs/excise duties on medicines for AIDS and Appliances for persons suffering from these disabilities;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has since submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with the action taken on the recommendations made by the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (c) A Committee was constituted in December 2002 to draft proposals for concession/exemption in customs/excise duties applied on aids and appliances for persons with disabilities. The Committee has submitted its report in January, 2003. The report is presently under examination of the Ministry.

[Translation]

Safety of Passengers in Trains

486. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item captioned, "Train mein lootpat, apharan" appearing in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated January 16, 2003;

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

(c) the number of persons looted and the amount involved therein alongwith the details of persons kidnapped;

(d) the action taken by the Government so far to secure the release of kidnapped persons and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the number of looting incidents that had occurred in trains during the last two years and the arrangements made by the Government for the safe journey of train passengers ?

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

(b) to (d) As per the information received through GRP authorities of Uttar Pradesh, a case vide Crime No. 9/03 U/S 341/342 IPC and 145 Railway Act was registered at GRPs/Pilibhit on 20.1.2003 for nuisance created by three unknown persons in train No. 169 Up at Dhakiya Tiwari halt in Pilibhit-Shahjahanpur section. Two male and one lady passengers were reportedly detained by miscreants. However, looting or kidnapping has not been reported.

(e) The number of looting incidents reported in N.E. Railway during the last two years i.e. 2001 and 2002 is as under :-

Year	Number of cases reported
2001	11
2002	11

Though the responsibility to curb crime on Railways lies with the State Governments, the Railway has taken the following steps to supplement the efforts of the State Governments :

1. Anti-social elements are being removed from Railway premises and trains by RPF.
2. Proper watch is being kept by Coach Attendants/TTEs on the passengers entering/detraining from the coaches and the coaches are properly locked during their run especially in night hours.
3. FIR forms are made available with the Trains Guards/Station Master/RPF to facilitate the travelling public to lodge their reports immediately.
4. Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is being done at all levels.

5. Announcement through public address system and CCTV at important Railway Stations to alert the travelling passengers against theft of their belongings etc.

6. Government Railway Police and Local Police are being conducted to analyse the crime position on Railways with a view to take suitable preventive measures.

7. Special Intelligence and Crime intelligence are shared between RPF and the GRP at all levels.

Helpline Service Centres for Women

487. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to open five hundred family consultation centres and helpline service centres having involvement of money throughout the country in association with the Voluntary Organizations in order to solve the problems of women;

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

(c) the funds being provided for the purpose by the Union Government under the Tenth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has started 500 Family Counselling Centres. Statewise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I. Women's Helpline under the scheme of Swadhar has been launched during the year 2002-03. An amount of Rs. 1,11,69,000/- has been sanctioned with a release of Rs. 60,69,000/-. Statewise details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) An amount of Rs. 80(eighty) crore has been proposed under Tenth Five Year Plan for Family Counseling Centres by the Government of India. No separate provision has been made for Women Helpline, which forms parts of another scheme 'Swadhar'

Statement-I

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.N.	State/Union Territory	Number of Centres	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	3014	21.40	19.83
2.	Assam	16	940	9.98	8.45
3.	Bihar	37	3014	22.53	18.34
4.	Gujarat	33	4521	30.95	27.36
5.	Haryana	15	2055	13.64	11.45
6.	Himachal Pradesh	06	548	4.42	2.50
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	02	274	1.90	1.80
8.	Karnataka	37	5069	33.24	30.30
9.	Kerala	34	4658	29.95	28.61
10.	Madhya Pradesh	39	2055	27.02	22.95
11.	Maharashtra	50	5754	39.84	34.95
12.	Manipur	00	00	0.00	0.00
13.	Meghalaya	03	424	2.87	3.60
14.	Nagaland	02	96	1.48	0.82
15.	Orissa	16	1781	12.46	13.47
16.	Punjab	12	1370	8.97	5.88
17.	Rajasthan	13	1644	10.50	9.63
18.	Tamil Nadu	38	4384	30.62	32.90
19.	Tripura	06	390	5.38	4.31
20.	Uttar Pradesh	37	4521	30.24	24.31
21.	West Bengal	30	3973	27.01	24.80
22.	Andaman and Nicobar	00	00	0.00	0.00
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	01	64	0.84	1.35
24.	Chandigarh	03	411	2.06	1.81
25.	Delhi	35	4394	27.91	32.51

1	2	3	4	5	6
26. Goa		01	137	1.33	0.67
27. Lakshadweep		00	00	0.00	0.00
28. Mizoram		02	168	1.95	4.17
29. Pondicherry		04	548	4.26	3.94
30. Sikkim		02	208	2.11	2.67
Total		497	56,415	404.86	373.38

Statement-II*[English]***Atrocities on Dalits**

S.No.	State/UT	No. of VOs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	1
4.	Goa	1
5.	Karnataka	2
6.	Kerala	2
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1
8.	Maharashtra	6
9.	Punjab	1
10.	Rajasthan	2
11.	Sikkim	1
12.	Tamilnadu	4
13.	Tripura	1
14.	Uttar Pradesh	1
15.	West Bengal	6
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
17.	Delhi	2
18.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
Total		37

488. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Dalit Women, daughter paraded naked" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated January 14, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken against the accused; and

(d) the measures taken/to be taken to prevent such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The news item captioned "Dalit Women, daughter paraded naked", does not appear to have been published in the Delhi Edition of 'The Hindustan Times', dated January 14, 2003. However, the said news item appeared in newspaper, 'The Hindu', dated January 14, 2003. The matter has been taken up with Government of Madhya Pradesh. The requisite information is awaited from the State Government and will be laid on the table of the House when received.

(d) The State Governments/Unions Administrations are addressed from time to time to implement the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, in letter and spirit and take appropriate preventive action for checking offences. For effective

implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, central assistance is provided to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for strengthening of the administrative, enforcement and judicial machinery, awareness generation, and relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons.

Special Cells have also been set up in the States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttranchal and Pondicherry towards implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

Increase in Prices of Petroleum Products

489. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

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

(a) the details of increase in prices of petroleum, diesel, Kerosene and LPG during the last one year;

(b) whether the intention to increase the prices was announced quite a few days before the actual increase;

(c) whether the Government are aware that this practice led to hoarding of the petroleum products for that period by the retailers; and

(d) if so, the system followed to increase these prices and the steps taken, if any, to protect the interest of consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The details of increase in the prices of petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG during the last one year are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) With the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism, the public sector oil companies are fixing the prices of petrol and diesel after taking into account the prevalent international oil prices. On the eve of such price revisions, the public sector oil companies publicize through media, the revision in prices, for the awareness of the consumers.

Statement

Major revisions in Retail selling Price at Delhi Post 1.4.2002.

(Rs./Litre/Rs./Cyl.)

	MS	Domestic LPG	HSD	SKO (PDS)
As on : 01.04.2002	26.54	240.45	16.59	8.92
WEF :				
04.06.2002	28.94		17.99	
16.06.2002	29.18		18.23	
16.08.2002	29.00		18.05	
01.09.2002	29.20		18.34	
16.09.2002	29.66		18.68	
01.10.2002	29.91		18.91	
17.10.2002	30.24		19.23	
1.11.2002*	30.26	241.20	19.25	
16.11.2002	29.57		18.57	
1.12.2002	28.91		18.06	
3.01.2003	29.93		19.07	
16.01.2003	20.33		19.47	
1.02.2003	30.71		19.84	

* – Due to revision in dealers' commission of MS/HSD and distributors' commission of domestic LPG.

[Translation]

Creation of New Zone

490. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly has sent a proposal to the Railway Board/Union Government to create a new railway zone at Dhanbad, Ranchi and Chakradharpur;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to create a new railway zone at Dhanbad;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The proposal was examined but the same has not been found feasible of acceptance.

[English]

Petronet-2003 Organised by Oil Companies

491. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether oil companies organised Petronet-2003 in January at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the names of the organiser oil companies and the amount spent by them; and

(c) to what extent the objectives of Petronet-2003 were achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The 5th International Petroleum Conference and Exhibition, "PETROTECH-2003", was organized by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) with the sponsorships of various public and private sector companies. The names of the sponsoring companies and their share are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) About 3,400 delegates, both Indian and foreign, attended the Conference. Exhibitors from 14 foreign countries in addition to domestic companies, participated in the Exhibition held to show case Indian petroleum industry to the world. The PETROTECH-2003 enabled experts to share experience and knowledge and assess and trend in global petroleum industry with particular reference to India.

Statement

S.No.	Company	Sponsorship	Amount in (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Indian Oil Corporation Limited	Platinum	50,00,000
2.	Reliance Industries Limited	Gold	40,00,000
3.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	Silver	30,00,000
4.	Gail India Ltd.	Silver	30,00,000
5.	HHI	Silver	30,00,000
6.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	Silver	30,00,000
7.	ICICI	Silver	30,00,000
8.	LARGE	Silver	30,00,000
9.	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	Silver	30,00,000
10.	Precision Drilling	Silver	30,00,000
11.	Schlumberger Asia Services Ltd.	Silver	30,00,000
12.	Transocean Sedco Forex	Silver	30,00,000

1	2	3	4
13.	United India Insurance	Silver	30,00,000
14.	Aban Loyd Chiles Offshore Ltd.	Event	20,00,000
15.	British Gas India Ltd.	Event	20,00,000
16.	Engineers India Ltd.	Event	20,00,000
17.	New India Assurance#	Event	20,00,000
18.	Oil India Ltd.	Event	20,00,000
19.	SGI#	Event	20,00,000
20.	BHEL	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
21.	Bongaigaon Refinery	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
22.	Cairn Energy	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
23.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
24.	Directorate General of Hydrocarbon	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
25.	Dewanohand Ramsaran	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
26.	Halliburton	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
27.	Hindustan Oil Exploration Co. Ltd.#	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
28.	IBP Co. Ltd.	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
29.	Indian Seamless Metal Tubes Ltd.	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
30.	IBM#	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
31.	Jindal Drilling and Industries Limited	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
32.	JP Morgan India	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
33.	Kochi Refineries Limited	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
34.	KHI + SOLAR#	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
35.	Larsen and Toubro Ltd.	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
36.	Maharashtra Seamless Limited	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
37.	Mazagon Dock Ltd.	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
38.	Numaligarh Refinery Limited	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
39.	National Insurance Co. Ltd.#	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
40.	PIMAC	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000

1	2	3	4
41.	Paradigm Geophysical Pte. Ltd.#	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
42.	State Bank of India	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
43.	The Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd.	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
44.	Worley (Indo-Gulf)	Co-Sponsor	10,00,000
Total			7,90,00,000

#To be received

Performance of PSUs

492. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of performance of Public Sector Oil Companies in terms of yearly turnover and dividend paid to the National Exchequer and other Shareholders; and

(b) the details of dividend paid/proposed to be paid to the National Exchequer in the current year and in the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The details of oil PSU turnover for the year 2001-2002 and the dividend paid to the Government of India and other shareholders during the current and last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

The turnover of the oil PSUs and the dividend paid are as follows :

(In Rs. Crore)

PSUs	Turnover for the fiscal year 2001-2002	Interim dividend paid for the fiscal year 2002-03		Dividend paid for the fiscal year 2001-2002		Dividend paid for the fiscal year 2000-2001		Dividend paid for the fiscal year 1999-2000	
		Government	Others	Government	Others	Government	Others	Government	Others
ONGC	23857.40	2038.87	385.31	1679.09	317.22	1319.29	249.24	779.58	147.28
OIL	1896.04	84.00	1.60	157.50	3.00	140.00	2.67	105.00	2.00
GAIL	9567.50	170.85	82.85	227.80	110.46	170.85	82.85	246.58	49.40
IOC	114864.40	319.36	69.98	702.59	153.95	606.78	132.96	479.04	104.97
HPCL	45287.00	34.61	33.25	173.08	166.25	173.08	166.25	145.48	139.50
BPCL	39829.48	39.72	22.28	218.46	111.54	148.95	76.05	124.13	63.37
IBP	8452.57	Nil	Nil	5.76	16.39	13.20	8.95	6.07	4.12
EIL	536.99	Nil	Nil	13.96	1.48	34.02	3.61	32.13	3.42

Atrocities on SC/ST in Rajasthan

493. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether atrocities on SC/ST are on the increase in the country particularly in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a case is pending against the decision of the village panchayat of Chakwada village for imposing a fine of Rs. 51,000 on the entire dalit community of the village for a dalit youth taking bath on public ghat on December 14, 2001; and

(d) if so, the present status of the case with details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The statistics compiled on the basis of information received from State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations indicate that the number of cases registered in the country under the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, marginally declined from 30,315 cases in the year 2000 to 30,022 cases in the year 2001. In the case of State of Rajasthan also, the statistics indicate that the number of cases registered under the Act declined from 6679 cases in the year 2000 to 5915 cases in the year 2001.

(c) and (d) The matter has been taken up with Government of Rajasthan. The requisite information is awaited from the State Government.

Setting up of New Railway Stations in Delhi

494. SHRIMATI PRADHA RAU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new Railway Stations in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the new stations proposed to be set up alongwith the places identified for the same and the estimated cost involved in the establishment of each new station;

(c) whether any time schedule has been fixed for the establishment of these new Railway Stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the traffic on the existing stations is likely to be reduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (d) The Railways is considering proposals for provision of directional terminals to be located at periphery of Delhi. This includes a Passenger Terminal at Anand Vihar for East bound trains. However, the Railways' strategy is to fully exploit terminals in Delhi area namely New Delhi, Delhi, Nizamuddin and Delhi Sarai Rohilla before taking up the work of additional terminals. The work pertaining to development of existing terminals in Delhi are already been sanctioned and are in different stages of completion.

Defence Establishment in Tamil Nadu

495. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Defence establishment in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up any other formation in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) There are six Ordnance Factories and a Public Sector Undertaking in Tamil Nadu. These are as under :

- (i) Cordite Factory, Aruvankandu.
- (ii) Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi.
- (iii) Engine Factory, Avadi.
- (iv) Ordnance Clothing Factory, Avadi.
- (v) Ordnance Factory, Tiruchirapalli.
- (vi) Heavy Alloy Penetrator Project, Tiruchirapalli.
- (vii) Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL), Chennai.

In addition, there are a large number of establishments/ office of the three Services and other departments under the Ministry of Defence.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

**Development of Public Sector
Undertakings**

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

(a) whether the Government have any plans to reconstitute the Board of Directors and Executive Directors of the PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote and project our PSUs to be on par with best in the business;

(d) the details of the amount allocated, disbursed and utilized for the development of the PSUs;

(e) whether the Government finds it very difficult to mobilize funds for the development of the PSUs;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the contribution made by the Union Government in the last three years for the development ?

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

(a) and (b) As per Government guidelines, the Board of Directors of PSUs should have 3 categories of Directors, namely, Functional Directors, part-time Government Directors and non-officials part-time Directors whose number should be at least one-third of the actual strength of the Board. In the case of listed companies with Executive Chairman, at least half of the Board should consist of Independent Directors. This is an ongoing process.

(c) The PSUs enjoy powers to promote and project themselves to be at par with the best in the business. The Government are granting Navratna and Miniratna status to continuously profit making PSUs, which gives them enhanced financial and operational powers to enable them to compete with other companies.

(d) to (g) The investment made by the Central Government in PSUs during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and

2000-2001 was Rs. 3095 crores, Rs. 8063 crores and Rs. 9711 crores respectively.

[Translation]

Ban on Sale of Groundnut etc. in Trains

497. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to strictly impose ban on the sale of groundnut, peanut and other food items in the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the estimated number of hawkers selling food items in trains at present in the country ?

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

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Such statistics are not maintained by the Indian Railways.

Small Hydro-Electric Power Generation

498. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to find out the possibility of small hydro-electric power generation from non-conventional energy sources in Jharkhand in view the power crisis in 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the UNDP/GEF Hilly Hydro Project, identification of small hydro power (SHP) potential sites was made in the Himalayan and sub-Himalayan regions, including Jharkhand. A potential of

around 170 MW has been assessed from 89 sites in Jharkhand. Out of which, six SHP projects aggregating to 4.05 MW have been set up. Another eight projects aggregating to 34.85 MW are under implementation in the State. This Ministry has so far supported three projects aggregating to 1.45 MW under the Capital Subsidy Scheme, two demonstration projects of 200 KW each and five portable micro hydel sets of 10 KW each in Jharkhand. Further, support has been extended to detailed survey and investigations and for preparation of detailed project reports of 11 SHP sites aggregating to 15.6 MW.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Legislation to Provide Reservation to SC/ST in Private Sector

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

(a) whether the Government propose to enact legislation to provide reservation to Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes in private sector companies in the changed economic scenario;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have tried to evolve consensus amongst State Government and political parties in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (e) The Government has not taken any decision so far on the subject of enactment of legislation for reservation to SC and ST in the private sector.

Cost of Power to Indian Industry

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

(a) whether the Indian Industry pays three times more for power than the Chinese Industry does;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the cost of power to Indian Industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Average tariff paid by industry in China indicates that the tariff for industrial consumers in India is about two times higher.

(b) In India Industrial consumers pay a tariff higher than the cost of supply to cross subsidise domestic and agricultural consumers who pay a tariff below the cost of supply.

(c) Government of India enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act 1998. According to the provisions of this Act, one of the guiding principles for the State Commissions while determining tariff is that the tariff progressively reflects the cost of supply of electricity at an adequate and improving level of efficiency. It also provides that if a State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers, the State Government shall pay the amount to compensate the persons affected by the grant of subsidy in the manner the regulatory commission may direct.

Land Acquired and Compensation Paid to Farmers in Gujarat

501. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount sanctioned and released by the Union Government to the farmers as compensation whose fields and crops were damaged due to deployment of oil/gas surveys/exploration staff in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Union Government have received number of complaints in disbursing of compensation amongst farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure timely payment to farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Construction of Metro Railway in Bangalore

502. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a long pending demand by the people of Karnataka for construction of Metro Railway in Bangalore on the lines of Delhi Metro Railways;

(b) if so, whether the Centre particularly the Railway officials had several meeting regarding this issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State has agreed to pay its share of money for the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a), (d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The proposal is under consideration by the Government of Karnataka (GOK), to introduce a medium – heavy Rail based system, partly elevated and partly underground. The GOK proposes to have a Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared to arrive at realistic rider-ship figures, cost estimates, O and M expenses and viability based on affordable rates. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (DMRC) has been requested to undertake preparation of a DPR at a cost of not exceeding Rs. 2.5 crores + 5% service tax for East-West corridor and North- South corridor. The GOK has sought funding of the preparation of DPR as per the standard sharing pattern of 60:40. The Government of India (GOI) has agreed to fund 40% of the cost of the study, i.e. Rs. 1 crore to be paid in nine instalments. The first instalment of 20% amounting to Rs. 20 lakhs has been released on 13.01.2003.

(b) and (c) The subject, i.e. introduction of Metro Railway system, pertains to Ministry of Urban Development and P.A. and therefore Railway Officials have not held any meeting on the issue. However, Railway officials had several meetings with the representatives of the Government of Karnataka regarding survey for introduction of inter-modal transport system in Bangalore by upgrading existing Railway infrastructure.

Crash of MIG 21 Aircraft

503. SHRI SURESH KURUP :
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :
SHRI BHUPENDRA SINH SOLANKI :
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN :
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in spite of implementation of several accident inquiry reports, the crash of MIG-21 and other fighters are increasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of MIG fighter aircraft and other aircraft crashed in the month of December 2002 and January 2003;

(d) the loss of life and property suffered as a result thereof;

(e) the details of preliminary investigations conducted on the crash of such aircraft;

(f) whether the efforts of the Government to check such accidents have proved to be totally failure;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether any responsibilities has been fixed on such accidents; and

(i) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(c) There were two accidents involving one MiG-21 aircraft and one MiG-21 aircraft in the month of December,

2002. There was one accident involving a Jaguar aircraft in January, 2003.

(d) and (e) In these three accidents one pilot and one civilian were killed while two civilians were injured. The Courts of Inquiry have been ordered to find out the cause of these accidents and assess the loss of property;

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) and (i) A Court of Inquiry is institution to find out the cause of each such accident and remedial/preventive measures are taken as per its recommendations.

Cooperation with Iran

504. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to establish cooperation with Iran in the field of defence; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) India has good relations with Iran including in the field of bilateral defence cooperation.

(b) Both sides have decided to explore opportunities in defence in agreed areas, including training and exchange of visits.

Amendment in Cable Network Act

505. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :
SHRI AMBAREESHA :

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

(a) the details of steps taken to follow up action after passing of cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill 2002 to allow viewers to select channels and pay only for those selected;

(b) the action taken to ensure that all pay channels to go through a set-top box;

(c) the name of cities where the act will come into force;

(d) other steps proposed to ensure that cable owners do not harass viewers with frequent increase of charges;

(e) whether the Government have estimated the amount viewers will have to shell after the enforcement of the act; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 4A of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Central Government by Notification dated 14.1.2003 has notified the 15th day of January, 2003 as the date within six months for which it shall be obligatory for every cable operator to transmit/re-transmit programme of every pay channel through an addressable system in the four metros cities, namely (i) Chennai Metropolitan area; (ii) Municipal Council of Greater Mumbai area; (iii) Kolkata Metropolitan area; (iv) National Capital Territory of Delhi.

The Government has also constituted a Task Force to oversee the implementation of the Conditional Access System (CAS). The focus of its deliberations will be on protection of consumer interest.

(e) and (f) The Task Force is entrusted with the issue of pricing of the basic tier of free-to-air channels. The consumer will benefit because he will pay only for those channels, which he chooses to watch.

Strike by Employees of Oil Union on Disinvestment

506. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

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

(a) whether the trade unions in Oil Companies have sent notices to the Union Government to go on indefinite strike from the day the Government announces their schedule for the privatisation of Hindustan Petroleum

Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to ensure that supplies of petro products remained uninterrupted during the strike period?

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

(b) Some of the trade unions of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) had served strike notice against the Government's decision for the strategic sale of HPCL.

(c) and (d) A committee has been set up to meet the exigencies and contingency plans have been drawn in conjunction of oil marketing companies (OMCs) to maintain uninterrupted supply and distribution of petroleum products during the strike period. Also, HPCL management has approached respective Regional Labour Commissioners to intervene in the matter for reconciliation. In case of emergency and total strike by the Public Sector OMCs, it is planned to avail assistance of the Territorial Army for operation, safety and security of the plants under the supervision of the respective location In-charge.

Comprehensive Report on Safety Issues

507. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railways have prepare a comprehensive report on all safety issues;

(b) if so, whether they have also decided to issue a "White Paper" which has been demanded by all parties;

(c) if so, the main recommendations made by the committee;

(d) to what extent the Ministry has considered the views of the expert committee; and

(e) the steps being taken to implement them for the rail safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) A high level committee called Railway Safety Review Committee (RSRC) under the Chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna was set up in August 1998, to review safety performance of Indian Railways. The Committee submitted Part-I of its report in August 1999 and Part-II in February 2001.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Railway Safety Review Committee made 150 recommendations in Part-I and 128 recommendations in Part-II of the report These include recommendations on investment planning and policies, personnel matters, track and bridges, rolling stock, signalling and telecommunication, disaster management, safety organisation and matters concerning Commission of Railway Safety etc.

Of the total 278 recommendations made in both the parts of the report of the Committee, 214 have either been accepted fully or partially. 28 recommendations have not been accepted and 36 are under scrutiny.

Action to implement the accepted recommendations is under various stages depending upon availability of resources and success of trials, in some cases. Necessary directives have been issued to the field and compliance is being monitored at various levels.

In order to implement one of its major recommendations, Central Government has already set up a non-lapsable "Special Railway Safety Fund" of Rs. 17,000 crore to wipe out arrears in renewal of over-aged assets of track, bridges, signalling and rolling stock and safety enhancement works within a fixed time frame of 6 years.

Guidelines on Austerity Measures

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

(a) whether the Government have issued guidelines to all PSUs to cut their expenditure; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) The Central PSUs have their own policies to effect economy and austerity in their operations. Besides

these, general guidelines issued by the Government from time to time on austerity measures are also to be followed by these PSUs.

Funding Pattern for NCC

509. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present funding pattern for National Cadet Corps (NCC) between Centre and States;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to strengthen the NCC by allocating additional funds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Funding of NCC activities is the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. The Central Government provides budgetary support for pay and allowances of Service Officers, Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) and Other Ranks (ORs) and also for Central Government civilian employees. The Central Government also provides budgetary support for movement of personnel/stores, purchase of store items such as clothing/equipment/vehicles, training of cadets in centrally organized camps, office contingency grant for NCC Directorate, purchase and maintenance of items of information technology (IT) and for revenue/capital works. The Central Government also bears 50% of annual training expenditure on other than centrally organized camps.

State Governments provide budgetary support for pay and allowances of States Government civilian employees, allowances for Associate NCC Officers (ANOs)/NCC cadets, 50% of other than centrally organized NCC camp expenditure and miscellaneous expenses of Group Headquarters and NCC Units.

Budgetary support for financing of NCC activities by the Central and State Government is amplified in enclosed Statement I and Statement II.

(b) and (c) NCC cadets strength has recently been increased from 12 to 13 lakhs. The entire expenditure on camp and training activities for the additional 25000 cadets allocated to Jammu and Kashmir (Jammu and Kashmir) and North Eastern Region (NER) States is also being

incurred by the Central Government. An additional amount of Rs. 53.70 lakhs for Jammu and Kashmir and Rs. 214.80 lakhs for NER amounting to Rs. 268.50 lakhs have been proposed for the whole financial year 2003-2004.

Statement-I

Financing of NCC activities through Central Government Budget

- (a) Pay and Allowances of Service Officers/JCOs/ORs.
- (b) Pay and Allowances of Civilian Officers/Others.
- (c) **Transportation**
 - (i) Movement of Personnel
 - (ii) Movement of Stores.
- (d) **Stores item**
 - (i) Clothing
 - (ii) Equipment
 - (iii) Vehicles
 - (iv) Others.
- (e) **Training**
 - (i) Centrally Organised Camps, Trekking/Adventure activities
 - (ii) Other than Centrally organized Camps, 50:50 share between State and Central Governments.
 - (iii) Office Contingency Grant.
- (c) IT Head
- (g) Revenue and Capital Works.

Statement-II

Financing of NCC activities through State Government Budget

- (a) Pay and Allowances of State Employees
- (b) **Training Expenditure :-**
 - (i) Washing and polishing allowance
 - (ii) Refreshment allowance for Cadets
 - (iii) Honorarium

- (iv) Outfit and Outfit Maintenance allowance for Associate NCC Officers (ANOs).
- (v) Pre-commission and Refresher Course allowance for ANOs.
- (vi) Training and Amenity Grant;
- (vii) Petrol, Oil and Lubricants (POL) for Training purpose.
- (viii) Other than Centrally organized Camps, 50:50 share between State and Central Governments.

(c) **Camp Expenditure :-**

- (i) Messing allowance for Cadets and ANOs
- (ii) Incidentals
- (iii) Rank Pay of ANOs
- (iv) TA/DA for Cadets and ANOs during Camp
- (v) POL expenses.

(d) **Miscellaneous Expenses :-**

- (i) Office Contingency
- (ii) Furniture
- (iii) Accommodation
- (iv) Water and Electricity rates
- (v) Taxes
- (vi) POL.

Detection of Snags in Trishul Missile

510 SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

whether snags detected in Trishul Missile have led to putting the surface to air missile programme on back burner;

(b) whether two of the five tests conducted on Trishul Missile has failed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the sanctions imposed by the US leading to non-delivery of essential spares has led to the failure; and

(e) if so, the extent of set-back suffered by the missile programme ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Trishul surface to air missile is being progressed as technology demonstrator, de-linking from the user services. While number of complex technologies and sea skimming capability have been established, the missile still needs to be proved for all its capabilities. These technologies will be useful in futuristic missile projects.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Unspent Provision in Ministry

511. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether large provisions made in the budget remains unspent in this Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof for each of the last three years and the reasons therefor; and

(c) its impact on the pending power projects and the steps taken to accelerate the use of the provisions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The details of the unspent provisions in the Ministry and the reasons thereof are given below :-

	Organization	Saving (Rs. in crores)	Reason
1	2	3	4
1999-00	NJPC	93	Due to strike by workers of the main civil works contractor, unrest by local villagers on rehabilitation issues and poor conditions of NH-22.

1	2	3	4
	Sardar Sarovar	37.27	The saving of Rs. 37.27 crore was due to non-receipt of the share from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Government of India has already released a sum of Rs. 297.4 crore as per the decision of the Government to fund the project in the ratio of 1.28:1 between GOI and GOMP.
	BTPS	9.62	Due to delay in awarding contracts for ash utilization and R and M work.
	THDC	18	Due to delay in approval of new project, i.e., Koteswar HEP.
	REC	59.17	REC is providing funds for energisation of the pumpsets and system improvement of SEBs. Since there were less claims from the SEBs, the total budget was not utilised by REC.
	PGCIL	74.52	The saving of Rs. 74.52 crore was due to delay in the execution of the NJPC project due to reasons indicated above. Hence there was deferment of supply and erection in the transmission system to match with the generation schedule. In addition, there was a saving of Rs. 20.56 crores on the ULDC-NR Project due to delay in type testing and consequent slippage of supplies. It may, however, be indicated that the ULDC-NR project was commissioned ahead of schedule.
2000-01	PGCIL	50	The saving of Rs. 50 crore occurred due to change in the funding pattern of the scheme of the ULDC NER. The revised proposal was not approved by Competent Authority.
	PGCIL	41.79	The saving of Rs. 41.79 crore was due to non approval of the extension of the NRTS-IBRD Loan (3237 IN), provided for NJPC-TL, Kishenpur-Moga, ULDC-NR and Kathalguri (OECF).
	REC	91.84	REC is providing funds for energisation of the pumpsets and system improvement to SEBs. Since there were less claims from the SEBs, the total budget was not utilised by REC.
	Rural Electrification in NER	12.53	The saving of Rs. 12.53 crore was due to non approval of the scheme of Rural electrification of Dalit Basti in NER.

1	2	3	4
	NEEPCO	122	Due to slow progress in infrastructure work and delay in awards in contracts for Turial HEP (60MW) for technical reasons. In addition, Kameng, Kopili, Tuivai, Lower Kopili, and Tipaimukh HEP could not get the investment approval from the competent authority in time.
2001-02	Kutir Jyoti	15	As per the instruction, the 50% of the grant is to be released in advance and 50% on reimbursement basis to SEBs for implementation of single point connection in the villages. Less claims from the SEBs resultant saving.
	PGCIL	40	The saving of Rs. 40 crore occurred due to change in the funding pattern of the scheme of ULDC NER. The revised proposal was not approved by Competent Authority. The consequent change in funding pattern required a fresh PIB/CCEA approval in the absence of this, the funds earmarked as grants could not be utilised.
	Sardar Sarovar	36.27	The saving was due to non-receipt of the shares from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Government of India has already released a sum of Rs. 297.4 crore as per the decision of the Government to fund the project in the ratio of 1:28:1. Since RCE of the project was not approved, therefore the saving.
	PTC	50	An amount of Rs. 50 crore is provided to PTC as equity. Later on it was decided to re-structure the company with equity participation from NTPC, PGCIL, etc.
	REC	410	The amount was provided as loan to REC for village electrification and system improvement. Since the scheme was merged with PMGY the funds were released by the MOF, hence technically there was no surrender, in effect.

(c) As already explained in the reasons given above for each case, it is to be noted that release of funds from the budget is linked to specific milestones of action. In every case where the budget provision could not be fully utilized, it occurred because of non-fulfilment of the conditions prescribed for release of the funds. It is very difficult to separate out the impact due to this aspect alone from many other factors which together impact the execution of any project.

With regard to steps for accelerating the utilization of the budget provision, the Ministry is continuously monitoring

the trend of expenditure and making reviews with the concerned project authorities every quarter to make sure that non-availability of funds do not become a constraint in implementation of the concerned project.

Generation of Additional Power to Meet Shortages

512. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up additional Hydro-electric Power Projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such HEPP likely to be set up in the country, especially in Rajasthan during the Tenth Plan State-wise;

(c) the capacity of power likely to be generated with proposed additional power projects and the cost thereof, plant-wise; and

(d) the policy formulated by the Government for the implementation of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The hydro electric potential in the country has been assessed as 1,48,701 MW, of which only around 17% has been harnessed. Hydro-electric projects of 14393.2 MW capacity are envisaged to be set up during the 10th Plan. There is no hydro-electric project to be set up during 10th Plan in Rajasthan. A statement giving details of the projects covered along with their cost is enclosed. Effective mechanisms have been put in place to ensure timely completion of these projects.

The Government has undertaken following measures for accelerating the pace on hydropower development in the country with the ultimate objective of fully developing the feasible hydro potential in the country.

- Enhanced budgetary support has been provided to Central Public Sector Undertakings responsible for development of hydro projects in Central Sector.
- In order to facilitate prioritizing the development of hydro site, Central Electricity Authority has completed a ranking study of all the identified hydro potential sites in the major river basins of the country.
- A three stage clearance process for new hydro projects has been introduced. This facilitates thorough preparation of DPRs so as to minimize possibilities of geological surprises with land acquisition and proper development of infrastructure including roads and bridges being

done in parallel after establishment of feasibility and commercial viability of a project. Development of necessary infrastructure before award of major contract packages is expected to result in reduction of the gestation period of hydro projects and consequently lower costs.

A Special Purpose Vehicle for compensatory afforestation has been planned which would create a land bank from which credits could be taken for large power projects. This is also designed to take care of environmental concerns relating a large hydro projects.

Statement

List of hydel power projects identified for capacity addition during 10th Plan

Name of the project/ Sector	I.C. (MW)	10th Plan benefit (MW)	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4
Central Sector			
T.H.D.C.			
Tehri HEP (Uttaranchal)	1000	1000	6195.56 (completed)
Koteshwar (-do-)	400	4000	342.53
Tehri PSP (-do-)	1000	1000	1799.67
NHPC			
Dulhasti (J and K)	390	390	3559.77
Chamera-II (H.P.)	300	300	1364.08 (completed)
Dhauliganga-I (Uttaranchal)	280	280	1578.31
Teesta-V (Sikkim)	510	510	2568.09 (completed)
Indirasagar (JV) (M.P.)	1000	1000	3594.42 (completed)
Sewa-II (J and K)	120	120	675.25

1	2	3	4
Bav (Mah.)	37	37	264.21
Purulia PSS (JV) (WB)	900	900	1456.56
Omkareshwar (JV) (MP)	520	520	2407.10 (completed)
Teesta low dam-III, WB	132	132	782.22
Teesta low dam-IV, WB	168	168	DPR not yet received
NJPC			
Nathpa Jhakri (HP)	1500	1500	6218.29
Rampur (HP)	400	400	DPR not yet to received
NEEPCO			
Kopili-II (Assam)	25	25	99.35 (completed)
Tuirial (Mizoram)	60	60	448.19 (completed)
Total Central Sector	8742	8742	
State Sector			
Punjab			
Shahpurkandi (H)	168	168	298.46
Himachal Pradesh			
Larji-I (H)	126	126	908.64
Kashang-I (H)	66	66	DPR not yet received
Jammu and Kashmir			
Baghaliar (H)	450	450	1046.51
Uttaranchal			
Maneri Bhali-II (H)	304	304	1111.39
Madhya Pradesh			
Bansagar-III (H)	20	20	301.17

1	2	3	4
Bansagar-II (H)	15	15	
Bansagar-IV (H)	20	20	51.06
Marikheda (H)	40	40	169.17
Maharashtra			
Ghatghar PSS (H)	250	250	620.78
Gujarat			
Sardar Sarovar (multi State) (H)	1450	1450	3267.25
Tamil Nadu			
Pykara Ultimate (H)	150	150	70.16
Bhavani Barrage (H) (I/II/III)	90	90	78.67
Andhra Pradesh			
Srisailem LBH (H)	450	450	1166.66
Jurala Priyadarshini (H)	78.2	78.2	452.91
Kerala			
Kuttiyadi augmentation (H)	100	100	61.72
Karnataka			
Almati Dam (H)	290	290	674.38 (completed)
Orissa			
Balimela-II (H)	150	150	200.09 (completed)
Assam			
Karbi Langpi (H)	100	100	36.36
Mizoram			
Bairabi (H)	80	80	549.43 (completed)
Meghalaya			
Myntdu (Leiska) (H)	84	84	285.36
Total State Sector	4481.2	4481.2	

1	2	3	4
Private Sector			
Himachal Pradesh			
Baspa (H)	300	300	867.7
Dhamwari Sunda (H)	70	70	439.95 (completed)
Uttaranchal			
Vishnu Prayag (H)	400	400	1614.66 (completed)
Madhya Pradesh			
Maheshwar (H)	400	400	1569
Total Private Sector	1170	1170	
Overall Total	14393.2	14393.2	

NCC Units in Orissa

513. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has requested the Union Government for allotment of more NCC units for all High Schools in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the time by which the NCC units are likely to be established in all High Schools in Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Pending Projects

514. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have signed Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) with some States for development of rail infrastructures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the components of the MoU vis-à-vis the execution of the projects by the Railways themselves ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Railways to develop rail infrastructure. The scope of the MOU covers the following projects in their respective States.

