

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES** **(English Version)**

**Fourth Session (Part-I)**  
**(Eleventh Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. IX contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
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**Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates**

**(English Version)**

...

**Thursday, February 27, 1997/Phalgun 8, 1918(Saka)**

...

<b>Col./line</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Read</b>
118/29	The Minister for Communication	The Minister of Communication
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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Thursday, February 27, 1997/Phalgun 8,  
1918 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, I have seen the List of Business. The Item Nos. 14, 16 and 17 are with reference to three Bills all related to the Ministry of Finance.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is Question Hour.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : This is Question Hour but this is concerning the List of Business which is even before the Question Hour. My point simply is this. All these Bills have to be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance which is the normal practice. May I report to you that only in mid-February we went to Bombay with the Standing Committee on Finance to discuss the Reconstruction Bank Bill and the Export-Import Bank Bill. I am surprised that they are included here without making any reference to the Standing Committee. I thought that this should be done without any delay at all...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : We fully support it. Shri P. Chidambaram must withdraw this Bill today.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is the normal practice that when these Bills are introduced, they are referred to the Standing Committee...(Interruptions) Had the Hon. Speaker been there, he would have immediately done this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will go through this matter.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The normal practice is that these Bills are referred to the Standing Committee before consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The opinion of the House has not been sought.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : What Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee says is correct. We thought that it will go to the Standing Committee and then come back. We have seen the List today. I have to make it clear that I have to oppose it. All the 140 Members of my Party will oppose it. They will not support it...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will go through it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : May I report that we went to Bombay? These people came there ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before presentation of any Bill in this House, it should first be referred to the standing committee for consideration. Therefore, I request for withdrawal of this Bill. It should not be introduced here directly but should be referred to the standing committee.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : We also support this view whole heartedly.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have been informed that normally the Bills seeking to replace the Ordinances are not referred to the Standing Committee.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : That is not so because the Insurance Regulatory Bill has been sent to the Standing Committee. We are seized of the matter ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Anyway, I will go through this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : This particular Ordinance was not discussed in the Standing Committee ...(Interruptions) It is against the workers.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : At first, every Bill is discussed in the Standing Committee and there after...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is Question Hour. I will take up this issue after Question Hour.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The Chairman of the Standing Committee has not come today. He has been to Bombay. He is seized of the Matter...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : All these points should be included in it.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The Minister should withdraw the Bills...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Only one Member should speak at one time.

(Interruptions)

Regarding sick units, if some matter is brought to my notice, I will certainly examine that or my colleague or the Government will examine that.

The other query raised by my hon. friend is about the prevalence of some other schemes in some organisations. The Government has gone thoroughly into the various other alternative schemes of other organisations. After thorough examination, we have found that they are not comparable to our Scheme. If the hon. Member has some scheme in his mind, I am also open about that and we can also discuss those schemes.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Respected Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while giving the answer to the particular question about the ESI scheme, the concerned Minister has replied saying that in order to improve the quality of ESI medical care, the ESI Corporation has decided to enhance the ceiling on expenditure on medical care from Rs. 410 to Rs. 500. My simple question is : What is the present price structure of all these medicines? If a person goes to a doctor and if he only gets the prescription after having himself medically examined, in that case, he is charged Rs. 100. If you visit and see the condition of the ESI hospitals in Maharashtra, you will find that it is very horrible. Workers do not get any facility at all. They go there only to obtain a certificate to remain absent from the factories. Beyond that there is no other medical facility provided to the workmen. Under such circumstances, eventually, after the discussions with trade unions about the various settlements, they have made provision for the medical facilities to the workmen. In view of the fact that those settlements and agreements are prevailing, the enhancement limit is unnecessary and it will not help the working class at all. Before taking this decision, the Minister should have discussion with the Central Trade Union and also with other members. My question is, whether the concerned Minister has visited any hospital of the ESIC. Then only they have to decide about the enhancement.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : As also about the strengthening of the peripheral services.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Sir, the hon. Member's objection is that the Scheme was enhanced, which was not required. May I request, through you, to the House that let us see to it. Suppose, somebody was drawing Rs. 3,000 on 31st December, a cut-off date, he gets Rs. 3,100...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : The Question is about medical facilities and not about the Scheme.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : He has mentioned to that also. Let me make it clear. After all, you are our hon. colleagues. Listen to me, please.

Suppose, he gets Rs. 100 more, then he goes out of the cover which is available for medical facilities.

That is why, after having constant discussion with the trade unions to ensure that viable and sustainable medical facilities are available and workers are not excluded, we have enhanced the amount.

Regarding the point of visiting certain hospitals before doing that, I would submit that we have certainly visited some hospitals and had discussions with the trade unions. Then only we have decided to enhance the *per capita* availability of funds from Rs. 410 to Rs. 500.

Sir, through you, I want to inform the hon. Members...

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : If they are functioning better then he should mention the names of the hospitals he has visited.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Sir, please give me the opportunity to speak.

There is no cap, and I repeat that there is no cap on the amount of expenditure incurred on the treatment of an insured person or any member of his family. We are also making super facilities available to many employees. If they are chronically ill, we have also indicated some hospitals, and they will be given better treatment. For this we may have to spend even Rs. 10 lakh; what to speak of Rs. 500.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : They are not having culture in the hospitals for years together. Has anybody examined it? What kind of a treatment the workmen are getting, are you aware of it?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Yes, Sir. During the last three months, the Secretary, Labour and the Director-General, ESI have visited various States. They had discussions with those States. So, after having deep and thorough discussions, we have come to this conclusion.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the building of the ESI hospital at Durgapur had been completed two years back but the hospital has not yet started functioning.

May I know from the hon. Minister that when will that ESI hospital at Durgapur the building of which has already been completed, start functioning? Also may I know how many non-functional ESI hospitals are there in the State of West Bengal?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Sir, the delay in the completion of the building was the reason that we could not start it. The moment we get the certificate that the building is okay, we will start it functioning.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The building is okay. Two years back, it was completed. Now, you are to start it functioning.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I will look into it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Okay. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he feels that ESI is functioning efficiently and no other organisation can serve better than it. Would you go in for sample survey and know the reaction of the workers there to? Would you tell the names of trade unions which have given their consent for extending the time limit?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : As the issue of hon'ble member has mentioned the extension of ESI Scheme and inclusion of more people in it has been decided after conducting survey. Opinion of almost all the trade Unions have been sought. The Hon'ble member may tell me about the trade unions which were not consulted on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Whether the trade unions which were consulted on this issue, have given their consent. If so, which are those trade unions?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : All the trade unions included in the Consultative Advisory Board of ESI have been consulted on it. Please tell me about trade unions which have been left out. We will seek their opinion in the matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is an important question. Unfortunately the Labour Minister is also not present here and many hon'ble Members want to know about it. It will be better if this is taken up during Half-an-Hour discussion.

[English]

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : You are perfectly correct. It requires Half-an-Hour discussion. But the most important thing I would like to place before you is, so many trade unions...

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can speak on this issue during Half-an-Hour discussion.

[English]

We have already agreed for Half-an-Hour discussion on this question. So, please do not mention it now.

### **Crisis in SAIL Units**

\*82. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) as a whole or any of its units are facing threat or crisis as a result of high competition and economic liberalisation;

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

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

There is no threat or crisis in the Steel Authority of India.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I am surprised to see how this very new and dynamic Minister is provoked to be misled by his officers to suppress the truth before the nation. I do not mind it because it is his job to give reply. The time has come when the entire nation will judge whether this reply is correct or incorrect. I do not like to embarrass the officials of the SAIL with respect to what they deposed before various fora of Parliament, but I would like to remind him only one thing.

The Nitish Sengupta Committee which was set up to examine and go into the entire details...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Munshiji, question please.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I am coming to the question, Sir.

[Translation]

He has denied it flatly. But I would like to say that we have to bring out truth if he does not accept it.

[English]

I quote the Nitish Sengupta Committee's observation :

"In a free trade regime with import duties falling everywhere, Indian steel plants are in danger of being overwhelmed in the domestic market by the global majority and cannot also gain easy access to other markets unless their ware is the best priced and also carries the tag of good, not just passable quality".

I would like to know from the hon. Minister where it is a fact that the falling import duty of steel day in day out provided India as a dumping ground and that dumping ground in India is being allowed in the interest of foreign countries at the cost of our own domestic production. Why I am saying this is because the same Minister replied in the other House to Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan that Indian steel plants are having the capacity to meet the domestic requirements fully and there is no question of any crisis in the plants. If the domestic requirement can be met fully and at the same time at a lesser price the dumping of the imported steel goes on with the falling of the imported steel, how will you justify the viability of the steel plants in India in future?

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : I have given the actual figures and the actual position that the steel industry is in our country. There is no question of the officers misleading me. The day before yesterday the Economic Survey report was placed before the House. As per the report, the Indian steel industry witnessed more impressive performance as compared to the previous years. While the exports are going up, as per the report submitted by the Finance Ministry, the export is higher than the import.

We are exporting more than what we are importing. In terms of the previous year, the trend is of the same level.

The Ministry of Commerce is the nodal Ministry for dumping and our Ministry has already advised SAIL to form a Cell to take remedial action for the problem faced by the Steel Authority of India. I do agree with the hon. Member, Shri Dasmunsi that due to the continuous reduction in customs duty, the steel industry is facing some problems. I do admit it. It is not meant for...*(Interruptions)* The import duty is going to have a continuous effect on the steel industry in our country. If the excise duty is also increased, it will also have an effect. In other words, the duty structure will create certain problems. I do agree with the hon. Members. But it is not meant only for the steel industry. The steel industry performs well and I believe it will continue to contribute to the economy.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : You have personally heard the reply of the hon. Minister. My question was not about the performance of the steel plants and the steel industry. My question was, whether the present economic liberalisation policy is creating a crisis for the steel plants and the SAIL units or not. The Minister himself has replied that the question of reduction of duty day in and day out is really posing a crisis and a threat. My question was that. I said that his officers have misled him. That was what I said and exactly, he admitted it.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, the steel industry is a commercial industry. We are facing various problems. Our input cost is increasing due to several reasons; not only because of the duty structure, but due to the price hike and due to the customs duty also. I admit that this is one of the factors. The customs and the excise duty is one of the factors but it is not meant only for the steel industry. It is there for the steel industry also. The problem is there but I do believe that it will be possible for the steel industry to overcome the problem.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : My second supplementary is this. I will not go into the details of the matter now to embarrass you. I am in a mood to help you. I would like to put a question straightaway to you.

Is it a fact that in spite of severe losses incurred by three steel plants - the Durgapur Steel Plant, the Rourkela Steel Plant and, from time to time, the Bhilai Steel Plant - the handling charges in the stockyard was paid in a manner beyond proportions in the past - I do not know about the present - to drain out a lot of resources of the steel plants to make fortune for a few individuals? If so, are you going to set up an investigating committee to go into why this was so done and at whose behest? If today the political leaders are on the dock of the Supreme Court and everyday being maligned, why should you not do some inquiry in SAIL as to who drained out the entire resources on handling charges?

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, the Steel Authority of India is continuously making profits. Except the Durgapur Steel Plant, the Bokaro Steel Plant and the Bhilai Steel Plant are continuously making profits. Two plants are running on losses.

Regarding transport and handling charges, I am happy to inform the House that in the current year the transport and handling charges are going to decline. This is a healthy sign for the Steel Authority of India...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : How is it going to be possible?

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : It is a commercial organisation. We are dealing through public tenders. We have accepted the lowest bid. The lowest bid quoted is less than that of the previous year. So, it is going to decline.

If there is a specific allegation, we have no hesitation in holding an inquiry against any officer or against any person. If a specific allegation is given to me, I am ready to hold an inquiry. We need a specific allegation. Without a specific allegation, we cannot take any action.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether ISSCO, Burnpur falls within your discretion. Is it a loss incurring firm? If it is a loss incurring firm, what are you doing to help it? I am particularly asking about ISSCO, Burnpur. What is the state of affairs with regard to ISSCO, Burnpur at the moment? Is it part of the Steel Authority of India or is it a separate entity? If it is a separate entity, what are you doing to help it?

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, it is under my Ministry. It has been referred to BIFR. The Government is very seriously considering to modernise the ISSCO. But whatever steps we have to take, we have to take the approval from the BIFR.

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : The most important point I would like to know from the hon. Minister is that

as to how much quantity of steel is lying at the stockyard now. What are the steps the Government is taking to sell it in the market? I am sure the hon. Minister will agree with me that when the Steel Authority of India go to the market, they would have found that it is a buyers market and not the sellers market. What steps the Government is thinking to meet the requirements of industrial market, the domestic market and other markets? How are they going to explore all these things?

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, the development of the steel industry depends upon the economic growth and industrial growth of the country. However, steel growth is higher than the economic growth and industrial growth of the country. So, the inventory is going up. Supply is higher than demand. Once supply is higher than demand, the inventory is going up. So, the Steel Authority of India and the Government of India have taken several measures to decrease the inventory.

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : But I would like to know how much quantity of steel is available at the stock yard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. You have already put your question. Now, Mr. Chatterjee, please ask your question.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Please give me two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Two minutes for supplementary!

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is for just introduction.

The scene regarding the steel industry is very interesting. The House may be surprised to know that today the world number one producer of steel is not any advanced country, but China. Now, why has this happened? The requirement of steel in the developed countries is coming down because of the development of infrastructure and the development of capital goods industry. This is agreed to by all the international analysts. They are cutting down their production. They are trying to dump the surplus availability in the developing countries where the need is still more.

The second aspect is, it is a very funny scene. We have the best quality of steel in the world. We have adequate coal reserves also, though not of adequate quality. Despite that Japan which does not have these resources produces it at cheaper price.

The hon. Minister has referred to the Economic Survey. He has also conceded the point raised by hon. Member, Shri Das Munsri. The performance in terms of production is all right. The inventories are piling up.

The sale is not all right. The argument that he has advanced that the economy is not advancing had been refuted by Prof. Alagh yesterday. Yesterday he said that the growth in the manufacturing sector is no less than in the past.

My question, therefore, is in view of the fact that our inventories are accumulating and in view of the fact that the developed countries are trying to dump it on the under-developed countries, would he insist on the Minister of Finance that the customs duty on this steel sector and on this steel products should be enhanced in the course of this Budget?

There is a Commission. I have got the report with me on steel. Second part of my question is, whether that Commission on steel industry will be immediately formed with a suitable Chairman and make it functioning so that the cost aspect is taken into account.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Regarding duty structure, my Ministry has already taken up the matter with the Finance Ministry. We want that there should be no further reduction in the import duty and no further hike in the excise duty, in the interest of the existing steel industry in our country.

#### Restriction on Foreign Satellite Channels

+  
\*84. SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOR :  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

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

(a) whether private TV channels, show only such programmes and films which are full of violence, vulgarity and obscenity;

(b) whether the Government propose to legally restrict the telecasts of such undesirable programmes by foreign satellite channels;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Private TV channels beam their programmes from outside the country. Some of these channels, at times, do not exhibit the requisite degree of sensitivity to Indian values and culture.

(b) to (d) Government intends to introduce a bill in the Parliament which would seek to facilitate the broadcasting of such channels within the ambit of the proposed law and, inter-alia, provide for application of a broadcasting and advertising code on such satellite channels.

[Translation]

**SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the programmes being beamed in India through foreign satellite channels are in conformity with the Indian culture and whether these programmes are not affecting our social milieu. Now-a-days, no one likes to watch TV alongwith his family members. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to what measures are being taken to protect the Indian culture and social values because such programmes are giving rise to immorality in our society and casting adverse impact on women and children.

**SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with the Hon'ble member. As no law pertaining to broadcasting has been formulated in the country so far, the Department has decided to enact a law in this regard and after enactment of law, all the foreign channels would be able to beam their programmes only after procuring a licence and at the time of issuing such licences, a restriction would be imposed on them that the programmes not in conformity with the Indian culture would be banned effectively.

**SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary is as to whether the government propose to take any policy decision in order to ensure that the programmes full of vulgarity and violence are not telecast in our country so that our future generation may be saved from the evils and glamour of western civilization and Indian culture and values are protected.

**SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as Doordarshan is concerned, we make every effort to avoid telecasting such programmes on Doordarshan. Regarding films, we will endeavour to get restrictive measures taken through the Censor Board. I would like to assure the Hon'ble Member that there has been a lot of improvement in Doordarshan and the measures to bring improvement will be continued in the future also.

**SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in his reply has stated that the private TV channels beam their programmes from outside the country. Whether the Government is not aware that these programmes are telecast from outside the country. I would also like to know whether the Government has held discussion with the distributors and owners of such channels regarding their willingness to abide by the laws formulated in our country in this context.

**SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, consultations are not a pre-requisite for enactment of a law. After the enactment of law, they would be asked to abide by it.

**SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA:** Our culture is under attack and our TV channels are under attack from the foreign channels but the Government is unable to do anything about it. Whether the Government would deliberate upon this matter in order to improve the situation?

**SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM :** I have made it amply clear in the very beginning that this is a very serious issue. India is a vast country. Here, permission of house-owners is required to gain entry into even an ordinary household but on the contrary, no permission is required for entering this country of 95 crore people. Anyone who is willing, is beaming programmes without seeking any permission. Hence, we are trying to enact a legislation as soon as possible so that after its enactment, strict action could be taken against those trying to beam such programmes which go against the culture of our country and our national unity.

**SHRI HARADHAN ROY :** I am not aware as to whether the Hon'ble Minister watches TV or not, but I would like to tell him that a number of serials, which are being telecast in India today-be they of half an hour or one hour duration are being telecast in the name of socials and in some serials prizes are also announced in which the viewers giving correct reply to a certain question stand to get even a car as a prize but in all such serials, murders, killing, rape and what not are being depicted. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to by when the telecast of such serials would be stopped. He should give a clear reply to this question. Whether all this will be allowed to continue as our coming generation and our country is being destroyed by all such things.

**SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM :** What can I say in reply to this question? Such is the taste of the people. However so far as the code is concerned, we will ensure that the serials not conforming to the code laid down in this regard, are not approved. Even if a little violation of the code is detected, those serials would not be approved. We are trying to ensure the production of such programmes as can be watched by all the family members together. It is on this basis that we are trying to telecast programmes on Doordarshan.

**SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of pleasure that the Hon'ble Minister has himself admitted that such programmes should be shown on TV channels which can be watched by the whole family together. However many such programmes are being telecast through Doordarshan which one cannot watch alongwith his family members. Hon'ble Minister has himself admitted that they donot have any control over private TV channels. When the Hon'ble Minister himself admits it and feels that the programmes being beamed through these channels are not of such standard which can be watched with one's family, I would like to ask him through you whether his Ministry

has laid down any guidelines regarding the kind of programmes that would be allowed to be telecast. Secondly, the Hon'ble Minister has stated :

[English]

"Government intends to introduce a Bill in the Parliament which would seek to facilitate the broadcasting of such channels within the ambit of the proposed law..."

[Translation]

I would like to know the time by which this Bill would be presented and whether you can also tell us about the time by which this Bill will be passed and it would become an Act. Whether this Act is likely to come into force within six months or three months so that the telecast of such programmes is stopped.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : So far as the code is concerned, a code is already in force for the programmes being telecast through Doordarshan. However, we have not been able to do anything in case of private channels as no legislation has been formulated in this regard. As regards presentation of Bill, the matter is already pending before the Cabinet. We'll try to present and pass both the Broadcasting Act and Prasar Bharti Bill in this session itself. After getting the approval of the Cabinet, I would like it to be discussed on various fora throughout the country because such a law is being enacted for the very first time in this country. We'll give it wide publicity through newspapers and Doordarshan. We are starting a programme 'Focus' from Monday onwards. People from all walks of life be it the Editor of a newspaper or a politician, should be invited to express their views in this programme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like this Bill to be passed in the Parliament not simply by majority but by consensus of all the members. Thus, we are trying to include all the viewpoints in this Bill.

[English]

#### Telephone Facility to Rural Areas

\*85. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide telephone facility in the rural areas;

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

(c) the target fixed to provide telephone facility to the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh during the next financial year and the time by which this target is likely to be achieved;

(d) the rate of call proposed to be charged in these rural areas and the rent likely to be paid by the villagers for new connections;

(e) whether the villagers are also proposed to be provided with STD facility; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Government has adopted a policy to provide one Public Telephone in each of the villages of the country.

(b) As on 31.12.1996, 2,32,473 villages have been provided with telephone facility. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) A target of 23,000 village Public Telephones (VPTs) has been proposed for Uttar Pradesh during 1997-98.

(d) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) and (f) The STD facilities can be provided on Village Public Telephones (VPTs) if there is a demand and technically feasible to provide the same. Normal telephone connections in villages can take STD facility, if the exchanges are having STD facility.

#### Statement-I

S.No.	Name of Circle	Total No. of villages with Telephone Facilities as on 31st December, 1996.
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	159
2.	Andhra Pradesh	19338
3.	Assam	9134
4.	Bihar	13505
5.	Gujarat	13368
6.	Haryana	6953
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4621
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1844
9.	Karnataka	14877
10.	Kerala	1530
11.	Madhya Pradesh	28703
12.	Maharashtra	24538
13.	North-East	2600
14.	Orissa	13915
15.	Punjab	8647
16.	Rajasthan	14058
17.	Tamil Nadu	15095
18.	Uttar Pradesh	30654
19.	West Bengal	8740
20.	MTNL, Delhi	191
21.	Calcutta Telephones	3
Total		232473

**Statement-II***Tariffs for Rural Subscribers*

Telephone Exchange	Rental	No. of call allowed free of charge during two months	Rates of Bi-monthly rental and call Fee				
			Fee per call unit for calls in excess of those allowed free of units charges				
			From 251 to 450	From 451 to 500	From 501 to 1000	From 1001 to 2000	In excess 2000
	Rs.		Paise	Paise	Rs.	Rs.P	Rs.P
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Exchange systems of less than 1000 lines	100	250	60	80	1	1.25	1.40
2. Exchange systems of 1000 lines and above but below 30,000 lines	200	250	60	80	1	1.25	1.40
3. Exchange systems of 30,000 lines and above but below 1 lakh lines	275	250	60	80	1	1.25	1.40
4. Exchange systems of 1 lakh lines and above but below 3 lakh lines	360	250	60	80	1	1.25	1.40
5. Exchange systems of 3 lakh lines and above.	380	250	60	80	1	1.25	1.40

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that Telecom policy has been adopted by the government to provide one public telephone facility to each and every village of the country and out of total 6,04,925 villages, this facility has been provided in 2,32,473 villages so far. However, the telephones remain out of order in more than two-third villages out of the villages having telephone connections. Whether the government is merely completing the formality of providing a connection in order to meet the target? I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to whether the Government has got any plan to improve the situation so that the telephones which are presently out of order are made functional and if so, the details thereof. Further, how these telephones are proposed to be made functional?

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: All the telephones installed in villages are out of order.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : No, Sir. All the telephones are not out of order, however the position is not very good either in this regard. It is true that there were a number of faults in the telephones installed in villages earlier but we have rectified the faults and have made a number of telephones functional this year. We had launched a special drive in this regard and according to the information available with me, 70 per cent telephones are functioning properly but 30 per

cent telephones are still out of order...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 90 per cent telephones are out of order.

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the condition of the telephones installed in villages is very bad...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply first.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Let me complete my reply first...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : The way they reply, sometimes we feel that we are living in a fool's paradise.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I'll give a reply as per the information available with me. I won't reply beyond it. If you have any complaint pertaining to any state or any district, you may give it to me in writing. I am even prepared to order a vigilance enquiry or CBI enquiry or any other enquiry which may satisfy you...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I request you to please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him conclude. Yes, Mr. Varma, please complete your reply.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : If both of us speak at the same time, nobody would be able to hear anything...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why don't you listen to him?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : I'll give you the official figures and not of my own...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may say whatever you want to say.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister?... (Interruptions) The Hon'ble Minister states that he is getting this matter examined...(Interruptions)

[English]

'The matter is being looked into'.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : You are misinterpreting my statement...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Such a reply is given...(Interruptions) Leave aside U.P. and talk about your Ministry instead...(Interruptions) The telephones are not functioning properly anywhere...(Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : I have in mind the interests of all the states including that of U.P. and Bihar...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. I would request you to sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Specific complaints can be made only when some of the telephones are out of

order. However, in this case, all the telephones are out of order...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why don't you allow him to speak?

[Translation]

I think, you are not satisfied with the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister but please allow him to complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thereafter, we'll consider some other alternative.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, What I had stated earlier was that as per the information available with me, a drive was launched to make functional the telephones installed in rural areas. We are somewhat satisfied with the progress but the telephones installed in rural areas are not functioning properly. We agree with you to an extent and we have also made an effect to improve the situation...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA : I am not satisfied with your reply. I would like to know about the action taken so far...(Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : You are wasting the time of entire House. Let me complete my reply first. Thereafter, I'll reply to all the questions you may like to put. I have the information furnished by my department which I can communicate. As per the information...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may speak.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : As per the information available with me, 70 per cent telephones have been made functional while 30 per cent telephones are still out of order...(Interruptions)

SHRI TASLIMUDDIN : Not a single telephone is functioning properly in Bihar...(Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : It could be possible...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have to be on my legs again and again. Please listen to me for a minute.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, when you say that 70 per cent or 80 per cent telephones have

been made functional, they get more excited. Please share some more information...(Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : We respect your sentiments. It is quite possible that the information furnished by the Department may be wrong...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Not a single telephone is functioning properly in rural areas...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHELSAI SINGH : When our telephones continue to remain out of order in villages, one can well imagine the plight of common man...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would like to thank Shri Brij Bhushan for having asked his question. However there does not seem to be any scope for putting even a single supplementary in view of the atmosphere prevalent here. Hence I leave this matter to be taken up during half an hour discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : I would like to give an assurance...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now nothing is being heard in this din. Please leave it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is not good.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter should be taken up under Rule 193 as Half-an-hour discussion will not suffice. A short duration discussion should be held on it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am sorry gentlemen, I have already said that Half-an-hour discussion will be allowed on this. Somebody may give a notice to that effect. There shall be no discussion on this point now.

### Railway Projects

+  
\*86. LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI  
TRIPATHI :  
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned some new railway projects during the last 6 months;

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

(c) the estimated investment involved in each of these projects so far?

[Translation]

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

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

### Statement

(b) and (c) The projects which have been sanctioned by the Government (approved by CCEA)/sanctioned by Parliament during the last 6 months with their location and cost are as under :-

S.No.	Name of Project	State	Cost (Rs. in cr.)	Date of approval by CCEA
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Construction of 3rd line between Bilaspur and Urkura.	MP	151.53	approved by CCEA on 19.9.96
2.	Doubling of Titalagarh-Langigarh Rd.	Orissa	66.61	-do-
3.	Electrification of Bhubaneswer-Vishakhapatnam	Orissa	292.22	-do-
4.	Electification of Udhna-Jalgaon	Gujarat/ Maharashtra	124.39	-do-
5.	Conversion of Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur.	Rajasthan	262.00	-do-
6.	Sakri-Hassanpur	Bihar		approved by CCEA on 25.9.96
7.	New line between Khagaria and Kusheswarthan	Bihar	78.22	approved by CCEA on 21.2.97
8.	New line between Bangalore-Hassan-Shravanbelagola	Karntaka	179.18	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
9.	New line from Harmuti to Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh	155.29	approved by CCEA on 21.2.97
10.	New line from Hubli to Ankola	Karnataka	483.15	-do-
11.	Gauge Conversion of Ranchi-Lohardanga with extension to Tori.	Bihar	137.6	-do-
12.	Gauge Conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi	Madhya Pradesh	386.3	-do-
13.	New line from Ahmednagar to Parli Vaijanath via Beed.	Maharashtra	353.00	-do-
14.	New line from Dausa to Gangapur City.	Rajasthan	152.00	-do-
15.	Gauge Conversion of Guntakal-Haspet to provide doubling	Karnataka/ Andhra Pradesh	105.77	-do-
16.	Third line Sonua and Manoharpur	Bihar	183.07	-do-
17.*	Gauge Conversion of Mathura-Kasganj and Kasganj-Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh	396.00	-do-

\* This work is included in the budget 97-98 and will be taken up after the budget is passed by Parliament.

The following projects costing over Rs. 10 crs. each have been sanctioned by the Minister for Railways and have been approved by Parliament in the Supplementary Budget 96-97.

1.	Katpadi-Vaniyambadi-Automatic block and 3rd line between Vaniyambadi-Jolarpettai	Tamil Nadu	47.00
2.	Arakkonam-Marudhaham-Walajah Road-Katpadi-Automatic block signalling with third line between Marudhaham-Walajah Road.	Tamil Nadu	22.97
3.	Manmad-Igatpuri-Installation of optic fibre cable system	Maharashtra	11.19
4.	Hubli-construction of Diesel locoshed for 50 locos	Karnataka	15.26
5.	Hubli-wagon manufacturing facilities	-do-	15.00

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, No mention has been made in the list submitted by the Ministry about any new railway lines in Uttar Pradesh. In the Budget also nothing has been said on this account. Gauge conversion of any line increases its capacity, revenue receipts and naturally decreases the burden of railways. The gauge conversion of Lucknow-Barouni line in the North-East Railways increased the goods carrying capacity of this track by 30 percent and passenger traffic capacity by 25 percent. This line goes upto Assam and it passes through the states of Uttar Pradesh, Northern Bihar and Northern Bengal. This is a very old line. This conversion is likely to increase the capacity of other lines and decrease the burden thereof as well. Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state as to whether the Government propose to undertake the doubling work of Lucknow-Barouni line? If so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been only

asked in this question that how many projects have been approved by the Government during last six months. In reply to this question I have told that such and such railway lines have been given approval. As far as the information in respect of the question being asked by the hon'ble member is concerned, we will collect the same and let him know about that. Yesterday, many of our colleagues particularly Shri Sanat Mehta were looking very much agitated. The approval which is given...*(Interruptions)* O.K. all the people of entire Gujarat and Kerala also ...*(Interruptions)* I do not want to name anyone. My question is in respect of approval. There are two kinds of approval...*(Interruptions)* At least, now listen to me, please. After question hour it will meaningless to discuss this thing. Yesterday also, I was going to give reply ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only one minute is left. He will not be able to complete his reply within this little time. At least, you would like to listen to his reply. You may please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Please, listen to my reply. A sum of Rs. 396 crores has been sanctioned during the last six months for gauge conversion of Mathura-Kasganj and Kasganj-Bareilly railway lines. There are two kinds of approval in this respect; one is parliamentary approval and another is cabinet's approval.

12.00 hrs.

So far as the matter pertaining to Surendranagar and Bhavanagar of Gujarat, which our colleagues were raising yesterday, is concerned I would like to let you know that it has got the parliamentary approval and is likely to get the Cabinet's approval within a day or two. As far as money is concerned, expenditure of one or two lakhs of Rupees does not matter because when the project is cleared by the Parliament, it becomes the baby of the ministry and whatever amount does it require for its implementation, it will always be spent thereon. This much we want to assure you and this is what I was trying to let you know yesterday.