Maharashtra : As per the MOU with the Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, has been formed with equity participation from the Ministry of Railways and the Government of Maharashtra and it is undertaking capacity augmentation and system improvement works in the Mumbai Suburban Railway network.

Karnataka : Four projects have been identified for execution through a Joint Venture named Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE), namely 1) Hubli-Ankola New Line, 2) Solapur-Gadag Gauge Conversion, 3) Hassan-Mangalore Gauge Conversion and 4) Guntakal-Hospet Doubling.

Andhra Pradesh : The MOU envisages strengthening of the Suburban Rail infrastructure and its services in the city of Hyderabad – Secundrabad as a part of a comprehensive Multi-Modal Suburban Commuter Transportation System.

Jharkhand : Six Railway projects have been identified for execution under the MOU namely; 1) Ranchi-Barkakana-Hazaribagh-Koderma New Line, 2) Ranchi-Lohardaga Gauge Conversion with extension to Tori, 3) Deogarh-Dumka New Line, 4) Dumka-Rampurhat New Line, 5) Koderma-Giridih New Line, and 6) Koderma-Tilaiya New Line (only Jharkhand portion).

*[Translation]***Evaluation of Power Projects**

515. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government undertakes the evaluation and monitoring of Power Projects;

(b) if so, the details of evaluation of various projects undertaken during the last three years along with the outcome thereof;

(c) the efforts made by the Government in this direction on the basis of outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) Evaluation and monitoring of the 10th Plan capacity addition programme is being done constantly in the Ministry of Power. The power projects targeted for capacity addition during 10th Plan had been identified before the start of the Plan. Vigorous monitoring is being done of the capacity addition programme by the Ministry of Power in close association of Central Electricity Authority. Monthly reviews are being undertaken by Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Quarterly reviews are being undertaken at Secretary/Ministry of Power level.

In order to further improve the system of facilitation and monitoring by the CEA for ensuring full achievement of the targeted capacity addition in the 10th Plan, the following additional measures have been put into effect :

- i. The nodal officer for each project to periodically visit the project site of the projects which are scheduled for commissioning during the next 24 months. This would give nodal officers a better appreciation of the likely difficulties/problems. It would also enable them to anticipate problems and facilitate their resolution by coordination at higher levels.
- ii. For projects where orders have not been placed for major contract packages, there would be a

separate nodal officer from the appraisal wing who would monitor various clearances and decisions leading to the placement of awards for works. This would facilitate placement of orders within next 12 months.

- iii. The system of identifying problems which could lead to delays and escalating the issue within CEA and from CEA to the Ministry has been streamlined to enable the concerned to intervene promptly to see that the problems are resolved, delays avoided and projects commissioned on schedule.

*[English]***Special Purpose Vehicle**

516. SHRI S. MURUGESAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Cabinet has approved setting up of a special purpose vehicle (SPV);

(b) if so, what would be the speed of SPV;

(c) whether the Government propose to link the four metros of the country with SPV;

(d) the estimated cost of SPV project; and

(e) the employment generation potential of this project ?

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

(b) The Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) is a public limited company set up under the Companies Act 1956 and is named Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.

(c) The Government has proposed to entrust the SPV with the execution of projects related to the strengthening of the Rail routes connecting the four metros.

(d) The estimated cost of the strengthening of the Rail link connecting the four metros is Rs. 8000 crores.

(e) It will have direct/indirect employment potential during construction and operation phases.

[Translation]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps on Lease

517. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Public Sector Oil Companies nowadays are allotting petrol pumps on lease for 11 months;

(b) if so, the details of such petrol pumps allotted in Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh as on January 31, 2003 alongwith names of the companies to which these were allotted on lease;

(c) the dates on which allotments were made;

(d) whether some more petrol pumps are likely to be allotted on lease during the coming months; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Linking of Important Religious Sites with Prominent Cities

518. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are considering to link important religious and historical sites with prominent cities across the country through new trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Introduction of new trains is an ongoing process. Trains are introduced on the basis of traffic justification, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

Oil and Gas Discoveries by ONGC

519. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC has recently found oil and gas reserves at various exploration blocks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the exploration from the new sources is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has recently found oil and gas leads at 4 new locations. The new oil and gas leads/areas are as follows :

1. Laipringaon (Upper Assam Basin)
2. B-22-5 (Mumbai Offshore Basin)
3. Kavitam (Krishna Godavari Onland Basin)
4. GS-KW (Krishna Godavari Offshore Basin)

(c) Exploration is a continuous process and the leads, thus obtained from the above wells, are to be pursued to consolidate the gain and produce hydrocarbons for which no time frame may be laid down.

Hostels for SC, ST and OBC Students

520. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

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

(a) whether any scheme for providing hostel facilities to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs students of Secondary, Senior Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities is being run by the Government;

(b) if so, nature and scope of the scheme and its implementation;

(c) the place-wise details of hostels constructed in the country including Kerala and Rajasthan during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the funds allocated by the Union Government for the Construction of these hostels?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Following Schemes are being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes :

(i) Hostels for SC Boys and Girls

(ii) Hostels for ST Boys and Girls

(iii) Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls

Under these schemes 50% Central assistance is provided to the States and 100% to Union Territories for Construction of Hostels. In case of Hostels for SC boys and girls, assistance is also provided to State Universities and NGOs (for expansion of existing Hostels only) on 45:45:10 matching basis. In the case of Central Universities, 90% Central assistance is provided.

(c) and (d) The details of the hostels sanctioned and funds released during the last three years for construction of hostels, State-Wise enclosed as Statement. The place wise details will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Centrally sponsored Scheme of Construction of Boys Hostels for SCs

Release of funds from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State/U.T.	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Release	Hostels	Release	Hostels	Release	Hostels
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	122.40	Arrear	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
3.	Assam	5.00	10	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
4.	Bihar	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
5.	Chattisgarh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
6.	Goa	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
7.	Gujarat	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8. Haryana	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	41.25	3
9. Himachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	60.13	1
10. Jammu and Kashmir	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
11. Jharkhand	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	245.80	17
12. Karnataka	483.82	34	495.00	29	563.19	30	
13. Kerala	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	4.00	1	
14. Madhya Pradesh	254.19	77	764.95	Arrear	291.525	36	
15. Maharashtra	42.85	1	23.45	Arrear	NIL	NIL	
16. Manipur	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
17. Meghalaya	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
18. Mizoram	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
19. Nagaland	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
20. Orissa	7.84	2	12-75	3	21.12	1	
21. Punjab	NIL	NIL	11.55	1	129.005	2	
22. Rajasthan	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
23. Sikkim	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
24. Tamil Nadu	211.75	12	NIL	NIL	182-59	17	
25. Tripura	10.00	NIL	NIL	NIL	18.58	Arrear	
26. Uttar Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	155.64	7	
27. Uttaranchal	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
28. West Bengal	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
29. Andaman and Nicobar	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
30. Chandigarh	20.00	Arrear	45.00	Arrear	NIL	NIL	
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32. Daman and Diu		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
33. Delhi		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	194.39	1
34. Lakshdweep		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
35. Pondicherry		37.15	1	NIL	NIL	37.15	Arrear
TOTAL		1195.00	137	1352.70	33	1944.37	116

Arrear = NIL

Centrally sponsored Scheme of Construction of Girls Hostels for SCs

Release of funds from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State/U.T.	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Release	Hostels	Release	Hostels	Release	Hostels
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	398.10	Arrear	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
3.	Assam	53.35	15	20.00	Arrear	NIL	NIL
4.	Bihar	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
5.	Chattisgarh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
6.	Goa	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
7.	Gujarat	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
8.	Haryana	NIL	NIL	140.04	4	78.55	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL	67.30	1	NIL	NIL
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
11.	Jharkhand	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	245.80	17
12.	Karnataka	35.44	16	148.96	12	207.42	7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13. Kerala		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	45.50	3
14. Madhya Pradesh		277.99	53	437.51	Arrear	665.74	79
15. Maharashtra		NIL	NIL	20.00	1	NIL	NIL
16. Manipur		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
17. Meghalaya		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
18. Mizoram		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
19. Nagaland		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
20. Orissa		24.973	4	12.75	3	25.00	5
21. Punjab		NIL	NIL	10.00	1	88.03	1
22. Rajasthan		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
23. Sikkim		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
24. Tamil Nadu		NIL	NIL	258.34	Arrear	43.50	6
25. Tripura		10.00	Arrear	22.05	Arrear	9.485	Arrear
26. Uttar Pradesh		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	196.04	11
27. Uttranchal		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
28. West Bengal		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
29. Andaman and Nicobar		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
30. Chandigarh		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
32. Daman and Diu		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
33. Delhi		NIL	NIL	10.00	Arrear	292.26	1
34. Lakshdweep		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
35. Pondicherry		37.15	1	NIL	NIL	37.15	Arrear
TOTAL		837.00	89	1146-95	22	1934.48	131

Arrear = NIL

*Centrally sponsored Scheme of Construction of Boys Hostels for STs**Release of funds from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State/U.T.	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Release	Hostels	Release	Hostels	Release	Hostels
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	87.30	8.00	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	10.00	2
3.	Assam	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
4.	Bihar	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
5.	Chhattisgarh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
6.	Goa	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
7.	Gujarat	3.00	2	NIL	NIL	21.57	8
8.	Haryana	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
9.	Himachal Pradesh	87.22	2	NIL	NIL	113.5	2
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
11.	Jharkhand	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	197.40	14
12.	Karnataka	NIL	NIL	75.00	5	135.00	9
13.	Kerala	22.05	3	NIL	NIL	22.05	3
14.	Madhya Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
15.	Maharashtra	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	217.9	Arrear
16.	Manipur	26.00	1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
17.	Maghalaya	NIL	NIL	13.75	5	NIL	NIL
18.	Mizoram	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
19.	Nagaland	NIL	NIL	32.50	1	NIL	NIL
20.	Orissa	NIL	NIL	12.75	3	30.00	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21. Punjab		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
22. Rajasthan		319.20	53	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
23. Sikkim		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
24. Tamil Nadu		50.00	3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
25. Tripura		103.70	5	NIL	NIL	40.00	2
26. Uttar Pradesh		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
27. Uttranchal		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
28. West Bengal		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
29. Andaman and Nicobar		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
30. Chandigarh		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
32. Daman and Diu		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
33. Delhi		NIL	NIL	116.7	1	50	1
34. Lakshdweep		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
35. Pondicherry		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL		698.47	77	250.70	15	837.42	43

Arrear = NIL

Centrally sponsored Scheme of Construction of Girls Hostels for STs

Release of funds from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State/U.T.	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Release	Hostels	Release	Hostels	Release	Hostels
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	178.88	10	NIL	NIL	232.5	32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
3.	Assam	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
4.	Bihar	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
5.	Chattisgarh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	10.00	1
6.	Goa	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
7.	Gujarat	6.25	7	NIL	NIL	10.29	7
8.	Haryana	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
9.	Himachal Pradesh	79.9	2	NIL	NIL	126.6	3
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
11	Jharkhand	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	197.40	14
12.	Karnataka	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	40.00	2
13.	Kerala	14.70	2	NIL	NIL	0.59	2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	NIL	NIL	44.80	1	NIL	NIL
15.	Maharashtra	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	67.72	Arrear
16.	Manipur	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
17.	Meghalaya	NIL	NIL	11.00	5	NIL	NIL
18.	Mizoram	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
19.	Nagaland	NIL	NIL	32.5	1	NIL	NIL
20.	Orissa	13.15	2	8.50	2	25.00	5
21.	Punjab	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
22.	Rajasthan	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
23.	Sikkim	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
24.	Tamil Nadu	100.00	6	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
25.	Tripura	NIL	NIL	20.00	1	10.00	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26. Uttar Pradesh		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
27. Uttranchal		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
28. West Bengal		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
29. Andaman and Nicobar		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
30. Chandigarh		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	50.00	1
32. Daman and Diu		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
33. Delhi		NIL	NIL	117.00	1	NIL	NIL
34. Lakshdweep		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
35. Pondicherry		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL		392.88	29	233.80	11	770.10	68

Arrear = NIL

*Centrally sponsosered Scheme of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls**Release of funds from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State/U.T.	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Release	Hostels	Release	Hostels	Release	Hostels
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	144.26	19.00	NIL	NIL	188.74	21
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
3.	Assam	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
4.	Bihar	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	149.58	4
5.	Chattisgarh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
6.	Goa	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7. Gujarat		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
8. Haryana		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
9. Himachal Pradesh		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
10. Jammu and Kashmir		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
11. Jharkhand		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	147.28	12
12. Karnataka		78.26	17	183.23	31	216.99	28
13. Kerala		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
14. Madhya Pradesh		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
15. Maharashtra		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
16. Manipur		NIL	NIL	46.91	2	NIL	NIL
17. Meghalaya		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
18. Mizoram		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
19. Nagaland		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
20. Orissa		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
21. Punjab		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
22. Rajasthan		57.48	7	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
23. Sikkim		20.00	1	NIL	NIL	20	1
24. Tamil Nadu		NIL	NIL	259.86	14	157.28	7
25. Tripura		NIL	NIL	10.00	1	NIL	NIL
26. Uttar Pradesh		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	265.13	3
27. Uttranchal		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
28. West Bengal		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
29. Andaman and Nicobar		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
30. Chandigarh		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	NIL		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
32. Daman and Diu	NIL		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
33. Delhi	NIL		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
34. Lakshdweep	NIL		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
35. Pondicherry	NIL		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL		300.00	44	500.00	48	1145.00	76

NIL

Incentives to States for Reorganisation of SEBs

521. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide incentives to the State Governments for reorganization of SEBs by linking the plan assistance to the States;

(b) if so, the details of the plan formulated by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) the reaction of the State Governments thereto; and

(d) the progress made towards reforms in power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are under the administrative control of the State Governments. The decision to restructure the SEBs, therefore, rests with the State Governments. The Electricity Bill, 2001 under consideration of the Parliament also gives flexibility to States in terms of reform model. While it enables States to unbundle SEBs, it also provides flexibility to States to continue with their SEBs, if they so desire.

The Government of India has been encouraging States to undertake reforms so as to improve the health

of the power sector. The Government of India has been signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with States reflecting the joint commitment of the Centre and the States to undertake reforms in a time bound manner. These require the States to set up SERCs, undertake energy audit through full metering, reduce transmission and distribution losses and attain commercial viability. In reciprocation to the efforts of the States to achieve agreed milestones, the Central Government has committed assistance including allocation of additional power from unallocated share from Central Generating Stations, funds under specific programmes/schemes etc. The MoUs are now being fleshed out into MoAs with clearer and more specific milestones as the reform programme in the State is acquiring concrete shape. 25 States have been covered by this exercise till now.

The Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) was introduced in February, 2000, with the sole objective of initiating a financial turnaround in the performance of the State owned power sector. The Programme has been rechristened as Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP). The APDRP scheme proposes to incentivise actual cash loss reduction by SEBs/utilities.

Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Haryana have submitted their claims for incentive for the financial year 2001-02 for a total of Rs. 1821 crores.

States of Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi have passed their own Reform Laws and unbundled their SEBs. Twenty-two States have either constituted or notified constitution of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). 13 SERCs have passed tariff orders which reflect the trend towards tariff rationalization. 7 States (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Maharashtra) have passed anti-theft laws. Gujarat have drafted its anti-theft law.

World Bank Loan to MUDP Projects

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

(a) Whether the World Bank has released the first installment of the loan, contribution towards the MUDP Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the term, rates, repayment cost, actual effective cost in Indian rupees of World Bank finance for MRVC, MUDP;

(d) the manner in which the said loan would be refunded; and

(e) the details about the cess to be charged and since when it is likely to be charged along with the ratio and time period thereof?

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

(b) The World Bank loan for Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUDP) comprises a credit component of SDR (Special Drawing Rights) 62.5 million from International Development Agency (IDA) and a loan component of United States Dollars (USD) 463 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). IDA has so far released USD 2.5 million and IBRD has released USD 15 million as initial deposit.

(c) IDA credit is repayable in 35 years with moratorium of 10 years. IBRD loan is repayable in 20 years with a moratorium of 5 years. IDA credit entails service charge at the rate of 0.75% per annum, whereas IBRD loan has a variable interest rate equal to LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate) Base Rate plus LIBOR total spread. Repayment cost and actual effective cost of the credit and loan will depend on future movement of the LIBOR rate for US Dollar and exchange rate of Rupee with reference to the US Dollar during the term of the credit/loan.

(d) As Government of India is the borrower for the credit and the loan, it will be repaid out of Government resources. It has also been decided to levy a surcharge on suburban passenger fares in Mumbai as Railways' contribution to the debt servicing including repayment of the credit and loan.

(e) Details of levy of surcharge on suburban passenger fares in Mumbai are under finalisation.

Rail Projects in Orissa

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

(a) whether some Railway Projects in the KBK districts in Orissa are pending for construction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress of each projects as on date;

(d) the fund allocation made for those projects so far, year-wise, and

(e) the target date fixed completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) and (e) The details of on-going new line projects in Kalahandi, Bolangir, and Keonjhar districts in Orissa is given as under:-

S. No.	Name of the project	Progress as on date	Target Date of Completion
NEW LINES			
1.	Daitari-Banspani (155 Km)	The line from Banspani to Joruli (11 Km) has been completed. On the rest of the section, earthwork, bridgework, and other ancillary works are in progress. The section from Joruli to Keonjhar (48 Km) is targeted for completion during 2002-03.	2004-05
2.	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh (56 Km)	Land has been acquired partly. In Phase-I, work has been taken up from Lanjigarh to Bhawanipatna (31 Km), where earthwork and bridgework are in progress.	Not yet fixed.
3.	Khurda Road-Bolangir (289 Km)	Final Location Survey has been completed partly. Work is in progress on a length of 2.5 Km from Khurda Road end, where the land is available with the Railway. An amount of Rs. 5.16 crore has so far been deposited with the State Government for land acquisition.	Not yet fixed.

(d) Year-wise allocation of funds for the above projects since inclusion in the Budget is given as under:-

Name of the project	Year-wise budget outlay since included in the Budget (Rs. in crores)										
	1992-1993	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Daitari-Banspani	10	25	23	30	20	25	49.06	32	39.50	50	40
Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh	—	.0001	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Khurda Road-Bolangir	—	—	1	2	1	2	2	10	14.50	15	5

There are no gauge conversion and doubling projects in these districts.

Travelling Facilities to Ex-Servicemen

524. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has got any proposal for introduction of concessional rates of fares for journey by air, rail and road for those living Ex-servicemen who participated in 1962, 1965 and 1971 wars against China and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the initiatives taken on the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting Up of National Power Grid

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect both Purnia-Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur and Muzaffarpur-Bihar Sharif with 400 KV transmission line;

(b) if so, whether the Power Grid Corporation has started construction work on 220 KV and 132 KV sub-transmission lines in Bihar;

(c) if so, the details of the renovation work going on in the said transmission lines and schemes for other transmission lines; and

(d) the time which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, sir. Purnea-Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur 400 kV D/C Transmission Line is proposed to be executed under Tala HEP, East-North Interconnector and Northern Region Transmission System. The proposal to connect existing substations at Bihar Sharif and Muzaffarpur through a 400 kV transmission line has been approved for implementation by POWERGRID. This transmission line is envisaged to be commissioned by April, 2006 and will form strong link between Northern and Southern parts of Bihar across the Ganges.

(b) to (d) The following 220 kV and 132 kV sub-transmission lines in Bihar are presently under implementation by POWERGRID :

(i) LILO of 132 kV S/C Purnea (BSEB)-Dhalkola (WBSEB) Line at Purnea. The scheme is expected to be completed by March, 2003.

(ii) 220 kV D/C Sasaram-arrah-Khagaul line (380 ckm). The work is in progress on this line.

(iii) LILO of 220 kV S/C Dehri-Sahupuri line at Sasaram (30 ckm). The work is in progress on this line.

(iv) LILO of 132 kV S/C Dumraon-Arrah line at Arrah (5 ckm). The process for award of contract for this project is in progress in POWERGRID.

A scheme for improvement and strengthening of sub-transmission system in Bihar at an estimated cost of Rs. 365 crores has also been planned by Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) in association with POWERGRID. The scheme is proposed to be executed by POWERGRID and would be funded under special Central Grant to Government of Bihar/BSEB. A list of the transmission lines and sub-stations included in this scheme is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The sub-transmission system to be implemented by POWERGRID on behalf of BSEB, comprises of the following:-

PART-A :

(i) Transmission Line

1. Muzaffarpur-Siwan 220 kV D/c (S/c strung)
2. Siwan-Gopalganj-Betiah 132 kV D/c line (S/c strung)
3. Muzaffarpur-Vaishali 132 kV D/c line (S/c strung)
4. Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga 132 kV D/c (S/c strung)
5. LILO of Hazipur-Chapra 132 kV S/c line at Sheetalpur
6. Motihari-Daka-Sitamarhi 132 kV D/c line (S/c strung)

7. Pandaul-Madhubani-Jainagar-Phulparas 132 kV D/c (S/c strung)
8. Phulparas-Supaul-Saharsa 132 kV D/c line (S/c strung)
9. Vaishali-Sheetalpur 132 kV D/c line (S/c strung),
10. Siwan-Baniapur 33 kV line

(ii) Sub-Stations

1. Siwan – 220/132 kV
2. Gopalganj – 132/33 kV
3. Vaishali – 132/33 kV
4. Sheetalpur – 132/33 kV
5. Phulparas – 132/33 kV
6. Daka – 132/33 kV
7. Madhubani – 132/33 kV
8. Supaul – 132/33 kV
9. Jainagar – 132/33 kV
10. Baniapur – 33/11 kV

PART-B

(i) Transmission Line

1. LILO of Lalmatia-Sabour 132 kV S/c line at Kahalgaon
2. Sabour-Banka 132 kV D/c line (S/c strung)
3. LILO of Biharsharif-Barhi 132kV 2nd circuit at Rajgir
4. LILO of Dehri-Dumraon 132 kV S/c line at Bikramganj

5. LILO of Dehri-Karamnasa 132 kV S/c line of POWERGRID at Bhabhua
6. LILO of Dehri-Kudra-Karamnasa 132 kV S/c line of BSEB at Sasaram
7. LILO of Purnea-Dalkhola 132 kV S/c line at Kishanganj
8. LILO of Purnea-Kataiyya 132 kV S/c line at Forbesganj
9. Kishanganj-Forbesganj-Kataiyya 132 kV D/c (S/c strung)
10. Saharsa-Udakishanganj 132 kV D/c (S/c strung)
11. LILO of Biharsharif-Hathidah 132 kV D/c line at Barh
12. Khagaul-Bihta 132 kV D/c line

(ii) Sub-stations

1. Banka – 132/33 kV
2. Bikramganj – 132/33 kV
3. Bhabhua – 132/33 kV
4. Sasaram – 132/33 kV
5. Forbesganj – 132/33 kV
6. Uda Kishanganj – 132/33 kV
7. Bihta – 132/33 kV
8. Barh – 132/33 kV

[English]

**Investigation against the
Personnels and Staff**

526. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to Tahelka exposure, a Court Martial inquiry was held to investigate the named Army Personnels and staff of Defence establishments;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry would recommend some actions and investigations against the civilians who figured in the Tahelka exposure document; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) As provided under military law a Court of Inquiry was held for recommending action against the named army personnels. Similarly, a One Man Fact Finding Inquiry was constituted for recommending action against the named civilian officials of the Ministry of Defence.

(b). Under the scheme of military law administrative/disciplinary action has been taken/initiated against the army personnel. Against the two retired army personnel where administrative/disciplinary action cannot be taken, instructions have been issued to file criminal cases appropriately in the court of competent jurisdiction. In respect of the three named civilian officials disciplinary proceedings for imposition of major penalty, have been instituted.

(c) and (d) Action against the named civilian officials of the Ministry of Defence for instituting disciplinary proceedings for imposition of major penalty has already been taken.

Rail Accidents

527. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the railway accidents took place during the last more than two years since January, 2000 to January, 2003;

(b) the number of passengers killed/injured in each case and the compensation paid; and

(c) the growth rate of accidents and the reason for each of these accidents and remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) The following are the details of Rail accidents that took place during the last two years since January, 2000 to January 2003, along with the details of the numbers killed, injured and the compensation paid :-

S. No.	Particulars	January 2000 to March 2000	2000-01 (April to March 2001)	2001-02 (April to March 2002)	2002-03* (April to January 2003)
1.	No. of accidents	114	473	414	304
2.	No. of passengers killed	26	55	85	152
3.	No. of passengers injured	44	286	565	484

*Provisional

Compensation amounting to Rs 340.5 lakhs has been paid for death/injury of passengers in train accidents during the period 1.1.2000 to 1.1.2003

(c) The total number of accidents declined by 12.5% during 2001-02, as compared to 2000-01. The detailed causewise breakup of accidents from January 2000 to January 2003 is given below :-

Broad Causes	January 2000 to March 2000	2000-2001 (April 2000 to March 2001)	2001-2002 (April 2001 to March 2002)	2002-2003* (April 2002- January 2003)
Failure of Railway Staff	64	293	248	180
Failure of Other than Railway Staff	31	109	103	86
Equipment Failure	9	33	24	4
Sabotage	4	19	14	18
Combination of Factor		4		
Incidental	3	11	20	16
Could not be Established	3	4	5	2
Under Investigation				2
Total	114	473	414	304

*Figures are provisional

Steps taken to prevent accidents on the Indian Railways are as under :-

- (i) A non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000/- crore has been set up for renewal of over aged-assets and for safety enhancement works.
- (ii) All the Production Units, majority of repair workshops and large number of Sheds/Depots have achieved ISO 9002 certification for their Quality maintenance system.
- (iii) Procurement of new generation diesel locomotives with enhanced safety features such as multi-re-setting vigilance control device, computer controlled brake system, extended dynamic brake and creep control to avoid wheel slipping.
- (iv) Odour-cum-fume type hot box detectors are under lap tests for timely detecting and

detaching hot boxes thereby preventing breakage of axle/journals on the run.

- (v) New wagons being inducted in to the system are equipped with more reliable Casnub Bogies and Air Brake System. Bogie Mounted Brake System on wagons has also been developed. The use of Composition Brake Blocks on wagons is being progressively increased.
- (vi) Improvement in rolling stock design to reduce the impact of accidents and resultant casualties.
- (vii) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and Ballast Cleaning Machines for track maintenance. Track Renewal Trains are also being used.
- (viii) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.

- (ix) For detection of rail fractures/weld failures, adequate double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors have been procured. Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Cars are being procured.
- (x) Training to Railway staff is provided immediately after their recruitment and thereafter their knowledge is refreshed periodically. Seminars/ Workshops/field demon stations are also organised for permanent way staff from time to time to enhance/update their knowledge.
- (xi) The specifications of rail steel have been upgraded and are in conformity with the International Union of Railways (UIC) specifications.
- (xii) To keep the track in good condition, track renewals are carried out whenever it becomes due subject to availability of funds.
- (xiii) Derailment prone four wheeler wagons (CRT wagons) are being phased out of service.
- (xiv) Procurement of new generation diesel locomotives with enhanced safety features such as multi-re-setting vigilance control device, computer controlled brake system, extended dynamic brake and creep control to avoid wheel slipping.
- (xv) Fitment of microprocessor control speed recorders to monitor speed of the train.
- (xvi) Procurement of simulators as training aid to improve training of running staff.
- (xvii) Odour-cum-fume type hot box detectors are under lab' tests for timely detecting and detaching hot boxes thereby preventing breakage of axle/journals on the run.
- (xviii) New wagons being inducted in to the system are equipped with more reliable Casnub Bogies and Air Brake System. Bogie Mounted Brake System on wagons has also been developed.

The use of Composition Brake Blocks on wagons is being progressively increased.

- (xix) Improvement in rolling stock design to reduce the impact of accidents and resultant casualties.
- (xx) Patrolling of Railway track by gangmen is carried out at vulnerable locations during monsoon/summer and winter.
- (xxi) Closer liaison is being maintained with State Police Departments, wherever required for prevention of crime on Railway tracks and bridges.
- (xxii) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal/removal from service is being imposed on officials causing serious accidents.

Laying Mines by Pakistani Troops into Indian Side

528. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistani troops have been sneaking into Indian Territory and laying mines, particularly along Punjab border recently;

(b) if so, the number of casualties occurred due to such mining; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to intensify patrolling?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. However a total of sixteen anti-personnel and one anti-tank mine with Pak markings were recovered in the Khemkaran Sector of Punjab on four occasions between 16th December 2002 and 29th January 2003. Since these mines were about 10 to 20 metres inside our territory, they could have possibly been thrown by Pak troops from their side of the International Border (IB).

(b) One BSF Constable was injured when he stepped on an anti-personnel mine in the same sector.

(c) Patrolling and surveillance have been stepped up all along the IB to prevent recurrence of such an incident.

Setting up of Broadcasting Regulation Authority

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

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an independent Broadcasting Regulation Authority to supervise the role of media and its impact of women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration in the Ministry.

[Translation]

Oil and Gas Reserves in Rajasthan

530. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether the Scottish Exploration firm Cairn Energy and Government have struck large quantity of oil and gas reserves in Rajasthan;

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

(c) whether the Union Government propose to offer more blocks in Rajasthan for exploration;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) and (b) Hydrocarbons, crude oil and natural gas, have been discovered recently by the Operator, Cairn Energy India PTY. Ltd., a subsidiary of Cairn Energy U.K., at prospect E in block RJ-ON-90/1 situated in Barmer district of the State of Rajasthan. Earlier, hydrocarbons have been discovered in Guda well No.2 and also at prospect H in this block. The preliminary estimates of initial "in-place" reserves of hydrocarbons for prospect H and prospect E are estimated by the operator at about 14 Million Metric Tonnes of Oil + Oil Equivalent Gas (O+OEG) and 21 Million Metric Tonnes of O+OEG, respectively.

(c) to (e) Identification and offering of blocks in various States, including Rajasthan, under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) is a continuous process. Till date, 70 Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), including 2 PSCs in Rajasthan, have been signed by the Government in the three rounds of NELP.

[English]

LPG Auto Dispensing Units in Andhra Pradesh

531. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether public sector oil companies propose to set up auto LPG dispensing stations in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of locations identified by all oil companies for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil

Marketing Companies (OMCs) have planned to set up 14 Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) in Hyderabad and 1 ALDS at Tirupati in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Out of these, 6 ALDS have already been set up in Hyderabad.

[Translation]

**Loss Incurred by Running of
Shatabdi Express**

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

(a) whether Shatabdi Express trains being operated on different sections are incurring losses;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to start Jan Shatabdi trains on the routes on which Shatabdi Express trains are operating in loss; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Train-wise figures of profitability, earnings and expenditure are not separately maintained. Details regarding losses of Shatabdi Express trains are therefore not available.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Power Supply by NTPC to
Maharashtra**

533. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) has failed to make timely payment to NTPC;

(b) if so, whether NTPC may curtail power supply to Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) has made payment of 97.1% of current bills in the financial year 2001-2002 and 95.3% in the financial year 2002-2003 (till January, 2003). For the outstanding dues accumulated upto 30.9.2001, Government of Maharashtra had given consent for issuance of tax free bonds for Rs.381.40 crores for liquidation of arrears in line with scheme of one time settlement of SEB dues. The Government of Maharashtra has not yet signed the Tripartite Agreement and the bonds are yet to be issued.

(b) There is no proposal at present to curtail power supply from National Thermal Power Corporation to Maharashtra.

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

[English]

**Setting up of PSUs
in Country**

534. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a great demand for setting up of some projects/plants of big public sector undertakings and Heavy Industries in the country, particularly at Hosur in Tamil Nadu to eliminate the unemployment problem; and

(b) if so, reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As far as setting up of projects/plants of big Public Sector Undertakings and Heavy Industries is concerned, since the non strategic sector has been largely delicensed, the private sector is free to establish heavy Industry anywhere in the country including Tamil Nadu.

**Media Requirements for Jammu
Doordarshan**

535. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan Kendra at Jammu has been upgraded from PGF to a full fledged centre;

(b) if so, whether the staff required to run the Television Centre has been deployed;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry and the Prasar Bharati have taken into consideration the media requirements including cultural and linguistic diversities of the people in Jammu Division where Dogri, Pahari, Gojri Punjabi and Bhadarwahi speaking population form a multi-lingual and multi-cultural audience of audio visual media; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Facilities at DDK Jammu have been augmented from time to time and at present, the following facilities are available there:-

- i) Studio Centre
- ii) HPTs. 2 nos, (DDI and DDII).
- iii) Satellite uplink.

(b) Engineering, programme and administrative staff are available for running the TV centre.

(c) and (d) The programming of DDK, Jammu duly takes into consideration the media needs of the people speaking the following languages/dialects:

- (i) Dogri (ii) Pahari (iii) Gojri (iv) Punjabi (v) Bhadarwahi (vi) Urdu and (vii) Hindi.

**Andrew Yule Tea Industry in
Eastern Region**

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

(a) whether the Andrew Yule regularly deposited every year from 1983 to 1994 to the Government treasury a part their profit;

(b) if so, whether due to non-receipt of dues from various State Electricity Boards, the company incurred a loss during 2000-01;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether closure of the company will require Rs. 540 crore, whereas one tenth of the amount, if invested, may make the company viable; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the company viable rather than closure?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The company paid dividend to the Government from 1983 to 1994.

(b) and (c) The company incurred a loss of Rs.26.78 crore in the year 2000-01. The dues of the Electrical Division of the company from the various State Electricity Boards exceeded Rs.50 crore throughout 2000-01.

Meanwhile the Tea industry has witnessed a sharp decline in its price. The average auction price of the company's tea declined from Rs.80.41 per kg. during 1997-98 to Rs.67.85 per kg. during 2001-02. This affected the Tea division of AYCL.

The above two factors had been mainly responsible for losses of the company during 2000-01.

(d) and (e) The cost of closure as estimated by the Consultants as on 31.12.2002 is Rs.547.88 crore. A final view on restructuring and revival proposal of the company

based on the report of the consultants with an infusion of Rs.145 crores by 31.3.2003 is yet to be taken.

[Translation]

Power Reform

537. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the Chief Ministers in the country had assured the Prime Minister during a meeting held two years ago in Delhi regarding carrying out definite power reforms;

(b) whether the States have not made any efforts to improve the power situation despite their assurances;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard keeping in view the repeated grid failures etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The Conference of the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held in March, 2001 took note of the challenges confronting the power sector. It was agreed that there is an urgent need to depoliticise the power sector reforms and speed up their implementation.