Likewise, Karoor and Selam projects have also been cleared by the Parliament but these are pending before the Cabinet. These are also likely to get Cabinet's approval within a day or two and whatever amount it requires, we will give it. This is what I was trying to tell you yesterday but you people were not ready to listen...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may ask second supplementary.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : My question was not related to this only. What I meant to say was that this is a very old line and its gauge conversion has increased the revenue receipts of railways substantially, but at the same time traffic congestion has also increased many folds in the areas through which it passes. It requires your immediate attention. I want to know as to whether you would think over this problem and find a way out? This can be told to us later also.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Yes, we will think over it. The policies of the Government are directed to the welfare of backward class people and development of backward areas. Uttar Pradesh is also one of the backward states. Whenever any project survey is completed, it will be submitted before the Planning Commission, from where it would be referred to the Expanded Board. Thereafter we will take it up. But your question pertained to the period of last six months. We will certainly take your new demand under our consideration.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[Translation]*

### Persons killed/injured at Unmanned Level Crossings

\*83. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed/injured at the unmanned level crossings during the last three years; and

(b) the concrete steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The number of persons killed/injured in accidents at unmanned level crossings during the last three years is as under :

Year	No. of persons killed	No. of persons injured
1993-94	146	273
1994-95	147	115
1995-96	117	162

(b) Accidents at unmanned level crossings occur due to the negligence of road users who cross the level crossing without observing the precautions stipulated in Section 131 of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Some of the steps taken by the Railways to prevent accidents at unmanned level crossings are as under :

- (i) Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on the road approaches to unmanned level crossings so that the road vehicles may reduce their speed.
- (ii) Whistle boards are provided alongside the rail track on approach of level crossings to advise the train driver to whistle to warn the road users about the approaching train.
- (iii) To educate the road drivers about safety at unmanned level crossings, publicity campaign is launched through various media like quickies on TV, cinema slides, talks on radio and advertisements in newspapers and periodicals.
- (iv) State Governments are requested from time to time to exercise strict checks while issuing driving licenses, especially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy traffic vehicles.

*[English]*

### Strike by Pilots

\*87. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :  
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pilots of Indian Airlines had gone on mass sick leave from January 23 to 27, 1997;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the accumulated loss suffered by the airlines due to strike by pilots;
- (d) the number of flights cancelled as a result thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to avoid such losses and strikes by pilots in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 23.1.1997, a total of 142 pilots represented by ICPA resorted to concerted action by reporting sick or refusing to operate flights on various grounds till 27.1.97. The main issues for the action are as under :-

- (1) Guaranteed payment of fixed hours;
- (2) Cash allowance during international flights;
- (3) Free meals to two pilots during their stay in hotels;
- (4) Comparable terms of payment with the Pilots of Alliance Air

(c) and (d) 83 flights were cancelled as a result of concerted action by the pilots. Indian Airlines suffered an estimated loss of approximately Rs. 3 crores due to this action.

(e) Following steps have been taken to avoid such losses and strikes by pilots in future :-

- (i) The Management of IA refused to entertain any demands that would amount to reopening of the settlement signed with the Indian Commercial Pilots Association in January, 1996, valid till December 1998.
- (ii) Disciplinary proceedings were initiated against all pilots who had refused to undertake flights.
- (iii) The names of Pilots who have reported sick on more than one occasion have been referred to the Airforce Central Medical Establishment through DGCA to keep it on record for consideration during periodical medical examination in future.
- (iv) The Management insisted on restoration of normalcy before commencement of any discussions.

### MI-17 Helicopters

\*88. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Russian built MI-17 helicopters are in use in India for transportation of goods or passengers;
- (b) if so, the number thereof;
- (c) whether Government have seen reports that Nepal has grounded these helicopters for safety reasons; and
- (d) if so, the safety precautions taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) MI-17 helicopters are not being used for civil air transport operations in India.

(c) It is gathered that His Majesty's Government of Nepal had temporarily suspended passenger operations by MI-17 helicopters in December, 1996, which have since resumed and the matter is being examined by their experts.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b)

### Telephone Connections

\*89. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of telephone connections sanctioned during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the position of waiting list during the above period, State-wise; and
- (c) the number of new telephone connections given during 1996 and 1997, so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The details of telephone connections provided and the position of waiting list three years, State-wise are as per Statement-I.

(c) The Number of new telephone connection given during 1996 and 1997, so far, State-wise is as per Statement-II.

### Statement-I

#### Details of Telephone Connections Provided and Position of Waiting List During Last 3 Years

S. No.	Name of the State	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
		Telephone Provided	Waiting list as on 31.3.94	Telephone Provided	Waiting list as on 31.3.95	Telephone Provided	Waiting list as on 31.3.96
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	77,837	1,55,426	1,38,278	1,24,452	1,50,021	1,35,054
2.	Assam	13,430	9,820	13,103	15,028	20,295	19,648

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Gujarat (including Dadar, Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli)	82,187	1,98,808	1,22,507	1,88,114	1,34,832	2,11,799
4.	Bihar	37,189	35,544	44,068	21,225	33,115	42,481
5.	Haryana	41,793	69,310	47,008	60,885	52,486	76,914
6.	Himachal Pradesh	11,009	18,415	21,349	13,520	30,212	24,768
7.	J&K	7,047	18,190	4,983	20,530	5,988	27,919
8.	Karnataka	73,539	1,65,886	1,36,008	1,24,066	1,39,694	1,53,663
9.	Kerala (Including Lakshdweep, U.T.)	58,936	3,14,442	90,460	3,38,879	1,54,033	4,15,321
10.	M.P.	1,01,964	52,587	88,619	37,055	81,275	35,806
11.	Maharashtra (Including Goa and Mumbai)	2,45,463	3,41,529	3,60,807	2,61,743	4,18,131	2,36,716
12.	North-East (Including Arun-achal Pradesh, Manipur Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	8,687	5,217	8,689	5,327	16,433	5,961
13.	Orissa	21,021	4,171	18,638	9,726	31,014	14,682
14.	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	59,008	1,89,462	1,01,059	1,71,372	1,43,569	1,73,005
15.	Rajasthan	75,135	1,62,571	84,623	1,47,208	1,00,672	1,38,150
16.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai & Pondicherry (U.T.))	94,116	3,10,992	1,49,899	2,97,784	2,07,452	3,41,829
17.	Uttar Pradesh	59,330	1,25,496	1,16,290	1,06,827	1,51,336	1,18,546
18.	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Calcutta)	47,885	68,083	70,240	78,963	1,12,463	95,538
19.	Delhi	1,25,020	2,50,901	1,53,090	1,30,243	2,00,070	9,221
Total		12,40,636	24,96,850	17,69,718	21,52,947	21,83,091	22,77,021

**Statement-II**

*Number of New Telephone Connections Given During 1996-97 as on 31.01.1997*

Sl. No.	State	Telephone Connection
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	107494
2.	Assam	10963
3.	Bihar	25094
4.	Gujarat (including Dadar, Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli)	93187
5.	Haryana	27765
6.	H. P.	22745
7.	J&K	4459

1	2	3
8.	Karnataka	90051
9.	Kerala (Including Ladshdweep,( U.T.))	106094
10.	M.P.	30536
11.	Maharashtra (Including Goa and Mumbai)	203591
12.	North-East (Including Arun-achal Pradesh, Manipur Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	8882
13.	Orissa	24629
14.	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	63056
15.	Rajasthan	54172

1	2	3
16.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai & Pondicherry (U.T.))	1245503
17.	U.P.	104705
18.	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Calcutta)	71392
19.	Delhi	102576
Total		1279894

### Mid Air Disaster

\*90. SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :  
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a major mid air disaster was averted over Delhi skies during January, 1997, when an Indian Airlines plane carrying him among other passengers from Bombay came dangerously close to an Air India aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure non-recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) On 4.1.97 the Commander of Indian Airlines flight IC-168 reported airmis with an Air India flight AI-308.

(b) to (d) The investigation into the incident conducted by Directorate General of Civil Aviation has revealed that Air India aircraft had overtaken the Indian Airlines aircraft at 60 NM (Nautical Miles) before Delhi, maintaining a vertical separation of about 3000 ft and hence there was no risk of collision between the two aircraft.

(e) DGCA has advised Airports Authority of India (AAI) to take the following measures :-

- (i) Air Traffic Controllers should strictly follow the laid down ATC procedures and instructions.
- (ii) Standard phraseology should be used while giving instructions to aircraft.
- (iii) Frequent proficiency monitoring of ATC staff in association with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation officers should be carried out.
- (iv) Modernisation of Air Traffic Services of Bombay and Delhi airports should be made operational expeditiously.

(v) Proper maintenance of navigational communication and landing facilities should be ensured.

### Tata-Singapore Airlines Joint Venture

\*91. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tata-Singapore Airlines joint venture has recently been approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) contrary to the declared Government's policy decision of not allowing foreign airlines equity participation in Indian domestic airlines sector;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof and the decision taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether representation have also been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) the impact of induction of such a large capacity Tata-Singapore Airlines venture on Indian domestic Airlines; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of domestic airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) had recommended the joint venture proposal of Tata-Singapore Airlines. Since the modalities for permitting foreign equity and NRI equity participation in the domestic air transport services are under formulation, the Government has decided to re-examine the proposal after the said modalities are formulated.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. It has been represented that the proposal should not be approved as it would adversely affect the interests of the existing domestic air operators in general and national carriers in particular.

(e) It is difficult to make any categorical assessment of likely impact on Indian domestic airlines at this stage. However, a report by Indian Airlines speaks of sickness as a result of possible over capacity.

(f) Government is conscious to safeguard the interests of the domestic airlines and appropriate steps would be taken whenever required.

### Employment Casual Employees in Railways

\*92. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the rules followed while employing casual employees in his Ministry;

(b) whether these rules have been violated during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the persons found guilty in this regard and the zone-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) As per extant policy fresh face casual labour on the railways are employed with the prior personal approval of General Managers, adhering to extant instructions regarding the procedure to be followed, and educational qualifications, medical standards and age limits as laid down for the particular category in which they are likely to be absorbed.

Percentage laid down in favour of SC/ST for recruitment to Group 'D' categories are applied in the intake of Casual Labour both in the open line and the projects.

While engaging fresh faces as casual labour for works expected to last for some months, the orders regarding reservation for employment to ex-servicemen are also to be followed.

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

#### Co-operation from Germany

\*93. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sought any co-operation from Germany for the supply of Railway equipment and their installation and commissioning; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Indian Railways have sought German assistance for improvement of signalling between Ghaziabad and Kanpur. A proposal in this regard was processed through the Ministry of Finance to KFW/Germany who had a feasibility study done.

#### Time Spent by Various Channels of Doordarshan

\*94. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of telecast hours by different channels of Doordarshan during the period from January to December, 1996;

(b) the number of hours spent for the regional languages during the same period, language-wise and channel-wise;

(c) whether the Doordarshan has played any role in developing the regional languages;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) A statement is inclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Doordarshan has a number of Regional Language Satellite Channels with programmes in Assamese, Bengali, Gujrati, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu. These channels are available in the entire country through a Cable or an appropriate dish antenna and also include the Regional Network programmes which are available terrestrially within the respective States from 4.30 to 8.30 p.m. everyday. Thus, Regional Language Satellite Services (RLSS) facilitate telecast of more programmes in regional languages and provide access to regional programmes for viewers throughout the country.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Statement

Originating Station and Channel	Total hours of telecast per week (Hrs.-Mts.)	Language of Telecast
1	2	3
Delhi		
*National Network (including ETV)	90-00	Mainly in Hindi, Some Programmes in English, Urdu, Sanskrit and feature films in all Indian languages.
*Delhi Regional (including ETV)	32-00	Mainly in Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi and feature films in all dialects.
*Metro Network	82-00	Mainly in Hindi, and English, News Bulletin in Urdu.
*Single Metro	13-30	Mainly in Hindi and some programmes in Punjabi and English.
*DD-3	91-00	English and Hindi, Feature films in all Indian languages in Movie-Club.

1	2	3
*DD-International	119-00	English and Hindi, Also some regional language programmes.
*DD-CNNI Lucknow	14-00	English
*Regional	21-00	Mainly in Hindi, some programmes in English and Urdu, including a News Bulletin.
Jaipur		
*Regional	21-00	Mainly in Hindi, some programmes in Sindhi, Urdu, Sanskrit, Rajasthani, Kachi (local dialect)
Jalandhar		
*Regional	22-30	Mainly in Punjabi, some programmes in Hindi, Dogri, Himachali, Haryanvi, Urdu.
*Satellite Mode	16-00	Punjabi
Srinagar		
*Regional	22-00	Mainly in Kashmiri, Dogri, Urdu, some programmes in Gogri, Palrari. A News Bulletin is also in Urdu.
*Kashmir Channel	37-00	Kashmiri
*Satellite Mode	09-00	Kashmiri
Mumbai		
*Regional	32-00	Mainly in Marathi. Some programmes in English, Hindi, Konkani and Malwani.
*Single Metro	15-00	Mainly in Marathi. Some Programmes in Sindhi, Gujrati.
*Satellite Mode	30-00	Marathi.
Ahmedabad		
*Regional	25-00	Mainly in Gujrati. Some programmes in Hindi, Urdu, Sindhi
*Satellite Mode	30-00	Gujrati
Bhopal		
*Regional	22-30	Mainly in Hindi. Some programmes in Urdu.
Madras		
*Regional	30-00	Mainly in Tamil. Some programmes in English, Telugu, Kannada, Malyalam. Also Tamil version of popular DD-1 and DD-2 Network programmes telecast simultaneously.
*Single Metro	15-00	Tamil
*Satellite Mode	64-00	Tamil
Hyderabad		
*Regional	30-30	Mainly in Telugu. Some programmes in Urdu, Kannada, Tamil, Hindi, Marathi. A News Bulletin in Urdu also.
*Satellite Mode	42-00	Telugu
Bangalore		
*Regional	25-00	Mainly in Kannada. Some programmes in Urdu, Sanskriti, Konkani, Tulu.
*Satellite Mode	55-30	Kannada
Thiruvananthapuram		
*Regional	25-00	Mainly in Malayalam. Some programmes in Tamil and English also.
*Satellite Mode	54-00	Malayaalam

1	2	3
Calcutta		
*Regional	25-00	Mainly in Bengali. Some programmes in Nepali, English, Hindi, Urdu. Also Bengali version of programmes on DD-1 and DD-2 Network programmes telecast simultaneously.
*Single Metro	15-00	Bengali
*Satellite Mode	46-00	Bengali.
Bhubaneswar		
*Regional	28-00	Mainly in Oriya. Some programmes in Hindi, English, Urdu.
*Satellite Mode	09-00	Oriya
Patna		
*Regional	11-30	Mainly in Hindi. Some programmes in Urdu, local dialects.
Guwahati		
*Regional	17-30	Mainly in Assamese. Some programmes in English, Hindi, local dialects.
*North East Service	07-30	North East Service programmes in all languages of North East with linking commentary in English.
*Satellite Mode	30-00	Assamese and other languages of North East.
Local Kendras .....		
Gorakhpur	05-00	Mainly in Hindi and Bhojpuri. Some programmes in Urdu also.
Jammu	10-30	Mainly in Dogri. Also relays a Urdu News Bulletin from Srinagar.
Nagpur	5-00	Marathi.
Rajkot	3-45	Mainly in Gujarati. Some programmes in Hindi also.
Panaji	5-00	Konkani
Rajpur	5-00	Hindi
Gulberga	0-30	Kannada
Pondicherry	2-30	Mainly in Tamil. Some programmes in English, French.
Ranchi	5-00	Mainly in Hindi, Urdu, local dialects.
Muzaffarpur	1-00	Mainly in Hindi, local dialects.
Silchar	5-00	Bengali
Dibrugarh	5-00	Assamese
Shillong	5-00	Khasi, Jantia, English
Tura	5-00	Garo, English
Kohima	5-00	English, local dialects
Imphal	5-00	Manipuri, English, local dialects.
Agartala	5-00	Bengali, Kokborok.
Aiawal	5-00	English, various dialects of Nagaland.
Itanagar	5-00	English, various dialects of Arunachal Pradesh

There are a number of programmes with bi-lingual presentations and in many cases the programmes are simultaneously telecast in more than one languages with dubbed versions from different kendras and as such exact details are available.

### T.V. Relay Centres in Hilly Areas, Uttar Pradesh

\*95. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :  
SHRI PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY :

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

(a) the number of Doordarshan and Akashvani kendras functioning at present in Uttar Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up such new kendras particularly in hilly areas of the State during Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be set up;

(d) the Akashvani kendras from which Kumaoni and Garhwali programmes are relayed and the duration thereof;

(e) whether Gram Jagat programme has been discontinued from Nazibabad Akashvani kendra;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) As given in the enclosed statement-I

(b) and (c) It is the constant endeavour of All India Radio and Doordarshan to expand the services throughout the country, including hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh in a phased manner subject to availability of funds, other infrastructural facilities and inter-se priorities. As 9th Plan is still under formulation, no definite information about the locations and other details of new Kendras/Stations are available at this stage.

(d) As given in the enclosed statement-II

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

#### Statement-I

*Existing Doordarshan and All India Radio Kendras/Relay Centres In Uttar Pradesh*

	Doordarshan	All India Radio (Stations)
	1	2
PPC	Bareilly	Agra
	Lucknow	Allahabad
	Gorakhpur	Almora
		Gorakhpur
HPT		Kanpur
	Agra	Luchnow
	Allahabad	Mathura

	1	2
	Bareilly	Najibabad
	Gorakhpur	Rampur
	Kanpur	Varanasi
	Lucknow	Aligarh (Transmitter for External Services)
	Mau	Bareilly
	Mussoorie	Faizabad
	Varanasi	Jhansi
		Obra
LPT		Mussoorie
	Akbarpur	Pauri (Garhwal)
	Aligarh	
	Bahraich	
	Ballia	
	Balrampur	
	Banda	
	Basti	
	Champawat	
	Deoria	
	Etah	
	Etawah	
	Faizabad	
	Farrukhabad	
	Fatehpur	
	Gauriganj	
	Gonda	
	Hardoi	
	Haridwar	
	Jagdishpur	
	Jhansi	
	Kasganj	
	Kashipur	
	Kotdwar	
	Lakhimpur	
	Lalganj (Pratapgarh)	
	Lalgang (Rae-Bereli)	
	Lalitpur	
	Mahoba	
	Mainpuri	
	Mathura	
	Mau Ranipur	
	Moradabad	
	Muhammadabad	
	Nainital	
	Obra	
	Orai	

1

2

Pauri  
 Pilibhit  
 Pithoragarh  
 Puranpur  
 Rae Bareli  
 Rampur  
 Rasra  
 Sambal  
 Shahjahanpur  
 Sikanderpur  
 Sitapur  
 Sultanpur  
 Tanakpur  
 Tirwa  
 Azamgarh (DD II)  
 Kanpur (DD II)  
 Lucknow (DD II)

VLPT

Almora  
 Bageshwar  
 Bhatiri  
 Devprayag  
 Dharchula  
 Didihat  
 Gajja  
 Ghandyal  
 Gopeshwar  
 Haldwani  
 Joshimath  
 Kaljikkhal  
 Kausani  
 Mankapur  
 Munsiri  
 Ranikhet  
 Uttarkashi

Transposer

Churk  
 Mussoorie  
 New Tehri  
 Srinagar

**LEGEND :** PPC : Programme Production Centre.  
 HPT : High Power Transmitter.  
 LPT : Low Power Transmitter.  
 VLPT : Very Low Power Transmitter.

**Statement-II**

Sl. No.	Name of the Kumaoni	Garhwali
1.	Lucknow	12hrs 30mins p.m. 12hrs 30mins p.m.
2.	Almora	52hrs. p.m. 10hrs. p.m.
3.	Najibabad	4 hrs. and 30 mts. p.m. 30 hrs. p.m.
4.	Pauri	— 20 hrs. p.m.

**Airport at Hassan in Karnataka**

\*96. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has acquired land for setting up an airport at Hassan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proposal for the above airport has been approved by the Union Government;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any new airports are also proposed to be set up in any of the Southern States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The State Government is in the process of acquiring 350 acres of land for the development of Hassan Airport; 145 acres of Government land is already available.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Construction of new airport at Gulbarga and Cannanore are being considered. Suitable sites for the construction of these airports are yet to be identified.

**Delegation of Powers to States Regarding Mining Lease**

\*97. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to delegate powers to States to renew mining lease and prospecting licences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have constituted a committee in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition of the committee; and

(e) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 26 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 have directed (vide Notification No. 69 (E) dated 30th January, 1997), that the powers for renewal exercisable by it under Sub-Section (2) of Section. 7 and Sub-Section (2) of Section 8 of the Act, in respect of minerals specified in Part-C of the First Schedule to the Act, in an area in a State shall be exercisable also by the Government of that State.

(c) to (e) The Central Government have constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines), Government of India with Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines as Vice Chariman, Mining Secretaries of State Governments of Orissa, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Assam and Himachal Pradesh, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries and Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines as Members and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines as Member Secretary. The Terms of reference of the Committee inter-alia include review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommed steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/renewal of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease. The Committee is also to consider and suggest further delegation of powers to the State Governments Regarding grant/renewal of Prospecting Licence/Mining Leases and measures to be taken to prevant illegal mining. The Committee is expected to submit its report as early as possible.

[Translation]

### Train Accidents

\*98. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of train accidents during this year till date, zone-wise;

(b) the reasons of such accidents and derailments;

(c) the number of persons killed, injured and rendered handicapped in these accidents, zone-wise;

(d) the loss suffered by Railways due to these accidents during each of the last three years; and

(e) the concrete steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of train accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Railway Zone-wise break-up of consequential train accidents during the period April 1996 to January 1997 and casulaties therein is as

under :

Railway	No. of accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of persons injured
Central	45	14	56
Eastern	25	12	39
Northern	48	29	33
North Eastern	20	104	102
Northeast	13	33	62
Frontier			
Southern	29	47	29
South Central	34	57	59
South Eastern	51	16	29
Western	40	11	45
Metro	1	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>454</b>

**Notes :** 1. Casualties are inclusive of those in accidents at level crossings.

2. Figures are provisional.

Main causes of accidents were human failure, equipment failure and sabotage.

(d) The cost of damage to Railway property on account of consequential train accidents during the last three years is as under :-

193-94	Rs. 57.09 crores
1994-95	Rs. 46.57 crores
1995-96	Rs. 65.19 crores

(e) Some of the measures taken to improve safety and prevent accidents are as under :-

- (i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.
- (ii) Modification of the Signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.
- (iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.
- (iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.
- (v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and protable accelerometers are being progressively used.
- (vi) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
- (vii) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with

ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

- (viii) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.
- (ix) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
- (x) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
- (xi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.
- (xii) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.
- (xiii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.
- (xiv) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

[English]

#### Kelkar Committee

\*99. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :  
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vijay Kelkar Committee which was set up to work out the financial restructuring of Indian Airlines has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the committee and the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Kelkar Committee was set up to make a comprehensive examination of the reasons for losses of Indian Airlines and to formulate a turn-around strategy.

The Committee after examination, concluded that Indian Airlines, which was a profitable organisation till 1988-89 started incurring losses for reasons beyond its control, the three main reasons being the grounding of the A-320 fleet for a prolonged period, the merger of Vayudoot with Indian Airlines and its operations in uneconomic sectors over prescribed limits.

It was in this context that the Committee recommended a turn around strategy. The important recommendations of the Kelkar Committee relate to :-

- (i) Financial restructuring, which includes capital injection of Rs. 922 crores in the form of compensation, subordinated loan, equity, and contribution by Indian Airlines and its employees.
- (ii) Fleet Planning.
- (iii) Route Rationalisation.
- (iv) Organisational Restructuring.
- (v) Human Resource Management.

The Kelkar Committee has recommended that the capital injection would start giving returns to Government on its contribution from the year 1999-2000. It has concluded that the turn-around package should be considered and adopted early and in totality.

As this turn-around strategy involves a large amount of financial contribution, the matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission to expedite implementation.

(c) In view of reply given to (a) above, does not arise.

#### Indian Iron and Steel Company, Burnpur

\*100. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "IISCO evaluation on Feb. 26" appearing in the Business Standard, New Delhi, dated February 5, 1997;

(b) if so, the steps recommended by the BIFR to revitalise the ailing Burnpur-based public sector unit;

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government thereon;

(d) the latest position of modernisation and rehabilitation of IISCO, Burnpur, West Bengal;

(e) Whether the Government are also considering privatisation of the above steel company; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (IISCO) was referred to BIFR in June, 1994. In August, 1996, SAIL had invited offers for participation in the revival/modernisation of IISCO through a joint venture arrangement with SAIL retaining majority share-holding of 51% in the joint venture company. SAIL had received offers from two parties viz. M/s. Tyazhpromexport (TPE)

of Russia and M/s. Mitsui of Japan. M/s. Mitsui have since indicated their unwillingness for equity participation which is an essential requirement for selection of Joint Venture Partner. Consequently at present there is only one offer available for revival of IISCO. M/s. TPE have since informed SAIL that they require extension of three months time for submission of their Revial Plan. Consequently, SAIL have sought extension of time for a further period of 4 months from the BIFR.

As IISCO has been referred to the BIFR, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

### ESI Dispensaries

858. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the categories of employees covered under the ESI Health Scheme and the contribution deducted from the employees, category-wise during the last two years;

(b) whether any plan has been drafted to improve the general and sanitary conditions in the ESI dispensaries and increase to various services offered to patients; and

(c) the details of the ESI dispensaries located in Tamil Nadu, city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Presently the employees drawing wages not exceeding Rs. 6500/- per month are covered/coverable under the ESI Act, 1948. During the last two years, the contribution was deducted @ 1.50% of the monthly wages of all the employees.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A *statement* indicating number of ESI dispensaries in Tamil Nadu, district-wise, is enclosed.

### Statement

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Dispensaries
1	2	3
1.	Madras	22
2.	Chengalpattu	17
3.	South Arcot	2
4.	Vellore Ambedkar	8
5.	Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar	1
6.	Salem	12
7.	Dharmapuri	3
8.	Trichy	8
9.	Tanjore	5
10.	Pudukottai	1

1	2	3
11.	Coimbatore	33
12.	Periyar	2
13.	Madurai	10
14.	Anna	5
15.	Kamarajar	7
16.	Pasumpon Muthuramalignam	2
17.	Chidambaranar	4
18.	Nellai Katta Bomman	7
19.	Kanyakumari	2
20.	Nilgiris	1
Total :-		152

**Note :** In addition, the ESIC has got 6 mobile dispensaries and 2 utilisation dispensaries serving in different areas in Tamil Nadu.

### Introduction of 12 Coach EMU Rakes in Calcutta Suburban Section

859. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to introduce 12 coach EMU rakes in Calcutta suburban section;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There are no such plans in the near future.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to infrastructural constraints.

### Local Dialling Facilities

860. SHRI HARADHAN ROY :  
SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY :  
SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 290 on November 21, 1996 and state :

(a) the steps taken to connect Durgapur SDCA exchanges with Assansol SDCA exchanges so that subscribers of this entire region are able to enjoy access of local dialling facilities; and

(b) the reasons for the delay to provide group dialling system in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Durgapur SDCA exchanges have good connectivity with Asansol SDCA exchanges through

digital microwave media. Local call facility is not admissible between the two SDCAs under the existing rules.

(b) There is no delay in providing group dialling facilities in West Bengal Circle as most of the exchanges have been covered. The facility to remaining exchanges is being extended progressively on availability of equipment and transmission media.

#### Loss Suffered by Railways Due to Cyclone

861. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the period of cyclone and rains in the Andhra Pradesh during 1996, the major railway tracks and lines were affected;

(b) if so, the total loss suffered by the railways due to the cyclone and rains;

(c) whether all the railway lines that were damaged have been repaired by now; and

(d) if so, the total expenditure incurred thereon?

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

(b) about Rs. 7.20 crore.

(c) All the damaged Lines have since been restored on temporary basis and permanent restoration work is in progress.

(d) Rs. 7.20 crore (approx.) have been incurred on temporary restoration work. Permanent restoration work would cost about Rs. 19.90 crore.

#### Closure of Unmanned Level Crossings

862. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to close down a large number of unmanned/manned level crossings in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government are considering to provide alternative roads before closing these level crossings;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b)	Railway	Number of level crossings
	1	2
	Central	46
	Eastern	19

	1	2
	Northern	85
	North Eastern	93
	Northeast Frontier	103
	Southern	117
	South Central	37
	South Eastern	8
	Western	28
	Total	536

(c) Yes, Sir. Wherever necessary the level crossing will be closed after completion of required formalities.

(d) 65 level crossing roads will be passed through existing nearby bridge. 351 level crossings will be linked to nearby level crossings.

(e) 120 level crossings will be closed, since road traffic is either absent or very meagre which does not justify their continuance.

#### Fire in Bhopal-Bound Shatabdi Express

863. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a fire broke out in Bhopal-Bound Shatabdi Express on January 18, 1997;

(b) if so, the main cause of the accident; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A fire broke out in the under-frame of the generator-cum-luggage van of 2002 New Delhi-Bhopal Shatabdi Express at Ajhai station on New Delhi-Agra section of Central Railway on 18.1.1997. The incident of fire is being enquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Central Circle, whose findings are awaited.

(c) The following steps have been taken to prevent similar accidents :-

(i) Proper maintenance of electric fittings in all passenger coaches is being ensured at the time of overhauling.

(ii) Checks are carried out at maintenance depots to ensure proper electrical fittings and smooth working of the alarm chain apparatus in passenger carrying trains;

(iii) Passengers are not allowed to carry inflammable materials on the trains;

(iv) Portable fire extinguishers are provided in locomotives, brake-vans, AC coaches, pantry cars and the generator vans for prompt tackling of fire;

- (v) Staff is trained in fire-fighting techniques;
- (vi) Creating an awareness in the travelling public through various media, regarding dangers of carrying inflammable and explosive material on passenger carrying trains. Periodical checks are made on this aspect.

#### Necessary Powers to General Managers

864. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give necessary powers to General Managers for procurement of coaches for smooth running of trains and fulfilling the minimum need of increasing the number of trains in their respective Zones and for that requisite financial powers be given to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Railways' requirement of passenger coaches is largely met by Integral Coach Factory and Rail Coach Factory. Procurement of passenger vehicles and their deployment on various Zonal Railways is done by the Railway Board on a global basis and it is not considered desirable to authorise Zonal Railways to procure passenger coaches locally.

#### T.V. Transmitter Assam

865. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of High Power Transmitters, Low Power Transmitters and Very Low Power Transmitters installed in Assam during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the border districts of Assam are affected by propoganda by neighbouring countries through High Power Television and Radio Transmitters; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) whereas 4 Low Power Transmitters were installed during 1994-95 and 6 Low Power Transmitters and 1 Very Low Power Transmitter during 1995-96, no Transmitter has been installed during the current financial year.

(b) Although some parts of Assam do receive TV/ Radio signals from neighbouring countries, no report on propoganda by these countries has been received so far.

(c) All India Radio and Doordarshan Plans to strengthen coverage of border areas of Assam. With the completion of All India Radio projects presently under implementation, the radio coverage in the state of Assam will increase from the existing 83% to 99% by population. Doordarshan proposes to set up High Power Transmitters in Tazpur, Jorhat and Kokrajhar subject to availability of funds, infrastructural facilities and inter-se priorities.

#### Air Traffic Growth

866. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated air traffic growth in the country during the next three years-major airport-wise;

(b) the details of upgradation, expansion/modernisation plan proposed to meet the fast growing air traffic in the country;

(c) the details of investment involved in development of Air Traffic infrastructure in the country for the next three years; and

(d) the strategies and priorities worked out to strengthen and modernise the Air Infrastructure to handle fast growth in air traffic?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) During the next three years, it is expected that growth in International and Domestic passenger traffic would be 8% and 12.5% respectively.

(b) During the Ninth plan period, the following airports have been identified for upgradation :-

For limited international operations : Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Amritsar, Bhubaneshwar, Calicut, Coimbatore, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Mangalore, Madurai and Varanasi.

For domestic operations : Agartala, Bagdogra (Civil Enclave), Bhopal, Bhuj (Civil Enclave), Bhavnagar, Dibrugarh, Gaya, Hassan, Imphal, Jabalpur, Jammu, Kanpur, Kargil, Lilabari, Porbandar, Port Blair (Civil Enclave), Raipur, Silchar (Civil Enclave), Tejpur (Civil Enclave), Tirupathi and Vijayawada.

In addition, upgradation of airports at Hubli and Belgaum and construction of new airports at Gulbarga and Cannanore are under consideration.

(c) and (d) Estimates of investments for development of air traffic infrastructure for the next three years are as follows :—

Year	Rs. in crores
1997-98	609.15
1998-99	666.37
1999-2000	753.29

Strengthening and modernising the air infrastructure is a continuous process.

### International Airport at Visakhapatnam

867. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared an ambitious programme to develop an international airport at Visakhapatnam by involving private agencies;

(b) if so, whether the Government have appointed Rail India Techno Economic Services as consultants to conduct the study and submit a feasibility report;

(c) if so, the time by which the international airport at Visakhapatnam is likely to be set up;

(d) whether there is no scope for developing the existing airport at Visakhapatnam and as such the Government have finally taken a decision to develop a separate airport; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has plans to construct a new airport of international standards at Vishakhapatnam with private participation. A site near Achutapuram, 45 kms South West of Vishakhapatnam, has been considered suitable for the same. The State Government has appointed M/s. RITES to conduct techno economic and feasibility study for construction of an airport near Achutapuram.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Vishakhapatnam airport belongs to Indian Navy and Airports Authority of India has no plans to develop the existing airport.

### Waiting List in Bardhaman, West Bengal

868. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the waiting lists in the district of Bardhaman, West Bengal, Exchange-wise details thereof; and

(b) the time by when these persons are likely to be provided with telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are 12482 persons in the waiting list for telephone connections in the district of Bardhaman in West Bengal as on 31.1.97. The exchange-wise detail is as per the statement, enclosed.

(b) The telephone connections will be provided by March 1998 except technically non feasible cases.

#### Statement

S.No.	Name of the Exchange	Waiting list
1	2	3
1.	Andal	57
2.	Asansol	1276

1	2	3
3.	Bagura	50
4.	Bahula	46
5.	Barakar	292
6.	Burnpur	410
7.	Chinchuria	2
8.	Chittaranjan	631
9.	Domohani	14
10.	Jamuriahat	52
11.	Kajora	46
12.	Neamatpur	117
13.	*Nutandanga	34
14.	Pandaveswar	95
15.	Panuria	17
16.	Raniganj	264
17.	Ukhra	124
18.	Agradwip	48
19.	Anguno	2
20.	Badla	30
21.	Paidyapur	25
22.	Balgona	45
23.	Bardighi	13
24.	Bhatar	58
25.	Bhedia	17
26.	Bonpas	50
27.	Bulbulitala	6
28.	Burdwan	2276
29.	Chakdighi	79
30.	Chandrapur	7
31.	Churpuni	50
32.	Dainhat	38
33.	Devipur	6
34.	Dhartigram	67
35.	Dignagar (I)	40
36.	Galsi	73
37.	Gangatikuri	4
38.	Guskara	67
39.	Hatgobindapur	80
40.	Jamalpur	120
41.	Jaugram	45
42.	Kaichar	27
43.	Kalna	334
44.	Kamarpara	40
45.	Kandra	10
46.	Kanralaghat	12
47.	Kasemnagar	64

1	2	3
48.	Katwa	472
49.	Ketugram	3
50.	Khudrun	103
51.	Kuchuti	10
52.	Kurmun	19
53.	Manteswar	80
54.	Memari	228
55.	Mondalgram	6
56.	Nabagram (I)	10
57.	Nadanghat	13
58.	Nutanhat	5
59.	Pelsit	44
60.	Panchanantala	60
61.	Paraj	33
62.	Parulia	36
63.	Patuli	5
64.	Ramgopalpur	7
65.	Rasulpur-II	71
66.	Sahebganj	8
67.	Shaktigarh-I	15
68.	Samudragarh	70
69.	Satgachhia	363
70.	Seharabazar	77
71.	Shyamsunder	99
72.	Simlon	31
73.	Srikhanda	45
74.	Bidhannagar	186
75.	Budbud	210
76.	Durgapur (CC)	557
77.	Durgapur (I)	467
78.	Durgapur (s)	1484
79.	Panagarh Bazar	345
80.	Rajbandh	60
Total		12482

### Telephone Facility in Haryana

869. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5493 on September 12, 1996 dated 12.9.1996 regarding 'telephone facility in villages of Harhana' and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in statement I, II and III, enclosed.

(c) (i) Villages are being provided telephone facility progressively.

(ii) Waiting lists are being provided with telephone progressively and about 60,000 new telephone connections are expected to be provided during the current financial year.

(iii) Two Nos. of Exchanges are being converted into electronic Exchanges during the year and another two Exchanges are planned to be converted into electronic Exchanges in the year 1997-98.

### Statement-I

*District-wise Number of Panchayats not Provided with Village Public Telephones.*

S.No.	Name of SSA	No. of Panchayats yet to be Provided with Telecom Facility
1.	Ambala	33
2.	Bhewani	96
3.	Faridabad	60
4.	Gurgaon	217
5.	Hissar	3
6.	Jind	17
7.	Kaithal	22
8.	Karnal	102
9.	Kurukshetra	139
10.	Muhindergarh	83
11.	Panipat	45
12.	Rewari	80
13.	Rohtak	27
14.	Sirsa	-
15.	Sonepat	2
Total		1102

### Statement-II

*District-wise Number of Exchanges in Haryana*

S.No.	Name of SSA	No. of Exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Ambala	88
2.	Bhewani	57
3.	Faridabad	34

1	23	
4.	Gurgaon	37
5.	Hissar	88
6.	Jind	68
7.	Kaithal	31
8.	Karnal	47
9.	Kurukshetra	34
10.	Mohindergarh	25
11.	Panipat	19
12.	Rewari	28
13.	Rohtak	56
14.	Sirsa	56
15.	Sonepat	39
Total		750

### Statement-III

*District-wise Waiting List as on 31.3.96*

S.No.	Name of SSA	Waiting List as on 31.3.96
1.	Ambala	3859
2.	Bhewani	3528
3.	Faridabad	9416
4.	Gurgaon	13274
5.	Hisar	8157
6.	Jind	949
7.	Kaithal	2235
8.	Karnal	6048
9.	Kurukshetra	6077
10.	Mohinder Garh	165
11.	Panipat	7601
12.	Rewari	1868
13.	Rohtak	3333
14.	Sirsa	2010
15.	Sonepat	5252
Total		76452

### Daily Running of Saraighat Express

870. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 178 on November 21, 1996 and state :

- whether any steps are being taken to remove the hinderances of operational constraints thereby to run Saraighat Express daily instead of tri-weekly; and
- if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Removal of operational constraints including those of line capacity and terminal capacity is a continuous process on Indian Railways subject to feasibility and availability of resources. Augmentation of terminal and maintenance facilities at Howrah is a sanctioned work.

- Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Funds Spent by Railways on Advertisements

871. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- the funds spent by the Railways on the advertisements from June, 1,1996 to till date; and
- the details of the heads in which funds spent on the advertisements have been shown?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Railways have spent an amount of Rs. 8,18,62,877/- approx. on advertisements during the period from 1.6.96 to till date.

- Funds spent on Railway advertisements are debited against the departments/projects relevant to the contents of each advertisement keeping the expenditure within the budget allocation against each department/project.

[English]

### Opening of T.V. Relay Centre, Kalna, West Bengal

872. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- the details of TV relay centre at present in West Bengal, location-wise;
- whether the Government propose to set up new relay centres in the State particularly in Kalna;
- if so, the details thereof location-wise; and
- the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

- to (d) While a Low Power TV transmitter (LPT) has already been commissioned at Kalna, the location-wise details of TV transmitter projects presently under implementation/envisaged to be set up in the State are given in the Statement-II. The normal lead time involved in implementation of an LPT/VLPT and an HPT project is about 1-2 years and 3-4 years respectively after approval of the scheme by the competent authority.

**Statement-I***Location-wise Details of Existing TV Transmitters in West Bengal (as on 20.02.1997)*

HPT	LPT	VLPT
Asansol	Alipurduar	Egra
Calcutta	Balurghat	Jhalda
Calcutta (DD2)	Bardhaman	
Calcutta (DD3)	Contai	
Kurseong	Darjeeling	
Murshidabad	Jhargram	
	Kalimpong	
	Kharagpur	
	Kalna	
	Krishnanagar	
	Maldah	
	Medinipur	
	Puruliya	
	Ranaghat	
	Shantiniketan	

HPT : High Power TV Transmitter

LPT : Low Power TV Transmitter

VLPT : Very Low Power TV Transmitter

**Statement-II***Locations where TV Transmitter Projects are presently under Implementation/Envisaged to be set up in West Bengal (as on 31.01.1997)*

Under Implementation	Envisaged
<i>LPTs</i>	<i>HPTs</i>
Farakka	Balurghat
Rayna	Kharagpur
Murshidabad (DD2)	Krishnanagar
Basanti	Shantiniketan
Bishnupur	
	<i>LPTs/VLPTs</i>
	Garhbeta
	Balrampur
	Cooch Bihar
	Baghmandi

**Proposal to Run 'Palace on Wheels' Train**

873. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to start "Palace on Wheels" type train covering different centres of Eastern region by involving different State Tourism Corporations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) In May 1994, Global bids were invited by Ministry of Railways for ownership marketing and management of five tourist trains on popular circuits including the Eastern Circuit covering Calcutta-Gaya (Rajgir/Nalanda)-Varanasi (Sarnath)-Gorakhpur (Lumbini/Kushinagar)-Bhubaneswar-Puri-Calcutta. The only bid which was received did not conform to the terms and conditions of the tender and was, therefore, not accepted.

**Survey for Operating EMU Local Trains**

874. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to operate EMU local Trains from Platform No. 5 of Dum Dum railway station to different directions during the peak hours;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The track connections available from Platform No. 5 of Dum Dum permit movement only towards Bongaon and Circular Railway (non electrified)

(c) Does not arise.

**Flight from Agartala to Bagdogra**

875. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to operate flight from Agartala to Bagdogra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) At present, Indian Airlines has no plans to operate its services from Agartala to Bagdogra due to inadequate traffic demand. Private Operators with suitable aircraft are, however, being encouraged to add more stations in their network including Agartala and Bagdogra.

**Flight for Gangtok**

876. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to operate flights to and from Gangtok;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and  
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines or Alliance Air have no immediate plans to operate air services from Gangtok due to non-availability of operational airfield there.

[Translation]

### Functioning of Telephone Exchange

877. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone exchange established in 1992 in Barkattha Block (G.T. Road) in Hajaribagh district has not started functioning so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the adequate staff posted there is drawing salary since 1992; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against the officers found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) No, Sir.

A 128 port C-DOT exchange was commissioned at Barkattha in Hajaribagh district on 31.1.92 and is functioning satisfactorily. Barkattha exchange has 41 working connections. This exchange falls under Barhi SDCA and is connected to 512P C-DOT exchange at Barhi on 3 chl. G 1 system. The distance between Barhi and Barkattha is 25 KMs. The overhead line passing through thick forest area where theft of line materials takes place resulting in interruption in STD Services.

[English]

### Conference of Mining Opportunities

878. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an International Conference on mining opportunities was held in Nagpur recently;

(b) if so, the gist of the deliberations of the conference; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes Sir, International Conference on Mining Opportunities in Central India was held on 18th and 19th January, 1997 at Nagpur, Maharashtra under the aegis of Confederation of Indian Industry (Western Region) and Vidarbha Economic Development Council.

(b) and (c) The deliberations of the Conference, inter-alia, included delegation of powers to the State Governments for the renewal of the Prospecting

Licences and Mining Leases for minerals listed in Part C of the First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, besides speeding up of the grant of mineral concessions to the needy applicants. The Central Govt. has already delegated the powers of renewal of the prospecting licences under Section 7 (2) and mining leases under Section 8 (2) of the Act to the State Governments. A Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) has also been constituted with Secretaries, Mines and Geology, of the State Governments for the delegation of powers to the State Governments besides removing the bottlenecks in the grant of mineral concessions to the needy applicants.

### Supply of Uniform

879. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the TS/TM/DTS/DTM/AC staff, TXR Staff, Catering Inspectors are performing their duties in the prestigious trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains under Eastern Railway without uniforms;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Eastern Railway authorities have failed to provide uniforms to them whereas other Zonal Railways have provided uniforms to such staff;

(c) if so, the action taken against the officials for not providing uniforms to these staff in time;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide uniforms to these staff; and

(e) the time by which uniforms are likely to be provide to these staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

### Yatri Seva Agents for Railway Bookings

880. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Yatri Seva agents working for railway bookings particularly in backward/rural/tribal areas of Gujarat;

(b) whether representations regarding authorising more agents in this area have been received;

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

(d) the number of applications received in this regard and the number out of them accorded approval; and

(e) the time by which the remaining applications will be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) At present, 481 Rail Travellers' Service Agents including 22 in Gujarat State are functioning on the railways. No Rail Travellers' Service Agents has been appointed in backward/rural/tribal areas of Gujarat;

(b) to (e) Appointment of Rail Travellers' Service Agents is done by the Zonal Railways in accordance with the statutory rules "Authorisation of Rail Travellers' Service Agents Rules, 1985" whenever the Zonal Railways feel the need to appoint travel agents at a particular station depending upon the volume of reservation work handled at that station. For this purpose applications are called for through press advertisements and the agents are selected as per the requirements fixed by the railways for a particular place.

[English]

### Beedi Workers

881. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide subsidy/financial relief to the people involved in Beedi Industries who are facing serious threat for their survival due to Government's unscientific policy towards this small scale industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Government have introduced various schemes for providing subsidy and loans to beedi workers for their housing, medical treatment including hospitalisation, educational and recreational needs. Moreover, the beedi manufacturing units which are registered as small scale industries, are also entitled for Central/State Government incentives, concessions and facilities as are available to SSI Units.

The Government have enacted several labour laws like the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment Act, 1966; Minimum Wages Act, 1948 etc. which are applicable to beedi workers and protect their interests. In addition, there are several antipoverty and employment generation programmes for the rural and urban poor including beedi workers, being implemented by the Government.

[Translation]

### Provide Telephone Facilities in Basia in Bihar

882. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide telephone service in Basia Divisional Headquarters of Gumla district in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any application/representation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 128-P C-DOT Exchange is proposed to be opened in Basia in 1997-98.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Action is being taken as indicated in (b) above.

[English]

### Bailadila Mines

883. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position in regard to the mining of iron-ore in the Bailadila region by M/s. Nippon Denro;

(b) whether the proposal to handover one of the NMDC iron-ore mines to this private company is still under consideration; and

(c) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) Based on the Government approval, NMDC signed a joint venture agreement with Nippon Denro Ispat Limited (NDIL) on 10th July, 1995 and a new Joint Venture (JV) Company namely Bailadila Mineral Development Company Ltd. (BMDC) was incorporated on 31st July, 1995. Care has been taken to ensure that the JV agreement provides for all the safeguards required to protect not only the interest of NMDC but also the local tribal people. Further, NMDC submitted its application to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for transfer of 11-B mining lease in favour of the JV company.

As per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 (MMRD Act), the State Governments have been empowered to grant, renew or transfer prospecting licences as well as mining leases for various minerals, since they are the deemed owners of the mineral property. However, in respect of minerals listed in First Schedule to the Act, which include iron ore, the State Governments are required to obtain prior approval of the Central Government for grant, renewal or transfer of prospecting licences or mining leases in respect of the scheduled minerals.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh recommended the proposal vide their letter dated 6.1.96 and sought prior approval of the Central Government from the Ministry of Mines, as required under the provisions of the MMRD Act, 1957, for transfer of mining lease of Bailadila Deposit 11-B in favour of the JV Company. While seeking the Central Government approval, the

State Government also proposed to incorporate certain conditions such as setting up of a Steel plant, involvement of the State Government in the equity of the JV Company to the extent of 20%, recruitment of manpower from the State especially from District Bastar, establishment of schools/hospital in the area by the JV Company etc. The Ministry of Mines have approved the proposal on 21st March, 1996 subject to observance of the provisions of MMRD Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and also that "the State Government, the proposed joint venture company, i.e., Bailadila Mineral Development Company Ltd. and NMDC should arrive at a uniform and agreed set of conditions for the transfer and incorporate them in an agreement or any other appropriate legal instrument that may be executed between the parties".

Ministry of Mines vide their letter dated 13.6.96 requested Government of Madhya Pradesh to inform whether NMDC has consented to the conditions that the State Government proposed to incorporate under Rule 27(3) of the MCR, 1960.

The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested Ministry of Steel vide their letter dated 19.6.96 and 3.8.96 to advise NMDC to send their consent on the conditions proposed by the State Government.

The Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta granted a stay order on the decision to transfer the lease of 11-B iron ore mines in favour of joint venture company on 16.4.96 on a public interest petition filed by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Jibon Roy, Members of Parliament. The writ petition had been dismissed by the Hon'ble High Court on grounds of jurisdiction on 10.5.1996. However, the operation of the order was stayed by the Hon'ble High Court for a period of three weeks upto 31.5.1996. On a petition by the JV Company against this order, the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court has ordered that the interim stay granted by the learned trial judge will remain suspended till the disposal of the appeal preferred by the Company and the appeal preferred by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta against the order dismissing the original writ petition of jurisdiction grounds. These appeals are to come up before the regular bench.

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has also been filed in the High Court of Delhi in July, 1996 against the transfer of Bailadila Deposit 11-B. The petition came up for hearing on 14.10.96. The case was adjourned to 29.10.96 to be placed before a different bench. However, the case was not listed on the said date. The case was again listed on 6.11.96. M/s. Bailadila Mineral Development Company Ltd. moved an application for being impleaded as a party. The application was allowed. After hearing the case on 18.2.97, it has now been adjourned to 26.3.97 for next hearing.

The stand taken by the Government is that the subject is very important and needs detailed examination on various aspects. However, since the matter is pending before the Court, the Government would like to await the judicial verdict.

### Accidents in Industrial Establishments in Bihar

884. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents in industrial establishments in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have issued instructions to industrial establishments in the State to provide adequate safety as well as to check recurrence of such accidents therein; and

(c) if so, the name of industrial establishments which have adopted these safety measures and results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) According to the available information, the number of accidents which took place in industrial establishments in Bihar during 1993, 1994 are as under :

Year	number of accidents
1993	2674
1994	1532

Information for 1995 is not yet available.

(b) and (c) Safety measures required to be taken to check occurrence of accidents have been laid down in the Factories Act, 1948 and the Rules framed there under. All industrial establishments are required to follow the same.

[Translation]

### Child Labour

885. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government sleeping over growing child labour menace" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated December 13, 1996;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for elimination of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government have taken a number of steps to prevent the type of accident which took place in the unregistered fire work unit named M.P. Fire works at Begnan, Howrah on 11.9.95. Inspectors appointed under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 have been directed by the State Government to be more vigilant in order to (i) find lapses/violation by the registered factories; (ii) find out unregistered

units amenable to such incident and take immediate penal action under the statutory provisions.

(c) The steps taken by the Government for withdrawal and rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations including those working in bidi and firework industry (include (i) ensuring compliance of the implementation of the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 and the provisions concerning children in other labour laws; (ii) sanctioning of 76 National Child Labour Projects to cover about 1.5 lakh children in the child labour endemic states; and (iii) sanctioning of funds for carrying out surveys in 123 districts and for awareness generation activities in 133 districts. With a view to rehabilitating children working in hazardous occupations in the State of West Bengal, 6 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned for coverage of 12,000 children. Apart from this, funds have been released to 7 districts for carrying out survey and awareness generation activities against the evils of child labour. As per the recent Supreme Court judgement on child labour, the State Government has also been given comprehensive guidelines regarding the manner in which children working in hazardous occupations are to be withdrawn from work and rehabilitated as also the manner in which the working conditions of children working in non-hazardous occupations are to be regulated and improved upon.

[English]

#### Discontinuation of Serials

886. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether some TV serials have been discontinued by the Doordarshan DD and its various production Kendras since April 1, 1996;

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

(c) the number of episodes already telecast of these serials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Short Fall on Revenue

887. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a massive revenue short fall to the extent of Rs. 1500 cr. during 1996-97 is feared on account of default in payment by basic services licence holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed in regard to deal with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) As against the total estimated amount of Rs. 2074.72 crores in the form of Licence Fee, only Rs. 19.20 crores have been received so far. Four of the eight LOI holding companies have filed suit in the Delhi High Court against the encashment of their Earnest Money Bank Guarantees.

(c) The LOI holding companies have raised certain issues relating to Licence and Interconnect which are expected to be resolved shortly.

#### Construction of New Building of Railway Stations

888. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating for the construction of new buildings of Railway Stations in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the Railway Stations which are modernised/renovated during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and proposed for renovation during the current year?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Modernisation/renovation of stations is undertaken as warranted by increase in volume of passenger traffic and on age-cum-condition basis. Works in this regard are undertaken at stations wherever so warranted by including suitable works in Railway's Annual Works Programmes. No state wise details of stations are maintained by Railways.

#### Running of EMU Trains

889. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) trains have been put into operation for daily commuters from the satellite towns of National Capital region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether EMU trains have been running from Delhi/New Delhi to many destinations located as far as 100 kms. like Aligarh, Palwal and Panipat;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether no such facility has been provided to commuters at Bahadurgarh and Jind/Rewari railway stations; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. At present EMU trains are running on Delhi/New Delhi-Ghaziabad-Aligarh, Delhi/New Delhi/Nizamuddin-Faridabad-Palwal-Mathura sections and MEMU services on Delhi/New Delhi-Panipat-Ambala section.

(e) and (f) Delhi-Bahadurgarh-Rohtak-Jind and Delhi-Rewari sections are not electrified and therefore running of EMU trains on these sections is operationally not feasible at present. However, adequate number of conventional passenger services (including push pull services on Delhi-Rohtak-Jind section) are catering to the requirement of the passengers on these sections.

### Railway Travel Agencies in the Country

890. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway travel agencies functioning in the country at present, zone-wise; and

(b) the number of travel agencies which were given contract in Bhubaneswar alongwith the time by which it came into existence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The number of Rail Travellers' Service Agents functioning on various zonal railways are as under :

Central Railway	:	42
Eastern Railway	:	20
Northern Railway	:	193
North-Eastern Railway	:	7
North East Frontier Railway	:	2
Southern Railway	:	104
South Central Railway	:	21
South Eastern Railway	:	21
Western Railway	:	45

(b) No Rail Travellers' Service Agent is functioning at Bhubaneshwar.

[Translation]

### Extension of Telephone Exchanges/Services

891. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special scheme has been prepared by the Government for the extension of telephone exchanges and telephone services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to take up extension work during 1997-98;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) There is no special scheme for extension of Telephone exchanges services. However, annual Plans are prepared each year for extension of Telephone exchanges/services covering creation/expansion of New Telephone exchanges, introduction of S.T.D. route and Integrated Services Digital Network services.

(d) to (f) Yes Sir.

Details for extension work for 1997-1998 are not yet finalised.

[English]

### Licences/Permits to Myanmar Displaced Indian Repatriates

892. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of provisions for priority in matter of Licences Permits to Myanmar displaced Indian Repatriates on humanitarian basis;

(b) if so, whether any Burma displaced Indians have applied for Licences/Permits for telephone booths/book stalls etc. at New Delhi/Delhi Railway Stations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Instructions were issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the State Governments in 1965 that apart from the grant of business loans to repatriates from Burma, priority may also be given to them in the matter of grant of licences, permits, etc. where these are required for any occupation or trade. These instructions are still in operation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

### Travel Circuit in Kerala

893. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala has sent a proposal to the Union Government for the approval of a travel circuit covering Malabar region of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government, thereon alongwith the financial assistance provided or proposed to be provided for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) As every travel circuit is not required to be approved by the Department of Tourism, Government of India State Government has been advised to approve and treat it as a state tourism project.

[Translation]

**Allotment of Stalls and Telephone Booths at Railway Stations**

894. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :  
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons to whom permission has been granted to set up stalls and telephone booths at the Railway Stations falling under Western Railway and Northeast Frontier Railway during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 alongwith the names of the railway stations and the number of stalls and telephone booths set up and proposed to be set up there;

(b) the name of the Railway Stations in Alipur division where stalls and trolleys were allotted

during the said period alongwith the names of the allottees;

(c) the number of cases wherein allotment has been made as per rule by inviting tenders through advertisements and the number of persons to whom allotment has been made directly without issuing advertisements in these zones;

(d) whether the Government propose to enquire into the said cases; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Allotment of stalls to 10 persons were made on Northeast Frontier Railway by inviting applications. In Western Railway, allotments to 54 persons were made directly.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Some allotments were challenged in the Court of Law. As per Court's directions, policy guidelines for direct allotments of stalls in exceptional cases have been issued.

**Statement**

Name of Railway Stations	1993-94			1994-95			1995-96		
	No. of Persons	Stalls	Telephone Booths	No. of Persons	Stalls	Telephone Booths	No. of Persons	Stalls	Telephone Booths
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY</b>									
Chaparmukh	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kuradha	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Katihar	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moriani	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jorhat Town	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chabua	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jalaiguri Rd.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Bijni	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Pathsala	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Tagla	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
<b>WESTERN RAILWAY</b>									
Chittaurgarh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vadodara	2	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Virar	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surat	1	1	-	1	1	-	4	4	-
Ahmedabad	2	1	1	2	2	-	1	1	-
Andheri	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Bhilad	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mumbai Central	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Grant Road	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neemuch	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Parel	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Elphinston Rd.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vasai	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dahisar	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palghar	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kota	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Alwar	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-
Ujjain	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Jaipur	-	-	-	3	2	1	1	1	-
Abu Road	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Kandivili	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Borivili	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	-	1
Anand	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Marine Lines	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Vapi	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	2	-
Bhiladi	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Ajmer	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	2
Valsad	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	1	-
Jamnagar	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Nandurbar	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Sawaimadhopur	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Bharuch	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-
Gandhidham	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Rani	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Udaipur City	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hapa	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

*STALLS/TELEPHONE BOOTHS PROPOSED TO BE SET UP*

Name of Railway Stations	Stalls	Telephone Booths
Darjeeling	2	-
Sonada	1	-
Tinsukia	1	-
New Coochbehar	-	1
New Alipurduar	-	1
Dhupguri	-	1
Alipurduar Jn.	-	1
New Bongaigaon	-	1
Rangia	-	1
Kokrajhar	-	1

No stall/trolley has been allotted in Alipurduar Division during 1993-94 and 1994-95. However during 1995-96 the following allotments were made :

Name of Station	Nature of contract	Name of the person
Bijni	Tea Stall	Shri Ashok Kumar Mahto
New Alipurduar Jn.	Trolley	Shri Shyamal Kumar Roy
New Alipurduar Jn.	Trolley	Smt Devi Kanta Roy
Pathshala	Tea Stall	Shri Alkrayazan Rahman
Dhupguri	Trolley	Shri Jaganath Dhar
Tangla	Tea Stall	Shri Deepak Das
New Coochbehar	Trolley	Shri Uma Kanta Roy
Jalpaiguri Road	Tea Counter	Shri Dayamoi Baishnav
Jalpaiguri Road	Tea Trolley	Shri Joy Govinda Barman

[English]

### T.V. Relay Centres

895. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of TV relay centres functioning in the country at present, State-wise, location-wise;

(b) whether some of them are not functioning properly;

(c) if so, whether complaints have also been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last two years indicating the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken so far in each case;

(f) whether TV relay centres in Jammu and Kashmir are having low capacity as compared to Pak TV relay centres; and

(g) if so, the steps taken so far to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The details are enclosed as statement.

(b) to (e) While the overall functioning of the TV transmitters across the country is reported to be satisfactory, complaints of malfunctioning of the transmitters, on account of break-down/failure of power or some components, whenever received, are promptly attended to by the concerned Doordarshan Maintenance Centre and defects duly rectified. Details of such complaints are, however, not maintained contrally.

(f) and (g) With a view to counter the TV signals received in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir from across the border, a number of TV transmitters of varying powers, including four High Power TV transmitters (HPTs), have already been installed in the State. Besides, HPTs at Naushera and Kathua and a large number of LPTs/VLPTs are also envisaged to be set up in the State to further strengthen TV service in the region.