As a follow up of the resolution adopted in the Conference, the Government of India signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with States for undertaking reforms in a time bound manner. These MOUs require the States to set up State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs), undertake energy audit through full metering, reduce transmission and distribution losses and attain commercial viability. In reciprocation to the efforts of the States to achieve agreed milestones, the Central Government has committed assistance including allocation of additional power from unallocated share from Central Generating Stations, funds under specific programmes/schemes etc. The MoUs are now being fleshed out into MoAs with clearer and more specific milestones

as the reform programme in the State is acquiring concrete shape. 25 States have been covered by this exercise till now.

As per the resolution of the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference held in March, 2001 an Expert Group was set up to recommend one time settlement of all power sector past dues. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Group, the Government of India has recently approved a scheme for securitisation of dues owed by the SEBs to CPSUs. With the securitisation of past dues by the State Government and the creation of the discipline of full payment for current supplies, the raising of the requisite resources from the market for the ambitious capacity addition programme of the CPSUs would become feasible. The State Governments can also use this to give their power utilities clean balance sheets to enable them to fully access markets for funds to finance their investment programmes. So far 22 States have signed tripartite agreements in this regard.

States of Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi have passed their own Reform Laws and unbundled their SEBs.

So far 22 States have either constituted or notified constitution of SERCs. 13 SERCs have passed tariff orders which reflect the trend towards tariff rationalization. 7 States (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Kerala) have passed anti-theft laws. Gujarat has drafted its anti-theft law.

To improve the power supply position in the country, the following steps have been/are being taken to improve the generation and availability of power in the country:

- (i) A capacity addition of 41,110 MW has been targeted for 10th Five Year Plan.
- (ii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned units and overall increase in PLF of thermal units.

- (iii) Strengthening/Augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution systems. Funds are being provided for undertaking schemes for transmission and distribution systems to States under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme.
- (iv) Demand Side Management and promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures.
- (v) Disbursement of loans with interest subsidy by the Power Finance Corporation for renovation and modernisation of old and inefficient generating units.
- (vi) Enhancement of inter-State and inter-regional power transfer by strengthening of inter-regional transmission links and finally formation of National Grid.
- (vii) Enforcing the grid discipline through Availability Based Tariff (ABT) regime.

[English]

Plan to Extend Intercity Express from Trivandrum to Cochin

538. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have plan to extend the intercity-Express started from Trivandrum to Cochin upto Kasaragod in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pipeline Projects Pending in Bihar and Jharkhand

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

(a) the details of pending pipeline projects of Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) the present position of these projects in regard to acquisition of land etc.; and

(c) the details of the action taken by the Union Government on the representations received from the Government of Bihar in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No pipeline projects of Bihar and Jharkhand States, pertaining to the Petroleum sector, are pending with the Government of India.

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

[English]

Inspections by Anti-Adulteration Cell

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

(a) the number of inspections carried out by the Anti-adulteration Cell during each of the last three years;

(b) the outcome of such inspections carried out by the Anti-adulteration Cell;

(c) whether any PSU oil companies were collaborating in such adulteration activities by petrol pump owners; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the PSU oil companies and petrol pumps found guilty of adulterating their goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Number of inspections carried out by Anti-adulteration Cell of this Ministry since its inception in March, 2001 during past two years and the outcome thereof are given below:-

Year	No. of Inspections carried out by AAC	Samples failed	Major irregularities/ possible adulteration	Minor irregularities/ other malpractices
2001	89	10	24	21
2002	482	93	190	231

(c) No, Sir. No such complaint has been received by the Government.

(d) Action against petrol pumps found guilty of adulteration is taken by the Oil Companies, under the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Dealership Agreement.

Training Programme on Safety of CNG Vehicles

541. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether a training programme sponsored by Government of USA on safety issues relating to maintenance and inspection of CNG vehicles filling stations and on board storage was held in the capital recently;

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

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to organized such type of programmes in other metro-cities also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Inquiry Into Accident of Kachiguda Manmad Express

542. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 21 people were killed and over 70 injured after the Kachiguda-Manmad express rammed into Stationary goods train;

(b) if so, the number of coaches derailed;

(c) whether Government has inquired into the accident;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether compensation has been paid to the next kith and kin of the deceased and injured persons;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether this train was fitted with anti collision device;

(h) if so, the reasons for failure thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons for not installing this device in this train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) There was a rear end collision between a stationary goods train and 7064 Secunderabad-Manmad Express resulting into derailment of 3 coaches. In this unfortunate accident, 20 persons lost their lives and 72 persons were injured.

(c) and (d) Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle, in his preliminary report, has concluded that the accident occurred due to "Failure of Railway Staff".

(e) to (f) Compensation for death or injury of Rail passengers in train accidents are decided by Railway

Claims Tribunal. So far, no compensation has been paid. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by the Tribunal. However, ex-gratia amounting to Rs. 22.90 lakhs has been paid to the victims of the accident to take care of their immediate needs.

(g) to (i) No, Sir. The field trials of Anti Collision Device have been completed recently.

[Translation]

**Ending of Practice of carrying
Night Soil on Head**

543. SHRI C.N. SINGH :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

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

(a) whether no significant progress has been made towards ending the practice of carrying night soil on head by the year 2000-2001 and to rehabilitate those engaged in it;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the concrete steps taken or being taken by the Government to end this practice;

(d) whether the Government have set any new target to end this practice;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents (NSLRS) 1,51,876 and 3,86,204 scavengers have been trained and rehabilitated respectively by the year 2000-2001, out of the 6,76,000 identified scavengers.

(c) to (f) In compliance with the Prime Minister's

announcement on 15th August Independence Day, 2002 regarding amalgamation of different schemes presently being run by various Ministry/Departments for liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers, the Planning Commission have, in consultation with all the concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India, proposed a Draft "National Action Plan for Total Eradication of Manual Scavenging by the year 2007", which amalgamates schemes run by Departments of Central Government. This is under consideration.

[English]

**Tendering System for Disposal
of Scrap**

544. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the present tender system for disposal of scraps/ making purchases etc. in Railways in order to plug the revenue loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Scrap is sold generally by public auction on Railways. Tendering system in disposal of scrap is adopted only for a few items like turning and boring etc.

Well defined and time tested procedures derived from general Financial Rules of Government of India already exist for the tendering system for disposal of scrap/making purchases.

(c) and (d) In view of the position at (a) and (b) above, no study for reviewing the present tendering system has been conducted in the recent past. However, a committee was constituted to examine all aspects of the

scrap disposal including prevention of leakage. The recommendations of the committee are under implementation. Committee, however, did not recommend any change in the present tendering system.

Occupancy Rate of Jan Shatabdi running between Chandigarh and New Delhi

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

(a) the present occupancy rate of Jan-Shatabdi running between Chandigarh and New Delhi; and

(b) whether in order to attract more middle-class passengers, the Government have considered changing its timings so as to start from Chandigarh in the early morning and return after 8 P.M.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The trains No. 2057/2058 have been introduced with effect from 6.9.2002. The average percentage utilisation of these trains from the date of inception to January 2003 is as under:-

2057 New Delhi-Chandigarh

A.C. Chair Car	-	81%
Second class Sitting	-	39%

2058 Chandigarh-New Delhi

A.C. Chair Car	-	87%
Second class Sitting	-	11%

(b) At present there is no such proposal.

Prices of Petrol and Diesel

546. SHRI J.S. BRAR:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Oil Companies increased the prices of Petrol and Diesel in January 2003 while the international price of crude oil was showing downward trend;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the prices of Petrol and Diesel as on date as compared to their prices six months back; and

(d) the extent to which the cost of production and marketing have come down after dismantling of APM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The average price of the Indian basket of crude oil for the month of January 2003 was \$29.56/barrel, highest for any month during the period April 2002- January 2003. The oil companies increased the prices of petrol and diesel taking into account the international oil prices.

The existing retail selling prices of petrol and diesel in Delhi are Rs.30.71/ litre and Rs.19.84/litre respectively. These prices were Rs. 29.18/litre and Rs.18.23/litre respectively on 1st August 2002.

(d) With the dismantling of APM, the pricing of petrol and diesel have become market determined and cost of production and marketing of the oil companies are no longer compensated by the Government.

Introduction of Jan Shatabdi Express

547. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether introduction of 15 Jan Shatabdi Express in different routes in the year 2002-2003 were viable; and

(b) if so, the details of performance (operating cost and revenue generation) of those trains in regard to the viability in the year 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Train-wise viability is not maintained by Indian Railways.

(b) Does not arise.

**Homeopathic Doctors in
Railways**

548. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) The total number of Allopathic, Ayurvedic and Homeopathic doctors Working in each of the railway;

(b) whether the pay scale of Ayurvedic and Homeopathic doctors is less than that of Allopathic doctors;

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

(d) whether the Government consider raising the pay scale of the Ayurvedic and Homeopathic doctors at par with their Allopathic counterparts;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether services of the Homeopathic doctors are not regularised by the Railways;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor;

(i) whether the railways have taken steps to regularise the services of these Homeopathic doctors;

(j) if so, details alongwith the number of doctors whose services have been regularised so far; and

(k) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The cadre of Indian Railway Medical Service, a Group 'A' service under the Railways, consists of Allopathic Doctors only. Number of Doctors working on various Zonal Railways are as under:

Railway	No. of Doctors working
Central Railway	245
Eastern Railway	231
East Central Railway	115
Northern Railway	342
North Eastern Railway	123
Northeast Frontier Railway	174
North Western Railway	104
Southern Railway	245
South Central Railway	172
South Eastern Railway	273
Western Railway	221
Railway Board and Rly. Staff College	6
Total	2251

There are no Ayurvedic and Homeopathic Doctors on the rolls of Railways.

(b) to (k) Ayurvedic and Homeopathic practitioners are not Government employees but are local practitioners of Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy (ISM and H) whose services are being utilised on part time basis duly paying them fixed honorarium.

The question of their regularization and allotment of pay scales to them therefore, does not arise.

[Translation]

**Energy Generated in Rajasthan
from NCES**

549. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total energy generation in Rajasthan from the non-conventional energy sources;

(b) the number of non-conventional energy projects of various types undertaken in Rajasthan and the amount invested in each project; and

(c) the amount of assistance provided to the State for the promotion of non-conventional energy sources during the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Approximately 63 million units of electricity was generated from non-conventional energy sources during 2001-02 in Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) A capacity of 23.85 MW in small hydro, 25 MW in wind and 50 KW in solar photovoltaic have been installed so far in the State of Rajasthan. Rs.11.53 crores for wind demonstration projects aggregating to 6 MW and Rs.0.70 crore for 50 KW solar photovoltaic projects have been provided to Rajasthan during the last three years. The remaining projects have come up as commercial projects by way of investment from the private sector and the State Government without any central assistance.

[English]

Exploration Contract Signed by Oil Companies in Persian Gulf

550. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a consortium of Indian Oil Companies have signed an exploration contract for the Farsi block in the Persian Gulf in Teheran;

(b) if so, the investment proposed to be made in the project;

(c) whether the exploration work has already started and if not, the time by which the work is to be taken in hand; and

(d) the details of the agreement arrived at in his regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) A consortium of Indian companies, namely, ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) signed an Exploration Service Contract with National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on 25.12.2002 for the Farsi offshore Block in Iran. The participating interest of three consortium members OVL, IOC and OIL is 40%, 40% and 20% respectively. The projected investment by the consortium in the Block is of the order of US \$ 38 million (Rs 186 crore approximately) and the initial works for exploration of the block have already started.

Refinery in Tamil Nadu

551. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plans to start new refinery projects in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing petroleum refineries in Tamil Nadu are highly profit making and the demand for the refinery products are increasing day by day;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total quantity and value of crude oil got refined in Tamil Nadu in the last three years, refinery-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there is a proposal of M/s. Nagarjuna Oil Corporation Limited to set up a 6 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) refinery at Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL), Chennai a subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation

Limited (IOCL) has been making profits from the second year of operation. The company made Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 63.71 crore during the year 2001-02. During the same period, the demand for petroleum products registered a modest growth of 0.4% over the previous year.

(e) The total quantity of crude oil refined in CPCL during the last three years and its value are as follows:-

	1999- 2000	2000- 2001	2001- 2002
Quantity (Thousand Metric Tonnes)	7012.09	2265.03	6688.80
(Value of crude Rs. crore)	4974.00	6275.76	5577.70

[Translation]

Transmitters in Jharkhand and Maharashtra

552. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of high power and low power T.V. transmitters in Jharkhand location-wise;

(b) whether the Government have accorded approval for a scheme for installation of more high power T.V. transmitters in Maharashtra;

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

(d) the details of the time limit stipulated for each scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) 5 high power and 21 low power/very low power transmitters and one transposer are functioning in Jharkhand. Their location-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. High Power Transmitters (HPT) at Chandrapur, Jalgaon, Kolhapur and Ambajogai (DD 2) are at present under implementation in Maharashtra.

(d) Installation of HPT, Chandrapur has been completed. Installation of HPT, Jalgaon is expected to be completed during 2003 and of HPTs at Ambajogai (DD 2) and Kolhapur during 2004 and 2005 respectively.

Statement

TV Transmitters in Jharkhand

(a) High power transmitters	Ranchi
	Ranchi (DD 2)
	Daltonganj
	Jamshedpur
	Jamshedpur (DD 2)
(b) Low power transmitters	Bokaro
	Bokaro (DD2)
	Chatra
	Deoghar
	Dhanbad
	Dhanbad (DD 2)
	Dumka
	Giridih
	Godda
	Gumla
	Hazaribag
	Kodarma
	Lohardaga
	Chaibasa

Noamundy

Saraikela

Ghatshila

Mushabani

Barharwa

(c) Very low power transmitters Garhwa (DD 2)

Simdega

(d) Transposer Ramgarh Hill

[English]

Capability of AGNI-I

553. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details about the capabilities of the successfully Test Fired Agni-I, the short range Ballistic Missile;

(b) whether the Government has started the commercial production of the supersonic cruise Missile "Brahmos"; and

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating salient features of the Missile?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Agni-I missile has been successfully tested for 700 kms. range from a road mobile launcher.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) BrahMos is presently going through various developmental tests to prove its capabilities from different platforms. Once operational, the missile will force multiply the fighting capability of our armed forces.

Financial Help for Regional Films

554. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any financial help has been extended for making films for big screen, telefilm, video cassettes, etc. in regional languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise, language-wise; and

(c) the role of National Film Development Corporation for helping in film making in regional languages of the western region particularly for Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Though the Government does not directly finance films, one of the objectives of the National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, is to promote good quality cinema in India. In keeping with this objective, NFDC extends financial assistance for producing feature films in regional languages. In so far as Doordarshan is concerned, depending on the availability of funds and on the requirements of the Channels, limited financial help is given to talented and competent Producers by way of commissioning telefilms/video films. However, no commissioning has been done in regional languages for the past three years by Doordarshan.

(b) The details of financial assistance extended by NFDC for the production of feature films in regional languages to individuals/companies during last three years are as under:

Year	Name of films	Language
1	2	3
2000-01	Mansur Mian R. Ghora	Bengali
	Saki Mazi	Marathi
2001-02	Atatayee	Bengali
	Maguni Ra Shagada	Oriya
	Tiladaanam	Telugu

1	2	3
	Bub	Kashmin
	Jameela	Tamil
	Hemanter Pakhi	Bengali
	Ekti Nadir Naam	Bengali
	Tok Jhaal Misti	Bengali
	Vastupurush	Marathi
2002-03	Sangeerthanam	Malayalam
(uoto Jan.	Parinaman	Malayalam
2003)	Arimpara (Wart)	Malayalam
	Dance Like a Man	English/Kannada

(c) Financial assistance is given by the Corporation to young and talented film makers based on good scripts which are approved by a Script Committee and approved by the Board. The Corporation extends financial assistance for films in all regional languages for the big screen by way of loan upto Rs. 35 lakhs. However, the Corporation has stated that in the last few years they have not received any good script in Gujarati language.

Demand for Stopping Bangalore-Hubli Shatabdi Express

555. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand for stopping Bangalore-Hubli Shatabdi Express at Haveri; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) request for stoppage of Bangalore-Hubli Jan Shatabdi Express at Haveri has been examined but not found feasible for implementation, at present.

Outstanding Dues Against Prasar Bharati

556. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI Y.V. RAO :

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

(a) whether the Department of Space has asked Prasar Bharati to pay Rs. 500 crores or face blackout;

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

(c) the number of transponders are at present being used by Prasar Bharati; and

(d) the final decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) INSAT capacity of Department of Space is being utilized by Prasar Bharati (Doordarshan and All India Radio) for more than 15 years. It is only in the financial year 2001-02, the Department of Space (DoS) has asked for the payment of user charges from Prasar Bharati for an amount of Rs. 144 crores for 2001-02 and Rs. 172 crores for 2002-03 towards the payment of 22 INSAT Transponders allotted to the Ministry of I and B.

(c) 22 (twenty two) Transponders on INSAT Satellites and 3 (three) Transponders on Thaicom-3 Satellite allotted to Doordarshan by the DoS and 3 (three) Transponders on INSAT 3-C allocated to the AIR are in use.

(d) The Ministry of I and B has taken up the matter with the Department of Space and stated that Prasar Bharati is a Public Broadcaster and its commercial revenue is incidental and forms only a minor fraction of its expenditure. It is largely funded by the Government. In view of the present mandate of social commitment of Prasar Bharati, it would be desirable to resolve the matter through Inter-Ministerial consultations.

Financial Assistance to Power Distribution Companies

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

(a) whether the private power distribution companies have got fresh financial assistance from the Union Government to implement their upgradation plans and develop infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether in the month of September 2002, companies got their first instalment of Rs. 400 crore as aid from the Centre;

(c) if so, the details of total aid provided by the Government to these private companies so far; and

(d) the extent to which these companies have utilised these funds to improve the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) No financial assistance has been released by the Government of India to the private power distribution companies for implementing the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP). However, under the APDRP, some of the States such as Gujarat and the National Capital Territory of Delhi have engaged the private sector utilities in implementing the schemes in their territories. Government of India provides 50% of the project assistance to the States, in the non-special category, in the form of additional Central Plan Assistance, which has components of grant and loan in equal ratio. The remaining 50% of the project cost is to be arranged by the utilities undertaking the schemes under APDRP. For availing of assistance in such cases, the States have to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Government on the one hand and a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the concerned private sector utilities on the other. The State Governments have yet to enter into an MoU with the Central Government for this purpose and thus no amount has been so far released by the Government of India.

Production of Lethal Munitions

558. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved the production of lethal munitions in private sector as reported in *The Hindu* dated December 29, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to frame safeguards to guard against them falling into rogue hands keeping in view of deteriorating security situation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) In May, 2001 Defence industry sector, which was hitherto reserved for the public sector has been opened for Indian Private Sector participation upto 100% with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), permissible up to 26%, both subject to licensing. The Indian Private Sector can now manufacture all types of defence equipment under license. Letter of intents have been granted to M/s Larsen and Toubro Ltd. and M/s Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd. for manufacture of various types of defence equipment, as reported in the news item.

(c) Guidelines have been issued by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in January, 2002 in consultation with the Ministry of Defence regarding the modalities for consideration of applications of Private entrepreneurs for grant of license. To prevent misuse by rogue elements, the Government have incorporated appropriated safeguards in the guidelines for issue of license.

Review of Safety Mechanism

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

(a) whether a special meeting of General Managers, Railways has been held recently to review the safety mechanism;

(b) if so, whether the Government have devised some mechanism to control increasing incidence of Human Failure that caused major rail accidents;

(c) whether is it true that almost 3/4th rail accidents are due to failure of railway staff;

(d) if so, mechanism devised by the Government to avert such accidents and save precious innocent lives in future;

(e) whether the Government is considering severe

departmental action against errant Railway Officials found responsible for causing accidents; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes Sir. A special meeting of General Managers of Zonal Railways on safety was held on 08.01.03.

(b) to (d) The number of accidents caused by human failure are as follows:-

	Total No. of accidents	Failure of Railway Staff	Failure of persons other than Railway Staff	%age of accidents attributed to Railway staff	%age of accidents attributed to Railway staff and other than railway staff together
1999-2000	463	287	105	61.98%	84.66%
2000-01	473	293	109	61.94%	84.99%
2001-02	414	248	103	59.90%	84.78%

Important steps undertaken to prevent accidents due to human failure, are as under:-

- i) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.
- ii) Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark track circuiting on entire "A", "B", "C", "D" and "D Spl." routes where speed is more than 75 kmph. have been completed. On the remaining sections the work is being progressed as per the availability of resources.
- iii) Auxiliary Warning System has been functional on Mumbai suburban sections of Mumbai.
- iv) Last vehicle check by Axle Counter have been

introduced on over 190 block sections and is being progressively added.

- v) Trial of prototype ACD equipment has been finished on Northern Railway.
- vi) Digital Mobile Train Radio Communication has been sanctioned on some important sections for providing duplex radio communication between driver/guard and control.
- vii) Drivers and Guards are also being progressively provided with LED based electronic flashing lamps and hand signal lamps which have better visibility than the conventional kerosene lit hand signal lamps.
- viii) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for

training of drivers. Other modern training aids are being provided at training centers.

- ix) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training courses also.
- x) Periodical Safety Audit of different Divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from Zonal Headquarters has been introduced.
- xi) Drivers are given Breathalyzer tests to check for alcohol consumption while signing on. Surprise checks are also done to identify defaulters.
- xii) Emphasis is given on surprise inspections and ambush checks. Night inspections are conducted regularly to eradicate adoption of short cut methods and those who are found to be slack are taken up.

(e) and (f) Action is taken against the Railway officials held responsible in the inquiry reports. Punishments are imposed to the extent of removal/dismissal from service.

Proposal to Remove "Mochi" Community from the List of SC

560. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat had a meeting with the Minister of State, Social Justice and Empowerment of India on January 20, 2000 to expedite a decision on the proposal to remove 'Mochi' community from the list of Scheduled Castes of Gujarat is pending with the Ministry since July, 1977;

(b) if so, whether the Union Minister assured the State Government that the proposal will be expedited;

(c) if so, the reasons for pending the proposal with the Union Government; and

(d) the time by which a final decision on the proposal is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Government of Gujarat proposed to impose area restriction in respect of "Mochi" community and retain it in the list of Scheduled Caste only in Dangs District and Umergaon Taluka of Valsad District. The State Government did not propose to remove "Mochi" community from the list of Scheduled Castes in the entire State of Gujarat. This proposal along with other proposals for modification in the list of Scheduled Castes as incorporated in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Second Amendment) Bill 2002, was considered and passed by both the Houses of Parliament. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Second Amendment) Act, 2002 has been published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, part II on 18.12.2002.

Construction of Railway Over Bridge over River Birupa and Mahanadi

561. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct the second Railways Bridges over the river Birupa and Mahanadi in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of these two projects; and

(c) the steps taken for sanction adequate fund for these two Railways Bridges?

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

(b) Contracts for Birupa Bridges have been awarded and substructure work is in progress. As for Mahanadi Bridge, the Consultants have submitted the detailed design and drawings.

(c) For Mahanadi Bridge, funding has been arranged through Asian Development Bank. Birupa Bridges

is also covered under "National Rail Vikas Yojana".

[Translation]

**Production Cost of Petroleum Products
in Public/ Private Sector**

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

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

(a) whether production cost of petro-products in public sector undertakings and private companies differ;

(b) if so, average production cost of petrol, diesel, Kerosene, Naphtha and Natural Gas in public sector undertakings and private companies during 2001-2002;

(c) whether the Government have tried to find out the reasons for difference in production cost; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Oil refining being a continuous process industry with multi product output, product wise cost of production is not worked out. The overall cost of production varies from company to company. With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism, the production costs of the oil companies are not compensated by the Government. However, in a free market scenario, the companies would be compelled to minimize the production costs.

[English]

**Dilapidated Condition of Rail Bridge
Across Tirur River**

563. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the old rail bridge across the Tirur River at Tirur in Palakkad

Railway Division of the Southern Railways is in a dilapidated condition;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has brought to the knowledge of the Union Government the report of the Intelligence Wing of the State Police Department regarding the serious situation of the rail bridge;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action, the Government have taken for immediate repair or re-construction of the bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (d) The Railway Bridge No.873 (5 x 19.5 m girder bridge) at Km.623/900-624/00 across river Tirur in Shoranur-Calicut Section of Palghat Division of Southern Railway is not in a dilapidated condition. During one of the periodic inspections, slight bulging of the square return wall of abutment No.2 was noticed and action taken to repair and rehabilitate the same. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, through a memorandum dated 20.12.2002, had drawn Government's attention towards the issue. However, the repairs/rehabilitation as required had already been carried out by the Southern Railway.

[Translation]

Appointments of SC/ST

564. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a few posts of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in various categories are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details of new appointments made in various categories during the above mentioned period and current year, till date;

(e) whether prescribed norms have been followed in respect of recruitment and promotion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates; and

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

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

(a) to (f) In the Department of Heavy Industry, Department of Public Enterprises and the operational Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, 308 posts of SCs/STs in various categories are lying vacant:

Appointments/promotions is an on-going process. However, category-wise details of appointments made in the last three years and the current year are given below:

Category	2000	2001	2002	2003
A	406	57	327	1
B	—	6	15	2
C	36	26	65	2
D	9	—	28	—

Prescribed norms have been followed in respect of recruitment and promotion of SC/ST candidates.

[English]

Telephone Helpline for Older Persons

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

(a) whether a telephone helpline for older persons has been started in Delhi Ahmedabad and Bhuj;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response thereon from the older persons;

(c) whether the scheme is being extended to other cities also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

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

(b) One helpline in Delhi had started during the year 1999-2000. Two Helplines in Ahmedabad and bhuj had started during the year 2000-01. Upto 31.1.2003 about 71,257 calls were made. Further the response received from Older Persons upto 31-1-2003 are 24,328 calls/visits, 20,202 numbers of information/guidance provided, 6424 forms were collected and 2672 forms/bio-datas were submitted.

(c) At present the scheme is not extended to other cities.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No further request has been received.

Change in Norms for Allotment of Dealership of Petroleum Products

566. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to change the existing guidelines for the allotment of dealership of petroleum products in the wake of the large scale cancellation of allotment;

(b) if so, whether the fresh guidelines have since been framed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the revised guidelines are likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Consequent upon dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products will be made by the oil marketing companies themselves as per the guidelines to be adopted by them.

Sale of Scrap

567. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the earnings of Railways through sale of ferrous scrap and rolling stock during last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Railways ever tried to send the scraps to SAIL for re-rolling to meet the demand of Railways;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The earnings of Railways through sale of ferrous scrap and Rolling stock during last three years are given below:-

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (upto Dec. 02)
	(in crores of Rupees)		
1. Ferrous Scrap	687	717	515
2. Rolling stock	173	126	72

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. But SAIL did not accept the offer on the ground that the Railways' scrap does not suit their requirement.

Merger of ONGC with IOCL

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the merger of ONGC with Indian Oil Corporation Limited; and

(b) if so, the main objectives behind the merger of these oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for merger of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[Translation]

New Railway Station at Mohammadpur Valabhi Village

569. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representation for setting up of a new railway station at Mohammadpur, Valabhi village between Motipur and Mahual railway station;

(b) whether Mohammadpur Valabhi village fulfils all conditions laid down for creation of a new railway station; and

(c) if so, the time by which approval for creation of new railway station at said village is likely to be granted?

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The opening up of a new station at Mohammadpur, Valabhi village is not financially justified. The stations on either side i.e. Motipur and Mahwal are at a distance of 3 and 4 km. respectively. Opening up of halt station will create operating bottleneck.

[English]

**Mini Cinema Theatres in
Express Trains**

570. SH. Y. V. RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up mini cinema theatres in express trains;

(b) if so, the name of the trains in which it is likely to be introduced;

(c) the total income expected to be generated from this;

(d) whether this will be at the cost of one passenger coach to the train or an additional coach; and

(e) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (e) A proposal for manufacturing a mini AC Cinema Theatre Car has been received and is under consideration, and the techno-commercial feasibility of providing such services is under examination. Any assessment of details such as costs, income, trains etc. can be crystallized only after the proposal is scrutinized in detail.

Minor Accidents Swept Under Carpet

571. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a scores of minor accidents are being swept under the carpet;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**ONGC-Videsh Limited Agreement with
Turkish Petroleum Overseas**

572. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC and Videsh Limited has signed an agreement with Turkish Petroleum Overseas Company to acquire 49 per cent stake in oil and gas exploration in Libya;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) the location of places where exploration would be resumed; and

(d) the name of the other areas in foreign countries where the company has such on-going projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has signed a "farm-out" agreement with Turkish Petroleum Overseas Company, a subsidiary of National Oil Company of Turkey, on 22.8.2002 for acquisition of 49% participating interest in the onland exploration blocks NC-188 and NC-189 in Libya.

(c) Block NC-188 is located in the Ghadames Basin about 250 Km south of the Capital, Tripoli, whereas block NC-189 is located in the Sirte Basin, about 800 Km southeast of the Capital.

(d) At present OVL has ongoing projects in the offshore of Iran, Western desert of Iraq, offshore of Myanmar, Sakhalin in Russia and offshore of South Louisiana, USA.

Filter Test of Petroleum Products

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

(a) whether all the consumers are permitted to ask for 'the filter test' in case of any doubts about quality of petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, whether any record is maintained at petrol pumps showing the number of consumers asked for the filter test;

(c) the extent to which the Oil PSUs encouraging customers to use and avail of this test when there are suspicions on the quality of petrol and diesel;

(d) whether the petrol pumps do not allow consumers to test the quality of petrol and diesel; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to ensure that consumers should not be deprived of this freely?

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

(b) No, such record is maintained at petrol pumps.

(c) The Oil Marketing Companies periodically organise quality and quantity assurance and customer awareness programmes and issue pamphlets and posters to educate customers on the facilities available at petrol pumps.

(d) No such complaint where the customers were denied carrying out filter tests by petrol pumps has been received.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Airconditioned III Tier Coaches

574. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of trains provided with airconditioned III tier coaches as on date; and

(b) the trains to which airconditioned III tier coaches are likely to be attached during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) 314 pair of trains have been provided with AC-III tier coaches as on date.

(b) Provision of AC-III tier coaches on long distance overnight trains is an ongoing process depending upon traffic demand, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

[English]

Projects Under Rashtriya Rail Vikas Yojana

575. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Prime Minister has dedicated three projects under the Rashtriya Rail Vikas Yojana (RRVY) to the nation in the last week of December, 2002;

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

(c) the expenditures likely to be incurred and the source of fund for these projects;

(d) whether setting up of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for running the RRVY has become operational;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which these are likely to become operational; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure the timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the National Rail Vikas Yojana on 26th December, 2002 by inaugurating three projects.

(b) These three projects are: (i) Construction of Rail

cum Road bridge at Munger (ii) Doubling of Gooty - Pullampet line (iii) Gauge conversion of Gandhidham - Palanpur.

(c) The estimated cost of these three projects is about Rs. 1570 crores. The funding of the projects is planned as below:

- Gooty-Pullampet line-Included under ADB Railway sector loan.
- Construction of Rail cum Road bridge at Munger- It is planned to obtain World Bank funding.
- Gauge conversion of Gandhidham - Palanpur - Efforts are being made to fund the project through the SPV route.

(d) A special purpose vehicle called Rail Vikas Nigam Limited has been registered on 24.01.2003.

(e) Three Part-time Directors have been nominated. The proposal for creation of posts of full time Directors is under process. The Certificate for Commencement of Business is being obtained.

(f) Funding of these projects is planned through a mix of budgetary and non-budgetary resources. This will ensure availability of funds and timely completion.

Vacancies in Safety Categories

576. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any backlog of vacancies in rail safety category;

(b) if so, the number thereof including SC/ST/OBC category-wise;

(c) the time by which these vacancies are likely to be filled-up;

(d) whether recently the Government have taken any decision on accountability in matter of safety after the Secunderabad-Manmad Express accident;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to carry out urgent safety work and induct anti collision device?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Occurrence and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process and filling up is by direct recruitment or promotion of serving employees. While a few vacancies are likely to exist in this continuous process at any given point of time, the policy of the Government is to fill up the vacancies promptly. However, the information regarding the number of vacancies as on 1.1.2003 in the safety categories is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. A special meeting of General Managers of Zonal Railways on safety was recently held where various vital issues were deliberated, including the following.

- (i) Enhanced financial powers to the General Managers for faster implementation of safety works.
- (ii) Intensive supervision and control at the level of the General Managers and the Divisional Railway Managers.
- (iii) More effective and intensive inspections.
- (iv) Making safety organization more broad based as recommended by the Railway Safety Review Committee.
- (v) Empowering Safety Branch to recommend punishments on the lines of the advice given by vigilance department.

- (vi) Installation of Anti Collision Device (ACD) on successful completion of field trials.

Lifting of Ban on Agents

577. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to lift the ban on agents in defence deals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any guidelines have been framed or proposed to route the defence purchases through agents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) A comparative formulation of the role, if any, which Authorised Representatives/Agents/or Sales Consultants employed by Foreign suppliers for the promotion of their product, may legitimately be expected to play, had been receiving the attention of Government for some time. The entire policy has been extensively reviewed with the objective of defining the scope, extent and the condition within which such Authorised Representatives/Agents may be allowed to represent a foreign supplier or suppliers.

2. Based on this review and in order to bring greater transparency to the whole procurement process and realising that the presence of an Authorised Representative/Agent would improve the delivery of services and follow up post contractual obligations, the Ministry of Defence have on 2nd November 2001 issued Supplementary Instructions on the appointment of Indian Authorised Representatives/Agents of foreign suppliers. The Authorised Representatives would make available information of latest technologies, assist during trials and help in post contractual servicing.

3. The salient features of these instructions are:

(a) All foreign suppliers who wish to appoint Indian

Authorised Representatives/Agent would register them with the Ministry of Defence.

- (b) The Authorised Representative/Agent could be an individual, a partnership, an association of persons, a limited company Private or Public.
- (c) The agent must be an income tax payee.
- (d) The foreign supplier appointing an agent must furnish copies detailing Agreement/terms of appointment.
- (e) The obligations of an Authorised Representatives/agent will flow from the contract entered with the Ministry of Defence.
- (f) The foreign supplier will have to declare the payments made to the Authorised Representative/Agent.
- (g) Particulars relating to agency commission would be reported to the Enforcement Directorate of Central Board of Direct Taxes.
- (h) The agent will be appointed with the approval of the Secretary of the Department.
- (i) The agent will have no business contact except with authorised personnel.
- (j) The Ministry of Defence, would have the right to terminate the appointment of Authorised Representative/Agent without any notice or assigning any reason.

[Translation]

Supply of Adulterated Petroleum Products in Bihar

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

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding supply of adulterated diesel/ petrol by Bharat Petroleum Corporation in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action proposed to be taken against the officers responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir. Government have not received any complaint regarding supply of adulterated diesel/petrol by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) in Bihar.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Agreement with Russia for Assistance

579. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has recently visited Russia and held discussions with various leaders there; and

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Raksha Mantri visited Russia to co-Chair the Third meeting of the Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission for Military Technical Cooperation held in Moscow from January 15-17, 2003. During this visit he held discussions on a wide range of international and regional issues of mutual interest with the Russian Foreign Minister and the Russian Defence Minister. During these discussions both sides re-affirmed and reinforced their commitment to the ongoing Indo-Russian Strategic relationship based on a convergence of views in relation to current international issues, including the problem of terrorism.

Royalty Demanded by Shell Gas BV

580. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Shell Gas BV has set up its two subsidiaries to implement the 2.5 million metric tonne per annum liquefied natural gas terminal and LNG receiving terminal project at Hazira Port;

(b) if so, whether the Shell has been demanding royalty of 16.08 million for technology transfer;

(c) if so, whether the royalty demanded by the company is alleged to be too much on the high side;

(d) if so, whether the question of royalty has been resolved; and

(e) if so, the amount of royalty agreed to be paid to the company?