### Statement

*Existing TV Transmitters in the Country (as on 31.1.97)*

State/UT	HPT	LPT	VLPT	Transposer
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur	Adilabad	Icchapuram	Vijaywada
	Hyderabad	Adoni	Paderu	
	Tirupati	Alagadda	Sriselam	
	Vijaywada	Amalapuram	Chintapalli	
	Vishakha-	Atmakur	Parwatipuram	
	Patanam	Bhadrachalam		
	Nandyal	Bheemadolu		
		Bheemavaram		

1	2	3	4	5
	Chittoor			
	Cuddapah			
	Emmignur			
	Gadwal			
	Giddalur			
	Guntakal			
	Hindupur			
	Jagtial			
	Kakinada			
	Kamareddy			
	Karimnagar			
	Kavali			
	Khammam			
	Kosgi			
	Kothagudam			
	Kuppam			
	Kurnool			
	L.R. Pally			
	Madhira			
	Madnapalli			
	Mandassa			
	Medak			
	Mehboobnagar			
	Nagar Karnul			
	Nalgonda			
	Narayanpet			
	Nellore			
	Nirmal			
	Nizamabad			
	Ongole			
	Produddur			
	Rajamundry			
	Ramagundam			
	Siddipet			
	Sirikakulam			
	Tandur			
	Vishakhapatanam			
	Wanaparthy			
	Warangal			
	Yellandu			
	Hyderabad (DD2)			
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Passighat	Along	
		Tezu	Anini	
		Itanagar	Basar	
		(DD2)	Bomdilla	
			Changlang	

1	2	3	4	5
			Chyangtajo Daporizo Dirang Hayuliang Kalaktang Khonsa Miao Namsai Raga Roing Seppa Tawang Ziro	
Assam	Dibrugarh Guwahati Silchar	Bongaigaon Dhubri Diphu Goalpara Golachat Haflong Hathsinghmari Hojai Jorhat Kokrajhar Lumding Margheritta Nagaon Nazira N. Lakhimpur Sonari Tezpur Tinsukia Guwahati (DD2)	Digboi	Gauhati
Bihar	Daltonganj Patna Katihar Muzaffarpur Ranchi	Aurangabad Begusarai Bettiah Bhagalpur Bokaro Buxar Chaibasa Darbhanga Deoghar Dhanbad Dumka Forbesganj Gaya Ghatshila		Ramgarh Hill

1	2	3	4	5
		Giridih Godda Gopalganj Gumla Hazaribag Jamshedpur Jamui Khagaria Lohardaga Madhepura Madhubani Motihari Munger Nawada Phoolparas Raxaul Saharasa Sasaram Sheikhpura Sitamarhi Siwan Supaul Patna (DD2)		
Goa	Panaji			
Gujarat	Ahmedabad Bhuj (Int) Dwarka Rajkot Ahmedabad (DD2)	Ahwa Ambaji Amreli Bhabbar Bharouch Bhavnagar Chhota Udaipur Dandi Dediapara Devgarh-Baria Dharangadhra Dhorajee Dohad Godhara Ideb Jamnagar Junagarh Kevadia Colony Khambat Kosamba Mahova Mangrol (Junagarh)	Kakrapar Netrang	

1	2	3	4	5
		Mehsana Navsari Palanpur Palitana Patan Porbandar Rapar Sanjeli Shamlaji Songarh Surat Surendranagar Tharad Vadodara Valsad Veraval Gandhinagar (DD2)		
Haryana		Bhiwani Hissar Jind Meham Narnaul Rewari Sirsa Mandi Dabwali (DD2)		
Himachal Pradesh	Kasauli Shimla	Bilaspur Dharamshala Kullu Manali Mandi Shimla (DD2)	Ajhu Fort Bajinath Chamba Hamirpur Jogindernagar Kalpa Khara Pathar Keylong Palampur Sarkaghat Thanedar Una Bandla Bharathi Diar Shivbadar Veer	Rajgarh Solani
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu Leh Poonch	Kargil Kathua Jammu (DD2)	Ardh Kumari Baramulla Batot	Surankot

1	2	3	4	5
	Srinagar	Leh (DD2) Srinagar (DD2) Srinagar (Kashmir- Channel) Riasi	Bhadarwa Buddhal Daskit Doda Dras Gurez Kalakot Kilhotran Kishtwar Kud Kupwara Nyema Padam Pahalgam Poonch Rajauri Ramban Samba Sankoo Thanamandi Timsogam Tithwal Udhampur Uri	
Karnataka	Bangalore Dharwad Gulbarga Shimoga	Athani Bagalkot Bantwal Belgaum Bellary Bidar Bijapur Chikmaglur Chikodi Chitradurga Devangiri Gadag Betgari Gangawati Hassan Hospet Karwar Kolsar Gold Field Mandya Mangalore Medikeri Mudigere Mysore	Sakleshpur	

1	2	3	4	5
		Pavagada Raichur Ramadurg Ranibennur Sandur Sirsi Tiptur Udipi Bangalore (DD2) Arsikere Bhatkal Hungond Kumta Puttur		
Kerala	Cochin Trivandrum Calicut (Int.)	Cannanore Changanacherry Idukki Kalpetta Kasargod Kayamkulam Mallapuram Palghat Pathanamthitta Punalur Shoranur Tellicherry Trichur Cochin (DD2) Trivandrum (DD2) Chengannur Kanhangarh Thodupuzha Calicut (DD2)	Devikolam Kanjirapalli	
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal Gwalior Indore Jabalpur Jagdalpur Raipur	Alirajpur Ashoknagar Ambikapur Bailadilla Balaghat Betul Bhind Bijaipur Bilaspur Burhanpur Chanderi Chhattarpur Chhindwara	Budhni Parasta Pakhanjore Jashpurnagar Kondagaon	Sangrauli

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1	2	3	4	5
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Damoh  
Datia  
Dungargarh  
Guna  
Harda  
Itarsi  
Jaora  
Jhabua  
Kanker  
Khandwa  
Khargaon  
Khurai  
Korba  
Kursia  
Kuewai  
Lahar  
Maihar  
Malanjkhand  
Mandla  
Mandsaur  
Manindergarh  
Murwara  
Nagda  
Narsimhapur  
Neemuch  
Panchmarhi  
Panna  
Raghogarh  
Raigarh  
Rajgarh  
Rajhara Jharandili  
Ratlam  
Rewa  
Sagar  
Satna  
Seoni  
Shahdol  
Shajapur  
Sheopur  
Shivpuri  
Sidhi  
Singrauli  
Sironj  
Tikamgarh  
Ujjain  
Bhopal (DD2)

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1	2	3	4	5
		Bhander		
		Kukdeswar		
Maharashtra	Ambajogai	Achalpur	Chikaldhara	Aurangabad
	Aurangabad	Acot	Junnar	
	Pune	Ahmednagar	Karjat	
	Bombay	Akluj	Khed	
	Bombay (DD2)	Akola		
	Nagpur	Amalner		
	Bombay (DD3)	Amravati		
		Arvi		
		Barshi		
		Bhusawal		
		Bid		
		Brahmapuri		
		Buldana		
		Chandrapur		
		Chikhli		
		Chiplun		
		Devrukh		
		Dhule		
		Diglur		
		Garhchiroli		
		Gondia		
		Hinganghat		
		Hingoli		
		Ichalkaranji		
		Jalgaon		
		Jalna		
		Kankauli		
		Karad		
		Karanja (Akola)		
		Khamgaon		
		Kinwat		
		Kolhapur		
		Malegaon		
		Manmad		
		Mehekar		
		Mhasle		
		Morshi		
		Nanded		
		Nandurbar		
		Nasik		
		Osmanabad		
		Pandharpur		
		Parbhani		
		Pusad		

1	2	3	4	5
		Rajapur Ratnagiri Rissod Sangamner Sangli Satara Shahad Sholapur Umerga Wani Wardha Washim Yavatmal Nagpur (DD2)		
Manipur	Imphal	Ukhrul Imphal (DD2)	Chandel Senapati Tamenglong Moreh	
Meghalaya	Shillong Tura	Jowai Williamnagar Shillong (DD2) Tura (DD2)	Nongstoin Baghmara	
Mizoram	Aizawl Lunglei	Aizawl (DD2)	Saiha	
Nagaland	Kohima	Dimapur Tuenrang Kohima (DD2)	Mon Wokha Zunheboto	Kohima
Orissa	Bhawani- Patna Cuttack Sambalpur Cuttack (DD2)	Anandpur Angul Athamalik Balangir Baleshwar Baliapal Baligurha Banapur Bargarh Baripada Berhampur Bhadrak Bhanjanagar Bhuban Bonai Boudh Brajrajnagar Daghrathpur	Patnagarh Lalitgarh (DD2) Rourkela (DD2) Bada Barbil Nayagarh Thumal Rampur	Senabeda

1	2	3	4	5
		Deogarh Dhenkanal G. Udaigiri Jeypore Joda Kamakhya Nagar Khandapara Kendrapara Keonjhar Koraput Lutherpunk Malkangiri Narsinghpur Navarangpur Naupara Padampur Padmapuram Pallahara Paradeep Parlakhemundi Phulrani Puri Rairangpur Raj Ranapur Rayagada Redhakhol Rourkela Sundergarh Talcher Tirthol Durgapur Kuchinda Bhubaneshwar (DD2) Dhenkanal (DD2) Dudurkot (DD2) Sambalpur (DD2)		
Punjab	Amritsar Bhatinda Jalandhar	Abohar Fazilka Firozpur Gurdaspur Pathankot Jalandhar (DD2)		Talwara
Rajasthan	Bundi Jaipur	Ajmer Alwar Anupgarh Banaswara	Amet Chaumahla Deogarh Kumbhalgarh	Jamui Ramgarh Lalsot

1	2	3	4	5
		Baran	Rajgarh (Alwar)	
		Barmer	Rawatbhata	
		Basava	Bhim	
		Beawar	Fatehpur	
		Bhadra	Mandalgarh	
		Bhilwara	Zawar Mines	
		Bikaner		
		Chiraja		
		Chittaurgarh		
		Churu		
		Deag		
		Dungarpur		
		Ganganagar		
		Gangapur (Sawaimadhopur)		
		Hanumangarh		
		Jaisalmer		
		Jalore		
		Jhalawar		
		Jhunjhunun		
		Jodhpur		
		Karanpur		
		Khetri		
		Kotputli		
		Nagaur		
		Nokha		
		Nathdwara		
		Pali		
		Pilani		
		Raisinghnagar		
		Ratangarh		
		Rawatsar		
		Salumber		
		Sardarshahr		
		Sawaimadhopur		
		Sikar		
		Sirohi		
		Sridungargarh		
		Sujangarh		
		Suratgarh		
		Tonk		
		Udaipur		
		Vallabhnagar		
		Bansi		
		Nimai		
		Jaipur (DD2)		
		Kota (DD2)		

1	2	3	4	5
Sikkim	Gangtok	Gangtok (DD2)	Gyalshing Mangan Namchi	
Tamilnadu	Kodaikanal Madras Madras (DD2) Madras (DD3) Rameshwaram	Arkot Coimbatore Coonoor Courtalam Cuddalore Dharmapuri Kumrakonam Mayuram Marthandam Nagapattinam Nagarcoil Neyveli Pudukkottai Rajapalayam Saleh Thanjavur Tindivanam Tiruchendur Tiruchirapalli Tirunelveli Tirupattur Tiruvannamalai Tuticorin Udagamandalam Vaniyambadi Vellore Villupuram Arani Gudiyattam Krishnagiri	Udumalpet Valliur Valprai Vaza Padi	Dindigul Kanchipuram
Tripura	Agartala	Agartala (DD2)		Bellonia
Uttar Pradesh	Agra Allahabad Bareilly Gorakhpur Kanpur Lucknow Mau Mussoorie Varanasi	Akbarpur Aligarh Azamgarh Bahraich Ballia Balrampur Banda Basti Chaprawat Deoria Etah Etawah Faizabad	Almora Bhatiari Dharchula Gopeshwar Haldwani Kausani Mankapur Munsiari Ranikhet Uttarkashi Bageshwar Devprayag Didihat	Churk Mussoorie New Tehri Srinagar

1	2	3	4	5
		Farrukhabad	Gajja	
		Fatehpur	Ghandyal	
		Gauriganj	Joshimath	
		Gonda	Kaljikkhal	
		Hardoi		
		Haridwar		
		Jagdishpur		
		Jhansi		
		Kashipur		
		Kasganj		
		Kotdwar		
		Lakhimpur		
		Lalganj (Pratapgarh)		
		Lalganj (Rae Bareli)		
		Lalitpur		
		Mahoba		
		Mainpuri		
		Mathura		
		Moradabad		
		Muhammadabad		
		Nainital		
		Obra		
		Orai		
		Pauri		
		Pilibhit		
		Pithoragarh		
		Puradpur		
		Rae Bareli		
		Rampur		
		Rasra		
		Sambal		
		Shahjahanpur		
		Sikanderpur		
		Sitapur		
		Sutanpur		
		Tanakpur		
		Tirwa		
		Mau Ranipur		
		Kanpur (DD2)		
		Lucknow (DD2)		
		Azamgarh (DD2)		
West Bengal	Asansol	Alipurduar	Egra	
	Calcutta	Balurghat	Jhalda	
	Calcutta	Bardhaman		
	(DD2)	Contai		

1	2	3	4	5
	Calcutta (DD3) Kurseong Murshidabad	Darjeling Jhargram Kalimpong Kharagpur Krishnanagar Kalna Maldah Medinipur Puruliya Ranaghat Shantiniketan		
A and N Nicobar Islands		Car Nicobar Port Blair	Campbel Bay Diglipur Hutbay Mayabunder Nancowry Rangat Baratang Havelock Katchal	
Chandigarh		Chandigarh Chandigarh (DD2)		
Dadra & Nagar Haveli			Silvassa	
Daman and Diu		Daman	Diu	
Delhi	Delhi Delhi (DD2) Delhi (DD3)	Delhi (Lok Sabha) Delhi (Rajya Sabha)		
Lakshadweep		Kavaratti  Andrott Chetlat Kadmat Kalpeni Kilton Minicoy Kavaratti (DD2)	Agatti Amini	
Pondicherry	Karaikal Pondicherry	Mahe Yanam		

[Translation]

**Identification of Mines**

896. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of mines indentified since 1995-96 till date; and

(b) the number out of such mines from which minerals and metals are being extracted and the quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) As per the information available during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 (till 20.1.97) for the fresh grant of mining leases under Rule-22 of Mineral Concession Rules 1960, IBM has approved 402 and 313 mining plans respectively.

(b) As per the statutory returns received under MCDR, 1983, by IBM 103 new mines for various minerals were reported to have opened in the country during April, 1995 to November, 1996. Out of these, 71 mines have reported production to IBM during the same period. Details regarding State-wise/mineral-wise number of newly opened mines reporting production, and production for the period April '95 to November '96 are given in the enclosed *statement*.

**Statement**

*TABLE : State-wise Number of Newly Opened Mines & Production of Minerals from these Mines during April-1995 to November 1996*

State/Mineral	No. of Mines Newly opened	No. of Mines reported production	Total Production (tonnes)
1	2	3	4
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>			
Barytes	1	1	-
Ballclay	1	1	780
Felspar	3	-	-
Fireclay	2	2	2553
Limestone	1	1	19195
Lime Kankar	2	2	1768 *
Mica (Crude)	1	1	1
Quartz	3	-	-
Total	14	8	-
<b>BIHAR</b>			
Bauxite	4	-	-
Felspar	5	2	884
Fireclay	1	1	349

1	2	3	4
Graphite	4	2	10
Iron Ore	1	1	2000
Limestone	1	1	1752
Mica	5	5	155
Quartz	**	**	595
Total :	21	12	-
<b>GUJARAT</b>			
Bauxite	4	2	22899
Chalk	3	3	1062
Limestone	2	2	761105
Quartz	1	-	-
Total :	10	7	-
<b>HARYANA</b>			
Kaolin	1	1	240
Quartz	1	-	-
Silica Sand	1	1	5472
Total :	3	2	-
<b>HIMACHAL PRADESH</b>			
Gypsum	1	1	-
Total :	1	1	-
<b>KARNATAKA</b>			
Limeshell	1	1	9425
Manganese Ore	3	1	25
Quartz	2	-	-
Silica Sand	1	1	2600
Total :	7	3	-
<b>KERALA</b>			
Kaolin	1	1	1352
Quartz	1	-	-
Silica Sand	4	4	15966
Total :	6	5	-
<b>MADHYA PRADESH</b>			
Calcite	1	1	1992
Dolomite	2	2	9984
Iron Ore	2	2	1542000
Kaolin	2	2	2768
Limestone	1	-	-
Manganese Ore	2	2	540
Pyrophyllite	2	2	-
Total :	12	11	22238
<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>			
Limestone	1	1	13737
Total :	1	1	-

1	2	3	4
<b>ORISSA</b>			
Chromite	3	1	2142
Fireclay	1	1	4713
Graphite	1	-	-
Iron Ore	2	2	30000
Manganese Ore	2	-	3060
Tin Ore	1	-	-
Total :	10	4	-
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>			
Gypsum	3	3	140286
Limestone	1	1	287965
Lead & Zinc	1	-	-
Total :	5	4	-
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>			
Garnet	3	3	67530
Limestone	5	5	208209
Quartz	1	1	1693
Total :	9	9	-
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>			
Steatite	4	4	1068
Total :	4	4	1068
<b>ALL INDIA TOTAL</b>		<b>103</b>	<b>71</b>

\* : Data Relates to April 1996 to November 1996

\*\* : Number of mines covered under Felspar

[English]

### Work Stopped in BSP

897. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work in the Bokaro Steel Plant was stopped on June 12, 1996 due to breakage of the bearing of the slabbing mill of the said plant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the foundation of the said mill had shaken before the accident;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken for strengthening the foundation;

(f) the losses suffered by the B.S.P. under the various hands due to the suspension of work at slabbing mill and loss of slab production in tonnes per hour suffered as result of the suspension of work during the period;

(g) whether breakdown also occurred in July, 1996; and

(h) if so, for how many hours?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The driving shaft and end side bearing of Slabbing Mill became hot on 12/06/1996 leading to stoppage of the Mill. Other units of the Plant worked normally.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(f) The production loss suffered by the plant due to stopping of Slabbing Mill on 12.6.1996 was about 6910 tonnes of slabs.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. There was a breakdown for 28 hours 30 minutes in July, 1996.

### Postal Services in Gujarat

898. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the postal services are working properly in the tribal majority areas of Gujarat particularly Bharoch and Baroda;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The postal services in the tribal majority areas of Gujarat particularly Bharoch and Baroda are satisfactory and mails are usually delivered in time. However, instance of delays may occur due to various reasons such as cancellation/late running of mail carrying buses, trains and planes, natural calamities like floods, and due to sudden and exceptionally heavy volume of mails like corporate mail and Greetings mail.

(c) The postal services in the tribal areas of the State is continuously monitored at various levels and corrective measures are taken wherever deficiencies are noticed.

[Translation]

### FM Stereo Equipments on Akashvani Kendras in States

899. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :  
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to install FM stereo equipments in Akashvani Kendras of all the States in the country;

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

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the said work, State-wise;

(d) the advantages of the installation of this equipment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government plans to establish

F.M. Stereo equipments at all the State Capitals in the country in a phased manner.

(b) , (c) and (e) As given in the enclosed *statement*.

(d) Installation of F.M. stereo equipment will improve the quality of sound broadcast which would be more life like, distinct and superior as compared to mono broadcast.

### Statement

#### Details of FM Stereo Channels Already Commissioned

S.No.	Location	State	Transmitter Capacity
1.	Mumbai	Maharashtra	10 KW FM
2.	Calcutta	West Bengal	10 KW FM
3.	Cuttack	Orissa	6 KW FM
4.	Delhi	Delhi	10 KM FM
5.	Panaji	Goa	6 KW FM
6.	Chennai	Tamilnadu	10 KW FM

#### Details of FM Stereo Channels Approved and Under Installation

S.No.	Location	State	Transmitter Capacity	Capital Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Status
1.	Bangalore	Karnataka	10 KW FM	397.20	To be technically ready for commissioning during 1997-98
2.	Trivandraum (CBS)	Kerala	10 KW FM	294.13	-do-
3.	Jammu (CBS)	J&K	10 KW FM	282.40	-do-
4.	Guwahati (CBS)	Assam	10 KW FM	314.30	-do-
5.	Aizwal	Mizoram	6 KW FM	351.80	To be complete during 9th plan
6.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	6 KW FM	285.30	-do-
7.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	10 KW FM	312.00	-do-
8.	Shillong	Meghalaya	10 KM FM	304.50	-do-

[English]

#### Extraction of Minerals from Maharashtra

900. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :  
SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of mines from which precious mineral/stones are being extracted, State-wise;

(b) the value of minerals/stones extracted during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether any survey has also been conducted by the Department of the Mineral Survey in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the possibilities of the extraction of these minerals in the State; and

(e) the provision made for investment in mines sector; both in public and private; during the current Plan period and funds allocated for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

### Child Labour

901. SHRI D.P. YADAV :  
SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a conference of Labour Ministers of various States of the country was held in Delhi recently;

(b) whether any scheme to abolish child labour system in the country was considered therein; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme being implemented and the details of the amount of assistance being provided for these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) A conference of States/ U.Ts. Labour Ministers was convened on 22.1.97 to finalise a concrete action plan for giving effect to the directions of the Supreme Court regarding rehabilitation of children working in the hazardous occupations and regulating and improving the working conditions in respect of children working in the non-hazardous occupation. It was decided in the conference that in the first phase survey would be conducted to identify such children working in all establishments in urban and semi urban areas and hazardous occupations in rural areas. Simultaneous action would be taken to recover an amount of Rs. 20,000/- from offending employer. State governments are also required to suitably strengthen the enforcement and monitoring machinery and ensure full compliance of the directions of the Supreme Court.

[English]

### Gauge Conversion

902. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received by the Government for conversion of Indore-Ratlam rail line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A survey for gauge conversion of Mhow-Indore-Ratlam has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 2.8 lakhs.

(d) Does not arise.

### Telephone Connection on Priority

903. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections sanctioned on out of turn priority under the discretionary power during the last three years;

(b) how many of them were installed in J&K during that period;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Phones to Kill' published in the 'Frontline' dated December 13, 1996 at pages 31-33;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to hand over the case to CBI for further investigation; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) A total number of 39880 out of turn telephone connections were sanctioned under discretionary power during the last three years.

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

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Out of 26 requests of telephone connections in a single list a total of 12 out of turn telephones were sanctioned for J&K Circle on 24.1.1991 vide diary numbers 13742 to 13753 by the then Hon'ble MOS (C).

(e) and (f) The matter is under examination of the Vigilance wing of the Department of Telecommunications. Further action, as appropriate, shall be initiated as per the requirement.

### Royalty Rates of Minerals

904. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :  
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :  
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :  
SHRI B.K. GADHVI :  
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an All India Mines and Geological Conference was held in December, 1996 at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the points discussed in the Conference;

(c) whether the Government propose to revise the royalty rates on minerals;

(d) if so, whether the State Governments have been consulted in this regard; and

(e) the details of revision of royalty on minerals in each category?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The main points discussed in the State Ministers/Secretaries conference of Mining & Geology was held in December, 1996 at New Delhi were (i) New guidelines for grant of large areas. (ii) Streamlining of procedure for grant of Prospecting Licences and Mining Leases (iii) Problems faced by foreign companies in obtaining mining concessions (iv) New Mineral Policy, 1993, amendments to the MM (R&D) Act, 1957, MCR, 1960 and MCDR, 1988 (v) Environmental and Forest clearances (vi) Supply of data to prospective investors (vii) Problems faced by GSI, IBM with State Governments in carrying out exploration activities (viii) Development of granite resources.

(c) to (e) The Government constituted a Study Group on 30.1.95 for carrying out detailed review of rates of royalty and dead rent applicable to major minerals (other than Coal, lignite and sand for stowing) The Study Group submitted its report in November, 1995 and the proposal for revision of rates is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

#### Relaxation of Licence Fee

905. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :  
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :  
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide relaxation to Basic Telephone Service Companies in the income-tax provisions on the payment of Licence Fee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for providing special relaxation in income tax provisions by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The Department of Telecommunications has recommended to the Ministry of Finance to treat the licence fee paid by the prospective operators as deductible expenditure under Section 37(i) of the Income Tax Act, as the licence fee would seem to fulfil the conditions envisaged under the said Section of the Act.

(c) As the licence fees paid has been recommended for treatment under an already existing section of the Income Tax Act, no special relaxation is being sought.

#### Air Traffic Services for Tourism

906. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the absence of adequate and better air traffic services the development

and expansion of tourism has been affected in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Improvement of air transport services is a continuous process which involves huge investments for fleet acquisition, construction of airports and other infrastructure facilities.

(c) Opening of the domestic sector to private airlines has injected an element of competition in aviation industry and in-turn has improved the frequency and quality of air services in the country. Indian Airlines has increased its capacity deployment by 15% and taken steps to improve the quality of services both on ground and in the air. Air India is also taking steps to improve its product, image and on-time performance to attract more passengers and to improve revenue. New destinations have been added in the recent past to improve passenger satisfaction. Airports Authority of India is planning to spend Rs. 3490 crores during 9th five year plan period for upgrading various airports. Number of Charter flights are landing at various tourist destinations consequent upon liberal charter policy of the Government.

[English]

#### Improvement in Outlay on Tourism

907. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has been urged by the Ministry to improve the outlay on tourism for allocation in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the total amount suggested for inclusion in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the extent to which the Planning Commission has agreed to the proposal of the Ministry;

(d) whether tourism promotion has been given top priority in the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Rs. 5780.00 Crores.

(c) to (e) The Ninth Plan has not been finalised by the Planning Commission.

*[Translation]*

**Survey for Development of Railways in Backward Areas**

908. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :  
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :  
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :  
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted for the development/expansion of Railways in backward, hilly, tribal and desert areas;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the schemes prepared in this regard?

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

*[English]*

**Maintenance of Railway Colonies**

909. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the railway colonies at Guwahati and Maligaon are not being maintained properly and lacking basic amenities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for proper maintenance and to provide basic amenities in these Railway colonies;

(d) whether funds were released for this purpose during the last three years; and

(e) if so, how those funds were utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The railway colonies at Guwahati and Maligaon are being maintained properly and do not lack in basic amenities.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Colony Care Committee consisting of Representatives of staff and officials of Railway Administration, looks after the needs of the railway colonies and works of repairs/maintenance are carried out as per decision of the Committee. In addition, colonies are inspected at various levels and deficiencies, if any, are removed.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The funds were utilised for execution of works of maintenance and proper upkeep of the colonies.

**Unscrupulous STD Operators**

910. DR. M. JAGANNATH :  
SHRI K.S. RAYADU :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Unscrupulous STD booth operators loot public" appearing in the 'News Time' dated January 8, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken to stop users of public telephone being cheated by unscrupulous operators?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

**Modernisation of Exchanges in U.P.**

911. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ no. 2014 dated 5.12.96 regarding "modernisation of exchanges in U.P." and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of proposal for modernisation of Telephone Exchanges in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujrat and its suburban during 1996-97 is given in statement-I. The details of proposal for expansion of exchanges in the above States during 1996-97 is given in statement-II.

(c) Action as per (b) above.

**Statement-I**

*Proposal for modernisation of telephone exchanges during 1996-97*

S.No.	Name of exchanges	Type	Capacities
1	2	3	4
<i>UTTAR PRADESH</i>			
1.	Kanpur-Krishnanagar	Strowger	3000
2.	Kanpur-Lajpat Nagar	Crossbar	4000

1	2	3	4
3.	Lucknow-Bhadewan	Crossbar	3000
4.	Lucknow-Mahanagar	"	10000
5.	Varanasi-Cantt.	Strowger	5100
6.	Moradabad	"	7800
7.	Bareilly	"	10000
8.	Dehradun	"	8100
9.	Ghaziabad	Crossbar	6000
10.	Sambal	Strowger	1500
11.	Akrabad	"	25
12.	Beswan	"	50
13.	Bijoli	"	25
14.	Cahnadappa	"	50
15.	Gorai	"	25
16.	Koriaganj	"	25
17.	Manmaho	"	25
18.	Pachon	"	25
19.	Salempur	"	25
20.	Tappal	"	25
21.	Wazidpur	"	25

**MADHYA PRADESH**

1.	Bhopal-Arera	Strowger	1664
2.	Indore-Nehru Park-III	"	2800
3.	Gwalior-City-I	Crossbar	10000
4.	Rau	Strowger	400
5.	Debra	"	700
6.	Raipur	"	6900
7.	Bilaspur	"	5000
8.	Ujjain	"	3200

**GUJARAT**

1.	Ahmedabad-Railwaypura	"	7000
2.	Ahmedabad-Railwaypura	"	3000
3.	Ahmedabad-Naranpura	Crossbar	10000
4.	Bhavnagar-Panwadi	Strowger	2700
5.	Surat-Mahidharpura	"	4800
6.	Jamnagar	"	1500
7.	Jamnagar	"	2000
8.	Nadiad	"	4500
9.	Godhra	"	1500

**Statement-II**

*Proposal for expansion of exchanges during 1996-97*

S.No.	Name of Exchange	Typy	Capacity
1	2	3	4
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>			
1.	Lucknow-Alambagh	EWSD	2000
2.	Lucknow-Bhadewan	E-10B, RLU	4000

1	2	3	4
3.	Lucknow-Kaisarbagh	E-10B	1000
4.	Lucknow-T.P. Nagar	EWSD	3000
5.	Lucknow-Mahanagar	E-10B	1000
6.	Lucknow-Jankipuram	E-10B, RLU	1000
7.	Lucknow-Mahanagar	EWSD	5500
8.	Barabanki	E-10B, RLU	2000
9.	Jhansi-Cantt.	"	2000
10.	Ghazipur	"	1000
11.	Lakhimpur	C-DOT	128
12.	Rai Bareilly	"	1000
13.	Gorakhpur-Rapti Nagar	E-10B, RLU	1000
14.	Faizabad	"	1000
15.	Varanasi-Cantt.	"	1000
16.	Kanpur-Benajhabar	EWSD	1120
17.	Ghaziabad-D-2/75-Lavel	E-10B	2000
18.	Ghaziabad-Patel Marg	E-10B	1000
19.	Ghaziabad-Noida	EWSD	5000
20.	Ghaziabad-Rajender Nagar	EWSD, RSU	200
21.	Agra-Taj Nagari	E-10B, RLU	1000
22.	Agra-Sanjay Place	E-10B	1000
23.	Agra-TAX-Bhawan	"	1000
24.	Aligarh	"	2000
25.	Aligarh-Hathras	E-10B, RLU	1000
26.	Dehradun-Rishikesh	"	1000
27.	Dehradun-Clemintown	"	1000
28.	Dehradun-Mussoorie	"	1000
29.	Bareilly	E-10B	1000
30.	Muzaffar Nagar-Gandhi Colony	E-10B, RLU	1000
31.	Haridwar	E-10B	500
32.	Haridwar-Jwalapur	E-10B, RLU	500
33.	Saharanpur-Mission Compound	E-10B	1000
34.	Roorkee	E-10B, RLU	1000
35.	Meerut-Baraut	E-10B, RLU	1000
36.	Mathura-Vrindavan	"	1000
37.	Mathura	E-10B	1000
38.	Barabanki-Haidergarh	C-DOT	256
39.	Barabanki-R.S. Ghat	"	256
40.	Barabanki-Barethi	"	128
41.	Barabanki-Satrikh	"	128
42.	Barabanki-Dariyabad	"	128
43.	Barabanki-Ramnagar	"	128
44.	Barabanki-Tikait Nagar	"	128

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
45.	Behraich-Kaiserganj	C-DOT	320	28.	Hasalpur	C-DOT	256
46.	Behraich-Fakharpur	"	192	29.	Jamli	"	"
47.	Behraich-Payagpur	"	64	30.	Ganesh Nagar	"	"
48.	Behraich-Milinpurwa	"	128	31.	Ajnod	"	"
49.	Basti-Bhabnan	"	128	32.	Teesgaon	"	"
50.	Deoria-Barhaj	"	128	33.	Ringnod	"	"
51.	Pratapgarh-Raniganj	"	128	34.	Rajod	"	"
52.	Sultanpur-Surapur	"	128	35.	Kukshee	"	"
53.	Sitapur	"	1000	36.	Nimrani	"	"
54.	Azamgarh	"	2000	37.	Shamgarh	"	"
55.	Balia	"	1000	38.	Degeonmali	"	"
56.	Farukhabad	"	1000	39.	Ranapur	"	"
57.	Mirzapur	"	1000	40.	Raipuria	"	"
58.	Jaunpur	"	1000	41.	Hatpiplia	"	"
59.	Sultanpur	"	1000	42.	Kantaphod	"	"
60.	Rae Bareilly	"	1000	43.	Barooha	"	"
61.	Shahjahanpur	"	1500	44.	Sonkutch	"	"
	<i>MADHYA PRADESH</i>			45.	Bahadurpur	"	"
1.	Bhopal-Bittal Market	E-10B	1000	46.	Mungaoli	"	"
2.	Durg-Bhillai	"	1000	47.	Suthalia	"	"
3.	Jabalpur-Miloniganj	"	1000	48.	Khujner	"	"
4.	Ujjain	C-DOT	2000	49.	Rajgarh	"	"
5.	Burhanpur	"	2000	50.	Ajaigarh	"	"
6.	Khandwa	"	1500	51.	Badliya Mataji	"	"
7.	Ratlam	"	2800	52.	Begumganj	"	"
8.	Bilaspur	"	2000	53.	Sanchi	"	"
9.	Korba	"	2000	54.	Ganj Basoda	"	"
10.	Katni	"	1800	55.	Bareth	"	"
11.	Indore-T.P. Nagar	E-10B	1000	56.	Singot	"	"
12.	Raipur	"	1000	57.	Dariapur	"	"
13.	Gwalior	"	2000	58.	Saraichola	"	"
14.	Bhopal-Arera	OCB	2000	59.	Gangiwarra	"	"
15.	Indore-Nehru Park	EWSD	2000	60.	Bagara	"	"
16.	Dillod	C-DOT	256	61.	Junnardeo	"	"
17.	Molar Road	"	256	62.	Mandhar	"	"
18.	Niosnia Jat	"	"	63.	Beesapur	"	"
19.	Khane	"	"	64.	Palakhad	"	"
20.	Doraha	"	"	65.	Ramakona	"	"
21.	Shahganj	"	"	66.	Ghodawari	"	"
22.	Astha	"	"	67.	Pathakheda	"	"
23.	Bager	"	"	68.	Lal Barra	"	"
24.	Bilkisganj	"	"	69.	Lamta	"	"
25.	Bhander	"	"	70.	Garha Sarai	"	"
26.	Dakachya	"	"	71.	Bua Bichia	"	"
27.	Bicholimardana	"	"	72.	Sali Chowka	"	"

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
73.	Saikheda	C-DOT	256	117.	Asna	C-DOT	128
74.	Karakbel	"	"	118.	Adaval	"	"
75.	Dongidhana	"	"	119.	Khatkheri	"	"
76.	Bandol	"	"	120.	Daghora	"	"
77.	Dhuma	"	"	121.	Katha	"	"
78.	Banki Mogra	"	"	122.	Nadan	"	"
79.	Parsoda	"	"	123.	Bisrampur	"	"
80.	Koni	"	"	124.	Ramanujanj	"	"
81.	Masturi	"	"	125.	Datra	"	512
82.	Gonda Dih	"	"	126.	Sanwar	"	"
83.	Fastarpur	"	"	127.	Hatod	"	"
84.	Dalli Rajhara	"	"	128.	Nawapara rajim	"	"
85.	Nowbasta	"	"	129.	Anjad	"	"
86.	Gangao	"	"	130.	Malanpur	"	"
87.	Jayant	"	"	131.	Balco	"	"
88.	Kalera	"	"	132.	Soyatkalan	MILT	64
89.	Neelbad	"	"	133.	Nisania	"	"
90.	Barkheda	"	"	134.	Ranipura	"	"
91.	Bhanukhadi	"	"	<i>GUJRAT</i>			
92.	Khadi	"	"	1.	Rajkot-J.B. Exchange	OCB	7000
93.	Lasudia	"	"	2.	Surat-Nanpura	FTX, RSU	3000
94.	Hakimabad	"	"	3.	Surat-Rander	"	4000
95.	Panod	"	"	4.	Vadodara-Makarpura	FTX	5000
96.	Shahnagar	"	"	5.	Vadodara-Panigati	FTX, RSU	2000
97.	Mainpur	"	"	6.	Ahmedabad-Vasna	E-10B	2000
98.	Chandwas	"	"	7.	Ahmedabad-Vastrapur	E-10B, RLU	1000
99.	Jaora	"	128	8.	Ankleshwar, GIDC	"	1000
100.	Ringnod	"	"	9.	Ankleshwar, Town	"	3000
101.	Sarangi	"	"	10.	Bharuch, GIDC	E-10B	1000
102.	Pratappur	"	"	11.	Bharuch, Town	"	2000
103.	Thandla	"	"	12.	Bhavnagar	"	3500
104.	Bijuri	"	"	13.	Gandhinagar	"	2000
105.	Sawan	"	"	14.	Godhara	E-10B, RLU	1000
106.	Bhayana	"	"	15.	Junagarh	E-10B	1000
107.	Sesai	"	"	16.	Junagarh-Sardar Banch	E-10B, RLU	1000
108.	Garatganj	"	"	17.	Mehsana	E-10B	500
109.	Silwani	"	"	18.	Navsari	"	2000
110.	Gandhwa	"	"	19.	Rajkot	E-10B	112
111.	Badchichli	"	"	20.	Rajkot-Aji	E-10B, RLU	300
112.	Teegaon	"	"	21.	Rajkot-Bhakti Nagar	"	3500
113.	Dongarmali	"	"	22.	Rajkot-K.R. Exchange	E-10B	2200
114.	Kalyanpur	"	"	23.	Surat-Mahidharpur	"	1000
115.	Tarod	"	"	24.	Surat-Katagram	"	2000
116.	Pakhanjore	"	"	25.	Surat-Pandesara	"	1500
				26.	Surat-Udhana	"	1000

1	2	3	4
27.	Vadodara-Gorva	E-10B	2000
28.	Surender Nagar	E-10B, RLU	750
29.	Vadodara-Koyali	"	250
30.	Vadodara-Fatehganj	"	1000
31.	Vadodara-Panigate	"	1000
32.	Cambay	C-DOT	500
33.	Kadi	PRX	72

### Modernisation of Automatic Exchanges in Bihar

912. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of digital trunk and automatic exchanges modernised in Dumka, Godda, Deodhar, Banka and Jamui districts of Bihar;

(b) the number of STD telephones set in order and the number of new STD telephones installed;

(c) the procedure of providing STD/ISD and PCO facility in rural areas;

(d) the number of solar energy telephones set up in rural areas of above districts which are functioning; and

(e) the number of such telephones proposed to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are no digital trunk exchanges in Dumka, Godda, Deodhar, Banka and Jamui District of Bihar.

The number of automatic exchanges modernised in above Districts is given below :

Dumka : 13; Godda : 8; Deodhar : 7; Banka : 10 and Jamui : 11 only.

(b) The performance of the STD payphones is closely monitored. The number of STD payphones installed in the places mentioned above are :

Dumka : 32; Godda : 10; Deodhar : 67; Banka : 5 and Jamui : 9.

(c) The STD/ISD payphones are allotted on the basis of the recommendations of a Committee set up for the purpose. Village PCOs are installed in places easily accessible to the Public.

(d) Number of Solar energy telephones set up in rural areas districtwise which are functioning are :-

Dumka : 95; Godda : 24; Deodhar : 20; Banka : 129 and Jamui : 90.

(e) The number of solar energy telephones proposed to be installed districtwise during 1996-97 are :

Dumka : 12; Godda : 7; Deodhar : 24; Banka : 102 and Jamui : 12.

### Introduction of Another Express Train Between Kanniyakumari and Chennai

913. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations from the public as well as various organisations requesting for introduction of one more Express train between Kanniyakumari and Chennai to enable passengers to reach Chennai in time to catch different trains for Northern, Western and Eastern parts of the country;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some representations have been received in this regard.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

### Increase in the Relay Capacity of Jaipur Doordarshan Kendra

914 SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the relay capacity of Jaipur Doordarshan Kendra, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be increased;

(c) whether the programmes of the Jaipur Doordarshan Kendras can be viewed in the entire State; and

(d) if not, the efforts being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal, at present, to increase the power of the existing High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) at Jaipur.

(c) and (d) Whereas the regional service originating from Doordarshan Kendra, Jaipur is available throughout the country including the entire State of Rajasthan, via satellite, by using an appropriate dish antennae system, the service is being relayed terrestrially by all the HPTs and LPTs in the State.

[English]

### Modification of Mining Act

915. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- whether the Government propose to modify the Mining Act;
- if so, the reasons therefore;
- whether any steps have been taken in this regard; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) As per the National Mineral Policy, 1993, the provisions of the Act and the Rules are subject to review from time to time for harmonising them with the policies governing industrial and socio economic development in the country. Amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the Rules made thereunder were made in this context earlier in 1994. Various State Governments have been demanding further delegation of powers under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957. In this context, a Committee has been constituted recently under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Mines) with Secretaries of Mining and Geology of major mineral producing States etc. as Members to review inter-alia the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to suggest steps to make them further compatible with the changed policies.

### Production of Copper

916. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT :  
SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- the copper reserves areas in the country, Statewise;
- the different private/public sector Companies dealing with the copper mining and processing;
- whether the Government have recently received proposals from the private sector for production of copper;
- if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon;
- whether the Government have formulated a scheme to cut down the import of copper and increase its production; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The total recoverable reserves position of copper ore in the country as on 1.4.94 are placed at 431 million tonnes.

The Statewise breakup of recoverable reserves are given below :

	<i>Unit 1000 tonnes</i>
Andhra Pradesh	12028.60
Bihar	116627.00
Gujarat	8124.20
Karnataka	5856.10
Madhya Pradesh	192704.00
Maharashtra	606.40
Meghalaya	616.00
Orissa	3226.50
Rajasthan	89335.70
Sikkim	722.00
Uttar Pradesh	1120.00
West Bengal	79.00

(b) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) a Public Sector Undertaking is the only unit in the country which is engaged in mining and processing of copper.

(c) and (d) Industrial Policy announced in 1991 envisages that no Industrial Licence is required for production of copper in the country. The National Mineral Policy of 1993 throws open mining of copper to private sector which was reserved exclusively for public sector. In the wake of liberalised policy following new/additional production capacities are under implementation/being planned :-

Sterlite Industries (I) Ltd.	60,000 TPA
Indo Gulf Fertilisers & Chemicals Corpn. Ltd.	100,000 TPA
Metdist Ltd.	150,000 TPA
SWIL Ltd.	50,000 TPA
Hindustan Copper Ltd. (Khetri Expansion)	70,000 TPA

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430,000 TPA

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(e) and (f) Consequent to adoption of liberalised policy, import of copper was decanalised so as to make it freely available to domestic industry.

### Gauge Conversion

917. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- whether it is a fact that the proposal for the conversion of some narrow-gauge lines in Orissa into broad-gauge have been pending since long;
- if so, the reasons for the delay in implementing those proposals;
- whether these projects are likely to be completed during the Ninth Five Year Plan period; and
- if so, the steps taken by the Government in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. There are two narrow gauge lines in Orissa.

1. Rupsa-Bangriposi is already sanctioned for conversion.
2. Naupada-Gunupur has been included in the budget 1997-98.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes Sir, subject to availability of resources.

(d) Necessary funds would be provided in the coming years.

#### Waiting List for Telephone Connections

918. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :  
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications pending for grant of telephone connections as on date, State-wise and category-wise;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to clear them expeditiously;

(c) whether the telephone operations are also proposed to be privatised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Details of applications pending for grant of telephone connections State-wise and category-wise as on 31.1.1997 are as per the enclosed *Statement*.

(b) It is proposed to provide 24.5 lakh telephone connections during 1996-97 and 29 lakh telephone connections during 1997-98.

(c) and (d) The Government do not propose to privatise telephone operations. However, private sector has been permitted to provide Basic telephone services in the country in competition with DoT/MTNL.

#### Statement

*Number of applications pending for grant of telephone connections, State-wise and Category-wise as on 31.1.97.*

S.No.	Name of State	QYT	N-OYT
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	367	2,22,244
2.	Assam	180	28,856
3.	Bihar	79	61,041

	1	2	3	4
4.	Gujarat (including Dadar, Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli)	2,784	2,89,821	
5.	Haryana	326	1,02,059	
6.	Himachal Pradesh	8	46,710	
7.	J&K	828	29,616	
8.	Karnataka	1,299	2,10,690	
9.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep (U.T.))	32,178	6,01,996	
10.	Madhya Pradesh	29	64,367	
11.	Maharashtra (including Goa and Mumbai)	2,104	3,43,483	
12.	North-East (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	38	16,074	
13.	Orissa	42	25,184	
14.	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	1,199	2,27,351	
15.	Rajasthan	945	1,92,265	
16.	Tamilnadu (including Madras and Pondicherry (U.T.))	9,238	4,28,647	
17.	Uttar Pradesh	442	1,71,212	
18.	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar, Islands & Calcutta)	295	1,59,370	
19.	Delhi	69	38,872	
	All India	52,450	32,59,858	

#### Merger of AI and IA

919. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Directors of Air India have made a representation to him on August 13, 1996 for merger of Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Board passed a unanimous resolution recommending this merger;

(c) if so, the policy of Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government have accepted the recommendation of the Board; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Board of Air India in its meeting held in September, 1996 unanimously resolved in favour of merger of Air India and Indian Airlines.

(c) to (e) The Government has asked the two airlines to explore possibilities of integrated functioning in some sectors. Appointment of a Common Board of Directors is a step in this direction.

#### MMD System by Doordarshan

920. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan has any planning for Microwave Multipoint Distribution System (MMDS) under which signals are expected to beamed on frequencies above 2.7 GHz;

(b) whether DoT has earmarked frequencies between 2.7 and 2.9 GHz for portential MMDS players;

(c) if so, the number of potential players who have already applied for licences;

(d) whether offers have been received to supply necessary wireless TV hardware to subscribers at negligible cost; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) to (e) Offers have been received from various agencies from time to time but these have not been considered since it involves emission of radio waves for broadcasting.

[Translation]

#### Air India Services to South Africa

921. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to suspend the Air India services to South Africa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the date from which it is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Air India reports that due to poor loads and unrenumerative nature of operations, they have temporarily suspended their service to South Africa effective from mid-February, 1997.

[English]

#### Backlog of Telephone in Kerala

922. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total backlog of demand for telephone connections in Kerala, district-wise;

(b) the telephone connections given against the demand during each of the last three years;

(c) whether there is any plan to clear the backlog; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Total applications pending for telephone connections in Kerala as on 31.1.97 district-wise is as the enclosed *statement-I*.

(b) Telephone connections given during the last three years are as per *statement-II* enclosed.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Of the 6.34 lakh applications on 31.1.97, about 70,000 are likely to be cleared during February-March, 1997. The remaining applications are proposed to be cleared by the year 2000 progressively subject to availability of adequate resources.

#### Statement-I

*Applications pending for telephone connections in Kerala as on 31.1.97 district-wise.*

S.No.	Name of District	Waiting List
1.	Trivandrum	52,475
2.	Quilon	47,221
3.	Pathanamthitta	35,126
4.	Alleppey	38,058
5.	Kottayam	48,969
6.	Ernakulam	69,547
7.	Idukki	22,068
8.	Trichur	67,340
9.	Palghat	31,704
10.	Malappuram	64,051
11.	Calicut	56,451
12.	Wynad	14,343
13.	Cannanore	55,972
14.	Kasaragod	27,039
Total for Kerala State		6,30,364
Union Territory of Pondicherry (Mahe)		2,591
Union Territory of Lakshadweep		1,219
Total for Kerala Circle		6,34,174

**Statement-II**

[English]

Telephone connections given during the last three years district-wise.

S.No.	Name of District	Telephone Connections Provided		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Trivandrum	6,794	10,442	15,507
2.	Quilon	4,642	5,308	15,356
3.	Pathanamthitta	2,658	4,068	6,610
4.	Alleppey	2,805	4,252	8,691
5.	Kottayam	5,119	7,575	14,046
6.	Ernakulam	10,007	21,166	20,897
7.	Idukki	1,758	1,998	3,972
8.	Trichur	5,273	10,564	20,093
9.	Palghat	3,030	3,421	9,322
10.	Malappuram	3,261	4,654	8,148
11.	Calicut	5,661	6,958	13,808
12.	Wynad	1,122	593	2,248
13.	Cannanore	3,459	5,089	11,178
14.	Kasaragod	3,062	2,884	2,655
Total For Kerala State		58,651	88,972	1,52,531
Union Territory of Pondicherry (Mahe)		39	648	352
Union Territory of Lakshdweep		246	840	1,150
Total For Kerala Circle		58,936	90,460	1,54,033

[Translation]

**Royalty Received on Minerals**

923. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the royalty received by the Government on minerals from North Chhota Nagpur, Bihar during each of the last three years and till January 1997; and

(b) the amount spent by the Government on the development of mines of this area?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Expansion of Ahmedabad Airport**

924. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :  
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :  
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ahmedabad airport has been declared as an International airport;

(b) if so, when;

(c) whether Government of Gujarat has sent proposals to the Union Government in regard to upgradation of facilities at Ahmedabad airport;

(d) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, so far;

(e) the details of the proposals, out of them, accepted, rejected and under consideration/pending;

(f) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be cleared;

(g) whether the expansion and development plan of the above airport has been taken in hand;

(h) if so, the amount so far sanctioned therefor and provisions made for the year 1997-98; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) On 7th December, 1996 Ahmedabad airport has been declared as an international airport.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposals sent related to (i) extension of runway from 9000 ft. to 11500 ft., (ii) upgradation of the terminal building and (iii) development of cargo complex.

(e) and (f) Work relating to extension of runway has been taken up. Upgradation of terminal building and construction of cargo complex are under consideration.

(g) and (h) Yes Sir. Allocations for the development of Ahmedabad airport have been provided as under :-

(i) Rs. 1 crores in 1996-97,

(ii) Rs. 4.72 crores in 1997-98 and

(iii) Rs. 26.17 crores in Ninth Plan.

(i) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Unemployment Problem**

925. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is facing a serious unemployment problem with around 380 million

unemployed persons at the end of the current century as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated January 21, 1997 under the caption "Big Bang Ahead";

(b) if so, whether any time bound plan of action has been evolved to produce a perceptible dent in the unemployment situation by the end of the century under the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are aware that many labourers, boys, children and women are cheated by some agencies and in the matter of sending them to Gulf countries;

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

(f) number of labour women in Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) According to the comprehensive Survey of Employment and Unemployment conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in their 50th Round (1993-94), the estimate of unemployed persons according to Usual Principal Status (UPS) is 9 million and the same according to Current Daily Status (CDS) measuring visible underemployment is 20.4 million.

(b) and (c) The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Productive employment is an important dimension of the state policy that seeks to achieve growth with equity. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment. Several Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector special employment programmes are also being implemented by the Government, important among which are the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and the Two million Jobs Scheme of the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC). A continuation of the employment strategy of the 8th Plan during the period 1997-2002 is expected to bring about a situation of near full employment in the country.

(d) to (f) Some complaints have been received against the recruiting agents regarding cheating of workers for overseas employment. As and when complaints are received. These are enquired into with the help of police authorities and the concerned Indian Missions abroad and action is taken, as appropriate in each case, in accordance with the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and Rules framed thereunder. Action to suspend/cancel the registration certificate is taken in appropriate cases. Complaints against un-

registered recruiting agents are referred to the concerned police authorities for investigation. No separate information is maintained for deployment of women in Gulf Countries.

[English]

### Re-Modelling of Railway Stations

926. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken up the re-modelling of railway stations and platforms in the country;

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

(c) the details of railway stations and platforms remodelled in Gujarat so far; and

(d) the details of future programme of remodelling of railway stations and platforms in the State during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Remodelling of railway stations and platforms is a continuous process and the same is undertaken as per traffic requirements. Works at various stations in this regard are included in the Annual Works Programme of Zonal Railways and generally takes two to three years for completion. No state wise details of such stations are maintained. Future plans in this regard will be decided on year to year basis depending upon the overall availability of funds during each financial year.

[Translation]

### Child Labour

927. SHRI SOHAN BEER :  
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any difference between Child Labour and Child Apprentice;

(b) if so, the manner in which these two are categorised; and

(c) the scheme formulated by the Government for developing the traditional art of the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) No differentiation has been specifically made between Child Labour and Child Apprentice under the Apprentices Act 1961 and Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. However, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 provides for the prohibition of employment of children in certain occupations and processes.

(c) The office of Development Commissioner Handicrafts is implementing a number of schemes for the development and promotion of traditional craft and preserving traditional art of the country. These include

(i) training to artisans for imparting skills, (ii) design and technical development, (iii) marketing development support for activities like exhibitions craft fairs, handicraft expos etc. (iv) assistance for setting of craft development centres and (v) grant of national awares to talented artisans etc. Apart from this, assistance is being provided for setting up of Regional Handicrafts Museum to preserve traditional art of the country and for revival of dying crafts through a series of measures like identification of problems, training, design, development, publicity, marketing etc.

[English]

### Representation of Jobless Employees in Hoarding Business

928. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that 35 thousand employees in hoarding business have been rendered jobless;

(b) whether these employees have submitted any representation to the Government; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) It has been reported that several representations were made by the Delhi Painters' Association to the concerned civic authorities protesting against the stringencies of the new advertisement bye-laws. One of the points made by the above mentioned Association is that new advertisement bye-laws, by reducing the number of hoardings, will render about 35,000 people engaged in this business jobless. The Government has no information of the basis for arriving at this estimate. The number of advertisement sites have been reduced primarily in order to improve the aesthetics of the city, facilitate the traffic movement and promote greater safety for the citizens. A conscious decision was taken by the Government of Delhi in consultation with the Delhi Urban Arts Commission to restrict the number of advertisement sites in view of the aforesaid consideration.

### Indian Tourism hit by Poor Air Services

929. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "India tourism hit by poor air service-says study" appearing in the Indian Express, New Delhi dated October 22, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has great potential as a tourist destination but it has not been tapped effectively mainly due to poor air services;

(d) if so, the steps taken/to be taken in this regard;

(e) whether Air India and Indian Airlines utilise only 41.6% of their entitlements while foreign countries operators utilise more than 66%; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Improvement of air transport services is a continuous process which involves huge investments for fleet acquisition, construction of airports and other infrastructure facilities. Opening of the domestic sector to private airlines has injected competition in aviation industry which in-turn has improved the frequency and quality of air services. Indian Airlines has increased its capacity deployment by 15% and taken steps to improve the quality of services. Air-India is also taking steps to improve its image/services. New destinations have been added in the recent past. Airports Authority of India is planning to spend Rs. 3490 crores during the 9th plan period for upgrading various airports.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Air-India and Indian Airlines utilise 44.6% of the entitlements. Shortage of aircraft capacity, trained personnel and industrial relation problem are the main impediments faced by the national carriers.

### Electronic Exchange at Uluberia

930. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a new large Electronic Exchange at Uluberia;

(b) if so, the present status of the work;

(c) the target fixed for the project;

(d) the areas in which the Government have received proposals to set up new Exchanges in the Uluberia Sub-Division of the Howrah district of West Bengal; and

(e) the time by which these exchanges are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) A 1000 lines Remote Subscriber Unit (RSU) parented to Salkia Main OCB Exchange is planned to be set up at Uluberia. The exchange equipment and infrastructure are available. Connecting microwave equipment is partially available, three phase electric supply from State Electricity Board is yet to be provided.

(c) March, 1997.

(d) Proposals are received to set up new Telephone Exchanges at Bauria, Bakshirhat, Kalyanpur, Shyampur and Udayanarayanpur in Uluberia Sub-division.

- (e)(1) The new exchange at Bauria is likely to be set up in 1997-98.
- (2) The new exchange at Bakshirhat is likely to be set up by 31.03.97.
- (3) For Kalyanpur, the plan is yet to be finalised.
- (4) At Shyampur, one C-Dot 128 port exchange has been installed already.
- (5) At Udayanarayanpur one C-DOT 256 port exchange has been installed already.

[Translation]

### Container Service

931. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of cities in the country where the container service has been provided;
- (b) whether the Government propose to provide this service in Jaipur; and
- (c) if so, the time by which the said services are likely to be introduced in Jaipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Container service has been provided by Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), a Public Sector Unit under Ministry of Railways in twenty three cities of the country.

(b) and (c) An Inland Container Depot (ICD) is already being operated by Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation (RAJSICO) at Sanganer in Jaipur.

[English]

### Losses in SAIL

932. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :  
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the SAIL incurred huge losses in giving unsecured credit and supplying materials to certain private parties without any letter of credit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. According to SAIL, it grants unsecured credit as an accepted commercial practice based on certain parameters. Wherever there are delays, SAIL recovers the amount alongwith the applicable interest and, as such, SAIL is not incurring huge losses in such transactions.

### INTERNET Current Account

933. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that foreign business travellers visiting India for a short duration find it difficult to open a temporary INTERNET current account from VSNL;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to simplify the procedure to open INTERNET current account;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the monopoly of VSNL and its poor service is hurting the foreign investment; and
- (f) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir. The existing procedure for opening INTERNET account is simple.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) No, Sir. The INTERNET service is available through VSNL in 6 cities and DoT in 10 cities. The quality of INTERNET service in India compares well with international INTERNET service providers.

(f) Question does not arise in view of reply at (e) above.

### Construction of Bridge at Pallady

934. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to ful-fill the long standing demand of the people to put up a bridge at Pallady near the level crossing and railway station along the existing footpath or 'Man' the level crossing in the Trivendrum-Kanniyakumari railway line; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Level crossing is not feasible at this site and no proposal for a Road Over Bridge has been sponsored by the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

### Introduction of Train between New Delhi and Moradabad

935. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received a suggestion from Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts

to start a separate Shatabdi Express between New Delhi and Moradabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A suggestion has been received to start a Shatabdi Express between New Delhi & Moradabad.

(c) Introduction of Shatabdi between New Delhi and Moradabad has not been found feasible on account of operational and resource constraints.

### Gauge Conversion

936. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken up the conversion work of Ahmedabad-Veraval railway-line;

(b) if so, when and the amount spent so far on the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Gauge conversion of Rajkot-Veraval section of the suggested line has already been taken up. Ahmedabad-Rajkot section is already a BG line.

(b) Conversion work of Rajkot-Veraval was included in 1994-95 budget and an amount of Rs. 3 crs. is expected to be incurred by 31.3.97.

(c) During IXth Plan.

### Development of Narrow-Gauge Railway Lines

937. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the region-wise details of narrow gauge railway lines in Bihar.

(b) whether any scheme has been prepared for the development of these narrow-gauge lines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The length of narrow gauge railway line (route kilometres as on 31.3.96) in Bihar is 69 kilometres. Region-wise statistics of railway lines is not maintained.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) This line has been included, for conversion to Broad Gauge and extension to Tori, in the

Supplementary Budget 1996-97. Necessary clearances having been obtained, the work is being taken up.

### Bangalore International Airport Project

938. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :  
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH  
GAEKWAD :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :  
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Tata agree to build Bangalore Airport on BOT basis" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 2, 1997;

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

(c) the terms and conditions and present status of the agreement;

(d) whether Tata have also agreed to induct the Airports Authority of India (AAI) as one of the equity holders in the Bangalore International Airport project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Committee has been set up on 21st February, 1997 to finalise the terms and conditions relating to the construction of a new airport of international standards at Bangalore. The Committee has representatives of Central Government, State Government of Karnataka and M/s. Tata Industries Limited.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

### Key Convention 1987 of ILO

939. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has ratified key convention 1987 of International Labour Organisation;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the major issues which ILO has to focus on the seven key convention and India's view point thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The 74th Session of the International Labour Conference in 1987 adopted the following 4 conventions concerning seafarers :

(1) 163 - Seafarers' Welfare Convention 1987

(2) 164 - Health Protection and Medical Care (Seafarers) Convention, 1987.

- (3) 165 - Social Security (Seafarers Convention Revised), 1987
- (4) 166 - Repatriation of Seafarers Convention (Revised), 1987

India has not ratified any of the above conventions so far. However, these conventions are not treated as Core Labour Standards.

The ILO has identified the following seven conventions as Core Labour Standards :

- (1) Forced Labour (No. 29)
- (2) Freedom of Association (No. 87)
- (3) Right to Collective Bargaining (No. 98)
- (4) Equal Remuneration (No. 100)
- (5) Abolition of Forced Labour (No. 105)
- (6) Discrimination (No. 111)
- (7) Minimum Age Convention (No. 138)

India has already ratified conventions no. 29, 100 and 111. ILO convention no. 105 concerning abolition of forced labour is in an advanced stage of processing for ratification.

Conventions no. 87 and 98 require granting certain rights to government servants on par with industrial workers. Since Indian law treats the government servants as a category separate from industrial workers, ratification of ILO conventions no. 87 and 98 would not be possible at this stage. Similarly, there is no omnibus provision in the Indian laws fixing a minimum age for employment. Convention no. 138 covers all sectors of economic activities and all types of employment regardless of whether children are employed for wages or not. The convention also does not set priorities. It is, therefore, not possible at this stage, to ratify convention no. 138.

### Global Tenders in Vizag Steel Plants

940. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Vizag Steel Plant awarded a contract worth over Rs. 100 crores for importing coal, without inviting global tender;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant) entered into long term agreement in the year 1995 for a period of 3 years for import of coal from various sources in Australia in accordance with the terms and conditions and specifications of Low Ash

Metallurgical Coking Coal approved by the Board of Directors of the Company.

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

### Pager Services in Major Cities

941. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the response to introduce pager services in the major cities, present status of the progress achieved so far and target set for the current year with financial target for investment;
- (b) the details of expansion plan for pager services;
- (c) whether pagers in Indian languages are proposed to be launched shortly; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, language and city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) (i) The Department of Telecommunications has issued 106 licences in respect of Radio paging operations in 27 major cities of the country. The number of licensees are between 2 to 5 in a city depending on the size of the city.