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

(b) to (e) M/s Hazira LNG Private Ltd. and M/s Hazira Port Private Ltd., companies of Shell Group of Companies had sought permission for payment of lump sum license fee of Euro 5,42,800 and Euro 10,647,000 respectively in consideration of the license of the technology provided by their foreign collaborators M/s Shell Gas BV as per approved Technology License Agreement. This amount of license fee was covered under the overall project cost and is determined on the basis of commercial consideration and the Technology License Agreement signed for the purpose. After due consideration Government has granted permission for payment of above license fee.

Sources of Gas and Oil for Export

581. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a

contingent plan to tap the new sources of gas and oil export in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said plan contains any provision for augmenting the domestic production in this sector;

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

(e) the details of work carried out to find out the alternative of oil and gas with help of Domestic Production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Several steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production in the country and tap oil reserves abroad, which include the following:

- (i) to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.
- (ii) to increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the first and second rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 47 blocks. Offer of 27 exploration blocks under NELP-III was also announced in March 2002 and a total of 45 bids for 23 Blocks has been received by the bid closing date i.e. 28.8.2002.
- (iii) to explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.
- (iv) to develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies

for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

- (v) to acquire acreage abroad, ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has acquired participating interests in the overseas E and P projects in Vietnam, Myanmar and Iraq. In 2001, OVL obtained 20% stake in Sakhalin-I project of Russia with an estimated investment of about US\$ 1.74 billion (Rs. 8,500 crore, approximately)

(e) 5% ethanol blended petrol has been introduced in some parts in the country. Nine States and four Union Territories are likely to be covered under the programme by the end of June 2003.

Use of Steel Pipes in Pipeline Project

582. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of pipeline projects executed by the Oil PSU's in the country and their total length, Pipe usage in terms of steel quantity and value;

(b) the length of longitudinally welded pipes and spirally welded pipes for these Pipeline projects, project-wise; and

(c) the total quantity and value of Steel pipes imported for the execution of Oil and Gas projects in the country in the last three years alongwith the names of the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LPG Connections in A.P.

583. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has provided subsidy to Andhra Pradesh Government for LPG connections through their Deepam Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide similar scheme to other States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Union Government have not provided any exclusive subsidy for the release of LPG connections under Deepam Scheme in the State of Andhra Pradesh, except the general subsidy on domestic LPG which is being provided through out the country.

Kerosene to Gujarat

584. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

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

(a) whether the demand for kerosene is constantly increasing in rural and urban areas due to power shortage in Gujarat particularly in backward districts of Kutch;

(b) whether the Union Government are contemplating to hike the quota of kerosene to the drought prone areas of Gujarat to enable them to meet the rising demand of kerosene; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Government make kerosene allocation to the States/Union Territories for distribution under the Public Distribution System. State Government of Gujarat undertakes distribution of the product to urban,

rural and drought prone areas etc., within the allocation made by the Government.

(b) Government has not received any such request to hike the quota of kerosene from the Government of Gujarat.

(c) Does not arise.

Derailment of Hyderabad-Bangalore Express

585. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA ;
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hyderabad-Bangalore Express derailed in Kurnool in December, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of people killed in the accident;

(c) whether the Government have found out the reasons for this accident;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in consultation with the State Governments to keep the Rail Tracks under constant watch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 7685 Kachiguda-Bangalore Express derailed between Pendekallu and Pagidirai stations on Guntakal Division of South Central Railway on 21.12.2002 leading to loss of lives of 19 persons and injuries to 78 others.

(c) and (d) Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle has conclude in his Preliminary Report that the accident occurred due to "tampering with track by other than Railway Staff".

(e) Closer interaction with the State Government Police has been initiated.

Grid Collapse

586. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
 SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
 SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :
 DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power supply discontinued in the capital and many areas of the Northern India in the month of December, 2002 due to grid collapse as reported in the Hindustan Times dated December 24, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to ensure such collapse may not recur in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Power supply in the Capital and some areas of Northern India was disrupted following a partial grid disturbance (not a grid collapse) experienced in the Northern Regional System during the night of 22nd - 23rd of December, 2002 due to simultaneous tripping of a number of 400 kV and 220 kV lines due to transient faults occurring under heavy foggy conditions compounded with deposit of heavy pollutants on insulators.

(c) and (d) A committee has been set up by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) under the Chairmanship of Member Secretary, Northern Regional Electricity Board (NREB) with members from Delhi TRANSCO Ltd., Northern Regional Load Dispatch Centre, Bhakra Beas Management Board and Badarpur Thermal Power Station (NTPC) to enquire into the partial grid disturbance and to analyse the causes leading to occurrence of the grid disturbance and suggest remedial measures to avoid recurrence of such disturbances in future. The committee is yet to submit its report to CEA.

Removal of Encroachment of Defence Land

587. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN :
 PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :
 SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the land has been removed from encroachments during the last three years and at which place; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for expeditious removal of encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Action for removal of encroachments is taken under the provisions of Cantonments Act, 1924 and Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. Some of the encroachments are under litigation and hence their removal is subject to Court orders.

Utilisation of Funds

588. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rs. 3000 crore kept for procurement of weapons are lying unutilised;

(b) if so, the main reasons for not utilising the fund for purchase of weapons;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, outcome thereof;

(e) if so, the action has been taken against those held responsible; and

(f) the amount transferred to non-lapseable fund set up for the procurement of weapons and weapons system so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) A number of proposals for procurement of weapon systems and equipment for modernisation of Armed Forces are at various stages of the procurement process, like technical evaluation/trials and finalisation of prices and contractual terms, etc. The funds catered for such proposals can only be utilised on completion of these stages and on making payments as per contractual terms. All these stages cannot be unilaterally completed by the Government.

(f) The proposal for setting up a non-lapsable fund has not been approved and, therefore, no amount has been transferred to such fund.

Daitari-Banspani Rail Line

589. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether March 31, 2003 is the target date fixed for the completion of Daitari-Banspani line in Orissa;

(b) if so, the progress of that project as on date; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the construction of that line?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The line from Banspani to Joruli (11 Km) has been completed. On the rest of the section, earthwork, bridgework, and other allied works are in progress. The section from Joruli to Keonjhar (48 Km) is targeted for completion during 2002-03. To expedite completion of the project, the funds have been tied up through Asian Development Bank (ADB).

[Translation]

Ring Rail Service in Delhi

590. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make the Ring Rail Service in Delhi, more systematic and efficient with a view to improve the environment as also lessen the congestion on roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount allocated for the development of Ring Rail Service in Delhi during the last three years, till date and the achievements made in this regard;

(d) the year-wise number of persons benefited till date by the Ring Rail Service in Delhi; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the development of Rings Rail Service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (e) A task force consisting of representatives of Indian Railways, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Department of Transport and RITES, has been set up to examine the feasibility of improving the services over southern portion of Ring Railway. At present, 12 EMU services are running on Delhi Ring Railway, which are poorly patronised. Therefore, there is no proposal to introduce additional ring rail services in Delhi, at present.

[English]

Setting up of Container Depots

591. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Expert Group in Indian Railways has recommended for setting up of container depots at more places;

(b) if so, whether the Government have agreed with the recommendation of the Expert Group;

(c) if so, the places identified for setting up of these depots; and

(d) the time by which these depots are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) There is no Expert Group in Indian Railways for setting up of container depots.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Safety Surcharges

592. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount collected by the Government through safety surcharge for safety fund and special safety fund till December 31, 2002; and

(b) the amount of money spent for repairing of lines and bridges in Eastern Zone during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Safety Surcharge is collected only for Special Railway Safety Fund. The amount, collected as Safety Surcharge by the Ministry of Railways, during the current year upto December 31, 2002, is Rs. 445.20 crore.

(b) The Gross amount spent by Erstwhile Eastern Railway Zone (part East Central Railway included in Eastern Railway) under the Plan head 'Track Renewal' and 'Bridge Works' allocated to Special Railway Safety Fund and Depreciation Reserve Fund till December, 2002 of the current financial year is Rs. 196.67 crore and Rs. 11.13 crore respectively as shown below:-

(Rs. in crore)

	DRF	SRSF	TOTAL
Bridge Works	1.46	9.67	11.13
Track Renewal	75.75	120.92	196.67
TOTAL	77.21	130.59	207.80

Funds for Hydroelectric Power Projects

593. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the fund earmarked for implementation of hydroelectric power projects in the country during the tenth Plan period;

(b) the amount out of that earmarked for Balimela Extension HEP (2X75 MW) in Orissa; and

(c) the time by which the above Project is scheduled to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Planning Commission has allocated an outlay of Rs. 143399 crore for Central Sector. An outlay of Rs. 93225.71 crore has been projected for the State Sector for the 10th Plan. The capacity addition target for the 10th Plan is set at 41,110 MW, of which hydro electric projects accounted for 14393 MW.

An amount of Rs. 40639 crore has been allocated for the following Central Public Sector Undertakings for development of hydro electric projects in the Central Sector :

National Hydro Electric Power Corporation	Rs. 32226 Crore
Tehri Hydro Development Corporation	Rs. 3646.50 Crore
Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (formerly NJPC)	Rs. 2554 Crore
North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.	Rs. 2213 Crore

(b) An outlay of Rs. 2858.54 crore has been projected for the State of Orissa for Power Sector which also covers the Plan provision for Belimela Extension HEP (2x75 MW).

(c) Belimela Extension project is scheduled for commissioning during the period 2005-07.

[Translation]

Hazipur-Vaishali-Sugauli Rail Line

594. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has cleared in principle the construction of new railway line between Hazipur-Vaishali-Sugauli;

(b) whether the proposed new railway line complete the Buddhist circuit by linking Vaishali and Kesaria;

(c) whether the proposed new line was also recommended by Tourism Department keeping in view its importance for tourism;

(d) if so, the date of commencement of construction of the new line alongwith the likely date of its completion; and

(e) the estimated cost of the construction and the sources from where funds would be mobilized?

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

(b) The proposed line will connect the places of Buddhist importance on Buddhist circuit.

(c) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Tourism have been approached for examining the proposal of funding the project as the same is of tourist importance.

(d) The work would be taken up after inclusion of the work in the Budget.

(e) The estimated cost of construction of the line is Rs. 324.66 cr. Ministry of Tourism and the State Government of Bihar have been requested to participate in funding for the project. Action has also been initiated for obtaining multilateral funding for the project.

Crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

595. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

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

(a) whether the Government have conducted any State-wise survey in regard to the atrocities, rapes and crimes being committed against the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of the cases reported during the above period State-wise and the percentage of the cases registered in the courts;

(c) the names of the States where the percentage is very high;

(d) the number of cases disposed of in the courts during the above period; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to combat these offences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (d) No survey has been conducted in regard to atrocities committed against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, however, on calendar year basis, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations intimate the number of cases registered by Police under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and the cases disposed off by the Courts. The year wise information for calendar years 1999, 2000, 2001, as compiled State/Union Territory wise, in regard of cases registered under the Act by the police, cases charge sheeted in the courts and cases disposed off by the Courts, is given in the statement enclosed. It would be seen from the statistics pertaining to calendar year 2001 that the States of Uttar Pradesh (7356 cases), Madhya Pradesh (4336 cases), Rajasthan (1996 cases), Gujarat (1760 cases), Andhra Pradesh (1288 cases) and Orissa (1125 cases), collectively accounted for 82.39% of

total number of 21,678 cases charge sheeted in the courts in the country.

(e) The States/UTs are addressed from time to time to implement the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, in letter and spirit. Towards financially assisting the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for effective implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, central assistance is also provided to them for strengthening of the administrative, enforcement and judicial machinery, awareness generation, and relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons. The details of Central Assistance sanctioned to the State Governments/UT Administrations during the last three years is given below:-

Year	Central Assistance Released (Rs. in lakhs)
1999-2000	2494.00
2000-2001	2708.00
2001-2002	3005.05

Special Cells have also been set up in the States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttranchal and Pondicherry towards implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and for speedy trial of cases under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. 137 Exclusive Special Courts, have been set up in the States of Andhra Pradesh (12), Bihar (11), Chhatisgarh (07), Gujarat (10), Karnataka (06), Madhya Pradesh (29), Rajasthan (17), Tamil Nadu (04), and Uttar Pradesh (40), and Uttranchal (01). Further all State Governments except Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland, which are predominantly tribal area States, have notified the existing Courts of Sessions as Special Courts for the trial of offences under the Act. There has been a marginal decline in the number of cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 from 30315 cases in the year 2000 to 30022 cases in the year 2001. The Government of India is, thus, making earnest efforts towards effective implementation of the Act.

Statement

Number of cases registered by Police, Charge sheeted in the Courts and cases disposed off by Courts under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 during the year 1999

S. No	States/Ut	Number of cases registered by Police including brought forward	Number of cases charge sheeted in the courts including brought forward	Percentage to number of cases registered by Police (col. 03)	Number of cases disposed off by the Court including brought forward
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	920	518	56.30	2081
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	2
4.	Bihar	1875	880	46.93	484

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Chattisgarh	—	—	—	—
6.	Goa	2	1	50.00	0
7.	Gujarat	2118	1643	77.57	367
8.	Haryana	41	17	41.46	16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	15	5	33.33	3
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—
11.	Karnataka	1934	1020	52.74	483
12.	Kerala	NA	NA	—	NA
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4533	3642	80.34	3188
14.	Maharashtra	1117	827	74.03	255
15.	Manipur	NA	0	—	0
16.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
17.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
18.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
19.	Orissa	2233	911	40.79	198
20.	Punjab	24	13	54.16	1
21.	Rajasthan	10559	3921	37.13	2595
22.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	1605	700	43.61	554
24.	Tripura	0	0	0	0
25.	Uttanchal	—	—	—	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	7735	5464	70.64	2633
27.	West Bengal	62	17	27.42	0
28.	A. and N. Islands	1	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
29.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
30.	D and N Haveli	1	1	100	0
31.	Daman and Diu	1	1	100	1
32.	Delhi	20	5	25	3
33.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
34.	Pondicherry	3	1	33.33	0
Total		34799	19,587	56.29	12,864

1. NA: Not Available

2. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 does not extend in the State of Jammu and Kashmir

Number of cases registered by Police, Charge sheeted in the Courts and cases disposed off by Courts under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 during the year 2000

S. No	States/Ut	Number of cases registered by Police including brought forward	Number of cases charge sheeted in the courts including brought forward	Percentage to number of cases registered by Police (col. 03)	Number of cases disposed off by the Court including brought forward
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2866	1429	49.86	977
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	1396	288	20.63	942
5.	Chattisgarh	933	761	81.56	104
6.	Goa	1	1	100.00	1
7.	Gujarat	2098	1261	60.10	0
8.	Haryana	60	27	45.00	15
9.	Himachal Pradesh	14	11	78.57	9

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jharkhand	41	1	02.39	NA
11.	Karnataka	1819	884	48.60	510
12.	Kerala	1025	322	31.41	163
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4621	3516	76.09	1282
14.	Maharashtra	950	700	73.68	849
15.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
16.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
17.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
18.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
19.	Orissa	2464	1118	45.37	251
20.	Punjab	41	14	34.15	1
21.	Rajasthan	7692	3057	39.74	2402
22.	Sikkim	0	0	0	1
23.	Tamil Nadu	1253	505	40.30	192
24.	Tripura	0	0	0	0
25.	Uttanchal	131	90	68.70	399
26.	Uttar Pradesh	9476	5609	59.19	3125
27.	West Bengal	59	0	0	0
28.	A. and N. Islands	2	1	50.00	1
29.	Chandigarh	1	0	0	0
30.	D and N Haveli	1	1	100.00	0
31.	Daman and Diu	1	0	0	1
32.	Delhi	19	10	52.63	12

1	2	3	4	5	6
33.	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	0
34.	Pondicherry	6	2	33.33	0
Total		36,971	19,608	53.04	11,237

1. NA: Not Available

2. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 does not extend in the State of Jammu and Kashmir

Number of cases registered by Police, charge sheeted in the Courts and cases disposed off by Courts under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 during the year 2001

S. No.	States/UTs	Number of cases registered by Police including brought forward	Number of cases charge sheeted in the courts including brought forward	Percentage to number of cases registered by Police (col. 03)	Number of cases disposed off by the Court including brought forward
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2574	1288	50.04	817
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	1802	180	09.99	385
5.	Chattisgarh	1053	915	86.89	690
6.	Goa	1	0	0	1
7.	Gujarat	1945	1760	90.49	575
8.	Haryana	85	54	63.53	11
9.	Himachal Pradesh	20	7	35	12
10.	Jharkhand	349	176	50.43	NA
11.	Karnataka	1851	643	34.74	433
12.	Kerala	909	290	31.90	132
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5332	4336	81.32	2700

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Maharashtra	972	755	77.67	1151
15.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
16.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
17.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
18.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
19.	Orissa	2329	1125	48.30	254
20.	Punjab	75	14	18.67	3
21.	Rajasthan	6391	1966	30.76	1968
22.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	1192	662	55.54	434
24.	Tripura	0	0	0	0
25.	Uttanchal	132	78	59.09	213
26.	Uttar Pradesh	12037	7356	61.11	6407
27.	West Bengal	69	43	62.32	9
28.	A. and N. Islands	1	1	100.00	2
29.	Chandigarh	3	1	33.33	0
30.	D and N Haveli	5	2	40.00	0
31.	Daman and Diu	1	1	100.00	2
32.	Delhi	25	22	88.00	2
33.	Lakshadweep	0	0	00.00	0
34.	Pondicherry	4	3	75.00	2
Total		39,157	21,678	55.36	16,203

1. NA: Not Available

2. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 does not extend in the State of Jammu and Kashmir

[English]

**Excise Duty on LNG and
Tax on Diesel**

596. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bhure Lal Committee has recommended for waiving of excise duty on LNG and lowering tax on diesel;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on the recommendations?

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

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

Fuel Testing Laboratories at Noida

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

(a) the number of oil/petrol/diesel samples received by the Fuel Testing laboratory at Noida during the last three years;

(b) the number of samples found adulterated by the said Laboratory;

(c) whether the Fuel Testing Laboratory at Noida returns the results of tests within a specific period:

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is always delay at the Laboratory; and

(f) the steps proposed to make the Fuel Testing Laboratory both efficient and accountable for delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Laboratory is functional since November, 2000 and started receiving samples from Enforcement Agencies only in December, 2000. One thousand samples were received upto 31st December, 2002.

(b) Samples are tested as per BIS specifications and 2.8% of the samples failed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Fuel Testing Laboratory at NOIDA strictly follows the protocol of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) for testing and reporting of samples.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

**Jan Shatabdi Trains Running
Heavy Losses**

598. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Jan Shatabdi trains are running far below the capacity on a heavy losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total loss suffered by Indian Railways due to running of these trains as on January 31, 2003;

(d) the number of routes identified by railways on which Jan Shatabdi trains are running at loss;

(e) the number of such trains cancelled by Indian Railways; and

(f) the efforts made or being made by Indian Railways to make these routes viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (d) Profitability of individual trains are not maintained on Indian Railways.

(e) and (f) 2071/2073 Tatanagar-Ranchi Jan Shatabdi Express has been replaced by MEMU services w.e.f 10th February, 2003.

[Translation]

Pending Power Projects in Bihar

599. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of power projects of Bihar which are lying pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) whether the Government propose to hold a meeting with the State Government for giving approval to these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the quantum of electricity likely to be generated through those projects in regard to which proposals have been sent during 2001-02 and 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) As on date, no power project in Bihar is under examination in Central Electricity Authority for accord of Techno-Economic Clearance. However, proposal for setting up Barh STPP received in Central Electricity Authority on 6/ 2000 was accorded Techno-Economic Clearance on 28.09.2001.

[English]

Reasons for Rail Accidents

600. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether equipment failure is one of the major reasons for most of the major rail accidents;

(b) if so, whether quality of spaces manufactured or procured by the railways are not of prescribed standard;

(c) whether also the system quality of maintenance is lacking in the railways; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps being taken to improve the situation?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Sale of Natural Gas by Private Companies

601. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private companies proposed to sell their natural gas at a price of around Rs. 8000 per thousand cubic metres as against the ONGC price of Rs. 2850;

(b) if so, whether it has been proposed to exempt natural gas from the levy of import duty;

(c) if so, whether the exemption of import duty on gas could enable the natural gas available at a much cheaper rate by ONGC; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to rationalize the prices proposed by the private companies and the ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) As far as private companies/JVs are concerned as per Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), the contractors of exploration blocks and small size fields are free to sell gas in domestic market at market price. For medium size fields, the gas sale prices are governed by the terms of the respective PSCs signed, which are different for different PSCs. The gas price for

fields from where gas is being sold at present by the private/JV companies range from Rs. 3750 per thousand cubic meter to about Rs. 6500 per thousand cubic meters.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, There is no proposal either to import natural gas or to exempt from import duty on gas.

(d) Whereas, prices of natural gas produced by private and JV companies are governed by PSC contracts, the prices of natural gas produced by ONGC and OIL are fixed by Government. However, in a deregulated scenario, the prices of natural gas produced by ONGC and OIL may be fixed by the producers only.

Old Age Homes in Gujarat

602. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of old age homes operated in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the total number of old age homes for which the organization approach the Government to run these organizations;

(c) the amount of expenditure sanctioned to old age homes;

(d) whether any external financial assistance is also being obtained to operate them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) There are three old age homes in Gujarat which have been given grant in aid for maintenance under the Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons during the last three years. One old age home at Bamroli, Distt. Baroda is run by Gujarat Kelavani Trust, Mangal Prabhat Building, Mirzapur, Ahmedabad-380001. Two old age homes in Anjar and Bhuj in the affected area of Gujarat by earthquake where run by Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh, Thakkar Bapa Smarak Sadan, Dr. Ambedkar Marg (Link Road), New Delhi-110055.

(b) the total number of old age homes is five for which the organizations of Gujarat approached this Ministry.

(c) Organisation-wise and year wise amount of grant in aid sanctioned to run old age homes (OAH) is given below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Organization	No. of OAH	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	Gujarat Kelavani Trust, Prabhat Building, Mirzapur, Ahmedabad	1	2.33	2.76	1.38	4.14
2	Bhartiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh, Thakkar Bapa Smarak Sadan, Dr. Ambedkar Marg (Link Road), New Delhi	2	0	4.6*	0	0

*The assistance was given as a onetime grant to set two old age homes in earthquake affected area.

(d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment does not obtain any financial assistance from any external source apart from the Government. The

Ministry does not maintain information regarding external financial assistance received by voluntary organizations.

- (e) Does not arise.

**Recommendations of GoM on
Statutory Dues**

603. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have formed a Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into the remedy on statutory dues of sick PSUs;
- (b) if so, the composition of the group;
- (c) whether the advice of the other Ministries have been sought on the subject;
- (d) if so, their response thereon;
- (e) whether the said GoM has submitted its report;
- (f) if so, the details of recommendation of said group and steps taken by the Government on its implementation to clear the dues of sick PSUs; and
- (g) if not, the time by which the group is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (g) The Government have constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission with 7 Ministers as Members, inter-alia, to consider and make recommendations in respect to problems relating to payment of wages, salaries and statutory dues of employees in Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), particularly the sick CPSUs. The concerned Ministries have been consulted at various stages. Further in the various meetings held by the GOM, the concerned Ministries have participated in the

deliberations. The Government will take appropriate decisions in the matter as soon as the GOM finalise its recommendations.

Oil Bill Deficit

604. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount of oil bill deficit as on March 31, 2002 and December 31, 2002; and
- (b) the extent to which the oil bill deficit has been compensated by increasing prices of petroleum products during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The cumulative outstandings payable to the oil companies as on 31st March 2002 were around Rs. 13,500 crore. The Government had issued on 30th March 2002, "6.96% Oil Companies' Government of India Special Bonds, 2009" amounting to Rs. 9000 crore, to the oil companies to partially liquidate the outstanding claims of the oil companies against the oil pool account. The bonds for the balance outstanding amount would be issued after the C and AG's audit of the oil pool account.

- (b) With the dismantling of APM, the oil pool account has been wound up effective 1st April 2002. The pricing of all petroleum products, except for PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG, have become market determined effective 1st April 2002 and the oil companies are fixing the prices of these products keeping in view the prevalent international oil prices.

**Demand, Production and Consumption
of Oil and Gas**

605. SHRI A. NARENDRA :
SHRI KAILASH MEHWAL :

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

(a) the present demand of oil and gas in the country alongwith the extent of contribution made by indigenous resources in fulfilling the said demand and the details of imports, production and consumption of oil and gas;

(b) the action being taken by the Government to make the country self-reliant with regard to oil and gas;

(c) the number of oil and gas reserves identified in the country so far along with the amount of oil and gas being extracted from them; and

(d) the location of oil and gas reserves identified for the researches, discoveries and extraction etc. alongwith the details of action proposed to be taken further in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The crude oil processing requirement of the country for the year 2002-03 is estimated to be 110.561 million metric tonne (MMT) and the extent of indigenous dry crude oil available for processing is 26.5%. The estimated crude oil imports for the year 2002-03 is 81.675 MMT and the indigenous production is 30.799 MMT. The consumption of crude oil is same as the processing requirement estimated, i.e. 110.561 MMT.

As per the Hydrocarbon Vision-2025, the demand of natural gas has been assessed to be 151 Million Standard Cubic Metre per day (MMSCMD) for the year 2002-2003, whereas the current supply is around 65 MMSCMD.

(b) Given the increasing demand for the petroleum products and the current level of import dependence, it is difficult to envisage self-sufficiency in the near future. However, several important steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production, which include the following:

(i) to improve the recovery factor from existing

major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) to increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); under the three rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 70 blocks.

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

(iv) to develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

(v) to acquire acreages abroad.

(c) As on 1.4.2002, the total oil and gas reserves in the country have been estimated to be about 1,491 MMT. The production of oil and gas in the country during 2002-03 (1.4.2002 to 31.12.2002) was 24.89 MMT and 23.37 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) respectively.

(d) Worldwide, sedimentary areas are recognised to be the habitats of hydrocarbon reserves. The "India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025" envisages a time bound plan for the appraisal of Indian sedimentary basins to the extent of 25% by 2005, 50% by 2010, 75% by 2015 and 100% by 2025. In line with the "India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025" Report, to accelerate exploration efforts in the country, the Government has already signed 70 Production Sharing Contracts under three rounds of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : Sir I beg to lay on the table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Wakf Council, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Wakf Council, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Wakf Council New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. Lt. 6999/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. Lt. 7000/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Indian Electricity (Second Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 793 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th December, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 38 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

[Placed in Library. See No. Lt. 7001/2003]

12.01 hrs.

[English]

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Thirtieth Report

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (Nominated) : I beg to present the Thirtieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.02 hrs.

[Translation]

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) Committee on Estimates

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : I beg to move the following :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty

members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2003 and ending on the 30th April, 2004."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (I) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2003 and ending on the 30th April, 2004."

The motion was adopted.

(ii) Committee on Public Accounts

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (I) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2003 and ending on the 30th April, 2004."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (I) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2003 and ending on the 30th April, 2004."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2003 and ending on the 30th April, 2004 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2003 and ending on the 30th April, 2004 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

(iii) Committee on Public Undertakings

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (I) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the terms beginning on the 1st May, 2003 and ending on the 30th April, 2004."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (I) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public

Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2003 and ending on the 30th April, 2004."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, I beg to move the following :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2003 and ending on the 30th April, 2004 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2003 and ending on the 30th April, 2004 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

(iv) Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Sir, I beg to move the following:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as

members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2003 and ending on the 30th April, 2004."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2003 and ending on the 30th April, 2004."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Sir I beg to move the following :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2003 and ending on the 30th April, 2004 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2003 and

ending on the 30th April, 2004 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, there is one Calling Attention notice today. Since we have little time, we can take it up after Lunch and I would like to take up 'Zero Hour' now, if the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : If the House has agreed to this, then I would take up 'Zero Hour' now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice regarding POTA...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given notice for the Adjournment Motion. You had told me that you would give me an opportunity to speak in Zero Hour....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Ramji Lal Suman ji you are well aware that first I had accepted the Adjournment Motion of Shri Prabhunath Singh. So I am giving him first opportunity to speak. Thereafter I will give you a chance to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is only one Calling Attention today and the notice for that is given by Shri H.D. Deve Gowda.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is one more Calling Attention Motion

regarding the bottled drinking water. When will it be taken up and when the Calling Attention Motion of Deve Gowda ji will be taken up.

Speaker, Sir, Calling Attention is always taken up first before the 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, you are right. I am in agreement with you. Shri Deve Gowda's Calling Attention is not being taken up today, but I am going to permit him to speak on that during the 'Zero Hour' and the Calling Attention which I referred to was that of Shri Naresh Puglia. That will be taken up at 2.00 p.m.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : At what time the motion of Deve Gowda will be taken up?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will take it up around 12.45 p.m., after I take up other notices.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will both be taken up today? Today only one will be taken up and not the both.

MR. SPEAKER : Today only one will be taken up.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : As far as Shri Deve Gowda's submission is concerned, it is a 'Zero Hour' notice and not of Calling Attention.

12.09 hrs.

[Translation]

(i) RE: DISINVESTMENT OF HPCL AND BPCL

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, public opinion of the entire country is divided

[Shri Prabunath Singh]

over the issue of disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL. On the one hand while 95 percent people are against it on the other hand besides opposition the members of many of the constituents of the ruling alliance have expressed their views in the House that they are against the disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Parliament Standing Committee on Petroleum in its report regarding this had also stated its disagreement but the Government did not pay attention to it and it also did not seek approval of the House regarding the disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL. I would like to submit that inspite of this the process of disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL has been initiated. IOC, IBP, ONGC, HPCL and BPCL are some of the major oil companies among the Public sector undertakings of the country. These all are profit earning companies. In the year 2001-2002 HPCL earned a profit of Rs. 173 crore and BPCL earned Rs. 118 crore as profit. In spite of that the Government are disinvesting profit making companies which is not good for the country. While on the one hand the interest of the consumers are attached to the oil, on the other hand the security and other interests of the country is also linked with it. While these companies in the public sector render priorities to the social works the private companies work for the surplus profit. The fixation of the price of petrol, diesel LPG and Kerocene has always been an issue of debate and private companies are not interested in solving this problem. The reason being that the private sector is not guided and motivated by the sentiments of social and national security and the sacrifice for the country. They are interested only in the profit making. In view of the oil security the private companies cannot take up storage work of oil at a short notice. The reason being that the Government do not spend on it rather companies spend on it. It is due to the critical situation in Middle East and the tension along the Pakistan border that the problem of oil security has arisen. Presently 51 percent terminals and 50 percent retail centres are in the

hands of HPCL and BPCL and they can play important role in this regard. It costs Rs. 5000 crore to keep a reserve stock of oil for 15 days. BPCL and HPCL have already spent Rs. 550 crore for more storage while private companies can not be capable of maintaining of reserves. We should not forget 1971 war. The private companies like Reliance and ESSAR are raising their infrastructure. On the other hand HPCL and BPCL are efficiently fulfilling the responsibility. In this situation the disinvestment of BPCL and HPCL is not appropriate, neither from the point of view of security nor from the point of view of consumers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you that the Government are under the influence of companies like Reliance and it is at the insistence of the Reliance that the process of disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL has been initiated. I would like to request that the disinvestment process should be postponed till it is discussed in the House and the House does not give its approval. The disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL without the permission of the House is not in the interest of the country and its security. So a discussion should be held in the House on this serious issue and till then the process of disinvestment should be stopped till the discussion is held on this issue in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please see the mood of the House. ...*(Interruptions)* As per our information the majority of the Ministers in the Cabinet are against the process of disinvestment. The Minister of Petroleum was also against the process of disinvestment of HPCL, however he was pressurised and was asked to remain silent. It is not in the interest of the country. I would like to request you once again that the discussion should be held on this issue in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, this is a very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)* They are bypassing the Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government has taken

a decision. ...*(Interruptions)* We have given notice under Rule 184. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This issue is, no doubt, an important one. But today, when the House started, I received a notice for Adjournment Motion. It had three names. Therefore, I have permitted Shri Praunath Singh to speak.

[Translation]

Devendra Prasad ji you may also speak for one minute only as I can not give you more time.

[English]

Thereafter, Shri Jha will speak for a minute. Other Members will not be allowed to speak because there is going to be a discussion on this issue.

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

MR. SPEAKER : There is going to be a discussion.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : We want full discussion, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes; full discussion will be allowed. The Business Advisory Committee will decide the date.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have to finish in a minute's time because the procedure is different.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to request you that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunath Singh ji you have already spoken.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will take the necessary care about the subject.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let there be silence in the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, I would like to say that before discussion it should be declared that till the discussion on this issue is not completed in the House and the permission of the House is not taken, the process of disinvestment should be stopped. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my thanks to you. This subject is not only of the national importance rather it is also in the interest of the consumers and the social welfare. HPCL and BPCL which are being disinvested are all profit making companies. The profitable companies and undertakings are being disinvested. I would like to submit that the entire nation is being misguided with the word disinvestment. Today crores of people who live in villages and are illiterates do not understand the word disinvestment and ask as to what is disinvestment.

First and foremost I would like to request you to change the name of Disinvestment Ministry as Ministry for selling National Property, so that it will not create confusion among the public. Today all the people in this country are in confusion.

Just now Prabhunath Singhji mentioned that on the one hand Public Undertakings related to oil are concerned with the interests of consumers on the other they play an important role in the field of national security and welfare.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

Whether there is any guarantee that private companies will give due priority to the work related to welfare and security of the consumers. I conclude with these concluding words. There are 32 crore people living below poverty line in this country. They use kerosene oil, LPG is being used by middle class families. In case of disinvestment, and in case BPCL is sold, who will give the guarantee for fixing prices for the users of kerosene. This is the reason, why I am saying that private sector is not able to fulfill this commitment. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria) : My name is also there ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : It is my submission that it costs rupees five thousand crore to store oil for fifteen days and this is the reason that no private company is able to store the oil. We should remember the 1971. war with Pakistan, how the oil is stored safely. Reliance company do not have such infrastructure, and Reliance company has not build up this infrastructure so far....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot not give you so much time to speak.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : My submission is that please do not sell this country in the hands of reliance company and change the name of this Ministry as Ministry for selling national property.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am fully agree with the views expressed by Shri Prabunath Singhji and Shri Devendra Prasad Yadavji. The present circumstances of the country and the reply of the hon'ble Minister to the question raised by Shri Roop Chand Palji have increased the confusion. He is hurting the authority and dignity of the Parliament. This Government is fully determined to benefit single company and it has become a puppet in their hands instead working for the

dignity and security of the country and for the poor. Therefore, right question has been asked. This is our Parliament, Hon'ble Minister tell us the circumstances in which this was opposed earlier, and what is the reason behind its surrender? What were the circumstances and what allured him or he gave up in fear of losing his post or he is keeping silence or he got something from someone? Why this was opposed? Yesterday also this sort of questions were being raised that Attorney General has expressed his opinion under the influence. He should be called in the House and issue should be postponed till the approval of this House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Members have expressed their sentiments on this important issue. Would the Minister of Petroleum like to say something on this issue?

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He will lose his job.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, you have already said that it will be taken into account in the Business Advisory Committee meeting.