- (ii) The services is available in all the 27 cities by one or more operators. Number of subscribers to the service are 4,21,721 in these 27 cities as on 31.12.1996.
- (iii) As per the licence agreement, the licensees were required to commission the service within one year of the effective date of licence.
- (iv) The financial investment is to be done by the licensee company depending on the demand and the expansion programme of the company.

(c) and (d) No request from any of the licensee company has been received for introduction of pager in Indian languages.

However, some of the companies appear to be getting ready for multilingual paging services.

### Expansion of Exchanges

942. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :  
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to expand Telephone Exchanges during 1997 and 1998;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise, location-wise;
- (c) whether the Government also propose to open new telephone exchanges in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) Expansion of Telephone Exchanges as well as New Telephone Exchange are planned for each financial year. Detail for 1997-98 are not yet finalised.

#### Raising of Level of Platforms

943. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to raise the level of Platforms after gauge conversion from Guntur to Macherla and Gunture to Nandyal;

(b) if so, the number of platforms raised so far after conversion in that sector; and

(c) the target set up for raising the remaining platforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir, except the ones which have already been raised after Gauge Conversion.

(b) Three platforms on Guntur-Macherla section and two platforms on Guntur-Nandyal section have been raised.

(c) Does not arise.

#### ESI Scheme for Cashew Workers

944. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the Cashew workers in Kerala due to the stoppage of Employees State Insurance Scheme (ESI) for Cashew workers;

(b) whether the Government propose to take immediate steps to revoke such anti-labour decision and to ensure the benefits of the ESI scheme for the Cashew workers in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The Cashew workers working in Cashew factories covered under the ESI Act are entitled to ESI benefits as provided under the Scheme. However, a section of Cashew workers are not able to derive sickness benefit because of non-fulfilment of contributory conditions prescribed under the Scheme. The problem of such Cashew workers is under examination of the ESI Corporation. Meanwhile these workers continue to receive other benefits namely, medical benefit, disablement benefit, dependent benefit and maternity benefit under the ESI Scheme.

[Translation]

#### Mine Accidents

945. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :  
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :  
(a) whether there has been considerable increase in Mine-accidents;

(b) if so, the number and details of Mine accidents reported during this year till date;

(c) the number of persons killed in these accidents;

(d) the amount of compensation given to the families of deceased;

(e) whether any scheme has been formulated for making the mining system more effective mobilising more resources for this sector and using better technology; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

#### Revenue Earned by the Government

946. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total revenue earned by the Government from the tourism sector;

(b) whether discriminatory attitude have been adopted by the Government in regard to development of the tourist places in Bihar; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) The tax revenue earned by the Central Government by way of expenditure tax from tourists during the current financial year upto January 1997 is Rs. 226.93 crores.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Multinational Companies Willing to Invest in Communication

947. SHRI DATTA MEHGE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some multinational companies are willing to invest in communication sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have shown interest in their investment proposals; and

(d) if so, the details of the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) Government has permitted Foreign Investment in Telecom manufacturing, Value Added Services and Basic Telecom Services. A large number of foreign companies, including Multinationals,

have shown willingness to invest in the telecom sector.

The Government has approved 303 proposals in respect of Foreign Direct Investment of the order of Rs. 21770.653 crores during the period from 01/08/91 to 30/11/96. Details of foreign investment proposals cleared so are indicated below :

S.No.	Sector	No. of Approvals Accorded			Amount of FDI Approved
		Technical	Financial	Total	
1.	Basic and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service	1	80	81	18073.60
2.	Radio Paging	1	36	37	438.355
3.	Telecom Equipment Manufacturing and Other Value Added Services.	74	111	185	3258.698
		76	227	303	21770.653

[English]

#### Telephone Connections to Village Panchayats

948. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of village Panchayats which have been provided and those which have not been provided with telephone connections in the country as on December 31, 1996, State-wise;

(b) the target in this regard during the 8th five year plan, state-wise;

(c) whether it has been achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which all the village panchayats in the country are likely to be provided with telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The state-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (e) In the 8th Plan formulation, all village panchayats were to be provided with public telephones. Subsequently, National Telecom Policy (NTP) 1994 stipulated that all the villages should have a public telephone by the year 1997. Since Panchayats were also included in villages, they were also to be covered.

The target could not be achieved. This target was to be achieved with the participation of private sector in Basic Telecommunication Services area which has been delayed. DoT also could not achieve its Annual Targets.

The Village Public Telephone connections are being provided progressively to all the villages which include Gram Panchayats also. During the IXth Plan period, all the villages are to be provided with a village public telephone (VPT).

#### Statement

S.No.	Circle	No. of Village Panchayats provided with telephone connection	No. of Village Panchayats not provided telephone connections
1.	Andaman Nicobar	45	22
2.	Andhra Pradesh	17007	2526
3.	Assam	2080	45
4.	Bihar	8907	2885
5.	Gujarat	12163	1347
6.	Haryana	5338	608
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2480	442
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	740	721
9.	Karnataka	5340	331
10.	Kerala	982	Nil
11.	Madhya Pradesh	19226	11696
12.	Maharashtra	22249	2600
13.	North East	2286	2061
14.	Orissa	4973	288
15.	Punjab	8974	2769
16.	Rajasthan	8208	970
17.	Tamil Nadu	12994	181
18.	U.P. (E)	18493	32769
19.	U.P. (W)	10116	29063
20.	West Bengal	3189	30
21.	Calcutta Telephone	51	50

[Translation]

#### Increase in Number of Foreign Tourists

949. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a phenomenal increase in the number of foreign tourists coming to India to visit world famous temples of Khajuraho during 1996;

(b) if so, the increase in the number of tourists in 1996 in comparison to 1995;

(c) the income earned by Madhya Pradesh from the visits of foreign tourists to Khajuraho Temple;

(d) whether with a view to attend more foreign tourists the Government have formulated any scheme to provide more facilities to them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) According to the statistics available from the State Government, the number of foreign tourists visiting Khajuraho registered an increase of about 15.5% during 1996 over the previous year.

(c) The income from tourists are not estimated place-wise.

(d) and (e) The development of tourist facilities at any particular place is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, a sum of Rs. 30.79 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Central Department of Tourism for the construction of a Tourist Reception Centre at Khajuraho during 1990-91.

#### Termination of Services under Wage Payment Act

950. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI :  
SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases regarding termination of services under Wage Payment Act, 1936 Minimum Wage Act, 1948 and Workers Compensation Act, 1923 have been filed by the workers/representatives of the workers in labour office of NOIDA industrial centre of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Special Reservation Facilities to Foreign Tourists

951. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide special reservation facilities to the foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) Special reservation facilities are being provided by Indian Airlines to Foreign Tourists for their travel within India which include confirmed bookings upto the limit of 400 seats to all Foreign Tourists groups and individuals seeking reservation upto 60 days prior to departure of the first flight except on international sectors and on flights to/from Port Blair, Leh, North Eastern Sector on domestic network.

Indian Railways also provide special reservation facilities for foreign tourists visiting India.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Gauge Conversion in Tamil Nadu

952. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :  
SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of rail lines being converted into broad gauge in Tamil Nadu, project-wise;

(b) the total funds sanctioned for gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu during the current financial year;

(c) the total funds utilised and rail lines converted into broad gauge, so far project-wise;

(d) the steps taken for converting the rail lines between Thanjavur and Chennai beach;

(e) the time by which the complete rail track is likely to be converted into broad gauge; and

(f) the total funds released for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

(d) to (f) Gauge Conversion of Madras Beach - Tiruchchirappalli and Tiruchchirappalli - Thanjavur - Nagore-Karaikal railway lines has been taken up. These works are now likely to be completed by March '98 and Dec.'98 respectively. Outlay for these works in 96-97 was Rs. 100 crores and in 97-98 it is Rs. 144 crs.

#### Statement

(Rupees in Crores)

S.No.	Project	kms.	Cost	Outlay for 1996-97	Funds utilised upto 31.03.96	Distance converted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Madras Beach-Tiruchchirappalli-Dindigul	340	300.00	75.00	100.40	Madras Beach-Tambaram (27kms)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Tiruchchirappalli- Thanjavur-Nagore-Karaikal	200	109.00	2300	17.00	-
3.	Tuticorin-Dindigul (Madurai-Dindigul parallel BG)	198	-	-	-	Completed.
4.	Yeshwantpur-Hossur (46 kms.)	26	-	-	-	Completed.
5.	Hossur-Salem	151	-	-	-	Completed.

[Translation]

### Construction of Overbridge

953. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of railway crossings in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of such crossing on which underbridges or overbridges are proposed to be constructed; and

(c) the reasons for not constructing such bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 57 Nos.

(b) 2 Nos.

(c) Those level crossings which qualify for replacement on cost sharing basis between railway and State Government have to be sponsored by the State Government. Others have to be proposed by the State Government on deposit terms. No such further proposals have been received.

[English]

### Serials

954. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :  
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :  
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :  
SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :

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

(a) the details of serials approved by the Government/Doordarshan for telecast during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of serials so approved and telecast on National Network;

(c) the details of approved serials not telecast so far;

(d) the details of serials pending for approval;

(e) the time by which all the pending serials are likely to be approved and telecast;

(f) whether serials for this year have also been selected;

(g) whether complaints have been received regarding approval of serials; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

### Amount Outstanding against AI

955. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of oil taken on credit by the Air India from Bharat Petroleum and Indian Oil Companies during the last six months and the outstanding amount to be paid by Air India to the above companies for the earlier period; and

(b) the time by which the said amount is likely to be paid to these companies?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) From May to October, 1996, Air India bought 79379 KLS Air Turbine Fuel (ATF) from Indian Oil and 35792 KLS ATF from Bharat Petroleum. The amount payable (as on 24.2.97) to Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum is Rs. 58.21 crores and Rs. 23.09 crores respectively. These outstandings are likely to be paid by Air India in the next about eight months.

[English]

### Kamalpur Post Office in U.P.

956. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kamalpur post office of Kanpur city, Uttar Pradesh is lying closed almost every day for a month;

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

(c) whether the post master is unable to open the post office daily as he has to attend the district magistrates, thereby causing lot of inconvenience to the village; and

(d) if so, the details of the action required to be taken to deal with the above situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

### Posting of Civil Wing Officers

957. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the officers working in the Civil Wing, Telecommunications and in the office of the Chief General Manager (Maintenance) Northern Telecom Region, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. are enjoying permanent posting in Delhi because of their personal connections;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the officials holding various posts in Delhi Station for a long time would be transferred to other stations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Transfers and postings of officers are presently done on administrative grounds only. Officers from and to Delhi are posted taking into consideration not only their length and stay but also other criteria like their grade, administrative and technical requirements etc. Hence no specific time limit can be specified.

[Translation]

### Telephone Service in Bihar

958. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether rural telephone service (MARR System) in Saharsa and Supoul districts of Bihar is lying out of order;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any complaints have been received in this regard;

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

(e) whether there is any scheme to grant rebate in telephone bills of subscribers for the duration in which the lines remained out of order;

(f) whether charges/bills under Rural Telephone Service (MARR System) are less as compared to general telephones;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 7 MARR base stations are non-functional in Saharsa & Supoul revenue districts in Bihar.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some complaints for non-working of MARR telephones have been received. These faults could not be set right so far as it is not possible to repair the same locally. Action has been taken to get the faulty units repaired from the equipment manufacturers.

(e) Yes, Sir. There is a scheme to grant rebate in rental for telephones where the service to the subscriber remains interrupted continuously for seven days or more due to departmental reasons.

(f) to (h) Local and Trunk calls from all Village Public Telephones including those provided on MARR systems are charged at 50% of the normal tariff.

### Beedi Workers

959. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have introduced Group Insurance Scheme for those Beedi workers who are not the members of the Provident Fund in which in case of death of the insured worker the dependents get claim amount of Rs. 3000 to Rs. 25000 only;

(b) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India, Welfare Commission, Labour Ministry are depriving lakhs of dependents of the beedi workers of the said benefit, intentionally, due to not insurance of Identity Card to those workers; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the above problem?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. As a matter of fact, under Rule 41 of the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Rules, 1978, the responsibility for issue of identity cards to the beedi workers is cast upon the employers. However, as the employers do not usually come forward to fulfil this obligation, the Labour Welfare Organisation of Ministry of Labour have taken up the task of issue of identity cards to the beedi workers on priority basis and have also fixed a monthly target for issue of 250 identity cards by each dispensary. Besides, the State Governments have been requested to launch special drives in association with Welfare Commissioners so that all beedi workers are properly identified and issued Identity Cards to enable them get benefits of the Group Insurance Scheme and also other Welfare schemes. As a result of this, out of 42.50 lakhs estimated number of beedi workers in the country 32,92,914 beedi workers have so far been issued identity cards.

*[English]*

**Distribution of Publications to  
Schools and Colleges**

960. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the names of publications brought out by his Ministry during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the steps taken to ensure their proper distribution;

(c) whether these publications are also being supplied to schools and colleges;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure their supply to schools and colleges?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The lists of priced publications brought out by the Publication Division are given in the enclosed *Statement*. The publications are sold through a network of Sales Emporia owned by the Publications Division and a number of agents/booksellers spread all over the country.

(c) to (e) Adequate publicity is provided to these publications by the Publications Division including mailing information directly to a number of schools, colleges and universities; thereby enabling these institutions to acquire the books on demand. Publications Division also holds regular Book Exhibitions and participates in Books fairs organised by schools etc., on receiving intimation/request.

**Statement**

*Publications released by Publications Division  
during the year 1995-96*

**English**

1. P.V. Narasimha Rao : Selected Speeches Vol. III
2. Forgotten Monuments of Orissa - Vol. I
3. Ancient India
4. Gandhi : The Man and His Thought (reprint)
5. National Parks of India
6. India 1994
7. M.A. Ansari (BMI)
8. Andhra Kesari T. Prakasam (BMI)
9. Towards Food for All - Ideas for a New POS
10. 1857 (rep)

11. C.W.M.G. - Vol. 44 (rep)
12. Gandhi - A Pictorial Biography (rep)
13. C.W.M.C. Vol. XIII (rep)
14. C.W.M.C. Vol. LXXXIV (rep)
15. Gandhi - Ordained in South Africa
16. Ancient India (rep)
17. Challenge to the Empire - A Study of Netaji (rep)
18. Sardar Patel Memorial Lectures 1993-94
19. Folk Tales of Kerala
20. C.W.M.C. Vol. XII (rep)
21. Mass Media in India 1994-95
22. The years of Endeavour : Selected Speeches of Indira Gandhi. (rep)
23. Indian Tribes through the Ages (rep)
24. P.V. Narasimha Rao's Selected Speeches - Vol. IV
25. An Outline History of Indian People (rep)
26. C.W.M.C. Vol. XX (rep)
27. India - 1995
28. United Nations in the Service of the Common Man.
29. C.W.M.C. Vol. XIII (rep)

**Hindi**

1. Rajshree Purushottam Das Tandon (rep)
2. J.L. Nehru Ke Bhashan, Vol. I (rep)
3. Bharatiya Vigyan Mein Naitikta
4. Budh Gathaa
5. Samyukt Rashtra Bachchon Ke Liye
6. Suron Ka Sadhak
7. Doordarshan : Dasha aur Disha
8. Bharat ke Samachar Patra 1994
9. Chidiyon ki Duniya (rep)
10. Grameen Jivan Mein Vigyan (rep)
11. Pauranik Bal Kathaen (rep)
12. Rajkumari Nehalde (rep)
13. Dharti ka Sapna (rep)
14. Dast Rog (rep)
15. Kalaguru Anand Kumar Swami (rep)
16. Dakshin Bharat ke Mandir (rep)
17. Sunehra Kachua (rep)
18. Hindi aur uski Uppashna

19. Bharatiya Sanskritiy ki Jhanki (rep)  
 20. Premchand ki Vichar Yatra  
 21. C.K. Naydu  
 22. Dr. Rajendra Prasad-Sachitra Jivani (rep)  
 23. Laghu Udyog Vikas ke Liye Protsahan aur Suvidhaen  
 24. G.V. Mavalankar (BMI)  
 25. Keshab Chandra Sen (BMI)  
 26. Manipur ki Lok Kathaen (rep)  
 27. San Sattavan ke Bhule Bisre Shaheed (rep)  
 28. Kasturba Gandhi (rep)  
 29. Bhojpuri Lok Kathaen (rep)  
 30. Bharat ki Masjide (rep)  
 31. Apni Hindi Sudharen (rep)  
 32. Uttar Pradesh ki Lok Kathaen (rep)  
 33. Yoga Sachitra  
 34. Sarojini Naidu (rep)  
 35. Sant Gadge Baba (rep)  
 36. Rabindra Nath Tagore ki Bal Kahaniyan (rep)  
 37. Madan Mohan Malviya (BMI) (rep)  
 38. Hamare Bahadur Bachche (rep)  
 39. Rochak Aitihāsik Kahaniyan pt.II (rep)  
 40. Prachin Bharat  
 41. Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar (BMI) (rep)  
 42. Man Jiska Mazboot Vol.II  
 43. Kartabi Janawar (rep)  
 44. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (rep)  
 45. Bajjika ke Lok Kathaen (rep)  
 46. Bundel Khand ke Lok Kathaen (rep)  
 47. C.W.M.C. Vol. XXI (rep)  
 48. C.W.M.C. Vol. XXIII (rep)  
 49. Quotable Quotes - Vinoba Bhave  
 50. Quotable Quotes - Subramaniam Bharti  
 51. Quotable Quotes - Jayshankar Prasad  
 52. C.W.M.C. Vol. XX (rep)  
 53. C.W.M.C. Vol. XXV (rep)  
 54. Awash ki Begum (rep)  
 55. Betal Katnaen (rep)  
 56. C.W.M.C. Vol. XXIV (rep)  
 57. C.W.M.C. Vol. X (rep)  
 58. C.W.M.C. Vol. IV (rep)

59. Aajkal Anukramanika  
 60. Premchand - Quotable Quotes  
 61. Louha Purush Sardar Patel (rep)  
 62. Boudh Kathaen (rep)  
 63. Kumaon ki Lok Kathaen (rep)  
 64. C.W.M.C. Vol. VIII (rep)  
 65. C.W.M.C. Vol. VII (rep)  
 66. C.W.M.C. Vol. V  
 67. Dr. Zakir Hussain (BMI)  
 68. Bhimrao Ambedkar (BMI) (rep)  
 69. Bharat - 1995  
 70. C.W.M.C. Vol. VI (rep)  
 71. C.W.M.C. Vol. XXII (rep)

### Regional Languages

1. B.R. Ambedkar (BMI) Gujarati  
 2. R.N. Tagore Gujarati  
 3. Bal Gangadhar Tilak Gujarati  
 4. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Gujarati  
 5. Sari Sarp Ki Kahani Gujarati  
 6. Kaka Sahib Gadgil Marathi  
 7. Mantrika Patti (television) Malayalam  
 8. Beware Devils Malayalam  
 9. The Grandpa and Horses Malayalam  
 10. The Earth and the Sky Malayalam  
 11. Techniques of Planning Malayalam  
 12. The Immortal Flower Malayalam  
 13. K. Kamraj Tamil  
 14. V.O. Chidambaram Pillai Tamil  
 15. India Sutruchuzal - Ithil Nanadu Pangu Tamil  
 16. Abdi Kalam Azad (BMI) Urdu  
 17. Hamari Tahzeebi Virasat Urdu  
 18. Hindustani Tahzeeb ka Musalmanon par Asar Urdu  
 19. Ainee-E-Ghalib Urdu

*Publications released during 1996-97  
(April 1996 - January 1997)*

### English

1. Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi Vol. 84 (Reprint)  
 2. Indian Shipping : A Historical Survey  
 3. Jawaharlal Nehru : Selected Speeches Vol. I (Reprint)

- |  |                    |   |           |
|--|--------------------|---|-----------|
| 4. Jawaharlal Nehru : Selected Speeches Vol. II    | (Reprint)          | 16. Bharat Aur Manav Sanskriti Vol. I             |           |
| 5. Jawaharlal Nehru : Selected Speeches Vol. III   | (Reprint)          | 17. Bharat Aur Manav Sanskriti Vol. II            |           |
| 6. Jawaharlal Nehru : Selected Speeches Vol. IV    | (Reprint)          | 18. Lokshagriha Part III                          |           |
| 7. Jawaharlal Nehru : Selected Speeches Vol. V     | (Reprint)          | 19. Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi Vol. 14     | (Reprint) |
| 8. Poverty and Un-British Rule in India            | (Reprint)          | 20. Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi Vol. 3      | (Reprint) |
| 9. Jawaharlal Nehru : A Pictorial Biography        | (Revised -edition) | 21. Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi Vol. 26     | (Reprint) |
| 10. Great Men Great Deeds                          |                    | 22. Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi Vol. 39     | (Reprint) |
| 11. Press in India 1995                            |                    | 23. Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi Vol. 19     | (Reprint) |
| 12. President Shankar Dayal Sharma Speeches Vol. I |                    | 24. Gopal Krishna Gokhale                         | (Reprint) |
| 13. Regreening of our Earth                        |                    | 25. Maratha Shakti ke Udey                        | (Reprint) |
| 14. Sufis of Sindh                                 | (Reprint)          | 26. Hindi Vikas Aur Sambhavana                    |           |
| 15. Prem Chand : Life & Works                      | (Reprint)          | 27. Bhartiya Swatantra Andolen Ka Itihas Part. I  |           |
| 16. Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi Vol. 9       | (Reprint)          | 28. Bhartiya Swatantra Andolen Ka Itihas Part. II |           |
| 17. Forgotten Monuments of Orissa, Vol. II         |                    | 29. Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi Vol. 70     | (Reprint) |
| 18. Forgotten Monuments of Orissa, Vol. III        |                    | 30. Ustad Bhure Lal                               | (Reprint) |
| 19. A Moment in Time, with Legends of Indian Art   |                    | 31. Mahabali Rustam                               |           |

*Publications released during 1996-97  
(April 1996 - January 1997)*

#### Hindi

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Sita                                      | (Reprint) |
| 2. Gangadhar Rao Deshpande (BMI)             |           |
| 3. Pannadhay                                 | (Reprint) |
| 4. V.O. Chidambaram Pillai (BMI)             |           |
| 5. Gopal Krishna Gokhle (BMI)                | (Reprint) |
| 6. Raja Ram Mohan Roy (BMI)                  | (Reprint) |
| 7. Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi Vol. 68 | (Reprint) |
| 8. Rani Lakshmi Bai                          | (Reprint) |
| 9. Bacche Ka Vikas                           | (Reprint) |
| 10. Kaurvi Lok Kathain                       | (Reprint) |
| 11. Bharat Ki Veer Gathain                   |           |
| 12. Secularbad Bhartiya Parikalpana          |           |
| 13. Bharat ke Samachar Patra 1995            |           |
| 14. Rochak Aitihasic Kahaniyan               |           |
| 15. Hindi - Mat Abhimat                      |           |

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 32. Mustak Ali  |           |
| 33. Vedanta Aur Vishwachetna  |           |
| 34. Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi : Vol. 18                     | (Reprint) |
| 35. Bengal ki Lok Kathaen   | (Reprint) |
| 36. Chetak Aur Pratap   |           |
| 37. Rashtrapati Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Chunne Hue Bhashan Vol. I |           |
| 38. Indira Gandhi, Chunne Hue Bhashan Aur Lekh                      |           |
| 39. Bhartiya Sanskriti ka Musaimano per Prabhav                     |           |

*Publications released during 1996-97  
(April 1996 - January 1997)*

#### Regional Languages

- |                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Mr. Jayakar                        | (Marathi)  |
| 2. Ganjina -a- Ghalib                 | (Urdu)     |
| 3. Freedom Movement in Andhra Pradesh | (Telugu)   |
| 4. Glory of Vijayanagram              | (Telugu)   |
| 5. Fidale Nayudu Gasu                 | (Telugu)   |
| 6. Glory of Kakatiyas                 | (Telugu)   |
| 7. Our National Song                  | (Gujarati) |

8. C.F. Andrews (Gujarati)  
 9. Valmiki & Vyas (Gujarati)  
 10. Vaighaniko (Gujarati)  
 11. Rabindra Nath Tagore (Gujarati)  
 12. Vishwa ke Shresthe Lok Kathain (Gujarati)  
 13. Bapu ka Saath (Gujarati)  
 14. Hindustan Mein Islamic Uloom ke Marakiz (Urdu)  
 15. A.P. Geography and Resources (Telugu)  
 16. Ghalib & Hundred Moods (Multilingual)

#### Target for Installation of Telephones

961. SHRI SUKH RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for installation of telephones in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether these target was revised;

(c) if so, the revised target for these years and its achievements against the revised target;

(d) whether original/revised target has not been achieved; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The target fixed for installation of telephones during the last three years are as follows :

1993-94	-	11.05 lakhs
1994-95	-	14.26 lakhs
1995-96	-	20.00 lakhs

(b) These targets were not revised. However, during 1995-96, it was decided that by proper planning and putting all efforts, the Department should be able to achieve 29 lakhs telephone connections.

(c) The achievement made during the last three years are as given below :

1993-94	-	12.40 lakhs
1994-95	-	17.70 lakhs
1995-96	-	21.83 lakhs

(d) The original target has been achieved.

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

#### Promotion of Fairs and Festivals

962. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any steps to promote fairs and festivals to attract foreign tourists as well as domestic tourists;

(b) if so, the details of States where such fairs and festivals have been organised so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance the allocation of amount to various States to promote fairs and festivals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Tourism extends Central financial assistance to identified festivals on proposals sent by the State Governments, based on its merit, inter-se priority and availability of funds. There are over 80 such festivals identified in different Union Territories/ States of the country. The festivals are normally organised on an annual basis.

(c) and (d) During 1996-97, a sum of Rs. 1.3 crores has been kept for allocation to the States for celebration of fairs and festivals and organising rural craft melas.

#### IA to Float Global Tender for 6 Air Craft

963. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned, "IA to float global tender for 6 aircraft" appearing in the Pioneer dated February 3, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the same and how soon it is expected to be finalised; and

(d) the details regarding the financial implications of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) Indian Airlines proposes to float a global tender for dry leasing three A-300 B4 and two A-320 aircraft for a minimum period of one year, in order to augment its capacity during 1997-98 for which necessary details are being worked out.

[Translation]

#### Welfare Measure for the Workers of Rickshaw Profession

964. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the various welfare schemes introduced/ proposed to be introduced by the Government for the upliftment of labourers engaged in the Rickshaw profession of the country particularly in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Night Post Offices in the Country

965. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of night post offices functioning in the country as on December, 1996, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open such more post offices in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the names of places where these post offices are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The State-wise number of night post offices functioning in the country as on December, 1996 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The Government does not propose to open more night post offices in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

#### Statement

S.No.	States	No. of NPOs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	02
2.	Assam	01
3.	Bihar	09
4.	Delhi	13
5.	Gujarat	11
6.	Haryana	02
7.	Himachal Pradesh	01
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	01
9.	Karnataka	07
10.	Kerala	06
11.	Maharashtra	17
12.	Madhya Pradesh	08
13.	North East	03
14.	Orissa	07
15.	Punjab	03
16.	Rajasthan	07
17.	Tamil Nadu	13
18.	Uttar Pradesh	16
19.	West Bengal	10
20.	Goa	Nil
21.	Meghalaya	1
22.	Manipur	1
23.	Mizoram	Nil
24.	Nagaland	Nil
25.	Tripura	1
26.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil
27.	Sikkim	Nil

1	2	3
<b>Union Territories</b>		
1.	Pondicherry	1
2.	Daman & Diu	Nil
3.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Nil
4.	Chandigarh	1
5.	Lakshadweep	Nil
Total number of NPOs in the Country		142.

[English]

### Post Office in Govindpuri, Delhi

966. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the residents of Govindpuri, Rampuri and other adjoining DDA flats have to face a lot of inconvenience due to absence of post office in Govindpuri;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a sub-post office of Govindpuri was closed some years back;

(d) if so, the reasons for the closure;

(e) whether the Government consider to re-open the sub-post office;

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

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir, a sub post office in the name of Govindpuri is already functioning in the area which is catering to the needs of Govindpuri, Rampuri and other adjoining DDA flats.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) Post Office was not closed but it had to be shifted from Govindpuri in view of non-availability of suitable accommodation.

(e) to (g) Does not arise in view of (c and d) above.

[Translation]

### Telephone Subscribers in J & K

967. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of telephone subscribers in Jammu and Kashmir, district-wise;

(b) the progress made so far in laying lines and starting new exchanges in District Doda, Udhampur and Kathua;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide value-added services such as cellular phones and pagers in Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number and details of the towns and villages connected with STD facilities in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The total number of telephone subscribers in Jammu & Kashmir, district-wise as on 31.01.97 is given in statement-I enclosed.

(b) The progress made so far in laying lines and starting new exchanges in District Doda, Udhampur and Kathua is given in statement-II enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details regarding value-added services are given below :

- (1) I-net Service is already working in Jammu & Kashmir.
- (2) Pagers : Two private operators have been given licence.
- (3) Cellular Phones : No private operator has been given licence so far.

(e) The number of towns and villages district-wise connected with STD facility in J & K State is given in statement-III enclosed.

#### Statement-I

Telephone subscribers District-wise in J & K Telecom Circle as on 31.01.97.

S.No.	Name of the District	No. of subscribers
1.	Anantnag	1008
2.	Badgam	208
3.	Baramulla	1656
4.	Kupwara	268
5.	Pulwama	1004
6.	Srinagar	14463
7.	Doda	1478
8.	Jammu	30467
9.	Kathua	2242
10.	Poonch	900
11.	Rajouri	1606
12.	Udhampur	4045
13.	Leh	1190
14.	Kargil	522
Grand Total		61057

#### Statement-II

Working connections and new exchanges opened during 1996-97.

Name of District :	Doda	Udhampur	Kathua
No. of Working connections (as on 31.1.97)	1478	4045	2242
New Exchanges opened during 1996-97	One (256P C-DOT)	Three (Two MILT-64 & One 2K C-DOT)	One (MILT-64)

#### Statement-III

Details of towns/villages covered with STD facilities, District-wise.

S.No.	Name of District	Towns/Villages covered with STD facilities
1.	Anantnag	Anantnag & Pahalgam
2.	Badgam	Badgam
3.	Baramulla	Baramulla, Gulmarg & Sopore.
4.	Kupwara	Kupwara
5.	Pulwama	Pulwama, Malangpora & Pampur
6.	Srinagar	Srinagar & Ganderbal
7.	Doda	Doda, Bhadarwah, Kishtawar, Batot, Ramban & Banihal
8.	Jammu	Jammu, Akhnoor, Baribrahmana, Samba, Vijaypur, Jakh, R.S. Pura, Miramsahib, Gadigarh, Bantalab, Bishnah, Sidhra, Domana, Mandal, Raipur Satwari, Nagrota, Sangrampura & Ghomanda
9.	Kathua	Kathua, Hiranagar, Chadwal, Lakhampur, Barwal, Nagri Parole & Bani
10.	Poonch	Poonch
11.	Rajouri	Rajouri & Budhal
12.	Udhampur	Udhampur, Kud, Patnitop, Katra, Adhkumari, Vaishnodevi, Reasi, Mantalai, Jyotipuram & Chenani
13.	Leh	Leh & Khalsi
14.	Kargil	Kargil & Drass

### Construction of Railway Line

968. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had conducted a survey in 1990-91 to link the border of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh via Agra, Fatehabad and Baha, Jaitpur, Udmore and Etawah with rail line;

(b) if so, the progress made in laying this rail line so far; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the completion of this rail line and the reasons for delay in this regard?

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

(b) This is not an approved work.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

### Recovery of Dues by MTNL

969. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned "MTNL is going slow on recovery of dues" appearing in the Times of India dated February 7, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited purchased an obsolete technology - "PDH" when the world over SDH is being bought;

(d) whether the MTNL also purchased/procured costly equipment far in excess of the requirements and a major part of those are lying unused;

(e) if so, the action taken against the officials responsible therefor; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The facts are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) PDH technology is not obsolete.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Question does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

### STATEMENT

The facts are as follows :

MTNL placed orders for 234 nos. of 140 Mbps and 4 nos. of 565 Mbps OFC equipment on nine different vendors based on an open tender during the period May to October, 1994. Since there was one tender for

OFC equipment also floated around the same time by DOT, while placing POs by MTNL on its tender the provisional rates were offered with the special condition that in case prices fixed by DOT for "exactly similar configuration" equipment are lower, same shall be applicable against MTNL POs. This extra clause was incorporated to safe-guard the interest of MTNL. The DOT fixed-prices were 30 to 40 percent lower than the MTNL's provisional rates and the major price difference was due to one particular item, namely, DDF. Based on the rates fixed by DOT, MTNL regulated the payment to the suppliers from time to time and fixed prices against provisional rates in September, 1995. The suppliers challenged the price fixation by MTNL as according to them, the equipment ordered by MTNL and DOT were not identical. It may however, be mentioned here that DOT did not get supply of this item at all from any of its approved suppliers and ultimately cancelled the orders and invoked the performance bank guarantees of the erring supplier. MTNL took legal advice from Additional Solicitor General of India, acted immediately thereafter and ordered due recoveries. In the process MTNL ordered invocation of Bank Guarantees furnished by the concerned suppliers and same has been challenged by the suppliers in the Court. The recovery amount comes to Rs. 2.46 crores only and not Rs. 9 crores as raised in the press clippings.

2. The suppliers have, however, contested the price fixation by MTNL and one of the suppliers has sought for arbitration. Indian Council of Arbitration (ICAR) has already nominated two former Chief Justices of India as Arbitrators and arbitration proceedings are to commence shortly.

### Satellite Channel

970. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to regulate the Satellite Channels including Direct to Home Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). A broadcasting Bill is proposed to be introduced in the current session of Parliament for effective regulation of the Satellite Channels including Direct-to-Home Services.

### I.T.D.C. Hotels/Motels in Karnataka

971. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of I.T.D.C. Hotels and Motels in Karnataka;

(b) the details of I.T.D.C. Hotels in Bangalore and Mysore Cities;

(c) whether Lalitha Mahal is a Hotel managed by I.T.D.C. in Mysore;

(d) if so, when it was started and whether the existing building is owned by the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the details of the acquisition of the above building?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) I.T.D.C. is operating three hotels in Karnataka as under :

1. Hotel Ashok, Bangalore
2. Hotel Hassan Ashok, Hassan.
3. Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore.

(b) The details of ITDC hotels in Bangalore and Mysore Cities are given below :

Name of Unit	Star Category	Capacity	
		Rooms	Beds
1. Hotel Ashok, Bangalore	5 star	11	362
2. Hotel Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore	5 star	54	108

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. ITDC is operating Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel in Mysore. The Palace property consisting of the main Palace, other buildings and gardens in the premises was taken over on lease for a period of 50 years. The Palace was converted into a hotel and commissioned in Sept. 1974.

#### Survey for Bidar-Hospet Railway Line

972. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken up any survey for laying of a new railway line between Bidar and Hospet via Kalburgi, Jevargi, Shahapur and Sorapur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the above work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The survey has been included in the Budget, 1997-98. The survey work will be taken up, once the Budget is passed.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Illegal Gratification

973. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Consumer Disputes Redressal

Forum has pulled up the Chief General Manager, MTNL, for ignoring complaints of "illegal gratification" by the linemen for restoring telephones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether complaints lodged with 198 are not attended to promptly relating to faulty telephone apparatus; and

(e) if so, the complaints pending in this regard in the South-I district of MTNL and the reasons for not replacing the faulty telephone apparatus?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). No Sir. However, in a case of Shri M.P. Rajbanshi, the Forum has directed by endorsing copy of the Judgement Order to the CGM, MTNL for compliance. Besides compensation of Rs. 2000/- as damages and rent rebate for 27 days, MTNL has been asked to enquire into the allegations made by subscriber and report by 3.3.97. An appeal has been filed with the State Commission by MTNL which has been listed for hearing on 20.3.97. The matter being subjudice no further comments can be offered at this stage.

(d) No, Sir. They are attended to promptly.

(e) No complaint on 198 relating to faulty telephone apparatus is pending in South-I District of MTNL.

#### Iron Ore

974. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of districts in Madhya Pradesh where iron-ore is mined and the number of workers employed in this work in each district;

(b) the production capacity of 'Sponge Iron, Vilaspur' and whether this company has been set up on Government's land or private land;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said company gives priority to local people in employment; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) As per information received from the Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur, iron ore was mined in three districts of Madhya Pradesh, viz., Bastar, Durg and Jabalpur, the average daily employment in each district being 2403, 9116 and 54 respectively during 1995-96.

(b) There is no unit by the name 'Sponge Iron, Vilaspur'.

(c) to (e). Do not arise in view of reply at (b) above.

### Installation of Telephones in the Country

975. SHRI SUKH RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Telephones installed, target fixed and achieved in the country during the year 1992 and from January to March, 1993; and

(b) the total income accrued to DoT in this regard during the period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The targets fixed for the installation of Telephone connections during 1991-92 and 1992-93 and achievements are as follows :

Year	Target	Achievement
1991-92	7.00 lakh	7.36 lakh
1992-93	8.50 lakh	9.87 lakh
<i>Achievements</i>		
During 1992		8.35 lakh
January to March 1993		6.10 lakh

(b) The total income accrued to DoT (excluding MTNL) during this period is as follows :

During 1992	Rs. 3677.00 crores
Jan.'93 to March'93	Rs. 1068.00 crores

### Unions in Kandla Port

976. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether verification of membership of various unions operating in Kandla Port was conducted by his Ministry recently; and

(b) if so, the membership of each union?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. It was conducted in 1996 with 31.12.92 as the date of reckoning.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

### Statement

S.No.	Name of the Union	Affiliation to Central Org./ Federation.	Verified membership of workers in Port Trust	Verified membership of Workers in Dock Labour Board
1.	Transport and Dock Workers' Union (Kutch)	Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS)	3095	746
2.	Kandla Port Worker's Union (Kutch)	All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)	983	
3.	Kandla Port Karmchari Sangh, Gandhidham.	Indian National Trade Union Congress ((INTUC)	1568	233
4.	Kandla Port and Dock Employees Union, Gandhidham.	Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS)	05	53
5.	Kandla Port and Dock Mazdoor Sangh, Gandhidham.	National Labour Organisation (NLO)	13	
6.	Kandla Mahabandar Mazdoor Sangh, Gandhidham.	Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS)	Records not produced.	
7.	Kandla Stevedors and Dock Workers Union, Gandhidham.	Central Indian Trade Union (CITU).	-do-	

### Development of Buddhist Tourist Spots

977. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, Vaishali of Bihar as an international tourist spots; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has entered into a soft loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (OECF), Japan in December, 1988 for the

development of infrastructure along the identified Buddhist travel circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The financial assistance is to the tune of 7.76 billion Japanese Yen. The places covered in Bihar are Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali. The project period is upto 20th January, 1999. The Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund loan is not available in advance. The implementing agencies have to first incur expenditure from their own resources and then claim reimbursement from Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund. The major components of the project are strengthening of National and State highways, improvement of local roads, landscaping, augmentation of water and electricity supply and setting up of wayside amenities.

### Change in the Timings of 8301-Hirakud Express

978. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding the change in timings of 8301-Hirakud Express; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Representations were received for restoration of the old timings of 8301/8302 Hirakud Express which has been done w.e.f. 10.02.97.

### New Post Offices

979. SHRI MURLIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open new post offices in the country; and

(b) if so, the criteria and the target fixed for the current year in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Criteria for opening of Post Offices and the Postal Circle-wise targets fixed for the current year (1996-97) are given in Statements I and II respectively.

### Statement-I

#### Norms for Opening of Post Offices

#### 1. Norms for opening of new Branch Post Office

##### 1.1 Population

(a) In Normal areas :

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO villages).

(b) In the hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas :

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

##### 1.2 Distance :

(a) In Normal Areas :

The minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

##### 1.3 Anticipated Income :

(a) In Normal Areas :

The minimum anticipated revenue will be  $33\frac{1}{3}$  of cost.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

#### 2. Norms of Opening New Departmental Sub Post Offices :

##### 2.1 In Rural areas :

The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day. The permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs. 400/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

##### 2.2 In Urban Areas :

2.2.1 In Urban areas, the Post Office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

2.2.2. The distance between two Post Office should not be less than 1.5 Km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban areas. If it is a Delivery Post Office, the distance from the nearest Delivery Post Office should be less than 5 Kms.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

2.2.3. A delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

**Statement-II**

*Post Circle-wise targets for opening Departmental Sub Post Offices and Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices under Annual Plan, 1996-97 :*

S.No.	Name of the Circle	Departmental Sub Post Offices	Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	2
2.	Assam	4	2
3.	Bihar	11	10
4.	Delhi	10	1
5.	Gujarat	12	5
6.	Haryana	10	4
7.	Himachal Pradesh	10	4
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	2
9.	Karnataka	10	2
10.	Kerala	9	1
11.	Madhya Pradesh	9	9
12.	Maharashtra	12	9
13.	North-East	4	2
14.	Orissa	4	4
15.	Punjab	4	2
16.	Rajasthan	10	5
17.	Tamil Nadu	4	2
18.	Uttar Pradesh	16	12
19.	West Bengal	4	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>80</b>

**Note :** Postal Circle of North-East comprises the States of Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Similarly, Goa forms part of Maharashtra Postal Circle and the state of Sikkim forms part of West Bengal Circle.

The following Union Territories are covered by the Postal Circles mentioned against each of them :

Andaman and Nicobar	:	West Bengal Circle
Chandigarh	:	Punjab Circle
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	:	Gujarat
Daman and Diu	:	-do-
Lakshdweep	:	Kerala Circle
Pondicherry	:	Tamil Nadu Circle

**Doubling of Ernakulam-Kayamkulam Rail Line**

980. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for doubling the Ernakulam-Kayamkulam railway line via Kottayam and Alappuzha;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

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

(b) and (c) A survey for doubling of Ernakulam-Kayamkulam rail line via Alleppy and Kottayam has been taken up. Further, consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

**Vacant Posts of Junior Accounts Officer**

981. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of posts of Junior Accounts Officer are lying vacant despite availability of the requisite qualified employees in the Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not filling up these posts since 1990, till date;

(c) whether Department of Telecommunications has taken a number of employees from Department of Posts on deputation;

(d) if so, whether the employees of DoT are getting promotion after passing only first part of the Junior Accounts Officer Examination;

(e) if so, the reason for not giving the due right of the employees working in Department of Posts who have already cleared both parts of Junior Accounts Officer Examination; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Against the sanctioned strength of 3490 JAOs, 196 posts are lying vacant. Since the Department of Telecom and Department of Posts are separate, the qualified JAOs in the Department of Posts are not eligible for appointment in the Department of Telecom. The year-wise vacancy position is given below :

1990	1009
1991	1024
1992	704
1993	306
1994	457
1995	497
1996	568
1997	196

(c) Yes Sir, at present 263 JAOs of the Department of Posts are working in the Department of Telecom on Deputation.

(d) The JAO Part-I Examination qualified candidates are appointed as JAOs to meet short term requirement on local officiating basis but they are not given the JAO's scale of pay.

(e) As stated in (a) and (b) above, the employees of Department of Posts who have qualified in both Parts of JAO's examination do not have any right to appointment in Department of Telecom.

(f) JAO examinations are being held regularly and the shortage is expected to be wiped out once the results of JAO Part-II exams. held in November 1996 and in January 1997 are declared.

### Late Running of Trains

982. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the trains are not running punctually in South Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also aware that the trains running between Hyderabad and Chennai are absolutely delayed every day which practically seen while travelling;

(d) if so, whether the main cause is the irresponsibility of the concerned officials for their poor monitoring; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the punctuality of trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The punctuality performance of trains on South Central Railway has shown an improvement during the period April-December 1996 (97.0%) as compared to the corresponding period of last year (95.7%)

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, at times trains do run late due to various reasons like cyclone, bad weather, accidents, agitations/bandhs, equipment failures, grid failures, alarm-chain-pulling and miscreant activities etc.

(e) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and officers' level are also being launched.

### Welfare of Labourers

983. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems faced by labourers working in fireworks located in Sivakasi and other centres;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the protection and welfare of the labourers;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The measures required to be taken for protection and welfare of workers employed in fire works factories have been laid down in Factories Act, 1948. The factories are inspected once in three months to ensure compliance of these provisions of the Act by the Occupiers. If at the time of inspection any violation is noticed, penal action is taken against the management under Factories Act, 1948 and under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. To prevent fire accidents, the workers in fireworks factories are educated/trained about the safety methods in handling, processing and transporting fire works products. For this, the Government of Tamil Nadu have started training centre at Sivakasi from the year 1993.

[Translation]

### Mining Lease to Foreign Company

984. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the guidelines fixed in regard to grant of mining lease to any foreign company and its Indian subsidiary for exploration and mining of gold and precious stones;

(b) whether such leases have been granted in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the prior approval of the Union Government have been accorded in these cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Mining rights are granted by the concerned State Governments in accordance with provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, and the rules made there-under. As per the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, mining rights can be given only to an Indian National or a company defined in sub-section (1) of Section (3) of the Companies' Act, 1956. Provided that in respect of any mineral specified in the 1st Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, no prospecting licence or mining lease shall be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

### Idle Aerodroms in West Bengal

985. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that several aerodroms remain non-functional or have become idle in different parts of West Bengal;

(b) if so, names of those idle aerodroms;

(c) whether there is any proposal to utilise these aerodroms;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) In West Bengal four airports viz. Balurghat, Behala, Cooch Behar and Malda are non-functional.

(c) to (e) These airports are suitable for operation of Dornier 22 (20 seater) aircraft. No airline has indicated interest in operating this type of aircraft to these stations. At present, AAI has no plans to upgrade these airports.

### Unserviceable Telephones in Allahabad

986. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephones in Allahabad lying unserviceable;

(b) the reasons for inordinate delay in making them operational;

(c) the number of persons in the waiting list for new telephone connections in Allahabad;

(d) the time by which new connections are likely to be given to them;

(e) when the telephone Directory for Allahabad was issued last and when the new Directory is likely to be issued; and

(f) the measures taken to tone up the working of the telephones in Allahabad?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 604 as on 21.2.97.

(b) There is no case pending for more than 15 days. There are a few cases pending for more than a week's time due to theft and multiple and scattered cable faults. These are being attended to vigorously.

(c) 5556 as on 31.1.97.

(d) The waiting list of the applicants in part (c) as on 31.1.97 is likely to be cleared by March, 98.

(e) The last telephone directory was issued in April, 95. New directory is under print and is likely to be issued to the subscribers in the month of March, 1997.

(f) The following remedial measures have been taken for improving the telephone services at Allahabad :

(i) Computerisation and Fault Repair Service.

(ii) Replacement of over head alignments by under-ground cables.

(iii) Use of insulated wire/drop wire in place of bare iron wire.

(iv) RLU's (Remote line unit) exchanges are being opened to reduce cable conductor lengths in local loop.

(v) The rural exchanges are being upgraded to higher capacity digital exchanges.

(vi) For further reducing the faults and to improve the services a programme of upgradation of the out door plant has been launched.

### Pitfalls in International Film Festival of India

987. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether some pitfalls were noticed in the 28th International Film Festival of India held at Thiruvananthapuram on January 10, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this year's Indian Panorama screened at the IFFI had far fewer films than in the previous years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) No serious shortcoming was noticed during 28th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held at Thiruvananthapuram. Films from about 47 countries participated in the Festival, with special emphasis on films from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A maximum of 21 feature and 21 non-feature films can be selected for the Indian Panorama every year. The Selection is done by selection panel consisting of eminent persons from all over the country. Since the selection is done on merit by the selection panel, the number of films selected varies from year to year. This year the selection panel found 14 feature films and 16 non-feature films suitable for inclusion in the Indian Panorama.

### Inadequate Arrangements of Potable Water

988. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that New Bongaigaon, Nalbari, Barpeta Road, Rangiya and

Kokrajhar railway stations in Assam have no adequate arrangements of potable water and as a result thereof passengers have to face great difficulties;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any scheme for providing potable water on the said railway stations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c). Drinking water facilities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic handled has already been provided at all stations.

#### Installation of High Tech Radar in A.P.

989. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether high-tech radar was installed at Begumpet airport in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the main purpose therefor;

(c) if so, whether by setting up this radar the Government will be in a position to detect the alien aircraft;

(d) whether any other airports have been provided with such facilities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which all the airports are likely to be provided with such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Airport Surveillance Radar (ASR) and Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) have been commissioned in September, 1995.

(b) and (c) The Airport Surveillance Radar will detect any aircraft flying within 60 nautical miles radius. The Secondary Surveillance Radar can detect aircraft equipped with transponders within 250 nautical miles radius.

(d) and (e) ASR/MSSR facilities have been commissioned at Thiruvananthapuram airport. This equipment is being installed at Delhi, Guwahati, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay airports and will be commissioned during the period March 1997 to August, 1997.

#### Modernisation of Barddhaman Railway Station

990. SHRI BALAJI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering for modernisation and expansion of Barddhaman Railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Works of remodelling of yard, replacement of indoor and outdoor signalling gears, computerisation of passenger reservation system, provision of battery charging facilities, extension/provision of shed on various platforms, improvements to lighting, provision of additional tube well and provision of train indicator board have been taken up at Barddhaman railway station.

#### Construction of Overbridge at Level Crossings

991. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the level crossings on NH 17 at Muzhappilangad, Nadal And Chovva in Cannanore district of Kerala create bottlenecks for the road transport causing undue delay and wastage of time of passengers;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to construct over bridges at above crossings;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala for construction of overbridges at above crossings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Kerala State Governments was advised to sponsor the proposal required under extant rules, which is still awaited.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Prasar Bharati Bill

992. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a Broadcasting Authority in order to streamline the functioning of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have discussed the recommendations of the Expert Group constituted for the Prasar Bharati Bill with various Political Parties/ State Governments;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A meeting was held on 13th September, 1996 to solicit the views of various political parties on the recommendations made by the Sengupta Committee. A questionnaire was also sent to representatives of all political parties. The report was also circulated and discussed in the State Information Minister's Conference (SIMCON) held on 28th and 29th October, 1996.

After taking these views into consideration, an Amendment Bill will soon be introduced in Parliament.

### Computerised Reservation Centres in West Bengal

993. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken any decision to open computerised reservation centres at Kalna, Katwa, Suri, Rampurhat, Sitarampor, Barakar, Barrackpore, Ranaghat, Shrirampur, Midnapore, Uluberia and New Jalpaiguri Railway Stations in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the time by which the said centres are likely to be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Provision of computerised reservation facilities at Barrackpore is included in the Budget for 1997-98. Reservation workload at other places is lesser than the criterion of reservation related transaction per day and does not presently justify the provision of these facilities. Introduction of computerised reservation at the other stations will be considered as and when the reservation workload increases adequately.

### Installation of Train Describer System at Howrah

994. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to instal Train Describer System at Howrah for improvement in train control and to increase productivity in terms of number of trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present the installation of the system at Howrah is not considered cost effective.

### TV Studio/HPT, Orissa

995. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far on the construction of studio and provision of adequate transmission facilities at High Power TV transmitter in Orissa particularly in Bhawanipatna, Kalahandi district;

(b) the reason for such slow progress;

(c) whether the representations have been received in this regard by State Government and Members of Parliament of the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to complete the work at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Whereas the High Power TV transmitter (HPT) at Bhawanipatna has been in operation since January'92, civil works for the studio projects at Bhawanipatna and Sambalpur (permanent set-up) and HPT projects at Sambalpur and Baleshwar are in progress and are targetted for completion during 1998, subject to timely supply of equipment and other infrastructural facilities.

(c) to (e) Though representations have been received from the State Government and Members of Parliament in this regard, it is the endeavour of Doordarshan to complete all the projects on schedule as far as possible.

### Daily Running of Shipra Express

996. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand of the people of Bhopal, Indore as well as Calcutta to run the Shipra Express daily and attach pantry car and AC 3 Coach with it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to fulfil these demands by changing the rake into air brake;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received in this regard.

(c) to (e) Shipra Express is running tri-weekly and on the remaining 4 days Howrah-Agra/Gwalior Chambal Express is running. Increase in its frequency and provision of Air Brake rakes with A.C. 3 tier coach have

been considered but not found feasible at present for want of spare line capacity, terminal facilities and coaches. A decision has been taken to provide Pantry car on this train.

### Domestic and International Passengers

997. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the total number of domestic and international passengers during the last three years and the revenue earned therefrom; Airport-wise?

THE MINISTER CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : The total number of air passengers (both domestic and international), who utilised Indian airports during the last 3 years is as under :

1993-94	3.25 crores
1994-95	3.57 crores
1995-96	3.70 crores

Airports Authority of India does not derive any direct revenue from the passengers, except for the passenger service fee. Airport-wise details of passenger service fee collections are not maintained.

### International Airport at Nedumbassery in Kerala

998. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken action on the suggestion of Government of Kerala to establish an International Airport at Nedumbassery in view of the fact that the Government of Kerala is ready to provide all infrastructural facilities required for the purpose; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Central Government has accorded approval to the State Government of Kerala for developing a new airport of international standards at Nedumbassery near Cochin, with private participation. M/s. Cochin International Airport Ltd., a company formed for this purpose has already started the construction work.

### Diamond In Deobhog In Madhya Pradesh

999. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has decided that diamond would be available, if mined, in the Deobhog area of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the survey carried out and the findings thereof;

(c) whether any prospecting licences have been granted to any party in the public and private sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The Geological Survey of India had undertaken survey in Deobhog area of Madhya Pradesh and identified five Kimberlite pipes, the source rocks of diamond.

(c) No prospecting licences have been granted to any party in the public or private sector in Madhya Pradesh.

(d) Question does not arise.

### Shortage Equipments in Telecommunication Sector

1000. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints have been received by Chief General Manager, West Bengal Telecom Circle, Calcutta, from various Associations during 1996 regarding acute shortage of equipments in the telecommunication stores; and

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received and action taken thereon by the office of CGM?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three complaints were received by Chief General Manager, West Bengal Telecom Circle. The CGM vigorously interacted with CGM, Telecom Stores, Calcutta for procurement of the stores. The position of telecom stores improved as a result thereof.

[Translation]

### Construction of Double Rail Lines

1001. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct double railway lines between Vasai and Diva;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the construction work is likely to start?

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

(b) and (c) Work is already in progress on 20 kms. length out of 42 kms. Contracts awarded for earthwork and bridges in 7 zones. The project is targetted for completion in 1998-99.

[English]

### Railway Projects

1002. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the brief particulars of railway projects which were inaugurated or whose foundation stones were laid since April 1, 1996 with the actual/estimated cost and relevant dates;

(b) the names of States/Union Territories in which no new railway project has been initiated since April 1, 1996; and

(c) the brief particulars of projects under consideration in these States, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

### Improvement of Passenger Facilities at Railway Stations of Karnataka

1003. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to improve the passenger facilities at Bangalore, Mangalore, Hubli, Dharwad, Mysore, Tumkur, Shimoga and Hassan Railway Stations in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Provision/improvement to passenger facilities is a continuous process and the same is undertaken at stations wherever so warranted by growth in volume of passenger traffic subject to availability of funds. Accordingly various improvement works on platforms, provision of stairs for foot-over-bridge and washable apron on platform lines at Bangalore City; improvements to station building and augmentation water supply at Mangalore; extension of shed on platforms and paying of surface, facelifting of the station including additional waiting hall facilities, improvements to circulating area, provision of water coolers and carriage watering arrangements on platforms 3 to 5 at Mysore, provision of foot-over-bridge at Tumkur, improvements to station building and extension of shed on platforms at Hassan have been taken up. There are no works in progress at other stations.

### Construction of Railway Station

1004. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received mass-

petitions for construction of a railway station at village Thaska falling between Rohtak and Gohana line of Northern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any preliminary survey has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

### Supply of Steel

1005. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to review the steel distribution policy and to decontrol the supply of steel to the domestic consumers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) There is no proposal to review the steel distribution policy at present. As per the extant policy, supply of steel is decontrolled. However, the requirements of Defence, Railways, Small Scale Industries, Exporters of Engineering Goods and the North-Eastern Region are met on priority.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

### Telephone Connections in Gujarat

1006. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in Gujarat during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, so far, district-wise; and

(b) the number of applicants in the waiting list till December, 1996, district-wise; and

(c) the time by which these waiting lists are likely to be cleared, district-wise and place-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The required information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The waiting list as on 31.12.96 for all the districts and places in Gujarat will be cleared progressively by March, 1999 except technically non feasible cases.

**Statement**

S.No.	Name of District	No. of telephone connections provided during			Waiting list (as on 31.12.96)
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (as on 31.1.97)	
1.	Ahmedabad	18919	33279	16369	51090
2.	Amreli	1747	2369	1197	6261
3.	Banaskantha (PMP)	2769	4298	2381	9245
4.	Baroda	16000	19654	10987	33911
5.	Bharuch	2510	5711	5616	9664
6.	Bhavnagar	4615	3549	2067	20242
7.	Bhuj	4348	2905	5099	14989
8.	Gandhinagar	4741	2891	687	3911
9.	Panchmahal	3300	2723	2371	6049
10.	Jamnagar	4826	3504	2564	8155
11.	Junagadh	3686	1720	3873	15914
12.	Rajkot	9390	11070	8001	18379
13.	Sabarkantha	2842	2786	1773	11360
14.	Surat	20001	15114	14648	30141
15.	Surendranagar	2382	1802	2192	4088
16.	Mehsana	8228	8021	5685	19805
17.	Kheda	4023	4121	2567	12800
18.	Valsad	7303	8189	4349	15395
19.	Dang-Ahwa	52	101	129	96
20.	Union Territories (Diu, Daman & Dadra Nagar Haveli)	805	1105	632	3264
		122507	134832	93187	294759

[English]

**Flight to Gulf Countries**

1007. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :  
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to be state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce new flights to some Gulf and Central Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the countries to which these flights are proposed to be introduced; and

(c) the time by which the above new flights are proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Air India and Indian Airlines have introduced 11 new flights on Gulf sectors during the year 1996-97. Further augmentation of flights to Gulf

countries would depend upon the market requirements, which are constantly monitored by the airlines through traffic surveys. Air India/Indian Airlines have also been asked to conduct a traffic survey to consider the feasibility of introducing direct airlinks to Tashkent and Almaty.

**New Aviation Policy**

1008. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :  
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :  
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :  
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :  
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :  
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to be state :

(a) whether the Government have recently approved the new aviation policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to permit new foreign and private sector companies to operate in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether such a move is likely to affect adversely the domestic airlines;

(f) if so, the factual position in this regard; and

(g) if not, the extent to which it will help to improve the air facilities for inland and foreign passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The salient features of the recently approved policy on domestic air transport services are enclosed as Statement.

(c) to (g) The modalities for permitting foreign equity and NRI equity participation in the domestic air transport services sector are under formulation.

### Statement

*The main features of the recently approved policy framework for domestic air transport services are as follows :*

1. Barriers to entry and exit from this sector should be removed. There should only be a pre-entry scrutiny of applications to verify the financial soundness, maintenance, security and safety aspects of operations and human resources development proposed to be undertaken by the applicant.
2. Choice of the aircraft type and size should be left to the operator.
3. To eliminate non-serious entrepreneurs and to achieve economies of scale, the minimum fleet size for a scheduled operator should be raised from the existing three (3) to five (5) aircraft and the minimum amount of the shareholders funds should be enhanced from existing Rs. 5.00 crores to Rs. 10 crores for aircraft of all-up-weight below 40,000 kgs and from Rs. 10 crores to Rs. 30 crores for aircraft of all up weight exceeding 40,000 kgs.
4. Induction of total capacity in the air transport sector should be predetermined on the basis of

trend growth of traffic and projections made for at least a period of five years on annual basis. This information should be widely publicised to enable the entrepreneur to take investment decisions.

5. In the distribution of this predetermined capacity for induction, while preference will be given to Indian Airlines according to its fleet augmentation plan subject to its ability to do so, to meet a share of additional capacity that would emerge each year, there would not be any predetermined restriction on the induction of capacity by private operators.
6. The present policy of route disposal guidelines by retained and strictly enforced. According to these guidelines, all scheduled operators are required to deploy in the North-East, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep 10% of their capacity deployed on the specified trunk routes.

### I.A. and A.I. Loans from Foreign and Indian Banks

1009. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the financial position of Indian Airlines and Air India including their liabilities during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of loan borrowed by Indian Airlines and Air India from Indian and foreign banks during the year 1994, 1995 and 1996 and proposed to be borrowed during the current year for their working capital requirements; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the financial position of I.A. and A.I.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The details are enclosed as Statement.

(c) Indian Airlines and Air India are taking steps to improve their product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and to increase revenue.