In that discussion, it will be decided. We will be taking a decision.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, please let him express his views? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) Let the Minister reply to the points raised by all the Parties. Only a few Members have raised it and this is a subject on which the Government should have come to Parliament asking for the opinion of the Members of Parliament. They are not coming. You are very kindly allowing this discussion. Let

all the points come and then we will ask the Minister to reply.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have also given a notice on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will take up it, later.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, this is in continuation of what Shri Shivraj V. Patil said. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are all senior Members. If you want to speak on anything, you can give a notice and then come before the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not opened this subject for a debate. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramjee Lal Sumanji if you do not speak I will take up another subject.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing? Nothing should be taken on record except what Shri Ramji Lal Suman speaks. Now there should be discipline in the House.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : You can say all this when there is debate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : During the debate, I will give you permission to speak.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : I am not on the merit or demerit of the case. Yesterday, the Minister said that it was governed under the Companies Act. It is a Public Sector Undertaking. All the Public Sector Undertakings are the agents of the Government as defined under article 12. A nine member Bench of the Supreme Court has said recently that all the Public Sector Undertakings are the agents of the Government. So, when a Public Sector Undertaking is disinvested, it is for the Government to get the sanction of Parliament. You know the Magna Carta that the tax has been levied without the authority of the Crown. So also, money cannot be appropriated without the sanction of Parliament. So, the sanction of Parliament is important. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If the Parliament wants to maintain the supremacy of the House, then the Members should also be disciplined. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker Sir we want an assurance from you that - Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum will not be sold.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandian, is it your walkout?

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : No, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have noticed the feelings of the House. Whatever the Members are saying is right. In such a situation we would

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

like that you should give a ruling that unless permission is taken from the House this process may be kept in abeyance. It is a very important issue. The House is in session and the process of disinvestment has commenced. ...*(Interruptions)* This situation is like selling away the nation. You should give a ruling in this matter. You notice the feelings of this House. ...*(Interruptions)* Members are saying that this is not fair and is against the interest of the nation ...*(Interruptions)* This is against the security of the nation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunathji you raise a question and you do not allow me to speak. This will not do.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : We would like to listen you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : As you have raised a question I will reply to it. Let me give the reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I am giving reply to the person who has asked the question.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Government should respond.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House will like to be guided by you. Everyday, the Ministers are making statements that they will sell away the Public Sector Undertakings, whether they are profit-making or loss-making. They also claim that they have the authority to do anything they like without consulting or discussing the matter in Parliament. It is not the question of one individual case. The question raised is about the authority of this Parliament.

If Ministers flout the authority of Parliament, I shall like your guidance what hon. Members should do, whether they should wait for the discussion when the Ministers sell away the whole country.

I would not have raised this matter. A PIL has been filed in the Supreme Court and the Government has come out with a statement that disinvestment was started by the Government when I was the Prime Minister of this country. At that time, I had specifically said that only 20 per cent of the loss making companies should be sold away to the financial institutions in order to improve the management and financial condition of those companies. This Government is going on spreading falsehood. This Government is going on challenging the authority of Parliament. Do you think we should keep quiet on this matter?

I do not know what are the matters that could be discussed in Parliament. I do not know whether only personal bickerings, questions relating to corruption and questions regarding certain things about Bhojshala or Babri Masjid could be discussed. The very future of this nation is at stake.

I shall not doubt anybody's motivation but the Minister of this Department was very vocal that these companies should not be disinvested. All of a sudden, we see the change. All of a sudden the Prime Minister meets certain Ministers and certain members of the NDA. My friends are very vocal today but their leader and – I do not know what I should say – my friend who happens to be the convenor of the NDA swallows everything that is happening in this Government.

It is the future of this country and it is the very dignity, honour and grace of this House, which is at stake and the House would like to have your guidance on this matter.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we have been discussing this. I fully endorse what our very respected Shri Chandra Shekhar has said. The question is what is the role of Parliament when such valuable assets are being

sold away irrespective of the fact that there are Acts of Parliament to govern them. The justification for the sale has to be given. Parliament is not taken into confidence. No opposition party is taken into confidence as if it is a property of a particular party. Not even the NDA as a whole is supporting this. I congratulate those Members in the NDA. They have made a mistake by joining them. They realise that now. Therefore, they should stand up and stand by the country's interests.

They are disunited and the Opposition is totally united on this issue. The Government is flaunting the opinion of the Attorney-General who does not dare to come before this House. We are not bound by the Attorney-General's opinion. We do not know what is the opinion that has been given. We are not bound by it. Therefore, we request you to please see that these valuable assets of the country are not frittered away by a power-hungry and corrupt administration.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGUNATH JHA : N.D.A people are the supporters of the common minimum programme. We are not going to support anything outside it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a period for debate. Please sit down. We have not started a debate on disinvestment.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, kindly tell me whether there is any notice from me on this subject or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is a notice from you.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has become very clear. All hon. Members sitting on the Opposition Benches and some hon. Members sitting on the Treasury Benches have expressed their views. Now, what

is the view of this House has become very clear. The majority of hon. Members of this House are not in favour of disinvestment of these two public undertakings. This has become very clear.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You should see the sense of the House. This cannot be left to the Minister who is selling away everything.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : We hope, hon. Members who have very cogently, forcefully, clearly, and I think, consciously and honestly spoken against this would stick to it and would not change their views when this matter comes up for discussion. Let us note this. In views of this, a decision has to be taken in this House. Probably, you would not be required to pronounce a judgement on this but at least immediately this matter could be taken up and put to the vote of the House and a decision could be given by the House, which has elected representatives sitting here.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. speaker Sir, you may have voting on the subject of Disinvestment. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may get voting and see. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Prabhunath Singhji please take your seat. Devendraji you also take your seat. Let the other Members speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, Please give me a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. Dr. Malhotra, I am going to permit you after these people. You will be allowed to speak on behalf of the ruling party.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is here. The Party Leader is also here. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The discussion should be held under Rule 184. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, everybody knows that HPCL and BPCL companies, which are going to be sold away, are profit making companies and there is no clear explanation from the Government side as to why they want to sell these profit making companies? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may have discussion for a complete day over this subject but during Zero Hour, if only one subject is taken and all other important issues, matters of urgent importance or notices of calling attentions or other subjects are not taken for discussion, this should not happen. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : How can you interrupt in this way? There is a notice from Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh for raising the issue in the Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Sir, there are a number of other notices also for the Zero Hour. I have also given a notice for the Zero Hour. You should take my notice also. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, It is known all over the country that the ONGC, which is a Government Public Undertaking, had petitioned for buying ...*(Interruptions)* But ONGC was stopped from participating in the sale off. This has given rise to an apprehension in the country that Government companies are not being allowed to buy these undertakings. All this is happening just because they want to sell them to Reliance only. The hon'ble Minister is repeatedly making

statement that the question of inviting the Attorney General to attend does not arise. Whenever this question has been raised in the House, it has been made clear that as per the rule, the Attorney General may come on his own or on invitation from the Government or on your request. Previously Attorney General has attended the House on the request of Mr. Speaker four times. You are the custodian of the House and the right of the Parliament, which is also a constitutional right, is being neglected whereas the constitution says that the Government is responsible to the Parliament. This clause is also being challenged. The Attorney General has every right to say that the Government has been permitted to do everything arbitrarily. It is a contempt of the Parliament!!...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You told all this yesterday. Malhotra ji, you may speak now.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Earlier an Attorney General had also stated in the past that all this should be discussed in the Parliament and the rule in 'Kaul and Shakhdar' states all the situations when the Attorney General may attend Parliament proceedings. Now the situation is that the Attorney General may either be present in the House on his own or on any proposal passed by the House or Government's request or on the request of Speaker in case Speaker wants to get the views on some matter before the House. There are four such precedents. That is why it is a question of the propriety and the right of the Parliament. Its sovereignty is being challenged. Since it is a sentiment of the House, only you can save its dignity. It is therefore, requested to you to bring the Attorney General to the House for his misleading statement about the Parliament so that we can get explanation from him and thus this sell-off may be stopped ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Malhotra ji you must stand up, only then he will take his seat, otherwise he will not sit.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was decided by the leaders of all the parties in the

meeting of Business Advisory Committee that a threadbare discussion on disinvestment would be held for the whole day and lot of things would be decided on the basis of merit of the case. It has taken place 3 or 4 times in each session. At the moment, there is a difference of opinions about BPCL among people. The Government will definitely consider whatever is being said in the House on these opinions. But to have an opinion about BPCL is one thing.

And to sell loss making companies or the profit making ones is another thing. Different kind of opinions are prevailing here. For example, some want to sell loss making companies only and not the profit making ones while others are in favour of selling all the profit making ones in Punjab, Karnataka and West Bengal.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It is not true. ...*(Interruptions)* *[English]* Not a single profit making State public undertaking is being disinvested. Dr. Malhotra, do not mislead the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, why he is interrupting me while I am speaking? You should stop him.

MR. SPEAKER : Please, you sit down.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But he is lying....

[English]

...*(Interruptions)* He is misleading the House. Not a single profit-making State public undertaking has been disinvested in West Bengal. I challenge. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let Dr. Malhotra complete. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sunil Khan, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Do not mislead the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : They have sold the oldest hotel in West Bengal to a French company and privatised electricity and now are going to privatise even water.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We did not sell it? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I think, the Chief Whip of the ruling Party must have little respect for truth. What is all this? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, I understand. Let him speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He does not know ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Truth should be told in the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Please, take your seat.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : it is good that disinvestment process is being carried out in Kerala and Karnataka. It is all right what he is saying about the two companies and his suggestions to the hon'ble Minister that the Government should consider it, but it is not right if someone says that the country has been sold. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Please let me say so now. I take strong objection to that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : You are selling the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Chandra Shekhar ji if you say this then, you started selling the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

You started selling companies. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want a Parliamentary Committee to be set up to find out whether he is speaking untruth or ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, let a Committee be appointed to find out whether I sold a single company or he is speaking untruth. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : The allegation that the country is being sold is not true. Nobody can sell the country. The whole nation knows that it is these people who tried to sell the country. The nation also knows those who had pledged the Gold. It is understandable if you hold a comprehensive debate but it is not true to say that the country has been sold, everything has been sold by this Government. There should be a comprehensive debate on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the issue on the agenda of our today's work. This issue was permitted to be raised only because notices for Adjournment Motion were given by three hon. Members. I have allowed them to speak. I have now understood the importance of the subject. There are arguments. If I can argue on the issue, I am going to take the issue to the Business Advisory Committee as early as possible. During discussion, people can make their views clear. When the subject is raised in the House, the

hon. Minister will give the reply and if his reply is not satisfactory, we can find out some other way by which we can go ahead with this subject before the House. It was also discussed yesterday whether any company is to be disinvested is a matter within the purview of the Parliament or within the purview of the Government and the hon. Minister for Disinvestment gave a detailed reply on that. If the Members do not agree with that reply, they can always have their say in the House on the day when this issue will be discussed.

But there are a number of Members who want to raise other issues during 'Zero Hour'. How can we deprive those Members from raising their issues? Therefore, let us now take the notice for Adjournment Motion on POTA.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker. I rise only to give a personal explanation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have permitted him because he wants to give a personal explanation.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : You said that we have sold the country.

[English]

You said, "You are selling the country."

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : 'You' means, the Government is selling away the country.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : We take objection to that.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Dr. Malhotra said that I had started selling away the country. It is a personal accusation against me.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : I had also told that it was your Government that started it.

[English]

If this is selling the country, then it had started during Shri Chandra Shekhar's Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Let me complete. I said, in the very beginning, that this statement of the Government that I had started disinvestment of the type that they are doing now is totally incorrect. I said that we allowed disinvestment of loss-making companies, whose shares were to be sold to the financial institutions of the Government.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : We will discuss it.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, is it same as what they are going to do today? If Dr. Malhotra's assertion is correct, I am ready to face the Privileges Committee. Otherwise, Dr. Malhotra should withdraw his words or should face the Privileges Committee. You may refer the matter to the Privileges Committee.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, He said that you are selling the country. I have said that this disinvestment had started during your Government regime.

[English]

I stand by my words that disinvestment had started during Shri Chandra Shekhar's Government. That is all. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I do not think that arguments can work in this way.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chandra Shekhar, you have made your stand clear. Let the Privilege Notice, if necessary, come to me and I will take a decision on that.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my whole career of 40 years in Parliament, I have not said a word which I had to withdraw later. In 40 years, there is not one instance. I have not made any personal accusation against anybody. I do not make any personal accusations. He said that it had started in my Government's time. I asked him that if it had started in my time, then in what way it had started. He should confine to that. He has not confined to that. They are selling companies to the private entrepreneurs, foreign companies and foreign multinationals. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is more than enough. Now, I give the floor to Shri Ramji Lal Suman. This issue, which he wants to raise, is also important. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : When the Minister is here. Why are we reducing his power by not allowing him to respond now?

MR. SPEAKER : I do not have any objection if he wants to respond now.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : These are all his companies and, therefore, he should respond. This is a matter of procedure.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Let Sumanjee speak.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have also given the notice for Adjournment.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker Sir, keeping in view the sentiments of the House, please stop disinvestment.

12.44 hrs.

(ii) RE: ALLEGED MISUSE OF POTA

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had raised this point earlier also in this House that in the whole country and especially in Uttar Pradesh POTA is being misused at large scale. I requested through you that due to majority POTA was passed in Lok Sabha but it failed in Rajya Sabha so the Government had called for joint session of both Houses. Hon'ble Minister of Law and Minister of Home Affairs made a commitment that POTA would not be misused. The statement given by hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs in Rajya Sabha yesterday is very disappointing. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has told in Rajya Sabha that he had no official information that POTA has been misused anywhere. This matter is concerned with State Government. Mr. Speaker, Sir, when misuse of TADA in the country was discussed, a review committee was set up then. It was revealed by the Committee that TADA has been misused, so the innocent people should be left and that was result oriented too.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement given by Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs yesterday in Rajya Sabha that whether it is a matter of Uttar Pradesh or some other State, as far as Central Government is concerned, it has never misused POTA. Mr. Speaker, Sir, just a while ago POTA has been misused. This means that Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has admitted that POTA is not being misused in Uttar Pradesh. I had made a request that old father of Raja Bhaiya, Shri Uday Pratap Singh, age 80 years and MLA Shri Akshaya Pratap Singh have been arrested under POTA due to malice. Mr. Ajit Singh is present in the House, he too opposed POTA. BJP leaders of Uttar Pradesh Shri Vinay Katiyar, Shri Kalraj Mishra and Shri Rajnath Singh oppose POTA and agree that POTA is being misused vehemently in Uttar Pradesh and Central Government is watching quietly. They are not doing any review and say that it will accept the judgement given by Court. At least many dozen people are locked behind bars under POTA and there is no proved charge against them.

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to ask that how much time will you take.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : I am concluding within two minutes.

Sir, the activists of the Samajwadi Party and its frontal organization have announced for a peaceful procession against POTA in Lucknow tomorrow, but that has been banned. Arrests are being made in the entire State. Various leaders of the Samajwadi Party have been arrested. Political raids are being conducted. Samajwadi Party district President of Allahabad, Shri Jawahar Singh Yadav, General Secretary, Shri K.K. Shrivastava, Samajwadi Party district President Lucknow, Shri Ram Swarup Yadav; State President of Lohia Vahini, Shri Brahmabaksh Singh Gopal; district President of J.P. Nagar, Shri Buddh Singh and 94 advocate of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Jagannath Prasad, etc. have been arrested. People are facing problems and we cannot even express our views in democratic ways. It is a very serious matter and the Government is knowingly misusing POTA. In addition to this, I want to say that 131 people involved in Godhara incident have been booked under POTA but how many persons involved in the incidents that took place in Gujarat in the aftermath of Godhara, have been booked under POTA?...(Interruptions) Sir, it is a very serious matter, I need your protection. I request you to please call the Home Minister and ask him as to how the misuse of POTA can be checked.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : sir, my notice for Adjournment Motion is also there along with that of Shri Ramji Lal Suman. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : On the issue of POTA, I have only three notices and I am going to permit those Members.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are constrained to raise this issue because of its

gravest importance. What we had said during the discussions has been proved to be correct. Absolutely, our fears have been found to be correct and justified.

When the Bill was piloted in this House, in the other House and also during the Joint Session, categorical assurance was given by the Deputy Prime Minister, who happens to be the Home Minister. We had said then, "You are taking power for yourself and giving power to all the State Governments? How can you assure that there would be no misuse by the State Governments" Now, he is passing on the buck to the State Governments saying that it is the State Governments which are doing this and, therefore, the Central Government is not responsible. But then, who piloted their Bill? Who introduced this Bill? Who gave the assurance to the Parliament and through the Parliament to the country that there will be no misuse of this law?

Shri Vaiko is under detention. A Member of Parliament for months is languishing in jail without any trial, without any bail application and this House is sitting quiet. We cannot do anything to protect a Member of our House against whom no definite charge has been made. We are against his politics but he has a right to liberty to come here, be present here in the House and take part in the deliberations. How can he lose his right?

As the other hon. Member has said, an MLA has been arrested. An 81 year-old person is arrested. In Jharkhand – it appeared in today's newspapers and I would like the Government to give a direct reply on it - a 12 year-old boy and an 81 year-old man have been arrested; farmers, students and daily wage earners are being arrested under POTA. It has become a normal law. It is being liberally misused in Tamil Nadu.

In Uttar Pradesh, it is being done; in Jharkhand, it is being done; and in Gujarat it has already been done. Are the matters relating to law and order sought to be solved by POTA?...*(Interruptions)*

The Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code have become irrelevant in this country, and the Constitutional protection has become a matter of charity today.

Sir, we are strongly opposed to this. It has appeared in the press. I would like to know the Government's view on this that anyone caught with the copy of the Communist manifesto or Mao's Red Book becomes a suspicious character and should be detained under POTA! I have the privilege and the pleasure of having both these copies. Then, am I amenable to be arrested under POTA? What is happening? ...*(Interruptions)* Is this a civilised country? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, can I not have a copy of the Communist manifesto which is the Charter of people's liberation in this country, in this world!

Sir, I would like to know from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* It has been reported today in a well-known newspaper, *The Times of India* that the total number of children arrested under POTA is 10. Ten children have been arrested under POTA!

Sir, we find the Ministers of this Government are meeting Shri Vaiko and expressing sympathy with him. What sort of Government is this? What sort of Ministers are they? They are sticking to the *gaddi* and they cannot protect their fellow Members of Parliament ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, this is a very tragic situation in this country. There is nothing called civil liberty. Some power hungry politicians who are in power somewhere are detaining people and misusing POTA openly. It is a draconian law.

Sir, I call upon this Government to give an explanation and see that all this misuse is curbed.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, there is no democracy. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a shame. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : Sir, on POTA, we also want to associate.

MR. SPEAKER : Regarding POTA, I have not opened this as a subject of debate. They are the Members who have given notices and I am allowing them to raise it. Please try to understand.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this apprehension was expressed by the entire Opposition in this house as well as when the Joint Session of Parliament was held. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : Sir, on this issue, I may also be allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this apprehension of misuse of POTA was expressed by the entire Opposition in this House as well as in the Joint Session of Parliament when POTA Bill was piloted.

On umpteen number of times, the Deputy Prime Minister had assured us here and there that the POTA would not be misused. But what he said yesterday in the other House is that 'it is being misused by the State Government; and the Central Government has nothing to do.' He said yesterday on the floor of the other House that: "though it is not a technicality, the fact is that the Central Government's authority and the State Government's authorities in matters relating to law and order are different. It is a hard Constitutional reality." He had admitted this in the other House.

Sir, it was also expressed by us that the State Governments as well as the Central Government would misuse it.

The misuse of POTA was started in Tamil Nadu. The existing member of this House is still languishing in jail for months together under POTA. It is also being misused

in Uttar Pradesh. We have just heard Somnath Da. He had referred to how the Government of Jharkhand had arrested 12 children under POTA.

Sir, the new Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission has also stated that there is no need of such a draconian law to curb terrorism in our country; there are umpteen number of other laws to deal with it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It was not he who said it. It was said by the earlier Chairman.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The earlier Chairman had also said it. The present Chairman, Justice Anand has also said it. I have seen his statement yesterday ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now. I am giving you the last minute today.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, there are umpteen numbers of laws which can be utilised to curb terrorism. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Sir, I may also be given a chance to speak on this issue. Ours is the affected State.

MR. SPEAKER : You give another notice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : No, Sir. You have given chance to everybody and you have to give a chance to me too because I am a Member from the affected State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not given chance to all the Members; I have given chance only to three Members who have given notices.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : You give me a chance to speak only for two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : In that case, other hon. Members will not get a chance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Sir, I want only two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : At this hour also, we demand that the provisions of POTA should be reviewed and the Act should be revoked. ...*(Interruptions)*
Sir, POTA should be revoked. This is our experience " it is being blatantly misused by the State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : This is the experience of the whole country, that all the black laws were finally declared *ultra vires*. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have only one issue before me.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Law and Justice is present here. ...*(Interruptions)*
He was advocating POTA very much ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Law Minister is here; he has to respond; it is a very important question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It will open up a debate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. A number of other hon. Members also have given notices. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to raise a discussion on POTA, you can raise it any time. But during 'Zero Hour',

how can you take the time of the other hon. Members?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. I am sorry. This creates indiscipline in this House. I have to permit all the other hon. Members to speak. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Deve Gowda can make his submission on his notice on 'problems being faced by farmers'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Law Minister should respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*
Please sit down. I have only two ways, if the House is to function at all. If you do not want the House to function, it is a different thing.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me complete now. Please sit down. When I am on my legs, do you not have the discipline to sit down?

I am making the point clear. If the hon. Members want to discuss only one or two issues, during 'Zero Hour', I have no objection. It is for the House to decide. But those hon. Members who have given notices should also get a chance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Sir, I want to say something on POTA. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let me complete now. Do you not allow the Chair to complete the statement? You are a disciplined Member; please allow me to complete.

I have received about 28 notices. All the notices are important. If there is a subject which needs a discussion,

you can come to the Business Advisory Committee and decide on it. But if every hon. Member wants to break the rules of the House, how the business can be conducted? Please cooperate with me.

A notice to raise an important issue was given by Shri Deve Gowda; I told him that he could raise that issue during "Zero Hour". He wanted to give a notice to raise that issue under some other rule. But I said that there was no time and that he could raise it during this time. He adjusted with me.

If POTA is to be discussed for the whole day, I have no objection. But a number of other issues will remain pending. Now, as a courtesy, I will permit only two Members to speak on POTA – Shri Jaipal Reddy and Shri Palanimanickam.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : I have also given a notice on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Have you given a notice on this issue? I will check it up. So, Dr. Malhotra will also speak on this. Thereafter, if the Government wants to respond, it can respond. Then we will take up the issue. the notice of which was given by Shri Deve Gowda.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : (Gopalganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the way people have been arrested under POTA ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is more than enough. Let the Chair have some discretion. Now, Shri Jaipal Reddy.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the Government brought forward the Bill relating to POTA, we did articulate our apprehensions. The Government, in all seriousness, invoked security of the country, the sovereignty of the country and integrity of the country as the grounds for this draconian piece of legislation.

13.00 hrs.

But we said that these objectives, laudable as they were and as they are, would not be served by the means of POTA. Unfortunately, all our fears have been proved true. Various instances have been given. I do not have to refer to those instances. I do not necessarily have to have a very high opinion of Raja Bhaiya to say that it might not be a fit case for POTA. One does not have to express opinions of individuals who have been wrongly booked under POTA at all but this particular law, because of its very nature, was liable for monstrous misuse. These are still early days. So many instances have already come to light. Therefore, in view of the fact that apprehensions and reservations are being expressed from all sides of the House, we plead that if the law cannot be ended, it must at least be amended. We must think of serious structural safeguards to prevent misuse. Will the Government respond?

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. At the time of passing of POTA, on behalf of the DMK Party we expressed our fears that this might be misused by the State Governments because we had the bitter experience of MISA during emergency. At that time the hon. Home Minister, Mr. Advani assured the House that this would not be misused by anyone. One of the sitting Members of this House, hon. Mr. Vaiko, has been in prison for nearly six months. I would like to know if it is misused by any State Government which is the forum where one can go for relief.

As quoted by our former Primer Minister, our NDA convenor Shri George Fernandes is here. Before the start of every Session he used to visit the Vellore jail to have discussion with Shri Vaiko. I would like to know whether he was endorsing the arrest of Shri Vaiko by the State Government or he wanted to bring him back from the jail to the House. Through you, Sir, I would like to know it from the Government.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : Let the Government respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to present the views of my party and the view is that POTA is to be used against the terrorists and the people indulging in cross border terrorism and it should not be used against any criminal or against one's political opponents. There is not any provision of that in POTA...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Please be specific and tell us about Uttar Pradesh. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Please tell us about Shri Vaiko and about the action being taken by Central Government regarding him. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : I have to say about it that ...(Interruptions) In the opinion of our Party, that Act is meant for terrorists and those persons who are receiving money from abroad for that purpose and who are conspiring to destroy our country. There is a provision under POTA which stipulates that the S.P. or any other officer misusing it will be sentenced with an imprisonment of two years. So, such officers should keep in their mind that they may be sentenced for its misuse. But, I think that the Government should pay attention to the methods which the opposition may suggest to check the misuse of POTA by State Governments ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : The Hon. Minister of Law and Justice is present here. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not now, it is enough, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Let the Minister respond on this important issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Harin Pathak is the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : POTA is being misused everywhere...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Please tell us about Mr. Vaiko and the action being taken by the Government in that regard...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It does not behave you, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It does not behave you, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, arrests have been made under POTA in many States. Many hon. Members have expressed their concern on this subject in this House. I would seek detailed information about each case from the concerned States and with the permission of the House and the Chair, it can be discussed in the House; in addition to it the House can also discuss about the action that can be taken on that ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we are walking out in protest ...(Interruptions)

13.06 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (Kanakpura) : Sir, you have given me the opportunity to raise the issue of farmers. But unfortunately, on the issue of POTA, the Government stand is crystal clear that they do not want to re-consider or

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

amend or withdraw the POTA which had been passed by the Joint Session. I would also want to protest. Therefore, I am also walking out.

13.07 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda left the House.)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, through you, would like to make an appeal to the Government that the Government has decided to hike the telephone tariff with effect from 1st April in urban as well as rural areas. On one hand, tariff of cellular phones is being reduced and on the other, the tariff of landline telephones which is an important item of use for the common man, rural and poor people, is being enhanced to a great extent. The fact is that by reducing the tariff of cellular phones, people are being encouraged to purchase cellular phone so that they get their landline telephone connections disconnected and go for cellular phones. This will not only make the Telephone Department of Government bankrupt but the multinational companies will levy the rent arbitrarily after some time. I, through you, Sir, would like to urge upon the Government that they should reconsider this issue keeping in views the great resentment among the general public and immediately withdraw the decision taken with regard to hike in telephone tariff.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Sh. Shankar Prasad Jaiswal – Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWLE (Mumbai South Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : Jaiswalji was mentioning time and again that his issue is very important. He is not present?

[English]

Shri Subodh Mohite – Not present.

People are giving notices and they remain absent in the House. It is not at all good. It is not desirable that the Members remain absent when their notices come up for discussion.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are the custodian of the rights and duties of the Members of Parliament. This House is an august house. Unfortunately, the Minister of State for Defence, Shri O. Rajagopal has made a statement in Kerala in a Press Conference that all the elected Members of Parliament from Kerala have failed to protect the interests of the State. He further mentioned that all the elected Members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha from Kerala are not prepared to argue for the rights of the State.

Sir, this is a very unfortunate statement. If a Minister of State makes such an irresponsible statement, then it would tantamount not only to lowering the prestige of the Members of the Parliament but would also the dignity of this House. This is highly objectionable.

Sir, as the hon. Speaker of the Lok Sabha you are well aware that all the Members of Lok Sabha from the State of Kerala, time and again raises very important issues pertaining to the State of Kerala. We are sitting in the Opposition. All the twenty Members of Parliament from the State of Kerala are sitting in the Opposition benches. In spite of that we are meeting the Ministers and we are raising our issues and also are pleading with them, to resolve the important issues concerning our State, irrespective of our party affiliations.

Sir, you are well aware that all the Members of Parliament from the State of Kerala are raising very vital

and important issues pertaining to our State in this august House. The hon. Minister is not from our State. He has been elected to the Rajya Sabha from the State of Madhya Pradesh. The people of Kerala has rejected the BJP candidates and now to take some political mileage out of this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I allowed you two minutes time but the subject to be raised by you is different in the notice. You wanted to raise about having more engineering colleges.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I have given another notice in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the notice.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALALA : I have given another notice to you because this is a very important issue. This is as good as lowering the prestige of the Members of Parliament and also the dignity of the House. Nobody from the BJP has been elected to this House from the State of Kerala. Such a statement from a senior leader, who is also holding the Defence portfolio, is highly objectionable. I would like to request, through you, to the Minister to withdraw this kind of a statement so that the dignity and decorum of the House could be restored.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, you would have to protect the interest of the States also. The State matters, like to use the POTA etc., are being raised here in this House. A law has been passed by the Parliament and when a law is in force, the State Governments would have to execute the law against the offenders. Would the State subjects be allowed to be debated in this House? In such an event we also would have to be on our legs and would have to have a permanent Member here to answer to the charges. Even yesterday it was raised by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav when he was comparing Uttar Pradesh with other States.

MR. SPEAKER : I know what is there in your mind.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Sir, please do not allow the State subjects to be raised here. Law and order is a State subject. A law has been passed by the Parliament and it has to be executed by the States. I was there to give answer ...*(Interruptions)* and I cannot wait here because somebody will raise it. So, you have to protect the interest of the States.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government are going to increase the monthly rent of telephone from Rs. 250 to Rs. 280. At the same time, they are also reducing the period of one call from 3 minutes to 2 minutes. Earlier, the number of free calls in one month was 75 and now the number of free calls is being reduced to 30. In this way, every month 45 free calls are being reduced. By reducing the time of a call from three minutes to two minutes, subscribers will have to pay an additional amount of 82 calls every month. Earlier, they had to pay Rs. 1325 for 1000 calls, now after the tariff hike, they will have to pay an additional amount of Rs. 2025. In this way, a subscriber will have to bear a burden of Rs. 695 per month and in other words there will be a hike of 52 percent. Due to this, the company of the Government viz. MTNL will be closed and after its closure 65,000 worker will lose their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the launch of Dolphin Service by Government in the market the tariff of cellular phone, which was earlier Rs. 16 per minute, has been reduced to Rs. 2.49 per minute. It is evident that due to MTNL, there has been a great fall in tariff of telephone which benefitted the subscribers. There should be competition and it is a very good tradition, but Government Company, MTNL should also be given permission to take part in the competition. I urge upon the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that the Government should withdraw the hike in telephone tariff which they are going to impose in the near future.

MTNL should purchase equipments to upgrade its technology so that the common people could be benefitted from the public service.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to urge upon the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Sushmaji that the Women Reservation Bill be introduced in the House for its passage.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, women constitute half of our population and still this Bill is not being introduced and passed in the House. It is highly unjust and oppressive step against the women.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, great socialist leader and thinker Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had remarked that woman are economically weak and backward like Harijans. Woman don't have any caste and her identity merges with that of her husband. Sir, through you I would like to submit that though we are heading towards 21st century but women's position remains unchanged. Poet Guptaji has said, "Abala Jivan, Hai Tumhari Yehi Kahani. Anchal Mein Hain Doodh, Ankhon Mein Hai Pani"

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill may please be introduced and passed so that the women could be uplifted to rid them of their present status which reflected in the said lines of the poem.

13.16 hrs.

(iii) RE: PROBLEMS BEING FACED BY THE FARMERS IN THE COUNTRY

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (Kanakpura) : Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you for having considered this as one of the serious issues. Your goodself tried your best in the Business Advisory Committee and some other hon. Members supported you; but unfortunately, due to the paucity of time, you were unable to take up this issue under the Adjournment Motion. When I gave the notice of Adjournment Motion on this issue, the matter was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee and it was unable to list it out for this week. I can understand the time constraint.

Today you have taken up three important issues during the 'Zero Hour'. I can understand that all the three issues are very major and important issues. I cannot minimise any issue as being less important. The farmers' issue is so serious that the sugarcane growers are suffering in every State. Even other farmers who are cultivating *kharif* and *rabi* crops are put to a lot of harassment. The 'Zero Hour' discussion is not going to serve the purpose. The hon. Minister of Agriculture is here.

MR. SPEAKER : He is here only to listen to you.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Yes, I know that he is here after your *aadesh*. He is also equally interested. I am not going to minimise his seriousness for this issue. Outside the House even he ventilated his feelings just like an Opposition Member, although he is the Cabinet Minister himself! I can understand his feelings.

Several farmers have committed suicide after the hon. Prime Minister gave an assurance in this House. I have got the list pertaining to my own State. I have not collected the list for the whole of the country. I have brought here the list pertaining to Karnataka. A number of farmers have committed suicide there after the hon. Prime Minister intervened in the discussions on the sugarcane issue and on the issue of drought, both of which had been moved by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. On both the issues he intervened and gave some categorical assurances. Unfortunately, after his assurance the situation has become even more serious and a larger number of farmers are committing suicide. I do not want to read out the entire list of farmers who have committed suicide in Karnataka, whether they are coffee growers or sugarcane growers or the traditional *kharif* and *rabi* crop growers.

The Prime Minister's statement is in my hands. I will read out only one sentence for the benefit of the House. The hon. Prime Minister stated that:

"I had earlier announced that the current year's interest on both *kharif* crop loan and agricultural term

loan will be deferred and the loans proper will be rescheduled into term loans to be recovered over the next five years in the case of small and marginal farmers and three years in the case of other farmers. In addition, interest for one year on both these types of loans amounting to Rs.640 crore has been deferred."

It was to be spread out over several years as a liability. This is the first part of his assurance on the floor of the House.

Sir, the Reserve bank of India issued guidelines. There is no mention of term loans in them. NABARD also issued guidelines and even in those guidelines, there is no mention of term loans. I do not want to go into the details. The interest component has been arranged for five years in such a way that, out of it, 20 per cent is going to be reimbursed by the Union Government. What for is this thing? Are you really interested in it? I do not want to go into the details, particularly the merits of the guidelines issued by the RBI, NABARD and the assurance given by the Prime Minister.

I am not going to politicise the issue. The entire House is concerned on this issue. When you had allowed a discussion under Rule 193, we discussed the issue for two days and the whole House had supported it. Even today, we should all collectively find out a remedy for the suffering farmers. Please fix some other date exclusively to discuss this issue and I hope this matter will be taken up seriously by all the Members of the house to find out a solution to the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I have no objection if the Business Advisory Committee agrees for a discussion on this issue but, in the meantime, would you like to react to whatever he has said? It is because I have to adjourn the House at 1.30 p.m and we have five to ten minutes more. So, you may just react to his points.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Sir, I would like to associate myself with Shri Deve Gowda on this issue...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Along with you, Shri Muniyappa and Shri Kodikunnil Suresh may also associate themselves with Shri Deve Gowda. Mr. Minister, you may react and if the BAC agrees, we will take up a discussion. In the meantime, since he has waited for a long time patiently and raised the issue, I think you must react to the issue.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek) : Sir, I have something to say...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When I called your name, you were not present.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Deve Gowda has raised an issue about which all Members are concerned. He wants to discuss it in detail. As you said, the Business Advisory Committee will look into it. So, it would be proper to respond only after I hear all the concerned Members. Let me hear them. There is no point in responding now, discuss it and again responding to it. But as far as the Government is concerned, if this issue has to be discussed in detail, we have no objection to it and we welcome it.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, you know that Kolkata Airport is the main entry to the Eastern Zone of India. The problem is, one after another, foreign airlines are withdrawn from Kolkata Airport and, because of that, the business and development of the eastern region is in serious trouble.

The KLM Airlines and the Japan Airlines which were there earlier have been withdrawn and so many other international airlines have also been withdrawn. This has created a big problem. So, the State Government and the Members of Parliament from West Bengal requested the Government to bring back the Kolkata-Singapore flight, Kolkata-Bangkok flight, Kolkata-Tokyo flight, KLM Airlines and Kolkata-London flight along with many other international Airlines which are willing to fly from Kolkata. But the Government is not taking much initiative in this regard. I would specially say that the Japan has is the

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

single largest investment in the eastern region in West Bengal. But they cannot come to Kolkata directly.

So, I request the Government that all the international airlines which were flying earlier should be restored and new airlines which want to fly from Kolkata should also be given permission and Government should take initiative in this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit to the Government that the people from all States in the country live in Mumbai which is the economic capital of our country. It is also the central place connecting the North and South India. My submission is that Mumbai be given the status of the second capital or the sub capital of country and a one month session of Parliament be convened there. I would like to submit to Shri George Fernandes that Mumbai be assigned the status of the sub capital of the country.

I demand from Shri George Fernandes to make Mumbai sub capital of the country...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Both the Ministers present here know Mumbai well.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the expansion of Bajpe, Mangalore, Airport including extension of runway has been underway for quite some time, but the work is not picking up enough momentum to ensure timely completion to avoid escalation in project outlay.

The Government of Karnataka on its part has spent more than Rs. 11 crore for land acquisition and re-

settlement of the displaced families and has already given possession of land to Airport Authority of India. Mangalore on the Western Coast serves a vast hinterland of populous towns and cities and also has a port handling much cargo traffic. The region attracts tourists from Indian and abroad in large numbers, apart from the 4.5 lakh NRIs working in the Gulf countries who visit their home towns in close frequencies.

Presently, they have to change over at Mumbai or elsewhere because of lack of facilities at Bajpe, Mangalore, to receive wide-bodied aircraft like Airbus or larger versions of Boeing which fly on national and international sectors. Further, a large number of Haj pilgrims from this region visit Mecca every year and they are put to hardships because of transshipment at Mumbai. Our neighbouring State, Kerala, has three international airports generating enough passenger revenue. Mangalore has much more revenue-generating potential if the work is completed early.

I urge the Centre not to slacken the pace of work at Bajpe for lack of Budgeted plan funds and to avail of Contingency Plan Funds available with the Ministry of Civil Aviation meant for projects of utmost public utility.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.27 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[English]

14.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up Calling Attention.

Shri Naresh Puglia.

CALLING ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported Detection of harmful pesticide residues in certified bottled drinking water

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that she may make a statement thereon.

"Situation arising out of the reported detection of harmful pesticide residues in certified bottled drinking water by Bureau of Indian Standards and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently the reports on the quality of bottled drinking water had been published in the newspapers and these reports are based on the studies of the Science and Environment Centre, 41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi.

As per the reports, the centre for Science and environment tested 17 brands of the bottled drinking water regarding the presence of harmful pesticides residues and the result of studies show that the samples which had been analysed contains the residues of harmful pesticides.

As per these reports the presence of the harmful pesticide residues in these bottled drinking water is due to the following reasons:

1. The harmful pesticide residues were found in the raw water samples (Ground water sample) that is the source of water for various manufacturers.

2. The method used for treatment of the raw water is not appropriate for removing the pesticides.
3. The reverse osmosis of the entire quality of water was not done as per rules, a part of the water is put under osmosis to maintain the prescribed level of minerals and it is mixed with the already treated water.

The norms fixed for the packaged drinking and mineral water were adopted by the Bureau of Indian standards in the year 2000 under the prevention of Food Adulteration, Rule 1955. Provision for mandatory certification of the packaged drinking water and the natural mineral water by the Bureau of Indian Standards has been made under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules. As per those norms, the level of the harmful pesticide residues in the bottled drinking and mineral water should be below the traceable limit of them when they are put under various methods of testing by the Bureau of Indian standards. As per the method of testing by Bureau of Indian Standards the analysed samples of packaged drinking and mineral water were found to be consistent with the expectations. However the harmful pesticide residues were found in the water in the study of the centre for Science and Environment due to the application of the more sensitive testing method. This testing method is more sensitive to that fixed by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

Now the proposals of the Bureau of Indian standards are as follows:

- (i) The methods of analysis be amended and the analysis be done through the internationally established testing methods which are in tune with the fixed limit of residues.
- (ii) maximum limit of the harmful pesticide residues in the package drinking water and mineral water be fixed as follows:
 - (a) Individually considered harmful pesticide residue – 0.0001 mg/Litres.

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

(b) Total harmful pesticide residues – 0.005 mg/liters

- (iii) Manufacturers are liable to produce a no-objection certificate from the ground water authority of the Central Government/State Government to get a certificate from the Bureau of Indian standards.

Since packaged drinking water is under the mandatory certification scheme of Bureau of Indian Standards hence there is a need of coordination between the prescribed norms of prevention of Food Adulteration rules and revised norms of Bureau of Indian Standards.

Accordingly, a draft notification GSR No.111 dated 18.2.2003 was issued to seek the comment of the public for amending the norms of packaged drinking water and mineral water under the PFA rule, 1955 as per the recommendations of Bureau of Indian standards. The following amendments are proposed by the said notification:-

- (1) Individually considered harmful pesticide residue-0.0001 miligram liter. (To meet the limit of above mentioned residue, analysis will be done by way of using internationally established testing system.)
- (2) Total harmful pesticide residue-0.0005 miligram liter to meet the limit of above mentioned residue internationally established testing methods would be adopted.
- (3) In order to get license from the Bureau of Indian Standards and PFA the manufacturer will submit a no objection certificate from Central Government/State Government under ground Water Authority.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister in her reply has give information regarding bottled drinking waters. However the

facts that have been brought to the notice of the people regarding the sale of drinking water particularly Bisleri Bottler, by the present newspapers and electronic media during the last two weeks clearly show how people are being looted. I was of the opinion that one can trust these companies especially foreign companies. There are 800 such companies which are supplying bottled drinking water in the country. Their turnover is above Rs. 1000 crore and while giving their advertisements they make to wering claims.

[English]

For example an advertisement in the Times of India says "Kinle 100 percent trust meets the internationally accepted and used the World Health Organisation's guidelines for portable drinking water"

[Translation]

In the result of the sample testing of this water which was conducted by CSI pesticide residues were found in them on large scale of these samples 17 Samples were collected from Delhi and 13 from Mumbai. In a magazine harmful effect of pesticide on health was reported. They highlighted as to what type of diseases develop in the body due to the use of these pesticides in drinking water and there was a mention also about-several diseases. Keeping in view the above situation I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that in order to stop looting of the people by the domestic and foreign companies in the name of Bisleri in the country. The Bureau of Indian Standards(BIS) has proposed that the standard of European Economic Commission, (EEC) should be adopted and at the same time I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that there are 8 companies having ISI mark, the Minister of Food and Civil supply has sealed some of those companies yesterday but merely sealing the company is not enough. What actions are being taken by the hon'ble Minister regarding the available stock. In regard to ISI mark that has been given to these companies I would like to know whether the samples were tested or not in the laboratory before giving them ISI mark. It has been demanded for

several days that it is due to the lack of testing equipments in laboratories, these companies are committing such irregularities. Several companies are using ground water taken directly from borewell or tubewell for packaging and are supplying to the people and are looting people in the name of mineral water of Bisleri. We were also trusting them and Bisleri water was given even to patients and children because we considered it hundred percent pure. Thus these companies are looting people in the country. As such what action will be taken by the hon'ble. Minister against these companies? The Minister said that eight units have been sealed which have ISI mark. I would like to ask as to what actions the Government are going to take against rest of the companies? Besides, whether or not the water was tested in laboratory before giving them ISI mark? Whether efforts will be made to make ISI at par with the European standard? I welcome your suggestion regarding amending the Act. Large quantity of pesticides are getting mixed in drinking water which is very much harmful. Keeping in view this the use of pesticide has been banned in foreign countries especially in America and England. Whether the efforts will be made to ban its use in our country?

In a survey it was reported that sea water be desalinised to make it potable water. This possibility is being explored especially in Arab countries by way of setting up desalination plants. If potable water is produced on a large scale, its costs 5 paisa per liter. However, here one liter bottled water is sold at Rs.10. The cost of raw water is ten paisa per liter. The cost of best possibility of treatment comes to 35 paisa per liter. Besides, packing and bottling costs one rupee ten paisa and expenditure on transportation comes to Rs.2 per bottle and the profit of retailer is Rs. 2. Over all the total cost of one liter of bottled water comes to Rs. 6.65. Out of which the major portion goes to retailer. The bottle is available in the market at Rs. 10 per liter. Thus the Government neither have control over the price nor on the quality of water. The hon'ble Minister have just now said that the Government have sealed these companies but it is not sufficient. What action is going to be taken by the Government against the owner

of those companies who were selling substandard quality of water?

Besides, soft drinks or cold drinks like Cococola, Pepsi manufacturing companies should also be investigated. If there is pesticide in the drinking water then anything may happen to these cold drinks. So we will have to pay attention to it. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether permission will be given to big units making drinking water through the process of sea water. Presently it is found in Industrial belt that contaminated water is packaged and sold in the big cities which is causing diseases. What action is going to be taken by the Government in this regard and whether the State Governments have been informed in this matter?

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Balia, Bihar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank the press, Doordarshan, Akashvani and media for bringing forth the facts before the public by investigating into this matter as to how the poisoned water is sold and how a major threat is posed to the health of the people. I would also like to thank the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Murl Manohar Joshiji for probing this matter through his department which revealed that poisoned water is containing harmful pesticide residues which may pose a serious threat to the health of the people. I would also like to thank the hon. Minister of Food and supplies Shri Sharad Yadavji who took action in this regard and withdrew the ISI marked from 8 companies and is taking further action in this regard. I would also like to thank hon. Minister of Health who is also the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs for acting expeditiously in the matter and as she has told just now that an advertisement has also been given in this regard to seek the opinion of the people. Gazette has also been published in this regard and the action to be taken accordingly in a month is also being contemplated. Right now the hon. Minister told that she has ordered an inquiry into this matter. I would like to know whether the technology of treating raw water to convert it into hygienic and pure water has not been developed so far? Whether any technology to separate the poisonous elements from

[Shri Ramjivan Singh]

water is yet to be developed. I am of the opinion that enough progress has been made in this regard and bottled water is being sold in the other countries also to remove the toxicity of water. Whether such technology to remove the toxicity of water has yet not been developed in those countries? If any such technology has been developed then, I would like to know as to what steps are being taken to bring the technology to India ? If any such technology has not been developed in India then why the permission for selling the toxic water is being given which may adversely affect the health of the people?

Secondly, the Government has sought the opinion of the people within 9 month by publishing a gazette I would like to know whether these companies can be permitted to produce and sell the contaminated water till the opinion of the people is received? Whether the Government propose to ban the sale of the toxic water till then? The consumption of drinks is progressively increasing in our country. According to one estimate its consumption has increased by 40 percent in previous years. In the year 1996 the rate of bottled water consumption in the country was only 9 crore liters which increased to 42 crore and 60 lakhs in 1997. While the drinks worth Rs. 200 crore only had been sold in the country in 1997, the figure has increased over Rs. 1000 crore now.

Today the bottled water is being used 90 percent in our country be it is hotel and restaurant and its percentage of consumption in homes is around 20 percent and 5 percent in the offices. Its use is increasing in all the ceremonies like wedding or other. Hence the investigation regarding the quality of bottled water is very important as it is linked with the people's health. This sector is primarily dominated by 3-4 companies like cola, Bislerie etc. Regarding Bisleri I want to state that—

[English]

"On May 16, the licence of Bisleri had been cancelled

by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Regardless, the brand continued manufacturing mineral water and sold it in bottles that bore ISI marks and BIS stickers..

While the investigations were under way, the company allegedly wrote a letter to the PFA submitting that their licence had been renewed on May 31."

[Translation]

When its license was cancelled on 16th May then why was the license issued again after 15 days? Four officers investigated into this matter in the month of June and found that the water was upto the mark. It is hard to understand as how the water which was declared unfit for consumption on 16th May could be declared fit on 31st May and hence licence is issued. What is this? I fail to understand that the same machinery is committing the irregularities through which such things are checked by the Government. It seems that poison is prevailing not only in the water but entire administration is also affected by it hence I would like to know as to what steps are proposed to be taken by the hon. Ministers to check these irregularities.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the centre for science and environment and the media deserves to be congratulate for making the surprising revelations on the bottled water and gratitude to them can not be expressed in words. It is clear that the Bureau of India Standards and our Government have shown a great negligence in regard to the quality of water and casual approach has been adopted even in such an important matter. The statement by the hon. Minister also endorse the fact that our drinking methodology is out dated. I would like to know that when this fact that our drinking methodology is outdated has been admitted by the hon. Minister on her own then what steps were taken by the Government in the matter? It has been mentioned in the statement that when samples of drinking water were tested by BIS, they were found fit absolutely. When the sample were tested by the Centre for Science and

Environment which has better accreditation in this regard it was found that the water contains pesticide residues. This clearly shows and is being accepted that we do not have sensitive methodology and our equipments are outdated, which failed to identify the pesticide residues even though they were present in large quantity. The residues could not be identified by BIS while centre for Science and Environment has proved their presence. It makes clear that the department is showing gross negligence in this regard. I would like to know as to what action is being taken to improve laboratories of the Indian Standard. The best machinery should be provided there. Existing machinery and equipments are in bad condition. I would like to know as to what action is being taken to improve the existing state of affairs and make available better equipments?

Sir, we were told that the internationally established testing method would be adopted and if there are enough reasons to adopt this method, it should be clarified. These methods probably include WHO also whose norms are a bit lenient and the norms of the European Economic Commission are also involved in it and they are considered most stringent and effective. Which norms would be adopted? In case the international methods are adopted how will testing be conducted? The whole controversy is the result of defective testing and therefore better sensitive and modern machinery would have to be brought. Better equipments are required for International methods so as to conduct testing as per International Standards. What action is being taken in regard to procure the better equipments? Only instruments would not solve the purpose training should also be imparted. Our people should be trained in using improved and upto date machinery. What steps are being taken in this regard? This aspect should also be clarified. It was said that internationally established methods and tested methods would be adopted but no clarification in regard to the time that would be taken to adopt internationally established tested methods and also as to what preparations have been made regard thereto, nothing has been told in this stage in the statement.

It has been told that either the number of microbiologists is too less or there is no microbiologist in the laboratories. I would like to know whether it is true or not? If it is so, who is responsible for it and what steps are being taken to tackle this miserable state of affairs?

Several questions have been raised in today's Indian Express and it has drawn the attention towards the audit report of 1997-98. Is it true that the costly equipments were imported and they remained packed for years. Consequently several equipments and parts thereof were either stolen or lost. Gradually what action was taken in regard to this negligence? It is surprising that five years have elapsed since the incident took place, I would like to know as to what action has been taken in this regard and who have been found guilty and what action has been taken there against? what remedial measures are being taken to prevent such criminal negligence. What steps have been taken to improve the norms of the Bureau of Indian standards?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the ISI trademark of eight companies have been withdrawn but the products which are already in the market do not have any standard? The studies by the centre for Science and environment have been published on 7th February and on 18th February it was gazetted in regard to standard that international methods would be used and it would be implemented from 1st April, 1st April is still far away. I would like to know whether the mineral water bottles containing harmful pesticides residues would keep on being sold and this loot would continue and this abhorrent game with the masses would continue. It is really unfortunate that nothing has been mentioned in the statement in this matter. The hon. Minister should, being courteous lady should take special case of the people and accord them top priority. I would like to know as to how long this loathsome act against the people would continue?

15.00 hrs.

How long this loot would continue? Lastly I would conclude by saying one more thing that if the Government

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

adopt internationally stringent standards, then there is possibility that the prices would increase further. However it does not mean that national standards not be modified to appropriate level.

I mean to say that the profiteering has reached its climax in case of the bottled water. I do not want to go into the details of the various pleas placed in this regard but I would take to seek this assurance from the Government that the profiteering and loot in the market be checked and quality should also be controlled. The prices of the bottled water be maintained at the rational level.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, three of my colleagues have raised questions regarding the Calling Attention Motion. Before replying to those questions I would like to dispel their doubts on this subject. Through you, I would like to inform the House that before 2000, water was not considered as a consumable commodity in our country. I would very humbly like to submit to hon. Banatwallaji that taking care of the consumers the Government which he was addressing as negligent Government, has given water the status of food for the first time in 2000. As far the bottled water is concerned ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : I have been in the habit of purchasing DMS milk at the rate of seven rupees per litre ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the country in which the water would be sold at the rate of Rs. 10 per litre, would certainly land into difficulties.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Raghuvansh Babu, why are you creating controversy unnecessarily. Hon. Minister has not said any thing to provoke you.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Raghuvansh Babu, I and you drink the water from handpumps and wells, about what you are talking? All of us are the consumer of milk sold at the rate of seven rupees per litre and the water

drawn from handpumps. We are talking about the consumers of bottled water. It does not behave you. You are the leader of the poor. Here we are talking about the prosperous people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Raghuvansh Babu, madam Minister is praising you.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I would certainly listen to you when the issue of Panghat or wells or 'bawdi' is raised because it is not necessary to speak on all the issues.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have committed a grave mistake by allowing a member to ask many questions on Calling Attention Motion whereas one member is allowed to ask one question only but it is not appropriate to put restriction on you.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would be happy if you put restriction on me. Sometimes only hints are dropped and I am getting them. House I feel that there is no need of a lengthy reply as all questions are similar. I would like to remind Banatwala Sahab that this very Government taking care of the consumers of bottled water, have given water the status of food and got it registered under B.I.S. When commodity is given the status of food under PFA Act, its standards are formulated and in our country these standards are fixed by a prominent institution like Bureau of Indian Standards. The Government asked it to fix the standards in this regard. Besides fixing standards BIS fixed the methods to be adopted in determining these standards. BIS also fixed the standard of below detectable limit and subsequently the packed column method was fixed under which the samples of bottled water be tested and if the sample does have any harmful pesticide residues below the level of detection in the same then it should be considered fit for consumption. Hence Ramjivan Babu and Shri Naresh Pugliaji have concern and raised several questions like the fate of available stock, the action to be taken till 1st April since when the new law would be implemented and also the reasons for sealing selective companies and not

disposing their stocks. It is not so that the companies are selling poison. I have said initially also that I need to remove those apprehensions. I would like to tell that the samples of bottled water has been found very much in consistence with the norms and standards fixed by BIS, notified by the Ministry of Health and included in PFA. Hence there is no legality in taking action against those companies under the existing laws.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far CSE is concerned, I would like to inform the House that as per rules standards fixed by BIS are liable to be reviewed after every five years keeping in view the fact that the techniques keep on changing; methods are becoming more stringent which inspire us to keep pace with the world. India should follow the international norms and we should adopt the better and modified methods. Hence the provision of reviewing the standards every five years has been made. In the rules these norms are to be reviewed in May, 2003. However before that CSE adopted this international method to examine the samples of water and it is due to this reason that I mentioned earlier that the methods adopted by CSE are more sensitive than the one fixed by BIS and subsequently notified by the Government. The Government had adopted the packed column method while the intentionally acceptable method is known as capillary method. When the sample were tested with capillary method, the detectable limit was further below then the CSE concluded that harmful pesticide residues are present in the water. Then the Government also felt the need to adopt international standards in view of consumer's interests. Hence it was fixed by BIS themselves. As one report has come in which it has been stated that the standard should also be quantified and also the method which is of international standard should be adopted. They said that why we should stick to our own method, let us make new standard. The Ministry of Health says that it should be notified and it's essential to publish it in public Gazette before notifying it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have submitted a new proposal to the BIS about which I have referred twice in

my earlier statements. They have quantified for mineral as well as packed water instead of below detectable limit. As I have said it has quantified 0.0001 per liter and 0.0005 per liter instead of ambiguous or below detectable limit.

Secondly they have said that the word internationally acceptable standards or internationally acceptable has been used because presently the capillary is the biggest method. The way technology is advancing today and suppose if some more sensitive method is evolved in future then in internationally acceptable there will be possibility for accommodating other bigger method which is more sensitive than the capillary. We have notified the standards that have been given to us by the BIS officials. Then we invite public objections on those. We asked the Ministry of Law to invite it in fifteen days. They said that 30 days will be required. Now all the stock holder, water bottling companies will present there views and consumers will also present their views and submit the pros and cons. All these things will be presented to the Central Committee for food studies which is called CCFS. All these points will be presented before CCIS. Thereafter whatever will be decided by them will be notified by us. The stands which were determined by BIS and notified by the Health Ministry in view of the condition prevailing in the country at that time are being fully complied with. But today after the presentation of the report it has been felt and if this report has not been presented even then this matter would have been reviewed so as to upgrade these standards and the methods. We have sought comments from the people on the new standards and methods which have been prepared by the BIS. The reply in this regard will come in a month. After the reply meeting of CCFS, if required will be called otherwise whatever will be decided after taking the views we will notify and whatever amendment in the Act is required will be done. However, if anyone is thinking that Poisson is being mixed in the water and this is not potable and the action is required to be taken then it is not so. Ramjivan Singh had pointed out that previously four persons were suspended. Now all those four persons

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

have been reinstated and after coming back have certified this. I would like to inform him that this case is not concerned with the present regime. That is Bislerie case of 1992 where people were first suspended and then reinstated. If there is any one of 1992 regime present here then he is responsible for that. Neither Sharad Yadav ji nor Sushma ji nor the present regime is responsible for that case that you have presented.

I feel that I have given satisfactory answer to the question.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : The most polluted water is supposed to be what is being supplied by the Railways. The water bottled by the Railways and supplied by them has been found to be the most polluted and damaging of all the bottled water. [Translation] What are you doing for this? [English] This is manufactured by the Railways, under their supervision. ... (Interruptions) This water is bottled by the Railways and supplied by the Railways. The report says that it is the most polluted. [Translation] What are you doing for this?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I think, the clarificatory questions asked by each hon. Member have been replied to.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, this is also bottled water.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I think, she wants some further clarification.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Who is looking into the

railway case? It is not private activity, rather it is being bottled under the supervision of the Railways.

[English]

They are supplying it to the passengers in the trains.

[Translation]

Who is supervising the bottled water of Railways? Who is taking responsibility of it? Is not railway monitoring this?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Alva ji, you please repeat your question.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I would like to submit that it was reported that the water supplied by Railway and being bottled under the supervision of railway is most polluted. My question is whether the said issue will come under the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Railway?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Whosoever is bottling the water whether domestic or foreign companies and is supplying must meet the prescribed standards and it is my Ministry that will monitor it.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : You say that they are not at fault then why ISI mark of 8 units has been withdrawn? What is the reason behind this?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The food and Consumer Affairs Ministry is the licencing authority. So the case of sealing the units is concerned with them. The Ministry of Health has nothing to do with it.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : It means that since the quality of products was not upto the mark and did not meet the standard of ISI so ISI mark has been withdrawn. It means that you are misleading the House.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I am not misleading the House at all. I have given correct reply to the questions which were concerned with the Ministry of Health. The

Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs is licensing authority.

[English]

15.13

MOTION RE: FORTY-SIXTH REPORT OF
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Item No.13. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Sir, I beg to move:

"This House do agree with the Forty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 19th February, 2003".

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 19th February, 2003".

SHRI G.M BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Report be referred back to the Committee with reference to the item regarding discussion on Ayodhya issue to so advance the date of the discussion as to ensure an immediate discussion thereon."

Sir, if this Ayodhya issue is going to be discussed on the 26th February, it would be very late. We have to persuade the Government to withdraw its petition to the Supreme Court.

That is of immediate importance. Please do not scuttle the discussion. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, you are also a Member of the Business Advisory Committee.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : No, Sir, I am not a Member of the Business Advisory Committee. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Business Advisory Committee has unanimously accepted it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall now put the amendment moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It is very sad. ... *(Interruptions)*
It loses its importance. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, I had put your amendment to the vote of the House. What else can I do?

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : That is also very sad. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 19th February, 2003".

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we shall take up matters under rule 377.

15.17 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(I) Need to provide adequate funds to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for renovation of irrigation projects in the State

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Sir, there are 17 minor irrigation projects in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh out of which 16 were constructed before independence. It is due to the lack of resources and mismanagement of the State Government that the 60 to 90 years old irrigation projects are in a every dilapidated condition. Canals are in a very bad condition culverts have been broken. Heavy silt has deposited in dams and it is because of this that the area of irrigation is shrinking due to lack of sufficient storage capacity of dams. It is due to this mismanagement that 92 years old dam of Jamunia reservoir breached and caused heavy devastation. I had drawn the attention of the House regarding the impending danger of breach of dam but the State Government could not protect the dam.

So I urge upon the Government to approve the proposal regarding renovation of 16 minor irrigation projects alongwith the breached dam and provide required funds for the projects and bail out farmers of Balaghat districts from this situation.

(II) Need to start gauge conversion work of Gonda-Bahraich rail line and extend it upto Tikonlia in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY (Bahraich) : Sir, it is a longstanding demand that Gonda-Bahraich metre gauge be converted into broad gauge. But the said line has not been converted into broad gauge. Consequently, the passengers travelling daily from Gonda to Bahraich have to face many difficulties. Several representations have been given in this regard but till now nothing has been done in this regard. Precious time of daily passengers goes

waste as this line has not been converted and they have to face lots of difficulties. Though the foundations stone of this line was laid on 7 June, 2002 and the assurance was given that it will be converted into broadgauge expeditiously, work of conversion of this line has not been standard so far.

Therefore I urge upon the Government that Gonda-Bahraich rail line be converted into broad gauge immediately and extended upto Mailani so that passengers traveling on this route may get relief.

(iii) Need to bring a legislation to ban cow-slaughter in the country

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Sir, the incidents of cow-slaughtering is occurring at several places in the country. It has also been reported that on the pretext of male young of buffalo (Para) is being sold and exported. On account of this there is a acute resentment among the majority community. It is the duty of the State Governments to bring legislation to prevent cow-slaughtering and complied with. However in many States such legislations have not been formulated to prevent cow-slaughtering and cows are openly slaughtered in such States There is need to prevent cow slaughtering all-over the country.

I urge upon the Government to take initiatives in this direction and to enact legislation to ban cow slaughter completely in country so to respect the feelings of the people.

(iv) Need to release additional quota of wheat to drought affected Rajasthan

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards the serious problem of Rajasthan.

Sir, on account of severe drought in Rajasthan the condition of the people is deteriorating and due to the shortage of fodder, cattle are also dying. Instead of increasing the number of labourers, the Rajasthan

Government has reduced it by 25 percent. Consequently, the situation has further worsened. The State Government states that since the Central Government have cancelled the allotment of wheat, it has reduced the number of labourers.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government that alongwith the quota of wheat allotted earlier additional quota be released to the State so that the poor may get relief in the prevailing situation of severe drought.

[English]

(v) Need to take up Third Canal System of the Upper Indravati Project in Kalahandi district of Orissa under AIBP Programme

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the third canal system of the Upper Indravati Project in Kalahandi district in the State of Orissa be taken up under the AIBP programme during the financial year 2003-2004 as it will irrigate the chronically drought prone area of the district. Also, this project was cleared prior to 1980 and is long overdue.

The canal in question was called as the Lift Irrigation Canal System of the integrated Upper Indravati Multi-Purpose Project.

[Translation]

(vi) Need to ensure plantation in mining areas of Aravali hills in Rajasthan with a view to check environmental degradation.

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA (Salumber) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, 8900 mines have been closed in Rajasthan on the ground that it is degrading the environment of various ranges of Aravali hills as a result, the workers of Hindustan Zink Limited, RSMM, Greenmarbal Granite, soap stone etc have been affected and if the members of their families are added then it came to nearly 12 lakh people. Besides, the workers employed in truck transportation of marble, zink lime stone etc. and along with

this marbal agencies and rock phosphet works were getting severely affected. This is the only occupation in Rajasthan that supports lakhs of families. Apart from that Rajasthan Government and Central Government get a revenue of approximately Rs. 2 crore daily in the form of royalty and taxes from mining industry. The funds are provided by the Central Government and the Rajasthan Government for the protection of Aravelli forests. besides, foreign capitals amounting to billions of rupees are spent by the forest department despite indiscriminate deforestation is going on. Moderate mining in a hill does not affect the environment of the area. However, responsibility should be assigned to the people involve in the mining that trees be planted in the area where mining activities is undertaking. Through this way mining activities will not be affected and the forest can also be protected.

I urge upon the Government of India that more and more efforts should be made for afforestation in mining areas and for their protection so that environment of the area may not degrade.

[English]

(vii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Maharashtra to cope with severe drought in the State

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there have been unprecedented drought conditions prevailing in the entire State of Maharashtra. Such a severe drought has never been witnessed by the State before. This has badly affected not only the crop but the entire economy of the State. The drought posed a serious threat before the peasants and the marginal farmers. The production of orange has been adversely affected which has put the farmers and the traders to tremendous losses.

The acute shortage of water and cattle fodder is further endangering the health of the cattle and also creating exasperating situation in the State. There has been considerable fall in the water level of dams which has

[Shri Vilas Muttemwar]

miserably affected the yield of the main crops of the region. The State is in severe financial constraints and requires immediate assistance to cope up with various stringencies.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to come to the rescue of the State Government of Maharashtra by extending appropriate financial help not less than Rs. 1,000 crore to meet the situation.

(viii) Need to construct high level bridge over river Brahmani in Dhenkanal Parliamentary Constituency, Orissa

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there has been an inordinate delay in the construction of the high level bridge over river Brahmani on the Nilkanthpur Bhuban Road connecting Mandar-Gondia, Deogaon, Kapilas and Dhenkanal in Orissa, connecting N.H. 42 with N.H. 200 and N.H. 5 between Kolkata and Chennai. The project was accorded administrative approval in 1994. It is named after a great freedom fighter, 13-year-old boatman, Shri Baji Rout, who died in police firing at village Nilakanthpur in 1938 and who is immortalised by the former Oriya poet, Gnanpeeth Award winner Sachi Raut Ray. The people, particularly the small and marginal farmers, find great difficulties in marketing their produce due to lack of means of transport in the absence of a bridge. Steel plants are coming up in the area with the hope that the bridge would be constructed soon. Besides connecting the district headquarters Dhenkanal, it will provide a direct communication for the devotees to pay a visit to the famous holy shrine of Kapilas, the abode of Lord Chandrashekhar.

I request the Union Government to construct the Baji Rout Setu over river Brahmani in my constituency Dhenkanal without any further delay.

(ix) Need to protect the interests of plantation industry, particularly in Kerala

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Government is very well aware of

problems faced by plantation industry in Kerala. Plantation industry has represented to the Government. The Government should:-

- (1) instruct banks to extend necessary financial assistance at simple interest rates;
- (2) set up a plantation bank;
- (3) extend necessary customs/excise duties concessions;
- (4) find ways and means to increase the export.
- (5) allocate adequate funds for research and development in plantation sector to increase production; and
- (6) extend adequate financial assistance to State of Kerala for growth of plantation.

(x) Need to check move to privatisise mining of strategic minerals in Kerala

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, the coastal stretch from Neendakara in Kollam district to Thottapally in Alleppey district in Kerala State has the richest mineral deposits in the country which includes ilmenite, rutile, leucoxene, silliminite, zircon and monazite in heavy quantities. As they come under the strategic minerals, the mining rights in these areas are fully owned by the Government and hitherto conducted only by the Kerala State owned Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited and the Indian Rare Earths Limited, a Central Government undertaking.

Meanwhile, the hon. Prime Minister has announced a new project of mineral separation plant worth Rs. 10,000 crore, a joint venture of National Mineral Development Corporation and Indian Rare Earths Limited, Kollam during his inaugural address on 18th January, 2003 at the Global Investment Meet conducted by the Government of Kerala. However, it is understood that the Government of Kerala has designed the project in the private sector. It is learnt that the Kerala Government has already submitted this proposal for the approval of the Central Government.

The privatisation of this strategic sector will be a great threat to the security of the nation and detrimental to our national interests. Indiscriminate private mining will cause adverse environmental problems and shatter the livelihood of the fishermen community of coastal Kerala. Hence, I would like to urge the Central Government to retain the mineral and mining absolutely in public sector in view of our national security and national interests.

**(xi) Need to look into problems being faced
by Industrial Workers in the country**

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, disregarding the all round demand for a thorough re-appraisal of the economic policies of the Union Government, the Government is pushing forward policies of globalisation and amendments in labour laws. Profitable PSUs like oil companies, BPCL and HPCL, and other sectors of PSUs are on the line of disinvestment and some PSUs are already sold out. Unemployment has mounted on an unprecedented scale due to down-sizing, retrenchment, contractualisation, outsourcing and closure of units. It is learnt that on 26th February, 2003, millions of workers and employees from all over the country will march to Parliament to lodge their protests against labour policies of the Government. At the call of CITU, AITUC, hundreds of federations and irrespective of political affiliations, people from all sections of life will join the Protest March.

I request the Government to concede to the legitimate demands of the workers, employees and other sections of deprived people of the country.

**(xii) Need to grant subsidy for setting up
Durgadwani Mini-Hydel Project in Sunderbans
area, West Bengal**

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Sundarban areas of West Bengal are very backward. But, there are vast natural resources including potential for the generation of non-conventional energy.

Last year the Government of West Bengal has sent a proposal to set up Durgadwani mini-hydel project. This project is very important to meet the energy requirements of Sunderbans. The Centre is giving 90 per cent subsidy for the backward areas of the North-Eastern States and other backward areas for the setting up of various projects including power projects. For the Durgadwani project the grant of subsidy is needed as the State Government has very little resources.

Since, Sunderbans is a very backwards area, I demand that the Centre should also grant 90 per cent subsidy for the Durgadwani project. I hope that the Government would take a favourable decision so that the Durgadwani project can be set up at the earliest.

15.32 hrs.

**SPECIAL PROTECTION GROUP
(AMENDMENT) BILL**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Legislative Business, Item No. 15 The time allotted is two hours. Shri I.D. Swami.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Special Protection Group Act, 1988, be taken into consideration."

In fact Sir, this Bill was enacted for the constitution of Special Protection Group (SPG) in the year 1988 and within a period of 10 to 11 years from 1988 to 1999, the Act was amended thrice.

First, it was amended in the year 1991 because primarily the SPG as constituted to provide for the SPG cover for the Prime Minister. But, later on it was felt that the former Prime Ministers should also be provided the

[Shri I.D. Swami]

same cover. So, in 1991 the amendment was made and in 1991 by that amendment all the former Prime Ministers after the demit of office were also provided SPG cover for five years.

But, after that in 1994, again the amendment was made and the period was extended from five years to ten years. But, in 1999, again it was felt that even after ten years period, there may be necessity - because of the threat perception to the former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members - that such a protection is needed, such a cover is needed.

Then in 1999, it was further amended to provide for even beyond ten years on the basis of the threat perception. so, it is now to bring that uniformity and the basic requirement on the case to case basis that the present amendment Bill is being moved so that all the former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members are provided this SPG cover on the basis of threat perception from year to year so that the Government is not bound to provide for ten years or five years - now, of course ten years and beyond ten years. It is because beyond ten years, as you will see, in the case of our Leader of the Opposition Smt. Sonia Gandhi, after 1999 also the cover has been provided every year on the basis of threat perception. I feel that the whole country realises and the Government is conscious of it and it will continue to be provided till such time that threat remains to her life or to the life of her immediate children - both the son and the daughter. So, in that case, that is why, this Bill has been moved for amendment so that the changes would be in addition to the consequential changes that the Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members this cover shall be available for a period of one year from the date on which the Prime Minister ceases to hold office.

It is also provided that if the assessment requires the continuation of the security cover, then it will be continued on a year by year basis. Of course, the condition is that

not more than twelve months shall elapse between the first assessment and the second assessment. Within 12 months, this assessment should be made and it should be extended. This is done on the basis of the threat perception. This is what we would like to seek through this Bill.

Of course, we have also added in the amendment, which will be officially moved later, namely :-

"(A) that the threat emanates from any militant or terrorist organisation or any other source:

There can be Mafia and other groups. That is why, the words "other sources" have been added.

(B) that the threat is of a grave and continuing nature."

With these amendments, this Bill has been moved before the House. I will request the hon. Members, through you, that this Bill may be considered and passed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Special Protection Group Act, 1988, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sir, the Government has moved an amending Bill to the Special Protection Group Act and has also introduced amendments to the amending Bill. We appreciate the stand of the Government and we support the amendment to the amending Bill, and the amending Bill also.

15.36

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair]

The law was made to provide protection to the Prime Minister. We cannot forget that one of the most illustrious Prime Ministers lost her life, and we also cannot forget that one of the former Prime Ministers had lost his life after the SPG cover was withdrawn. It is also known to us that one

of the Chief Ministers of our State also lost his life. Of course, this law is applicable to the Prime Minister, former Prime Minister and immediate members of his family. Yet, this fact also cannot be forgotten by us that one of the Chief Ministers was assassinated. It has also to be realised that there are other leaders in the country, who face the danger to their lives. Of course, this law is not applicable to them, but the danger is quite visible; it is quite known. Therefore, we have to be very, very careful. We lost one of the MPs: she left this House, went outside and she was assassinated.

Now, as far as the Prime Ministers, former Prime Ministers and leaders of the political parties are concerned, the danger to their lives arises not because of anything done by them personally – maybe, in one case, but that may be a different case – but we have seen that the danger to the lives of these leaders arises because of the political stand they have taken and because they had to discharge some duties. In the process of discharging their duties, they had created enemies to themselves. Now, this has to be borne in mind.

We have been discussing this issue in our country sometimes on the floor of the House and sometimes outside the House also. One of the views expressed is that we should not spend so much money on providing security to these leaders. It is true that funds should be used in a very frugal and economical manner to provide security. At the same time, it should be realised by us that if anything happens to the political leaders the damage does not remain limited to the people involved or the families involved but it has wider implications. It creates a sort of an atmosphere in the country wherein people would lose faith in themselves, in their Government and in the establishment which is created by us to provide security and protection to the citizens. The cost involved in facing that kind of a danger is much more than the cost involved in providing security to some leaders. This fact has to be borne in mind.

You in the Government, and also we as representatives of the people sitting on this side of the House shall have

to take a very responsible and balanced stand on this issue. On the one hand funds should not be wasted and on the other we have a duty to provide security and confidence to the citizens, to those who are involved in policy-making, and to those who are involved in discharging their duties. If those who are involved in policy-making and discharging their duties face danger to their property, or to their limbs, or to their lives or to the lives of their kith and kin, the confidence which the people would lose as a result of that would prove to be very difficult to restore. That is why we shall have to take a very balanced, very responsible and scientific, I would say, stand in this respect. Fortunately, in my individual opinion, the present Government is trying its best. We think that they will continue to do this in future also.

There are certain historical facts which cannot be forgotten. We shall have to bear those historical facts in mind while assessing the level of threat, which is directed against some leaders in a party. Not only the Prime Minister or the former Prime Minister, but their relations also sometimes are in danger. That has to be borne in mind. Not only Prime Minister, former Prime Minister and their kith and kin, but there are some other leaders who face threats. I have spoken on this issue not once but many times. I have spoken on the floor of this House that we know whose lives are in danger and the Government has a duty, has a responsibility to provide proper, appropriate security to them also. I hope the Government will not be only taking into account the criticism levelled that funds are being wasted. We should not waste funds. That is not our money, it has to be properly used. At the same time, the other things are equally important. The Government should bear that also in mind. I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything more than this in this regard.

What has been done by the Government appears to be correct in the circumstances. Only one point which I would like to make is that if you are providing proximate security cover to a Prime Minister, after he retires you are providing that proximate cover to him only for one year.

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

My personal assessment is that this period is not enough. One year's security cover provided to the person who has demitted the office of the Prime Minister is not sufficient. It should be more than that. You may not have it for ten years, you may not have it for five years, but one year is not sufficient.

It could have been three years. Then, after assessing and after obtaining the opinion of the experts, if something has to be done, I think, it should be done, and if it is done, I think, the House will agree to it also.

With these few words, I conclude.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) : Madam Chairperson, I stand here in support of the amending provisions of the Special Protection Group and the amendment to the amending provisions both.

As the hon. Minister has indicated, the amendments to the amending provisions have come because of certain constraints regarding the children of the Leader of the Opposition. Very rightly so, these amendments have come because the next of kin had been omitted in the first amendment itself.

Madam Chairperson, when I stand here to speak on the protection that is to be given to the former Prime Ministers and the next of kin, I would invite attention to the proviso which has been given in the second amendment. You would kindly appreciate that the security scenario has become bleak in this country. It is mostly because of the Islamic fundamentalism which has been spreading its tentacles from across the borders. *Al-Qaida* and its sister organisations, be that by different names they are being called, viz., *Jaish-e-Mohammad*, *Lashkar-e-Taiba*, *al-Badr* or any other name they take, from day-to-day, from month-to-month, have been raised, nurtured, funded and are being sent to India to destabilise this country, to create problems in this country and in the process to exterminate the leaders of this country by whatever means possible.

We have to keep it in account that the mindset of Islamic Fundamentalism is to ensure that the entire world is ruled by the *Shariat* and to ensure that the Islamisation takes place in a proper manner. The manner in which these are being done has been very succinctly indicated by an American journalist. Here, I would like to quote him. He said:

"The persistence of *Al-Qaida* underscores how hard it is for the Governments to stamp out Stateless, decentralised networks that move freely, quickly and stealthily across national borders to engage in terrorism."

An, that is what is happening in our country.

Madam, Chairperson, we have seen the activities of the Pakistani High Commission and the stooges that have been working in Delhi itself. About 62 ISI modules have been working in Delhi to the detriment of the peace and security of this country.

Recently I had been to West Garo Hills of Meghalaya and Assam after a lapse of about 25 years. I was shocked to find that there has been a large-scale infiltration of Bangladeshis into India. You would kindly appreciate that in spite of this influx of these Bangladeshi Muslims, there is a clear division in Assam in the Muslim Society. Those of the Muslims who have been staying in Assam right from the Gaud Kingdom are called *Gaudiyas* and those of the Muslims who have come from Bangladesh are called *Mians*. Even now, there is no intermingling between these two groups. The *Gaudiyas* look down with contempt on the *Mians*.

The entire economy of that area is shattered because of the influx of these people. I have seen in two police station of West Garo Hills District i.e., *Mahendraganj* and *Phulwari* police stations of West Garo Hills District where the entire population is almost of Bangladeshis. I do not say that all the people who have come from Bangladesh are potential threat to this country or belong to any terrorist organisation. But I would like to point out that there is lax in vigil on the part of the BSF. Here, I am sorry to state

this thing. I was told by the people that if the Commandant is strict, then there is no infiltration or smuggling of goods, but if the commandant is not strict, free flow of people, goods and everything take place. I was amused to find that good chicken and hen are brought to the table of the BSF personnel by the persons who live in Jamalpur or the previous Maimansing district of Bangladesh. Why I want to stress this thing, when the Special Protection Group amendment is being brought here, is to hit upon the fact that we have to be very cautious, when we find that people of the same ethnic group or of the nearby ethnic groups are coming and going, and that the border fencing is being broken and disturbed at places. There are rivers which have not been fenced at all. These people have shattered the economy also. In Tura, I found that a person of the Mia group is satisfied with Rs. 50 a day as daily labour charges, whereas the local people would like to take nothing less than Rs. 75 per day. Now, these people are being engaged by the local traders and by the local people. These people carry information regarding movement of important persons. I fully agree with Mr. Shivraj Patil. Now the scenario is such that one is not free from any attack from a terrorist group or a militant. I am only stressing my point on the terrorist groups. No leader of any importance is free from such threat. You give him any type of protection that you may like to and unless the infiltration is completely stopped or to some extent curbed from Pakistan and from Bangladesh sides - they are soft borders, they are porous borders - you cannot do anything.

Of late, the West Bengal Government has woken up. They were turning a Nelson's eye to the influx of Bangladeshi people in the West Bengal. Now, they have woken up. It is a good thing that they have taken stern action. The State Governments have to take stern action in this matter. But, those people who have been coming in, they are being funded by the ISI modules inside Bangladesh.

The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh had come recently to India. Directly or indirectly, he said 'yes' ISI modules of Pakistan are operating in Bangladesh. When he is telling this thing, we have to be very cautious. It

is because yesterday, there was an attack on the Parliament, many important members have been attacked here and there, and the history is replete with examples of Prime Ministers being killed, and unless we take certain means by which we should be able to curb the activities of these people and be cautious about our Jaichandras, it would be very difficult to bring about any type of security.

Kindly give me few minutes because I have already informed my party that I would like to take some more time here. Kindly be condescending enough to give some more time to me, Madam.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : There are still more speakers to speak on this Bill.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : I never disobey, as you know, but here I would like to take some more time. If you permit me I will speak otherwise I will sit down. It is up to you Madam.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You have got your party's time, and you use it. But there are many hon. Members to speak on this Bill.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : It is all right. The total time allotted for discussing this Bill is two and half hours. So, I should be given more time. I think my other colleagues will also agree with me.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : You carry on.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : What I would like to tell Madam is that we have to find out the terrorist organisations which are being funded by Pakistani agencies, we have to find them out, and take steps to curb them. We have strengthened the SPG. Previously, we had started them with the NSG, National Security Guard where terrorism has been defined in one of the Sections. Then we came with the SPG Act. The Government of India has been cautiously and strenuously trying to find out as to whether we should be able to engage other force also to provide security coverage to important persons.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

The CISF is being trained properly now. CISF is a force which has about 90,000 personnel. Three battalions of CISF could be trained or five battalions of CISF could be trained properly and posted here in Delhi itself because as I said, there are 62 modules of ISI which are working here – whether they are active or not is immaterial. If CISF is properly trained in VIP security and a blueprint for VIP security is prepared it would be good. I am not talking of the Prime Ministers now or then or of those Prime Ministers who had demitted office ten years ago, for whom a public road is closed for safety; I am not talking about that; I would not talk on the SPG people asking even MP-level cars not to be kept near the fence of the former Prime Ministers' residences. That is beside the point. I am not talking about that. We have to accept the minor inconvenience.

What I am trying to impress upon is this. In Delhi, we would like to have some sort of special cover not only for former Prime Ministers, but also for former Ministers, different leaders who are active in political life, each one of the political leaders whether he is a Member of Parliament now or was a Member of Parliament earlier, or was a Minister earlier, requires total coverage and that is the most important matter which is to be considered by the Government at this juncture.

As I said earlier, there is a criticism regarding coverage being given. We have to bear with that criticism. We have to keep in mind that we are still in a feudalistic society although we say that we are a democracy. Persons would like to be followed by a retinue of people whether they are of different special coverage groups or PSOs or anything of that sort. We have to bear it; we have to suffer that. Public also suffers because of the blip of the siren, there will be the stern look of the persons who have been accompanying the VVIPs, the pushing and jostling that takes place at different places – we have to suffer that; we have to accept it as a way of life. Those are the matters which are on the other side of the story itself.

The basic concept which is to be thought of now is that we have to grapple with infiltration, the terrorist activities, and the funding of terrorists under different names, by the whole fundamentalist approach of Islamisation, etc. That is most important and that is to be taken into account. Let the country not be unstable and let the country not suffer because of the activities of the people who have been trying to create fissiparous tendencies in this country.

In supporting this Bill, I would urge upon the Government to bring up a blueprint and place it before Parliament as to in what manner important persons could be given due protection, as Shri Shivraj Patil has very clearly indicated.. I fully support him too. That is the most important thing that is to be taken into account.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Thank you, Madam Chairman. I rise not to oppose this Bill. But while supporting this Bill, I want to raise some points for clarifications from the hon. Minister.

This SPG (Amendment) bill is going to amend the SPG Act. Really the internal security situation in our country is very grave and there is no doubt about it. The hon. Members from all sides have already pointed it out. It is our day-to-day experience and it is our historical experience too. Even statesmen, former Prime Ministers – Madam Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi – had to lay their lives.

16.00 hrs.

They were the victims of terrorist activities as also so many other leaders. In this backdrop, the SPG Act was enacted to provide special protection to our Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and their kith and kin. Now, the Government is commending this Bill to amend that Act. The main object is to reduce the span of SPG protection to the former Prime Ministers and their kith and kin. I have no objection on that point. Now-a-days, there is a wide criticism for increasing the special security for the political leaders, statesmen, etc. But we have to judiciously consider the exact situation and the real threat to the

particular leader and his family. Even here in the Bill itself, it is mentioned that case-to-case consideration will be there. I think the Government will be serious on this point and no discrimination or under-estimation will be made. No discriminatory consideration on the basis of political affiliation, caste or creed will be there. This should be assured.

We would like to know from the Minister what sort of constraints are being faced. It is mentioned in the Bill that the Government has no option but to go for this measure due to financial overburden and manpower constraints. So, I want to categorically know from the Minister since the enactment of SPG Act till date, what is the total expenditure involved in providing SPG cover to our leaders and how many SPG personnel are involved in this noble act.

Madam, it is also stated that while withdrawing the SPG protection from a particular person, alternative security arrangements may be made for that person. So, this should be clarified. It should be specified as to what sort of security would be made available.

Today, the whole country is facing security problem. We cannot categorise this problems. This sort of special protection should not be a status symbol. That should be borne in mind. No common people have security these days. It is not confined to the statesmen alone but the ordinary wage earners are also facing security problem in this country. Presently, borders are very much tense due to provocation from across the border. So many insurgent groups, terrorist groups, foreign agencies like ISI, CIA, etc. are all active in our country to destabilise us. We have border disputes.

There are terrorism of many huse. The hon. Member from the Treasury Benches analysed the point that Muslim fundamentalism has been very active in this country. There is no doubt that Muslim fundamentalism are being helped by foreign agencies actively to spread terrorism in this country. But this is not the only factor that is breeding terrorism. There are so many other insurgent groups in the

country that are threatening to destabilise not only our internal and social security but also the integrity of our nation. This is a fact.

Our people and our women, in particular, are not safe. There are gang rape of women taking place. The people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward communities are being butchered by fundamentalist forces. It is well-known to everybody. So, while providing security to the VVIPs, we should not compromise with the security of our common people in this country. This aspect should be borne in mind.

Our borders in the North-Eastern and the Eastern region are getting tense day by day. A lot of influx and infiltration of people across the border of this region are taking place. The reason as to why such a thing is taking place can be best explained by the Government. But in our State of West Bengal we are facing this problem. Our porous border has been the cause of this problem. Though the BSF *jawans* posted in the borders are doing their duty to the best of their ability, yet we cannot say that our borders are very secure. So, the porous nature of our borders would have to be taken care of so that there is no influx of people from across the borders.

Madam, the two States in the North-Eastern region are going to the polls this month. Insurgent activities in these two States. Particularly in the State of Tripura, are on rise. They already have claimed the lives of hundreds of people and political activists. These things are going on. So, the Central Government have a duty to maintain security at the borders. Sometimes the BSF people tend to get over-active and confront even the civilian people. There are so many such instances in our State. The State Government has already reported about these things. On trivial grounds the BSF people have killed innocent young men. Such a thing should be checked so that common people are not victimised by the BSF.

Madam, finally I would like to express my views on an important point about which our leaders have already expressed their views today morning. This is about the

[Dr. Ram Chandra Dome]

draconian law POTA. This POTA is being indiscriminately misused by the authorities. Many State Governments, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat and other States are using this law on very trivial grounds.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : We are talking on another Bill. You can discuss about POTA, when that subject comes up.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : This is an opportunity to say something on a draconian law.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : But, this is about the SPG.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Anyway, I am concluding, Madam. POTA should be withdrawn immediately and all the cases against people who are being harassed and being charged with POTA should be judiciously considered. Innocent people should not be harassed under POTA. I hope that the Government would take care of my submission and try to redress the agony of the common people. The Government should take care of their relief.

I conclude my speech while supporting this Bill.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Madam Chairman, I rise to support the Special Protection Group (amendment) Bill, 2002. It is a necessity that the precious lives have to be protected. While protecting the precious lives, we should send a message that the security of this country is well protected, so that it is well appreciated in all parts of the world. While doing so, we are only trying to provide SPG cover to the former Prime Ministers and their kith and kin, which is a laudable effort.

We should also see that terrorist activities are curbed in general. All our neighbouring countries which are engaged in extremist activities have gunned them towards India. The Pakistani terrorist and ISI activities, Sri Lankan LTTE activities, Nepal's Maoist activities and Bangladesh's insurgent activities are all creating problems in our country, which in turn are destabilising the peace and tranquillity

her and sometimes are also creating threats to the lives of our innocent people.

At the same time, I would like to submit that the security that is being provided to most of the hon. Members is more of an ornamental nature rather than protection by well trained people. We have seen that some of our colleagues also have been gunned down in the very presence of the security people. Recently, in the State of Karnataka, Shri Nagappa's life could not be saved. A poor man that he was, he died in the forest. In some other States like Andhra Pradesh, even the police personnel have been kidnapped. Police Stations are stormed and police personnel have been taken away!

16.14 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

How can we say that the security and protections are available if terrorists and Naxalites or extremists feel that they can do anything to any ordinary man and an important politician alike? Therefore, it becomes a difficult thing to keep a cool air amidst fire. It is not possible.

In generality, we should see that protection is being provided, safety measures are taken and deterrent punishments are given wherever they are being caught. We are not doing that. We are only keeping in mind giving SPG protection or other sorts of protection to only one person and at the same time, there are so many terrorists and extremists going around. How have they been taken care of? This is posing a threat. So, in generality, if security is being tightened, the security to VVIPs will also be automatically taken care of. This also has to be kept in mind.

The attack on Parliament in December, 2001 is nothing but a lapse. Unless security is being tightened properly, only providing cover to former Prime Ministers and their kith and kin will not solve their problem.

While appreciating that these amendments are necessary, a periodical review is required. Simply giving

security cover for ten years and keeping quiet is not enough. If a former Prime Minister is not in active politics and he does not want to be in active politics, there is no need for a cover when people are not bothered about him. Then why blanket cover should be given to such people? Cover is required if there is a threat to that particular former Prime Minister when he or his kith and kin is likely to come into active politics. Otherwise, there is no need for it. It is all right that you have given blanket cover for one year. After completion of one year, you have to make a periodical review as to whether it is needed or not. If he or anybody in that family is likely to come into active politics, then it may be required. Otherwise, you can drop it.

My submission is, security cover may be given wherever it is necessary and it may be dropped wherever it is not needed. Otherwise, it will be only ornamental cover. And ornamental cover creates more problems than giving cover.

With these words, I support the amendment Bill and say that it should be passed.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the period of security protection for the former Prime Ministers and their families is being reduced to one year. It is an appropriate step. The major portion of our budget is being spent on security. I am not saying that security should not be provided. As per this Bill, there is no such former Prime Minister. All the former Prime Ministers have completed more than one years. Now this bill will be applied for the future. Now there is no such former Prime Minister. However security should be provided to him as per the intelligence inputs. The situation in the country is very bad. The terrorism is not under control and the cross border terrorism is on the rise. We have failed to successfully combat it and in this situation the lives of the political personalities are certainly in danger. Full protection should be provided to them. It is only in the case of former Prime Minister. However I would like to submit to the Government that the lives of all political personalities who have held

the offices and who have done something for the nation their lives are in danger. Then they should be given full protection. It may be for one year or for more than one year. We have lost many precious lives. The Prime Minister, Former Prime Minister and Chief Ministers have been assassinated in the country and their only fault was that they had done something for the country as per their understanding. The security should certainly be given to such persons. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh is fighting against terrorism, criminals and the persons who have terrorised the people. Conspiracy is being hatched to kill her. Thus it is the responsibility of the Government to protect the lives of those people who are holding offices and want to do something for the country or for the State. There is no doubt in it and hence whole heartedly I support this Bill.

Besides, I may be allowed to speak against those who are creating the atmosphere of hatred in the country and want to divide the country. I am not talking of any particular religion. Heavy security is provided to those who do not control their tongue for their political gains and when they speak they spew venoms. My submission is that security cover should be withdrawn from such persons. It must not be wasted. A particular person surrounded by black cats speaks against certain community and whatever comes to his mind he utters. ...*(interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : About whom he is talking? Please mention it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rajo Singh ji, please take your seat. Let the hon. Member speak. Hon. Member is capable of putting his point. Please do not interrupt him.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : An important matter is being discussed here. I am not mentioning about any one person or realign. I am not talking about any action or reaction. I am not saying that if one person says one thing then the other would say some other thing but the Government should constitute a committee comprising of Members from the Government and opposition who may feel as to whom the protection should be given. If someone's life is

[Shri Rashid Alvi]

in danger due to his personal mistakes, then he should not be given any protection. He himself is responsible for that. He should save his life by spending his own money. But protection should be given to those whose life is in danger because they have served the nation. Now-a-days everyone rises and speaks vigorously and ultimately gets popularity due to the electronic media which enables his voice to be heard in every nook and corner of the country – easy way to get protection for his life. And thus, all demands are fulfilled. There is not one to fix accountability and thus one speaks whatever he or she wishes to speak – they may scold anyone, or curse anyone. I wish that a Law should be enacted through which the protection provided to such persons should be withdrawn. The Government should constitute a committee comprising of all groups and parties of Parliament which should take decisions with regard to entitlement of persons for security.

The last point which I wish to raise is that the common people face a lot of problems due to this security system. Especially in Delhi and in capital cities of States where three- four cars with S.P.G. fly over roads and common man is seen with hatred. He is pushed when the cars pass by and guns are pointed from the car. I have read in history that during the French Revolution, when the Prince used to go out in his royal carriage. Young innocent children were used to crush under that carriage and the parents of those Children were punished for the reason as to why did they let their children come before the carriage.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a democratic country. A law will have to be made for this. One has to stop at the red light. What is the logic that a VIP's car jumps even a red light blowing horn? Why don't they stop at the red light when they have been provided with security.

Recently a man entered the security cordon of the Prime Minister and he was put behind the bars for two days. Later on it was discovered that he was innocent. Who would be held responsible for those two days during which

he was kept in jail even when he was innocent? Who is responsible for the mental agony his family members have suffered and whether the Government would pay any compensation for this, or whether the Government rendered any apology to his wife and children who suffered this mental agony?

Sir, I am not saying that the security provided to the hon. Prime Minister may be withdrawn. The hon. Prime Minister of our country is most important for us. Proper arrangements for his security should be there, vis-a-vis it should also be seen that common man, poor man of the country may not be subjected to unnecessary harassment in the name of the so-called security. Appropriate arrangements should be made viz. how to ply on roads, stop on red light, importance to the common man- so that he may feel that he is also an important citizen of the country and he has also some prestige.

I have honestly raised these points with good intentions. The Government may kindly consider my points and I, on behalf of my party support this Bill.

SHRI DILIP SANGHANI (Amreli) : Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this bill. Former Prime Minister and his family are being provided with the SPG security. Whether it has to be withdrawn within one year or extended during their time period, this could be decided by the Government according to the report and the present Bill has been introduced in the House for this very purpose. It should, therefore, be passed.

Sir, there were more than 500 princely States at the time when India attained independence. The Rajas and Maharajas of these Princely States had their own military and security. After the independence they were assured annual privy purse according to the provisions of the constitution. They voluntarily surrendered their States to the Government. And with this, their armed forces, security etc. came to an end and the States which did not merge in the Union of India, were given assurance by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and all States were included in the Union of India. All of us know about these facts. Rajas were

given special rights in India at that time. They were given many facilities. I do not want to waste valuable time of the House by mentioning all this. All these facilities were also withdrawn in the year 1972. In the present circumstances any former Prime Minister can have this facility, they may be given facility if they have any danger from any terrorist or illegal organisation, as the leader of Opposition is being given this facility, which is important for him too. The Government should decide about this. It should be decided in the House and it should be stopped at some stage as in a democracy, Governments keep on changing and would favour different points. No one should get a chance to say that they are in the opposition so they should be provided with security. Incidents do occur despite security. Former Prime Minister and other persons died in this country despite having proper security. I do not mean to say that security should be done away with, it is very important. People should know that how amount of the public money is being spent on security. It should also be ascertained as upto what limit the security should be provided.

Sir, even today there are such officers who handled terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir quite stringently. They are not given security for more than three years after expiry of their duty there. As their life is also in danger because they have worked there. In a democratic set up the Union and State Governments are not only responsible for security of life of Prime Minister and other elected representatives but are responsible for security of life of every individual in the country.

Sir, hon. Member who spoke prior to me said that we should ourselves protect our life. The Government should bring forward a proposal in this House regarding who should be made responsible for ensuring security. Security cover should be restricted only upto the Prime Minister, spouse, son, daughters and son-in-law. When son-in-law of a Prime Minister or his children go even for shopping, they are provided security. The Government should review it as the Government have abolished privy-purses and withdrawn special facilities available to former rulers. I support the Bill brought by the Government.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) :

Thank you, Chairman, Sir. The Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2002, is supported by us. Our hon. Deputy leader of the Opposition has given the clear picture about the support. I would like to draw the attention that this type of Bill is important for a democratic country.

It is because we know that democracy started in the United States of America and Abraham Lincoln was a foremost people's leader of that nation. but he was assassinated because he fought for the civil liberties of a particular group of people there. So, when an individual becomes the Head of the State, he symbolises the nation and its principles. When such persons become more popular, naturally the people who do not like them take up the path of terrorism and assassinate them. We know that John F. Kennedy was a very charming and popular leader at the international level and also at the grassroots level that even in small towns and villages, many people named their children after him.

Similarly, Mahatma Gandhi fought for our country's freedom and stood for non-violence, but he was also assassinated. In the same way, Martin Luther King fought for civil liberties and he was assassinated. Then, Indira Gandhi who stood for national integration and wanted India to become a superpower was assassinated in a similar fashion. She was very popular among the people of India, but some people did not want her to be popular. So, they could not fight her democratically, but they choose some other route and killed her. In the same way, the charming, youthful leader Rajiv Gandhi, who wanted India to become the topmost country in the world, was also assassinated. Therefore, these great leaders, who symbolised the nation, its culture and principles, have become victims of terrorism.

So, to protect such leaders, the nation has to incur some expenditure. I feel it is necessary because such expenditure is incurred for protecting the great leaders who

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

symbolise our nation and its values. We are all aware of such assassinations of some Presidents and Prime Ministers that have taken place in some developing countries of the world. The first Prime Minister of Sri Lanka was also killed in the same fashion. I can go on giving many such examples. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was killed in Pakistan and Sheikh Mujib-Ur-Rehman was killed in Bangladesh. Many leaders have been killed in a similar fashion in various countries.

Sir, we are using some human being as a tool to protect such great leaders and for that purpose, we have created the Special Protection Group in our country. The personnel of the Special Protection Group are exclusively trained to even sacrifice their own lives in order to protect the person whom they have to protect from terrorists. So, the personnel of the SPG are ready to face the bullets of the terrorists in order to protect the Prime Minister or the former Prime Minister or some other VIP. Therefore, the welfare of such persons who are being used as tools to protect these VIPs should be taken care of by the Government.

At present, the personnel of the SPG are looked after well. They have got an exclusive residence colony for them, their children are getting good education and other facilities. This special category people are just like the persons serving in Armed Forces who also go to the borders and face the enemy without worrying about their lives. So, the Special Protection Group personnel are at the risk of facing bullets of terrorists throughout their service period, but they carry out their duties in an exemplary manner without worrying about their own lives. So, the families of these personnel should also be protected. The wives and children of the SPG personnel should not feel neglected because they know that in the process of protecting the great leaders, their own husbands and fathers are at the risk of getting killed any time. So, their families should be protected in every way. There should be a special insurance scheme for the SPG personnel because then only they would be able to carry

out their duties and protect our national leaders without worrying about their family members.

That type of feeling should be created for the youngsters who are protecting the national leaders.

I would like to suggest some other things also because this new amendment indicates: "any former Prime Minister or to the members of his immediate family – " The words 'immediate family' have not been defined.

At the same time, there is a clause which says about 'daughter' and 'son'. In such a situation, an enlarged interpretation should be there that if the former Prime Minister or any such person is getting the benefit of protection, his father, mother, sister, brother or any immediate member of his family should also be protected because they may also be a target.

We have said in the clause itself: "on the level of the threat". That interpretation has to be made. These types of people, who are nearer that person, should also be protected in case anything happens to that particular individual. Therefore, I would like to stress upon this point. When the Rules are formed, some definition should be made for this purpose.

This aspect of bringing forward the amendment is well appreciated. We have to protect the interests of leaders who are the embodiment of our principles and ethics.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, practically we observe that elite class people in India communicate only in English and less educated one communicate in their mother tongue. As hon. Minister of Home Affairs was a bureaucrat earlier therefore he may have good command over English. Their officers who are attached with security and Home Department, too may be well educated. My submission is that he may go through the statement of objects and reasons. I would like to quote four lines from that:

[English]

"In case the proximate security is withdrawn after one year, the former Prime Minister and his spouse would continue to get necessary security for three years as based on the level of threat assured by the Central Government."

[Translation]

It means he will get protection for three years. It is mentioned in English...(Interruptions) it is stated that it will be provided after one year. My point is that his officers have not even bothered to read it as English and Hindi versions are contradictory. In Hindi, they have stated that: "but whereas, not more than twelve months should have passed between sequential fixations done in this regard." There is no mention of twelve months in English, i.e. English and Hindi texts are different. What it should be termed, a translation mistake, any lapse or negligence? The Government are going to frame a law relating to security which is highly sensitive. I have not observed such a great lapse anywhere. It is a bill of 2002 and no one bothered to read this line since then. It is enough for him to understand. This line is missing in it. The line mentioning three years is neither in the body of the Bill nor in Hindi. It is only in English. I do not know whether English version is original or Hindi version? It is not a translation mistake but factual one...(Interruptions) How we can call it a lapse? It is a carelessness. Anyone may commit a mistake, but it is negligence. Should I treat English version authenticated or Hindi version. Suppose, some well educated person reads English text he will look for three years condition whereas this clause is missing in it. What sort of Bill they have brought and what sort of negligence is taking place...(Interruptions)

Now, I come to the Bill. Please correct, what sort of mistakes they have committed? There are three sentences in Hindi text whereas four in English text. The sentence mentioning three years is extra, which has a mention of 12 months, whereas sentence with 'consecutive' word is not in English. English knowing people are more here thus I do not have to say about English But, I read it at least...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : It is mentioned here : "that not more than twelve months shall elapse between two consecutive assessments..."

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : He could not find, will have to read it thoroughly.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons says:

"The Central Government has considered the matter further. In view of the manpower constraints being faced by the SPG and the financial burden being borne by the Government on providing such security, it is considered that proximate security to be provided to the former Prime Ministers and their spouses should be made available for a period of one year from the date on which the former Prime Minister ceases to hold office, and beyond one year as decided by the Central Government..."

First time "based upon a review of the threat perception to the concerned dignitary."

[Translation]

Where is the sentence with a mention of twelve months.

[English]

Then next sentence is -

"In case proximate security is withdrawn after one year,

[Translation]

Security may be withdrawn after one year.

[English]

"The former Prime Ministers and their spouses would continue to get necessary security for three years based on the level of threat as assessed by the Central Government."

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

[Translation]

How the sentence with 'three years' appeared here. Whether there is a provision of three years in the Bill. It will be extended by three years after a period of three years. Now, see its Hindi version. The Central Government has considered the matter further. In view of manpower constraints being faced by the SPG and the financial burden being borne by the Government on providing such security, it is considered that proximate security to be provided to the former Prime Minister and their spouses should be made available for a period of only one year from the date on which former Prime Minister ceases to hold the office, and behind one years as decided by the Central Government, but not more than twelve months shall elapse between two consecutive assessments. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You come to the original Bill. Hon. Minister will clarify it during his reply.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : What will he reply. It is full of grave mistakes. English and Hindi texts are quite contradictory to each other. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to the Bill.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Now, I am coming to the Bill. As far as this Bill is concerned, the Government brings the Bill the way it suits the Government. It is a sensitive issue. It is common perception throughout the country that security threat perception is increasing, terrorism is on the increase, law and order situation is paralysed. People in the country feel this but they say that security cover provided to former Prime Ministers will be withdrawn. I feel that they have realised that more expenditure is involved in providing security cover to Dy. Prime Ministers as extra man power has to be deployed. Therefore, the security provided to ex-prime Ministers should be withdrawn. Thus the Government are of the opinion that by withdrawing security of former Prime

Ministers more security can be provided to Dy. Prime Minister. Hon. Dy. Prime Minister has convinced ID Swami as he is a simple person. So, God forbid, if any such eventuality takes place in future he would face commission of inquiry. But now they have smell danger, therefore they have brought the Bill. We are not ready to render evidence and face commission of inquiry normally ordered after any tragedy takes place. He is a simple person and ready to face commission but why they are dragging the House in this affair? They are framing a good law. They would provide security to a chosen few on case to case basis, i.e. only to their own men. The clause empowers the Government to provide security cover on case to case basis. Whether this type of law is available anywhere? All are equal before law. If it is to be provided on case to case basis then what is the need for bringing this type of Bill? We have neither seen such type of law nor heard about it. If the protection is to be provided to selective persons then what is the need for bringing such a law. An inquiry should be conducted in this regard all over the country. Rashid Alvi, was telling to Mulayam Singhji that protection has been provided to even to dreaded dacoits and rioters. The people who favour the Government, be they criminals, get the protection and genuine people are left out. The Government are not worried about the security of common people. Therefore, I would like to say that we are not in favour of withdrawing it. It was decided that former Prime Ministers will be provided SPG cover for the period of ten years. Initially, the protection was being provided for the period of five years. Now an amendment has been made that this protection will be given for one year only. The protection would be given on case to case basis, it means they will whatever suits them on case to case basis. We have never heard of or seen such kind of legislation. Whether case to case legislation had ever been enacted? They have brought hazardous bill and they themselves are likely to be trapped in it. In we express our views in the House, and get them recorded in proceedings, we are not involved in it. At the time of inquiry by Commission, they will become witness and face the Commission, the inquiry of commission continues for several years, but why are you involving the House in this matter.

Our former Prime Minister was assassinated. The Chief Ministers, Ministers, MLAs and MPs are being attacked. People are being murdered and they are not only reducing the security, instead they are withdrawing it, so you would be held responsible for any mishappening.

On one hand they say they want POTA and want to curb terrorism. The Government have made provision to provide security on case to case basis. Whether the Government feels that law and order situation in the country is under so control that SPG cover can be withdrawn. They have brought the bill, therefore we are not responsible for it. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is a family member of the former Prime Minister. It appears that the Government have amended this bill only with the purpose to withdraw security cover from her. I have apprehensions that this Government can go to any extent. Therefore, we want to caution them. It is Government's responsibility to provide security. You made mess of internal security, otherwise I have heard that in foreign countries, even Prime Minister do not need any security, people move freely...*(Interruptions)*. The people who have visited those counties have told me. Here, we people are scrutinised at the entry of Parliament House, due to this we miss Question Hour sometimes we are stopped at the time of Prime Minister's entry. It appears that Police is doing it on their own, but is not so, our law is like this only, and sometimes we unnecessarily get annoyed with Police. The law is such. Traffic movement is stopped. When Prime Minister is moving, we have to wait till Prime Minister's car is passed. Thousands of vehicles are stopped by Police, even before he comes out of his house, which results in traffic jam. Daily we reach here ten minutes late. I do not want to interfere in security matter but rules should be policy based. It should not be biased. It should not be case to case basis. It has become VIP symbol. Even an unimportant person moves with forces. It has become status symbol. Please state the number of people of RSS, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, bajrang Dal and disturbing elements, separately to whom special security has been provided. You are spending so much on them and on other side you are withdrawing security of former Prime Ministers

in the name of manpower. You are aware that all former Prime Ministers belong to opposition parties, so you think why to provide them security. So this bill is totally biased. You should make everything clear in the House, otherwise we are not going to save you at the time of commission's inquiry.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the bill presented by the hon'ble Minister. But while supporting it, I would also like to give some suggestions. It appears that my predecessor Shri Raghuvanshji has not seen the copy of amendments circulated here. If he would go through its Hindi translation, he will find that it has been clearly stated that there shall be Special Protection Group for providing security to any former Prime Minister or the members of his immediate family for a period of one year from the date on which the former Prime Minister ceased to hold the office of Prime Minister and beyond one year upto the period based on the level of threat as assessed by the Central Government it means that not more than twelve months shall elapse between consecutive assessment in regard to providing proximity security to them. Provided that, while assessing the level of threat, the Central Government shall take into account the following factors, namely (a) that the threat emanates from any militant or terrorist organization; and (b) that threat is of a grave and continuing nature. That is why, this amendment has been made, but Raghuvanshji was not presenting these facts.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : You have got it, therefore you are saying it, otherwise it has not been circulated in the House.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : It has been circulated.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : We have not got the paper, you were given this paper when you rose to speak.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : It is not so. At the time of entry to House, we were given this paper by attendants.

Sir, all of us are aware that SPG concept was formulated at the time when Shrimatti Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of the country. After her assassination,

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

Shri Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister, and at that time this bill was brought. Earlier it was being provided to the present Prime Minister only. When Shri Rajiv Gandhi demitted from the office of Prime Minister, SPG security was withdrawn. Congress Party at that time made the then Government convince that there is threat to this cite so he must be given the protection of SPG. But there was no such provision. The then Government had withdrawn his SPG protection and provided him with other kind of security. When Shri Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated, then these people realised and such amendment was made, with the purpose to provide security to the family of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. But how it was possible to provide protection of SPG to the family of only one of former Prime Minister. Hence, it was decided to extend the protection of SPG to all the former Prime Ministers. Earlier, there was a provision of providing security to the former Prime Ministers for a period of five years from the date he ceased to hold the office of Prime Minister. Thereafter it was decided to extend the protection for a period of ten years instead of five years. Now they are reducing this period to one year only.

We do not have any objections in this. But the apprehensions expressed by us and Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji that what will be the criteria for this and which will be machinery to deal with this. This will depend upon you that who should get security and who should not.

17.00 hrs.

There should be a machinery which is fool-proof. A system should be evolved which could enable them to identify that which person should get security. Today the country is in danger due to the conditions that are prevailing. Activities of terrorists are on the increase alongwith the cross-border terrorism. Moreover, we are facing danger from the criminals. People in the Cabinet are said to have been giving protection to Mafias.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Which Cabinet are you talking about?

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : We are not talking about the Bihar Cabinet, I am talking about Delhi...(Interruptions) What are the Government doing about the threat from such people. Kindly tell about the savings being made by reducing expenditure on security. I wish to submit that what efforts are being made by the Government to reduce extravagancy. Efforts should be made to stopped that. I am of the view that all MPs should be provided with security. Members of the legislative Assembly in every State are provided with Security. All Members of the legislative Assembly in every State are provided with security but here it is not so. There is no provision for providing security to the Members of Parliament. If he talks about reducing expenditure on security, then it should be reduced on everything. The size of the Cabinet should be reduced. Every now and then you increase the size of Cabinet. The increase in number of Ministers of this Cabinet would be in the Guinness Book of world Records.

SPGs get security allowance, and they provide security but the security personnel of our Parliament do not get any allowance. Three of our men have got killed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : you are talking about Risk-allowance.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Yes, Sir. This also requires to be considered by you. I wish to submit two things, hon. Member Shri Rashid Alvi ji was saying one thing that if a person be a Hindu, a Muslim, a Sikh, a Christian or a person of any community or organisation – differences or tension is created in the country by his utterances, speech and he is provided with black-cat security then the security provided to him should be withdrawn. I do not say that such people are not among Hindus, or Muslims, or Sikhs. The may belong to any community but security of such persons should be withdrawn.

We all have seen on TV, and have read in newspapers that the security of the Prime Minister was breached twice. During one incident, a motor cyclist was allowed to enter the route of PM's entourage by the police personnel and later he was stopped by some other policeman. He was a bank official. He was kept in jail for two days. How can

a common man know as to who is going through that route—the Prime Minister, or any other VIP? A new development is being observed that the entire area is sealed from where the hon' Prime Minister has to pass. A lot of problems have to be faced by a person who has to go the Medical Institute or to board a plane. Three-four routes are earmarked and the exact route is disclosed at the last moment to the police. Such a system is adopted. If one has to die, he will die, no one can prevent that, but what is there to get frightened so much. Gandhi ji died in this country. This country lost two Prime Ministers, one Chief Minister and former Chief of Army. But one should not fear to the extent that even the air may not touch hon. Prime Minister, is not right. I wish our hon. Prime Minister may live for hundreds of years. He is attaining glory, god forbid! No such incident takes place. If so happens, he would attain martyrdom for the country. We do not want this but only wish that common people should not have to face problems due to the hon. Prime Minister.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I rise to support this Bill, although I have some concerns which I should express. The first is that there is no definition of 'immediate family' anywhere.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : It is there in the main Act.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Then, I stand corrected.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : 'Wife, husband, children and parents' is the definition in section 2 (e) of the main Act.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Historically speaking, this Act was passed during the days of the late lamented Rajiv Gandhi, when he was the Prime Minister.

To my mind, there is no country where here is a special law for creating a special force for the Prime Minister's security. In this case, we are familiar, in the earlier days, — Shri Swami would also be familiar — basically, it

was the Intelligence Branch people who used to handle security. Thereafter, the NSG and all the came up. To my mind, it is not very logical to have a force only for the Prime Minister. Thereafter, it was enlarged to cover former Prime Ministers also. So, I would urge the Government to consider whether we cannot go back to the old arrangement where either the Intelligence Branch or the NSG or some other agency would be able to provide the security. Maybe, more personnel are needed but their cadre could be increased instead of creating a force. It is a sort of an island. It is not in direct touch with the intelligence.

The mistake we commit very often is that we are more concerned with *bandobast* but not with intelligence. I would say that there should be only plainclothesmen, not armed personnel. There should not be these uniformed people who create all kinds of nuisance everywhere.

Earlier, the cover was only for the Prime Minister. Thereafter, former Prime Ministers were added. We have got five or six former Prime Ministers ordinarily resident in Delhi. By sheer law of statistics, every time anybody goes on the street he normally comes across some sort of Prime Ministerial cavalcade travelling, resulting in delays. It has outlived its utility. So, it is good that we are going to have an arrangement where only after one year the normal arrangement would be terminated unless a special review justifies the retention of the security arrangement for any former Prime Minister.

Shri Rashid Alvi raised a very good question: "If a former Prime Minister is retired or is not in active politics, why does he need security cover?" If he were in active politics or if there was a threat perception according to intelligence, he could be given security. That was a good point. It should be considered.

If for the Prime Minister to come from Prime Minister's house to Parliament so much *bandobast* is needed every day, would it not be worthwhile to arrange his visit by a helicopter as they do in the United States for the President? A helicopter could bring him to the House and take him back. I think, that would be much cheaper

[Dr. Nitish Sengupta]

in the long run than this colonial type of arrangement where every day for four or five hours different routes are blocked.

I think, Shri I.D. Swami might consider whether it is not possible to do away with this Act altogether. It was created in particular situation and that situation has long gone by. I would like to know whether it is not possible to make a common arrangement where the Intelligence Branch, the NSG or the existing forces, especially the trained people, could provide security to these people, rather than creating this kind of an island force whose only duty is confined to providing security to the Prime Minister, his family members, the former Prime Ministers and their family members.

Sir, with these few words, I support this Bill.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, I follow all the illustrious predecessors of mine, starting from hon. Shivraj V. Patil, who is one of the most respected Members of this House. in supporting this Bill.

Well, there is a necessity for providing this proximate security to the Prime Minister, to the ex-Prime Ministers and their family members. But what should be the guiding factor for providing it? Should it not be decided on case to case basis?

Today, everybody listened to Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. He said that why it should be decided on case to case basis. He said that it should be uniform for everybody. Well, it sounds very nice. But take the example of ex-Prime Minister, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh. He said that he did not require any special security, but because there was a law to provide security to ex-Prime Ministers, it was forced on him. Is it a very good thing to force security when somebody does not require it? Do you mean to say that the threat perceptions to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and also to Shri I.K. Gujral are just the same? Is it because they were all ex-Prime Ministers, they will get the same type of security on the expenses of the people?

Sir, I fully support this bill for the reason that the threat perception should be reviewed and it should be reviewed on case to case basis. More than 600 SPGs, over 3,000 Delhi Police personnel and 1,750 CRPF personnel are deployed to protect the former Prime Ministers, their family members and their officials, who are residing in Delhi or in the States. Sometimes, the security perception is creating a problem for the people. Take the example of one of the hon. Members of this House from Karnataka. He wrote a letter to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that one of the ex-Prime Ministers and his family members are misusing the security cover provided to them and it should be removed. This is true that one of the Members of this House wrote a letter. There is a manpower constraint and there is a financial constraints and when you combine these two things together, you will find that actually there is necessity of reducing the security cover provided to the ex-Prime Minister. I agree that with the introduction of suicidal terrorism, the threat perception to so many ex-Prime Ministers and VIPs has increased. However, the point about the security cover – real or ornamental - has already been raised by Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthy. It should not be a status symbol that how many Black Cats do I have around me and how much nuisance they may create among the people. What sort of nuisance these security people, the black cat commandoes are just creating by pushing, shoving and misbehaving with these people! In a democratic country, should this be the policy? so, I strongly recommend to curtail the use of the technical teams; to curtail the use of electronic protective devices; and to surrender the vehicles deputed to the people for their security on round-the-clock-basis.

Sir, there is one more point. As I have already told you, it is an irritating curtailment of the civil rights. Most of the times it happens. I will give you an example. When Shri T.N. Seshan was the Chief Election Commissioner, and when he was passing through a Delhi road, another car tried to overtake his vehicle. He ordered his SPG guards to fire on the other car which overtook his car. The SPG guards totally refused, that they will not do so. And

you know, when Shri I.K. Gujral was the Prime Minister, just five years ago, a 48 year old Delhi salesman, whose name was Martin Mosey was beaten by half a dozen policemen because he strayed into the VIP route of Shri Gujral. So, this is one of the very important points which we should also consider while just going for the provision of the VIP security to our ex-Prime Ministers and others.

In Delhi, we have many layer security system for the VIPs. It involves 13 per cent of the 55,000 of the police force. Sir, 13 per cent of the police force are only engaged in providing security.

Take the example of Uttar Pradesh. Sir, 1400 politicians, bureaucrats and others enjoy the protection of 8,000 cops. In Jammu and Kashmir they spent Rs. 90 crore in between 1998-2000 for VIP security.

Take the example of the letter written by the DGP of Manipur. He said : "How long the VIP protection should continue out of the expense of the State exchequer?" In Manipur due to the increased VIP duties, investigation work had suffered, and the needs of the ordinary citizen took a back seat. Nobody was willing to take care of theft or any other ordinary crime. Everybody was only busy in providing security to the VIPs.

There are also people who were provided VIP security even after they demitted office. I will say, Sir, Bihar is the brightest example in this regard because of which Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was so annoyed, as to why security should be provided on case to case basis. They want that all sorts of culprits in Bihar, and everybody who just becomes a Minister or anybody should also be provided with such type of security. I very strongly oppose this. I very strongly support the case that on the case to case basis it should be decided as to who should be provided with security and who should not be.(not recorded)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : if Shri Swain yield Is, I would like to say something.

Sir, he is making a speech and he is entitled to say anything he wants to say, but making a reference to the President or the ex-President is not good. It should not be part of the record. There should at least, be one person in the country whose name should not be dragged in this fashion. This is my submission. I will leave it to you and leave it to him also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Reference to ex-President should not form part of the record.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Yes, Sir, I abide by what you say.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Famous persons are soft targets for the terrorists. They create terror by killing him. What is the remedy for this soft target.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I agree with what you say or your instruction. However, I merely submit that the President is never a soft target. If the President is a soft target, then India is a 'banana' State. India is not a soft country.

You take the example of these SPG guards. They are trained to counter hijack. They are trained to counter terrorist attacks. They are trained in hand to hand combat. They are also trained in ambush sessions. An SPG shooter should clock, at least 85 per cent of this hits. Otherwise, he will be removed. They are also trained to remain without food and sleep for four to five days. We provide such type of highly skilled and trained persons just to provide security to only some VIPs? It should not be that way.

Finally, I will raise certain questions. While I fully agree that this Bill has been rightly brought forward to reduce the security cover to the VIPs, which is unnecessary, I will raise certain questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Swain, please conclude now.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I will conclude. There is a lot of time - we are sitting up to six o'clock.

Should the State provide police protection to the VIPs, including MPs and MLAs, who have Mafia links? This is one of my questions, which should be considered. If somebody has become a VIP, should he get it? Should the personal animosity form the basis for providing security to VIP? Police protection should only be given to those VIPs, who face a threat from the terrorists, Mafia syndicates and political rivals. If the VIP is linked to a crime syndicate, the State or the Central Government should not provide him with security.

My second question is, what sort of security we want. Is it a qualitative security or a security of quantity? My specific question is, let the hon. Minister reply, should we require distinctly-dressed, sinister-looking, but ill-behaved security personnel for the VIP security? Take the example of the Israeli Prime Minister. He is one of the most threatened persons on the surface of the world, but he is guarded by so inconspicuously looking security guards that the ordinary people hardly notice his security entourage. Can we not do any such thing? We just like very vicious looking people surrounding us because it gives us a lot of pride and satisfies one's ego that one is so precious to the nation that he is surrounded by so many people around him. But is it the correct thing to do?

My point is that this security threat in this country has given rise to the establishment of private security agencies. It is now a Rs. 1,500 crore business in this country. When the ex-President of the United States of America, Mr. Jimmy Carter, came to India about three years back, in 2000, the CIA hired two of the local private security agencies, besides the security that was provided by the Government of India, for the protection of their former President.

So, my question to the hon. Minister is, should there be some standardised guidelines for these private security agencies on the lines of guidelines being

considered by the Government for Non-Banking Finance Companies?

My last question is, can we provide security to everybody? This point has already been raised by many hon. Members. My point is that the standard of the police forces in this country should be improved. Police forces should be thoroughly modernised. I say this because it is not possible to provide security to each and everybody in this country. It is simply not possible. So, the overall security scenario must be improved. That can only be done through modernisation of police forces and by imparting proper training to police personnel in the country, which the State Governments are not capable to do.

With these words, I support the Bill.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the time to speak on this very vital matter dealing with the security of the Prime Ministers, the former Prime Ministers and the Leader of Opposition.

My humble submission is that in a democracy, in an egalitarian society no Government can afford to have special elite groups to guard Prime Ministers or former Prime Ministers or Leaders of Opposition. If they need security, they should be provided security from the ordinary police forces of the country. We have no dearth of commandos in the BSF, CRPF, CISF, Indo-Tibetan Border Police or even in the Army. However, to provide any person with a special elite force is totally undemocratic, and not an egalitarian practice. It is a heavy pressure on the public exchequer. I do not think any person with a fresh mind, with a modern mind would allow any Government moneys to be spent on elite forces to guard retired Prime Ministers.

Constitutionally, India is a secular democratic country. However, I have found - and I have written to the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister over and over again - that neither in the NSG nor in the SPG, any Sikh is recruited or allowed to perform his duties. Hon. Minister

of State for Home Affairs may tell us that there is no sectarianism or discrimination against the Sikhs. I have seen the security of Shri Chandra Shekhar, Shri Deve Gowda, Shri Gujral, Shrimati Sonai Gandhi, Shri Narasimha Rao and Shri V.P. Singh, and found that no Sikhs are deployed, either in the NSG or in the SPG. The Minister must give us a clear answer why the Sikhs are being denied entry into these forces. It is true that Sikhs are alleged to have killed a Prime Minister. But Hindus have also killed Shri M.K. Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Does it mean that if any Sikh or a person belonging to a religion kills a VIP, the entire population of that religion will be barred from these elite forces?

Sir, I totally disagree with unsecular approach to the composition of these Groups – the NSG and the SSG.

The second problem that I face is that these patent elite groups have become a law unto themselves and the people they are guarding have also become something extra-constitutional. Traffic is held up. Red lights are there on their cars; sirens are there on their cards. This is not a democratic practice that somebody should be more equal than others.

Just today I had experienced this outside Parliament House when my car was held up for 15 long minutes. I felt claustrophobic; I felt suffocated and barricaded because the Prime Minister was moving. Even if the Leader of the Opposition is moving or the Deputy Prime Minister is moving, to tell you truly, they have become a nuisance to the general public. It is against the spirit of the republic or the democracy that traffic should be held up for any person, no matter how high his stature in the country is.

Sir, the other thing is that I do not think that we are serving the security of the VIPs as diligently as we should. The Prime Minister's rightful house is at Teen Murti Lane where the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru lived. That is the safe place; that is the secured place.

Sir, there have been many famous American Presidents

but the White House has not become a museum. There have been many great British Prime Ministers but the Ten Downing Street has not become a museum. So, I think, the Prime Minister should be moved into Pandit Nehru's house. That is the fit place for him to live in. This place where he lives is insecure. It is overlooked by high-rise buildings like Ashoka Hotel, Samrat Hotel. Then, there is a Safdarjung Airfield right next door to the Prime Minister's House. God forbid! There are so many stray Stringer missiles unaccounted for. If somebody has a pot shot from these high-rise buildings into the Prime Minister House, or a shoulder firing missile or if somebody from the Safdarjung Airport puts the aircraft into the Prime Minister's House in a suicide dive, then how we could protect the Prime Minister?

So, my suggestion is that the Prime Minister should be put back in his due place. His rightful residence has been turned into a museum for the Late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We do respect our late Prime Ministers but we should find other modes of paying them homage rather than making their homes into museums.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please conclude.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Yes, Sir.

Shri Shivraj V. Patil, the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition has very rightly said that the assassinations of the Prime Ministers had happened because they had followed some policies. Now, it is not the policy of any Prime Minister to put the troops into the Golden Temple and knock the most sanctum sanctorum place of the Sikhs and reduce it into a rubble. Secondly, it is not a wise policy of another Prime Minister to set the IPKF against his own Tamil people in Sri Lanka.

Now, these policies which are foolish do not lead to national integration. They rather disintegrate the nation. We must call spade a spade and we must tell the Prime Ministers that they must follow the policies which do not divide the nation but tie together in a strong net on a strong knot.

[Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann]

Secondly, I want to talk about the policy of the Government of India. The Sikhs have never been allowed to be witnesses or partners in the decision-making process of the Government of India. For example, in the freshly created Nuclear Command System, there is no Sikh. At present, there is no Sikh Secretary to the Government of India. Previously the portfolios of Defence, Finance, Home and External Affairs were given to the Sikhs. Now you are not given any portfolio worth the name.

Thirdly, even in Parliament, when there are minority issues at stake, the minority MPs are not allowed to speak on these issues. If there is something to be criticised about the minority, it would be a majority community MP who would lead the debate. If there is charity amongst the majority community, it will be from the majority community that somebody will defend us. Why does not the hon. Speaker and the Rules of this House allow the Sikh or the Muslim or the Christian to speak regarding their own people? This is something that needs to be rectified. There is an old saying – a Victorian adage – that children should be seen and not heard, that is the policy that this House follows pertaining to the minority that they can be seen, but they are seldom heard. I hope you will rectify what I have said.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this bill has been introduced to reduce security of former Prime Ministers. This amendment bill introduced by Shri Advani reviewed to the need to extend the security for some more years in case of a threat perception in the Police report. Advaniji is not present in the House, but Shri I.D. Swami is present, he is also a competent Minister.

Sir, I would like to suggest that the security to former Prime Ministers should be provided throughout the life. You are trying to save the money which would not be saved.

Therefore, I would like to submit that at present the former Prime Ministers Shri Rao, Shri V.P. Singh, Shri Deve Gowda, Shri Chandrashekhar and Shri Gujral are getting security and later on Shri Atal Bihari would also be included in this list. I would like to suggest that they should get security for whole life. The Government is morally responsible for providing security to the former Prime Minister, and if it is increased or decreased, we will not be responsible for it. The Government may say, that they had introduced bill in Parliament and our opinion was taken. Therefore, if you formulate a scheme in regard to Prime Minister's security, we will support it. The former Prime Minister should get the security. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has been provided the security. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Shrimati Indira Gandhi were assassinated. It is right to provide security to the family members of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, but if there is not much threat perception the family members of other former Prime Ministers may not be provided heavy security. However providing security to the former Prime Ministers is genuine but I would like to submit that whenever the Prime Minister goes anywhere in Delhi even our vehicles are not allowed to go. Once, I was to reach here at 10 am. to give notice for Zero Hour, but my car was stopped. Police allowed the Minister's vehicle to go, though my car was also having MP's lable. I requested them to let me go but the Police did not do so. I asked them why they were not allowing me, they enquired if I was a MP? I replied, yes, "I am an MP". The Policeman argued that I was not an MP. I said, "if I am not an M.P., he also may not be a Police man." Police men are recognised by their uniform, but we people wear different clothes. This is also a matter to be considered.

I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that the security arrangement being made for country's leaders is essential. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should not talk about uniform, come to subject.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I am speaking on security issue only. In this regard, I would like to suggest that we

are not opposing it, but we are not going to support the bill which provides security for only one year. This period should be extended to ten years. After ten years, if there is a need, it could further be extended. You should pay consideration in this regard. You are decreasing it from 10 years to one year. My last point is that there is a need to pay consideration towards MP's security also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara) : I may begin if your poetry is over.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : The matter is of providing security to former Prime Minister, poverty would not do in this regard. MPs should be permitted to have beacon light on their vehicle. you should pay consideration in this regard. Just as the Chairman of district Council and other VIPs' cars bear beacon light, Members of Parliament should also be provided with the same facility.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not clear whether you are referring to 'Lal Batti' or 'Mombatti'

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : After quarter to two years, we would be on that side, at present destiny is not favouring us. After quarter to two years, we would be on that side and you will come to this side. M.P. should also be provided security and former Prime Minister's security should also be increased. This is my only submission.

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE : Sir, I stand to support the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

This Bill was enacted in 1988 and it has gone through three amendments already in 14 years. This particular amendment is not to decrease the security of the Prime Minister and the family in any way. It is only to see and review whether they require the sort of security which is being given to them. Basically it is only to do that.

Sir, I feel that this review is a very important one because the threat perception is different from one Prime Minister to another. This is why, it is being really amended. I feel that this is a very important one also looking at the manpower constraints of the SPG and the financial burden. There are a few suggestions that I want to put forth to the hon. Minister.

One is that the SPG goes through a rigorous training including the commando training. He has to go through everything. But at least he should also be given a behaviour training so that he behaves properly with the other members of the society. That is lacking. Why can we not do something about it? Different sorts of securities are being given to different VIPs and VVIPs. But this behaviour training which we are talking about and everybody had his concern about that, has to be looked into. It may be at the airport or at the traffic jams that we are facing. These people behave as if they have become very superior. Even at the airport they ask people what the hell are you doing here; you go this way and that way. Let them talk, at least, decently. They think everybody else is just rubbish. That is what is really needed to be looked into. This is a suggestion that I want to put-forth.

Sir, it is a fact that the ISI has really made in-roads into not just Jammu and Kashmir – earlier it used to be in Punjab – but in the whole of the country now. The threat perception to a lot of VVIPs and VIPs has increased. There are different layers of security. The SPG might be at the highest level. There are other levels of security which also have to be beefed up. The terrorists attacked Parliament. They have a definite advantage as the choice of place, weapon, time, etc. is theirs. He can attack at any time of the day or night. You cannot be really vigilant for the whole 24 hours. So, all those things have to be looked into. They are always looking for a soft target. I have always said that I do not know why the terrorists attacked Parliament. I think it was just to make a big flash. But otherwise, we are staying in nearby flats. There is no security there. Anybody can walk there. Somebody can put a bomb and could any time blow up about 20 Members of Parliament. When

[Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh Badnore]

Parliament is in Session, it can be done. It is such a soft target. Those are the things that have to be looked into also. It may not be in the ambit of this Bill but I thought that I must put this forth because we have got a chance to say things like that.

Sir, everybody is using red light on his car right from the smallest judge to the Supreme Court judge. I do not say that the Supreme Court judges should not use the red light. But why should the Members of Parliament be debarred? We may not want to use a red light in Delhi as there is no use of it. But we travel in other areas and we travel in night also. We face many problems. Why do you not allow that? You are allowing a small little judge to use it. In protocol, we may be very high but we are not allowed to use it. You should look into that as well. We are not interested in status symbol security. But some sort of security of that kind should be there.

The other thing is regarding private security which has been very rightly talked about by my colleague here. There is private security which is going about and everybody is wanting to hire and have the black cats with them. There should be some sort of rules for them also specifying who can be private security guards and who cannot be. There is nothing like that. So, this also has to be looked into.

Sir, I am grateful to you as you have given me time to speak.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Sir, I am grateful to all the hon. Members who have participated in this debate and have made very valuable suggestions. Not almost all but all have really supported this. That shows the concern of the nation and the House for the protection and security of not only of the Prime Minister but the former Prime Ministers also.

To begin with, Shri Patil, had really brought out very succinctly the necessity for the protection and security of

not only the former Prime Ministers, but also other leaders and VIPs. A general security concern has also been expressed by most of the Members here in which they have brought out the issue of border management and many other problems and difficulties of the general public. The internal security scenario as is obtaining now in the country was also focussed on during the debate. Though this aspect was not very much concerned with the present amendment Bill, yet that showed the concern of the House and concern of the country on the issue. I can assure the House, through you, that so far as the issues of border management and internal security are concerned, efforts are being made in this regard. Recently the Group of Ministers made certain recommendations. They appointed a Task Force for Border Management, internal security etc. Certain suggestions were made and as a result of that, some action has already been taken to beef up the intelligence apparatus in the States and in the country. As regards border management, a separate division in the Home Ministry has been opened under the supervision of a Secretary level officer. This is about the general thing.

Sir, so far as this Bill is concerned, this Bill is primarily meant to ensure that security would be provided to the former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members. A question was raised on this point of immediate family members' and they wanted to know whether family members would include father, mother etc. It has already been defined in section 11(e) of the main Act and this includes wife, husband, children and parents. They are already included in that.

Shri Patil was very clear about the fact that we do want to be frugal in our expenditure. There is no doubt about it. At the same time I can assure you that the country can afford it, the country has been affording it and the country would always afford any amount for the security and protection of our former Prime Ministers as well as the Prime Minister. There is no doubt about it.

Sir, so far as the general public is concerned, the scenario in the country is improving after the Group of

Ministers made certain recommendations that internal security and general security scenario should improve and security is made fool-proof and this would help us win the proxy war that has been thrust upon us.

Sir, so far as this Bill is concerned, it is only meant for a limited purpose. Instead of binding the security paraphernalia and security arrangements under a statute, we have made it clear that it would always be provided for one year and then it would be assessed every year and on the basis of that assessment, it would be prolonged. While seeking your permission to move for a discussion on this Bill I mentioned that we have a case in hand that our hon. Leader of the Opposition, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, even though ten-year has elapsed, is being given security and she should be given and nobody grudges it, rather everybody wants it.

Sir, in the same breadth there was a point raised by Shri Patil that instead of one year it should be more. I think, when in the beginning we are making it for one year and then when it has to be assessed on a year to year basis and there is not going to be any gap in assessment for more than 12 months between on assessment and the other, or so to say, the consecutive assessment period will not exceed more than 12 months, that point does not very much remain material in the sense that it would ultimately be done on the basis of an assessment.

Sir, some of the hon. Members had raised this point as to how this assessment would be made. With due respect to the hon. Members I would like to submit that we cannot make the exercise of assessment by including the MPs, MLAs or other political people because every political party has their own views. But all the same there is a proper methodology and proper paraphernalia and there is also a proper apparatus for making assessment of the threat perception. There is a Protective Review Group at the lower level and there are senior officers in that group. After they make their recommendations, it goes to the Security Categorisation Committee which is

represented by a Joint Secretary in the office of the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, a Special Secretary, Director or a Joint Director from the IB and various other officers. They make the assessment and after they make this assessment, the threat perception is assessed.

On the basis of the threat perception, ultimately the decision is made.

There was a point raised by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh on the aims and objects of the Bill. He has already sought clarifications from hon. Member Shri Shivraj Patil. I would like to make it clear that the Bill was circulated much earlier whereas we have moved the amendment now. Therefore, after moving of the Government amendment, certain words in the aims and objects have certainly become redundant. What he was reading was perhaps from the document which was circulated earlier, before the introduction. Now that a few lines in the aims and objects have been changed after the introduction of the Government amendment, certainly there are a few lines circulated earlier, which have become redundant. The changed version has been moved yesterday and has been circulated today.

One hon. Member mentioned about the quality and quantity of the Group. These are issues of a very large debate. They cannot be encompassed in the debate on this Amending Bill. But, all the same, I would say a few words on the point that he has made about the private security agencies that there should be some regulation on them. I can assure him that a Bill has already been introduced in this regard in the Rajya Sabha. Perhaps in this Session that Bill may be passed there and may come to the Lok Sabha also. We are taking care of that aspect.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : What about improving the public behaviour?

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : If it is really unobtrusive, then the whole problem is solved. But, if it continues like this, certainly you will appreciate that some action will have to

[Shri I.D. Swami]

be taken. We have been giving special training to the police not only on human rights, on the public and police relationship, but also on their own behaviour and attitudinal changes. All these things have been included in the training course from constable to senior officers and the in-service training is meant only for this purpose. I hope, as compared to many mofussils and districts in the States, when we see them in Delhi, there is a world of difference in their behaviour. So, it depended upon the people who have been recruited and the training given to them. Slowly and gradually changes are coming, though they may not be very significant, Perceptible changes have taken place; there is no doubt about it.

A point was raised about the total expenditure that is incurred on SPG and whether there is any scope to save on this count. This Bill is not primarily meant for saving money or saving the personnel. The question is that the personnel are short. The total expenditure on SPG till now is Rs.556 crore and Rs.75 crore is being spent every year on the SPG, as special and sophisticated training is given to them.

Shri Simranjit Singh Mann mentioned that Sikhs are not recruited into the SPG. For the information of the hon. Member and for the information of the whole House I may say that there is no bar on any caste or any religion coming into the SPG. The SPG is constituted from among the officers and officials brought on deputation from different organisations, be it para-military forces or State forces. There is no recruitment as such for the SPG. They are all brought into the SPG on deputation from different formations or organisations. Those who want to come to it, on them there is no bar. On the other hand we find that most of the officers are reluctant to join the SPG. It is a very hard and difficult job. Even now we have a shortage of about 650 personnel in our SPG. The total sanctioned strength is much more than the number of personnel now available in the SPG. Therefore, it is not that people belonging to a caste or religion or community is debarred.

Anybody can come into the SPG; there is no doubt about it.

I think I have been able to meet most of the points raised by the hon. Members. At the end, I would like to thank all the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : You have not covered the point on the threat perception in respect of Members of Parliament. Underground militants and PWG people are targeting MPs and are openly proclaiming who are their targeted MPs. We do not know what you are doing in this regard.

18.00 hrs.

About three months back, I had written a letter to the Home Ministry. Even recently also, it has come in the newspapers that some Ministers and Members of Parliament are targeted in three districts. Here we are talking about the Prime Minister and the former Prime Ministers. We want security for them also. But we are Members of Parliament elected by 10 lakh people. We are not asking security for all Members of Parliament. The Government should take care of Members of Parliament if there is a threat perception. If there is an IB Report and information regarding the MPs security, the Home Ministry *suo motu* should act on it. If any Member of Parliament asks for security, you may deny it. But if you have information about it, you should take care of such MPs also.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : I agree with you. In the beginning, I have already said that there is an alternative arrangement where SPG or NSG cover is not there...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (Krishnagiri) : You must give security to Members of Parliament. Without being an MP, one cannot be a Minister...(Interruptions)

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : In the beginning, I have already said that there are alternative arrangements for whom SPG or NSG cover is not available and other cover is available. There are three or four categories of security provided like 'X', 'Y', 'Z' and 'Z plus' categories. According to that, security is provided. The point raised or the suggestion made by the hon. Member is well taken...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. The Minister is replying.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : I have taken note of their requests or grievances or their sentiments. I will certainly keep them in mind and they are well taken. But all the same, whenever any Member of Parliament is writing about threat perception and it is noticed, as per the assessment made by Intelligence Bureau and other agencies, he is provided with some security.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : I have been trying for last two years, but till now I have not got security, ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : The hon. Member can tell me about it separately. It is not concerned with this. ... (Interruptions)
But all the same, I can assure the hon. Members that they can meet me separately, give me in writing and we will take care of it.

I think I have been able to meet all the points raised by the hon. Members in the House and I request them to pass the Bill. Thank you very much.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : The hon. Minister should know our anxiety. There is no doubt that we are going to pass this Bill. There are 745 Members of Parliament. Threat perception is not there for every MP. Only a few Members, maybe 30 or 40 Members, are facing it. Every district has Central Intelligence Agency but the Home Ministry is not

reviewing the position. Every month, you have to review the position from the IB as to whether any threat perception is there for any Member of Parliament. Suppose any MP requests for security, you may deny it but it is the obligation of the Home Ministry to find out from its sources in this regard. Out of 745 MPs, about 30 or 40 Members may be having the threat perception. The Home Ministry should act on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has already noted your point.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : It is all right. But I am telling this again and again due to my anxiety. I am expressing the feeling of Members on the floor of the House. It is not for me that I am raising the point. Everybody is talking outside about it. We are also writing about it. But nobody is taking care of it. They are taking care of only former Prime Ministers, their fathers, mothers and sons of former Prime Ministers. This is the opinion outside and everybody is talking like this outside. I am only expressing the feeling of the MPs through you to the hon. Minister.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I wanted some explanation from the hon. Minister. But, in the course of his reply, he has already explained what I wanted to get explained.

Sir, on one point I seek you indulgence and the indulgence of this House. In the nineties, the security of the Parliament was tightened and we had taken some steps to provide better security to the Parliament. It caused some inconvenience to Members and they objected to it. We requested them to put up with the inconvenience and they did understand it, and the security continued. It was because of that, because of the cameras, the control room and the signal given from the control room to the security personnel in the Parliament House that doors were closed and the Parliament was saved when it was attacked. Why I am mentioning this is that, if security is to be provided to the dignitaries in the country, may Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, President, Vice-President and other Ministers, then some inconvenience is likely to be caused. I think that inconvenience should be reduced as far as

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

possible. Sophistication should be introduced. But we should not grudge that kind of security to them because they represent the nation and they represent the people. If something happens, God forbid, that has larger implications. So, it should be looked at from that angle and we, who are sitting on these benches, do understand these difficulties and we would not like to grudge the security provided to the dignitaries of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Special Protection Group Act, 1988, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill

**Clause 2 Amendment of
Section 4**

Amendments made:

Page 1, -

for lines 7 to 11, *substitute*—

(ii) any former Prime Minister or to the members of his immediate family -

(a) for a period of one year from the date on which the former Prime Minister ceased to hold office and beyond one year based on the level of threat as decided by the Central Government, so however that not more than twelve months shall elapse between two consecutive assessments made in regard to the need for proximate security:

Provided that while deciding the level of threat, the Central Government shall take into account, among other things, the following factors, namely:-

(A) that the threat emanates from any militant or terrorist organisation or any other source; and

(B) that the threat is of a grave and continuing nature;" (3)

Page 2, -

omit lines 1 to 3

(4)

(Shri I.D. Swami)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 Short title

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 3,-

for "2002"

substitute "2003"

(2)

(Shri I.D. Swami)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 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-third"

substitute "Fifty-fourth"

(1)

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

(Shri I.D. Swami)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

"That Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House now stands adjourned till Eleven of the Clock tomorrow.

Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

18.10 hours.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, February 21, 2003/
Phalguna 2, 1924 (Saka)*

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : I beg to move:

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