### Statement

*Details of financial position of Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) are as under.*

(Rs. in Crores)

	Air India Ltd.			Indian Airlines Ltd.		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Capital	79.47	153.84	153.84	55.15	55.15	105.19
Reserves & Surplus	1230.54	1281.57	980.67	584.48	607.07	526.56

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Secured and Unsecured loan	2845.19	2612.64	2612.95	2643.09	2928.55	2759.90
Fixed Assets	2946.83	3100.14	3408.36	3907.28	4593.23	4776.67
Current Assets, Loans & Advances	2194.24	2189.30	1854.62	1003.57	860.41	893.26
Current Liabilities	1072.42	1424.00	1651.27	849.34	1059.67	1271.54
Net Worth	1310.01	1435.41	1134.51	276.27	111.41	25.01
Profit/(Loss)	201.90	40.80	(271.84)	(258.46)	(188.73)	(109.98)

(b) Details of working capital loans borrowed/plans to borrow by AI and IA are as under :

#### Air India Limited

Year	Loan Amount	From
1993-94	Nil	
1994-95	Nil	
1995-96	Nil	
1996-97	USD 22.939 million	Buyers Credit Facility
	Rs. 200 crores	Rupee Loan from Indian Banks

#### Indian Airlines Limited

Year	Loan Amount	From
1993-94	Nil	
1994-95	Nil	
1995-96	USD 15 million	Indian Overseas Bank Hongkong.
1996-97	USD 15 million	Bank of India.
(Proposed)	USD 3 million	Hongkong ANZ Bank

[Translation]

#### Air Service between Calcutta, Ranchi and Patna

1010. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to ply the existing air service every day between Calcutta, Ranchi and Patna which is at present thrice a week;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines has no plans to increase services between Calcutta, Ranchi and Patna from thrice a week to daily since the present frequency of operation is adequate to meet the existing traffic demand on the sector. Calcutta and Patna are, however, linked on six days a week by Indian Airlines/Alliance Air.

In addition to this, M/s. Bengal Services Ltd. a new airline, has the proposal to provide daily service between Calcutta and Patna and four times a week between Calcutta and Ranchi.

[English]

#### Radio Station/Doordarshan Kendras, Gujarat

1011. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :  
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI  
CHIKHALIA :  
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

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

(a) the number of proposals received from Gujarat for setting up, expansion and upgradation of TV transmitter/AIR stations during 1996-97, till date;

(b) the number of proposals cleared/pending so far;

(c) whether the Government have also received the representation for setting up of an F.M. radio station and high power T.V. transmitter at Junagarh;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the time by which both the projects are likely to be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Requests from various quarters, for setting up expansion and upgradation of All India Radio/Doordarshan have been received from time to time. Such requests are kept in view, alongwith other factors such as suitability of location, availability of infrastructural facilities, extent of resultant coverage and inter-se priorities, while finalising the All India Radio/Doordarshan projects which is a continuous activity.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. While a High Power TV Transmitter at Junagarh is envisaged to be set up subject to availability of funds and other infrastructural facilities, there is no proposal for setting up of an FM Radio Station at Junagarh at present.

(f) Lead time involved in implementation of such projects is 3 to 4 years after the scheme is sanctioned subject to availability of requisite resources and inter-se priorities.

[Translation]

### Telephone Rent

1012. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :  
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to hike the bi-monthly telephone rent or the rates of telephone calls is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There is no such proposal.

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

[English]

### Fault Repair Facility in Shakti Nagar Exchange

1013. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken by the Government to improve the functioning of fault repair service in the Shakti Nagar Telephone Exchange in Delhi where telephone fault complaints are not attended for several days;

(b) whether any action has been taken against the officers responsible for dereliction of duty; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Following steps have been taken for improving the functioning of Fault repair service at Shakti Nagar Telephone exchange in Delhi :-

(i) FRS system is computerised.

(ii) Auto testing of faults booked has been introduced.

(b) There has been no intentional delay by any officer in attending to faults. Delay in rectification, however, occurs in case of cable thefts and their breakdowns. The monitoring of fault rectification process is done upto the highest level.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

### Shops in Post Offices

1014. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Posts has taken a policy decision for opening of shops within the precincts of Post Offices;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the annual income likely to accrue to the Government as a result thereof;

(d) the number of shops opened so far and the locations thereof;

(e) whether more such shops are proposed to be opened in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Details of the scheme are given in the enclosed *statement-I*

(c) Annual income of approximately Rs. 1654188 will accrue to the Govt. from post shops already opened so far.

(d) 26 Post Shops have been opened so far. The details are given in enclosed *statement-II*

(e) and (f) More Post shops may be opened progressively subject to fulfilment of criteria as defined in enclosed *statement-I*

### Statement-I

#### Details of the Scheme for Post Shop

- (1) Post shops can be opened in post offices functioning in Departmental buildings where adequate space is available.
- (2) Proposals/tenders are invited from members of the public for opening such post shops. These are examined by a committee comprising Chief Post Master General, Circle Internal Financial Adviser and Supdt. Engineer (Civil).
- (3) All things being equal, the highest bid in terms of remuneration offered in return for opening the post shop is accepted.
- (4) The expenditure for erection of any counter etc. for operating the post shop is to be borne by the selected applicant.
- (5) The post shop functions during office hours of the post office.

### Statement-II

S.No.	Circle	Location	No. of Post Shops
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Warangal Head Post Office.	2
2.	Assam	Guwahati G.P.O.	1
3.	Delhi	Parliament Street H.O. New Delhi-1	2

1	2	3	4
		Sarojini Nagar H.O. New Delhi-23	2
		Indraprasth H.O. New Delhi-2	2
		Karol Bagh, New Delhi-5	1
		Delhi GPO, Delhi-6	1
		Chankyapuri, New Delhi	1
		Eastern Court, New Delhi	1
		Golf Links Post Office New Delhi-3	1
		Lodi Road Head Office New Delhi-3	1
		Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi	1
		New Delhi G.P.O. New Delhi-1	1
		Krishna Nagar Head Office, Delhi-51	1
		Ashok Vihar Head Office Delhi-52	1
4.	Karnataka	Bangalore G.P.O.	1
5.	Maharashtra	Azad Nagar Post Office Mahim Head Post Office Matunga Post Office	1 1 1
6.		Chennai G.P.O. Madurai H.O. Madurai Palace	1 1 1
Total			26

#### Shut Down of Blast Furnaces of Bokaro and Bhilai Steel Plants

1015. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has shut down two of its blast furnaces in Bokaro and Bhilai Steel Plants; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) One blast furnace in Bokaro Steel Plant has been shut down and another in Bhilai Steel Plant is to be shut down in February, 1997. The Plants propose to carry out capital repairs in these blast furnaces.

#### Udhampur-Jammu to Katra-Srinagar Railway line

1016. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a target was fixed for completion of

Rail line between Udhampur-Jammu to Katra-Srinagar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reason for delay in completion of work alongwith the cost escalation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. The target for completion of the project from Udhampur to Baramula via Katra and Srinagar has not yet been fixed.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Wages to Women Labourers

1017. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government about the number of women labourers in the country;

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

(c) whether women labourers are given minimum wages; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government for their upliftment and for prevention of exploitation by their employers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The findings of the survey have been published by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India in the Union Primary Census Abstract, 1991. State-wise numbers of women workers are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Government have enacted laws to ensure payment of equal wages to men and women. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, fixation of equal minimum wages for men and women in different employments is prescribed. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 further prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex between men and women workers in the same establishment or employment and for the same work or work of similar nature.

(d) Whenever any instances of violation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 or Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 come to the notice of the Government, necessary steps are taken immediately to rectify the situation. Periodic monitoring of the enforcement activities is carried out. Various programmes for the upliftment of women labourers are also being carried out by the upliftment of women labourers are also being carried out by the Government.

**Statement****State-wise Number of Female Labourers  
(1991 CENSUS)**

S.No.	State/U.T.	Total female workers including marginal workers
	India	89,767,563
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11,252,643
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	149,789
3.	Assam	2,324,535
4.	Bihar	6,116,974
5.	Goa	117,977
6.	Gujarat	5,180,886
7.	Haryana	821,299
8.	Himachal Pradesh	888,985
9.	Karnataka	6,472,816
10.	Kerala	2,347,268
11.	Madhya Pradesh	10,430,890
12.	Maharashtra	12,617,454
13.	Manipur	350,134
14.	Meghalaya	302,853
15.	Mizoram	143,964
16.	Nagaland	215,722
17.	Orissa	3,241,991
18.	Punjab	418,646
19.	Rajasthan	5,744,129
20.	Sikkim	57,790
21.	Tamil Nadu	8,236,872
22.	Tripura	184,333
23.	Uttar Pradesh	8,019,310
24.	West Bengal	3,662,855
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	16,584
26.	Chandigarh	29,443
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	32,944
28.	Daman & Diu	11,584
29.	Delhi	314,076
30.	Lakshadweep	1,906
31.	Pondicherry	60,911

**Note :** Census was not held in Jammu & Kashmir in 1991.

[English]

**Batteries and Ovens in BSP**

1018. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of batteries and ovens

functioning at present in the Coke Oven Plant of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP);

(b) the quantity and grade of coal needed for that, month-wise;

(c) the total hard coke produced during a year;

(d) whether the oven gas is wasted due to leakage in oven; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The total number of batteries and ovens functioning at present at Bokaro Steel Plant are 6 and 384 respectively.

(b) The present level of oven pushing with the above is 470 nos./day. The approximate coking coal needed per month is about 316,000 tonnes. The break-up of different categories is as follows;

Category	Quantity (Approx)
Prime Coking Coal	63,000 T
Medium Coking Coal	95,000 T
Total Indigenous Coal	158,000 T
Imported Coal	158,000 T
<b>Total Coking Coal</b>	<b>316,000 T</b>

(c) The total hard coke produced during 1995-96 at Bokaro was 2,189 MT and from April, 1996 to January, 1997 it was 2,048 MT.

(d) No, Sir.

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

**Bonded Child Labourers**

1019. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the practice of employing bonded child labourers in the carpet industry has been going on in some States and Union-Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Decision to Change Postal Envelope**

1020. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal for change in the design of postal envelope?

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Environment and other agencies have recommended the adoption of new design;

(d) if so, the present status of the proposal along with the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was received in the Department of Posts and forwarded to the Ministry of Finance for consideration.

(c) to (e) Further progress in being ascertained.

#### Mines under National Mineral Development Corporation

1021. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the details of mines under the National Mineral Development Corporation in each State, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : The details of Mines under the National Mineral Development Corporation in each State, location-wise are as under :-

##### I. Madhya Pradesh

Name of the Mine	Location
(A) Bailadila Iron Ore Project Deposit No. 14 & 11/C	Kirindul, Distt. Bastar.
(B) Bailadila Iron Ore Project Deposit No. 5	Bacheli, Distt. Bastar.
(C) Bailadila Iron Ore Project Deposit No. 10 & 11A (Under Construction)	Bacheli, Distt. Bastar.
(D) Majhgawan (Diamond) Mines	Majhgawan, Distt. Panna.

##### II. Karnataka

(A) Donimalai Iron Ore Project	Donimalai Township, Sandur Taluk, Distt. Bellary.
(B) Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine	Talux-Sandur, Distt. Bellary.

##### III. Rajasthan

(A) Chawandia Low Silica Limestone Project	Distt. Nagaur.
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##### IV. Himachal Pradesh

(A) Arki Low Silica Limestone Project (Under Construction)	Arki, Distt. Solan.
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##### V. Jammu and Kashmir

(A) Panthal Magnesite Project	Panthal (Near Katra), Distt. Udhampur.
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#### ESI Benefits

1022. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :  
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some establishments are offering better benefits to its workers as compared to the benefits being offered by ESI;

(b) if so, whether the Government have a proposal to exempt such establishments from the purview of ESI Act; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The ESI Scheme provides for grant of sick leave on half pay for a period upto 91 days in a year. In the case of chronic illness the extended sick leave is also granted on 70 per cent of the pay for a period of upto 2 years. In the case of death/disability due to employment injury the scheme provides for payment of monthly pension at the rate of 70% of the wages. In addition, the ESI Scheme also provides for full medical care and certain other benefits to the I.Ps and their families. Generally the benefits provided under the ESI Scheme taken in totality are comprehensive and better than the benefits offered by individual establishment coverable under the ESI Act. However, if any establishment providing similar or superior benefits seeks exemption the same is considered on merit by the appropriate Government. in consultation with the ESI Corporation.

#### Export of Rolling Stock

1023. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to export the rolling stock;

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

(c) the performance reported so far; and

(d) the details of the target set for the current year and next five years and the action plan worked out to achieve the target?

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

(b) As a result of consistent efforts made in this regard, following rolling stock has been exported during

the last 3 years :-

Country	Loco	Coaches
Bangladesh	10 (MG)	-
Vietnam	-	15 (MG)
Sri Lanka	2 (BG) 5 (BG) (under execution)	-
Nepal	4 (NG)	18 (NG)
Tanzania	-	27 (MG) (under execution)

(c) Except for a few teething problems on MG diesel locomotives supplied to Bangladesh, which were promptly rectified by RITES/DLW, performance of rolling stock exported from India has been satisfactory.

(d) Indian Railway has set up rolling stock manufacturing units primarily to meet its own requirement. However, export orders have been accommodated within the existing capacity.

Since export orders are very unpredictable and depend on foreign Railways requirement of rolling stock and Indian Railway bagging the contract against global competition, no targets for export of rolling stock have been set.

[Translation]

#### Sambhal-Gajraula Route

1024. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to link Sambhal-Gajraula with rail;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) A survey for a new BG line Sambhal to Gajraula (50 kms.) has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 3.00 lakhs.

[English]

#### Irregularities in Expansion Work of Indore Airport

1025. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaint has been received by the Government regarding irregularities committed in the expansion work of Indore Airport;

(b) whether any portion of the runway under construction have been broken;

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

(d) whether the expansion plan of the runway of Indore airport is being reviewed in view of the above facts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Introduction of Goods Trains to Bangladesh

1026. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce regular services of goods trains to Bangladesh in a large scale basis by Ranaghat-Gede lines in Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Regular services of goods trains to Bangladesh on Ranaghat-Gede line in Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway already exists.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Reform Bill

1027. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a legislation on the pattern of US telecommunication Reform Bill that toughens penalty for people who indulge in transmitting pornography on internet as appeared in the 'Times of India' dated January 10, 1997 under the heading "Wanted; A legislation to curb pornography on Internet";

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a).

(c) Internet Access is a new service in India where this service is mostly used for receiving information from various Sites of the Internet rather than for transmitting information as information provider. Moreover, Indian Telegraph Rules under Indian

Telegraph Act are adequate for taking action against any person acting prejudicially to the public safety and public interest.

### Accommodation to Postal Employees

1028. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide accommodation to the postal employees working in the Distt. headquarter in the country;

(b) if so, the policy of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether there is any housing accommodation scheme for the postal employees of class III & IV posted at Bhuj a Distt. headquarter of Kutch Distt. in Gujarat;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the accommodation are likely to be provided to the postal employees working at Bhuj?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Department constructs staff quarters where required provided funds, land and other resources are available.

(c) and (d) There is no housing scheme for postal employees at Bhuj. Only the Postmaster of Bhuj Post Office has been provided with a post-attached quarter.

(e) and (f) Quarters are constructed for postal employees depending on the availability of funds.

### IA Service on Uneconomic Routes

1029. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Airlines owe a Social obligation to serve the uneconomic routes;

(b) if so, which are the uneconomic routes being served by Indian Airlines and Alliance Airlines besides the North-Eastern region; and

(c) the details of any other such proposal under consideration of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) As per the route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government, all scheduled operators are required to deploy in the North-Eastern region, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep (Category-II routes) at least 10% of their deployed capacity on trunk routes (Category-I routes). 10% of the capacity thus deployed on category-II routes is to be operated exclusively within Intra category-II.

50% of the capacity provided on category-I routes is to be deployed on routes other than category-I and category-II routes (category-III routes)

(b) The uneconomical domestic services operated by Indian Airlines outside North-Eastern Region are listed in the enclosed Statement.

(c) There is no other proposal under consideration of the Government.

### Statement

*Uneconomical Domestic Services besides Services in North Eastern region being served by Indian Airlines based on Provisional Route economics for the period from April, 1996 to November 1996.*

S.No.	Sectors
1	2
<b>Services Not Meeting Cash Cost</b>	
1.	Bangalore-Calicut
2.	Mubai-Hyderabad
3.	Chennai-Madurai-Calicut
4.	Delhi-Leh
5.	Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Calcutta
6.	Delhi-Goa-Cochin-Trivandrum
7.	Delhi-Amaritsar-Srinagar
8.	Chennai-Madurai-Calicut
9.	Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Mumbai
10.	Chennai-Calicut
11.	Chennai-Bangalore-Mangalore
12.	Delhi-Jammu-Leh
13.	Calicut-Bangalore
14.	Delhi-Varansi
15.	Srinagar-Leh
16.	Coimbatore-Mumbai
17.	Bangalore-Cochin
<b>Services Meeting Cash cost but not meeting total Cost</b>	
1.	Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad
2.	Chennai-Coimbatore-Calicut
3.	Calcutta-Hyderabad
4.	Delhi-Patna-Ranchi-Delhi
5.	Mumbai-Trivandrum
6.	Delhi-Agra-Khajurao-Varanasi
7.	Delhi-Varanasi-Mumbai-Delhi
8.	Delhi-Ahmedabad
9.	Bangalore-Hyderabad
10.	Delhi-Jammu-Leh
11.	Bangalore-Hyderabad

1	2
12.	Mumbai-Ahmedabad
13.	Jaipur-Mumbai
14.	Mumbai-Vadodra
15.	Chennai-Bangalore
16.	Calcutta-Chennai
17.	Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Calcutta
18.	Mumbai-Coimbatore-Madurai-Mumbai
19.	Hyderabad-Mumbai
20.	Chennai-Mumbai
21.	Calcutta-Bangalore
22.	Delhi-Jammu-Srinagar
23.	Mumbai-Bhavnagr
24.	Chennai-Bangalore-Pune
25.	Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore
26.	Mumbai-Varanasi-Lucknow-Mumbai
27.	Delhi-Srinagar
28.	Chennai-Trivandrum
29.	Delhi-Lucknow
30.	Chennai-Bangalore-Goa
31.	Delhi-Gwalior-Bhopal-Indore-Mumbai
32.	Delhi-Ahmedabad
33.	Chennai-Hyderabad
34.	Delhi-Leh
35.	Delhi-Leh
36.	Mumbai-Delhi
37.	Calcutta-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Mumbai
38.	Chennai-Bangalore-Trivandrum
39.	Mumbai-Chennai
40.	Delhi-Mumbai
41.	Chennai-Puttaparthi-Mumbai
42.	Chennai-Calcutta
43.	Chennai-Vizag-Calcutta
44.	Delhi-Nagpur-Raipur
45.	Mumbai-Hyderabad
46.	Bangalore-Trivandrum
47.	Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur-Aurangabad-Mumbai
48.	Delhi-Jaipur-Jodhapu-Udaipur-Mumbai
49.	Delhi-Bhubneswar
50.	Delhi-Jammu-Srinagar
51.	Calcutta-Mumbai
52.	Chennai-Hyderabad
53.	Mumbai-Coimbatore
54.	Calcutta-Portblair
55.	Mumbai-Jamnagar
56.	Mumbai-Chennai
57.	Chennai-Cochin

1	2
58.	Chandigarh-Leh
59.	Mumbai-Goa
60.	Mumbai-Bhuj
61.	Delhi-Bhopal-Indore-Delhi
62.	Chennai-Hyderabad
63.	Chennai-Tirupathy-Hyderabad
64.	Mumbai-Nagpur
65.	Chennai-Bhubneswar-Calcutta
66.	Hyderabad-Mumbai
67.	Mumbai-Rajkot

[Translation]

#### **Aeroplanes Purchase for IA/AI**

1030. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :  
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of aeroplanes purchased for Indian Airlines/Air India during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 and the details thereof;

(b) the names of the countries from which the said Aeroplanes have been purchased alongwith the price of each aeroplane;

(c) whether the shortage of aeroplanes has now been met in these Airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has not purchased any aircraft during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97.

Air India did not induct any aircraft in its fleet in 1995-96. However, two B747-400 aircraft were purchased during 1996-97 from Boeing Commercial Airplane Company, U.S.A., at a cost of approximately US \$ 131 million per aircraft.

(c) and (d) Air India is facing shortage of aircraft. The company has Wetleased aircraft capacity to meet the shortage and to cater to its growth requirement.

[English]

#### **New Rajiv Gandhi Airport Building in Hyderabad**

1031. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new Rajiv Gandhi Airport building in Hyderabad is ready for operations;

(b) if so, when the operations are likely to be started in order to provide better facilities to passengers and also to handle more international aircraft;

(c) if not, the time by which the new airport is likely to be made operational; and

(d) the efforts being made to expedite the much delayed airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The new airport terminal building is likely to be commissioned in the month of March, 1997.

#### Development of Buddhist Tourism Centres with Foreign Assistance

1032. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are satisfied with the expenditure incurred through Bihar Government on the development of Buddhist tourist places in the State the foreign assistance;

(b) if not, whether the Union Government propose to issue directions in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) The progress of the Project for the development of Tourist Infrastructure along the Buddhist Circuit in Bihar with Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund loan assistance is 70% as of 31.1.1997.

The Union Government has convened regular meetings of the Steering Committee to review the progress.

[Translation]

#### Bonded Labourers

1033. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of bonded labourers in each State particularly in tribal backward and hilly areas;

(b) whether any action plan has been formulated for their liberation and rehabilitation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of bonded labourers liberated rehabilitated so far in each State particularly in Bihar;

(e) whether any assistance has been provided to each State particularly Bihar for this purpose during the last three years;

(f) if so, the details thereof particularly in regard to the tribal backward areas; and

(g) the achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The State Governments have reported identification of 2,51,424 bonded

labourers out of which 2,30,915 bonded labourers have been rehabilitated under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour which envisage rehabilitation assistance upto the ceiling limit of Rs. 10,000/- per bonded labour. The expenditure is really shared by Central and State Governments on (50:50) basic. The State-wise details of bonded labourers identified/released and rehabilitated are at *statement-I*.

(e) to (g) The details of funds released during last three years to the states, including Bihar are given in the enclosed *statement-II*. The area-wise details are not maintained.

#### Statement-I

##### State-wise Details of Bonded Labourers

Name of the State	Number of Bonded Labourers	
	Identified & Released	Rehabilitated
Andhra Pradesh	36,289	29,553
Bihar	12,986	12,270
Karnataka	62,708	55,231
Madhya Pradesh	12,804	11,897
Orissa	49,971	46,808
Rajasthan	7,478	6,217
Tamil Nadu	38,886	39,375
Maharashtra	1,382	1,300
Uttar Pradesh	27,489	27,469
Kerala	823	710
Haryana	544	21
Gujarat	64	64
Total	2,51,424	2,30,915

#### Statement-II

Amount released under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of Bonded Labour.

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Andhra Pradesh	101.41	31.25	79.37
Bihar	6.18	6.61	-
Karnataka	171.50	42.66	2.84
Kerala	6.03	-	-
Orissa	5.75	0.39	1.63
Rajasthan	1.69	3.28	5.70
Tamil Nadu	1.59	1.12	-
	294.15	85.31	89.54

**Outstanding Telephone Bills**

1034. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :  
SHRI RAMSAGAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone subscribers in the country against whom telephone bills are outstanding, State-wise;

(b) the amount outstanding against the subscribers till January, 1997;

(c) whether any dues are outstanding against Ex. M.Ps;

(d) if so, the details thereof; alongwith the amount outstanding against each Ex. M.P.;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive policy to recover the outstanding amount;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The required information up to 31.1.97 has been called for from the units and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Information shall be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) to (g) The issue of bills and recovery thereof is a continuous process and there are established procedure for recovery of outstanding telephone bills. Efforts are made to settle the billing disputes/Court cases speedily. Besides recovery is also pursued by correspondence/personal visits and legal action.

**Gauge Conversion**

1035. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to link the circuit comprising Bikaner, Jodhpur-Jaisalmer-Nagaur and Barmer cities of Rajasthan with Broad gauge line from Delhi;

(b) if so, the cities where the work of laying broad gauge line has been started in the first phase; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Gauge conversion has been completed from Bikaner-Nagaur-Merta Road, Jodhpur-Jaisalmer and Merta Road-Jaipur-Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Post Offices in Assam**

1036. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :  
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals/recommendations received from Assam for opening Post Offices/Branch Post Offices; and

(b) the places where new Post Offices/Branch Post Offices are proposed to be established in Assam during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of proposals/recommendations received from Assam Postal Circle for opening Post Offices/Branch Post Offices during the current Five Year Plan is as under :

<i>Departmental Sub Post Offices</i>	<i>Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices</i>
24	69

During the 8th Five Year Plan period, so far 15 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 63 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have been sanctioned in Assam Circle.

(b) Targets for opening of Post Offices are allocated Circle-wise under Annual Plans and are finalised on year to year basis.

**Foreign Investment in Aviation Sector**

1037. DR. M. JAGANNATH :  
SHRI RAM NAIK :  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :  
SHRI CHITTA BASU :  
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :  
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :  
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :  
SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised or propose to finalise its policy regarding foreign investment and entry of foreign airlines/airport companies/private sector in the domestic aviation sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which foreign investment has been allowed or proposed to be allowed;

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the details and present status of the draft policy regarding controlling stake to foreign players in infrastructure projects etc. in the aviation sector prepared by his Ministry for consideration of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) The modalities for permitting foreign

equity and NRI equity participation in the domestic air transport services sector are under formulation.

Plans regarding private sector investment in the airport infrastructure are also under formulation.

The details of foreign investment allowed in domestic air transport services sectors are enclosed as *statement*.

### Statement

#### Companies in which Foreign/NRI Equity has been approved

S.No.	Name of the Company	Percentage of Foreign/NRI equity	Remarks
1.	Jet Airways (India) Ltd.	20% foreign equity by Gulf Air 20% foreign equity by Kuwait Air 60% NRI equity	A scheduled private operator
2.	Bengal Air Services Ltd.	5% foreign equity by M/s. Necon Air, Nepal	NOC holder for scheduled operation
3.	Lufthansa Cargo India Pvt. Ltd.	95% NRI/OCB equity (57% NRI by Hinduja Group) (38% by Lufthansa AG, Germany)	NOC holder for air Cargo Services
4.	TCG Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	100% NRI/OCB equity by TCG Aviation, Mauritius	Applicant for NOC to operate air Cargo Services
5.	Elbee Airlines	55.84% NRI/OCB by CSLB Aviation Holding (Mauritius) Ltd.	A non-scheduled air Cargo operator
6.	Modiluft Ltd.	Foreign direct investment (FDI) through GDR issue of US \$ 60.00 million	Already a scheduled private operator.

### Diagnostic Centres under ESI Schemes

[Translation]

1038. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of diagnostic centres functioning in Karnataka to cater to the needs of insured persons under ESI Scheme;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more diagnostic centres in Karnataka after the hike in wage ceiling;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether new diagnostic centres are proposed to be opened in Mysore also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) In Karnataka there are 145 ESI dispensaries, 7 ESI hospitals and one diagnostic centre where OPD, indoor and specialists' services are provided to the insured persons covered under the ESI Scheme. At present there is no proposal from the Government of Karnataka for opening of any new Diagnostic Centre in the State.

### Use of Hindi

1039. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has installed modern gadgets such as computers, telex machines, teleprinters etc. which are in Roman Script and these are being converted into bilingual;

(b) if so, the manner in which these bilingual gadgets will be put into use by the Ministry;

(c) the manner in which the use of Hindi will be promoted;

(d) whether the Ministry has given exemption for use of Hindi to their offices located in Region 'A' where work has to be done cent percent in Hindi; and

(e) if so, the reasons for giving such an exemption?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism is already having bilingual computers and telex machines which are being used to promote Hindi in the office work.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

### Gauge Conversion

1040. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take up the gauge conversion of Siliguri-Alipurduar-Bongaigaon line;

(b) whether the Government of West Bengal has also requested the Union Government to take up the conversion work of above line immediately; and

(c) if so, the time by which conversion work is likely to be taken up?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During 1997-98, after the budget is passed and necessary clearance have been obtained.

[Translation]

### Amount spent on Jaipur Airport

1041. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent so far on conversion of Jaipur Airport into International Airport;

(b) whether sufficient land has been acquired for this airport;

(c) the amount likely to be spent on the above work; and

(d) the types of aircrafts likely to take off from Jaipur airport and by when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) A sum of Rs. 12.85 crores has been spent for the upgradation of Jaipur Airport.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Rajasthan has plans to acquire 299 acres of land at an estimated cost of Rs. 13.72 crores for further development of this airport by AAI.

(d) With the completion of upgradation work on hand Airbus-320 type of aircraft can be operated without load restrictions by mid-1997. No definite time frame for operation of larger aircraft from Jaipur airport can be indicated at this stage.

### Fax, STD, Telex Facilities in Tourist Cities in Madhya Pradesh

1042. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide facilities such as STD, FAX, TELEX etc. at Khajuraho, Mandu, Orchha, Maheshwar, Onkareshwar, Amarkantak, Chitrakut and Panchanmari the major tourist cities situated in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) S.T.D. facility has already been provided at Khajuraho, Mandu, Maheshwar, Onkareshwar, Chitrakut and Panchamari. This facility is proposed to be provided at Orchha and Amarkantak during 97-98.

Bureaufax facility is presently available at Panchamari. There is a proposal under consideration to provide it at Khajuraho, Mandu, Orchha, Maheshwar, Onkareshwar, Chitrakut and Amarkantak during 1997-98.

Telex facility is available only at Khajuraho.

(c) There is no proposal for provision of TELEX facility at Mandu, Orchha, Maheshwar, Onkareshwar, Amarkantak, Chitrakut and Panchamari as there is no demand at these places.

[English]

### On-Going Railway Projects in Orissa

1043. SHRI K. PRADHANI :

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the on-going railway projects in Orissa and the amount spent thereon so far;

(b) the target date fixed for their completion and the progress of these projects, as on date;

(c) the allocation made for these projects during the Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise; and

(d) the funds earmarked for these projects during Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The

details are as under :

	Name of Project	Expenditure incurred till date (Rs. in Crs.)	Target for completion	Progress	Allocation during 8th Plan (Rs. in Crs.)
1.	Talcher-Sambalpur BG rail line	Rs. 223.63	31.3.98	77%	Rs. 201.75
2.	Daitari (Tomka)-Keonjhar -Bansapani new BG line	Rs. 99.89	31.12.99	21%	Rs. 111.98
3.	Kurda Rd.-Bolangir new BG line	Rs. 2.59	Final Location Survey nearing completion and land acquisition being taken up.		Rs. 3.53
4.	Langigarh Road-Junagarh	Rs. 6.00	Land acquisition is in progress		Rs. 10.48
5.	Haridaspur-Paradip	Rs. 0.05	Final Location Survey has been taken up		Rs. 3.00

(d) The fund allocation for the Ninth Plan have not been decided.

#### Doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore Line

1044. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore line;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The work is going on full stream. The first 04 critical block section would be completed by June'97.

(b) Rs. 2.5 cr. has been spent upto 31.03.96 and Rs. 37.01 cr. has been provided in 1996-97 budget.

(c) The present target for this work is March'99.

#### International Flights from Hyderabad Airport

1045. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have started some new International flights from Hyderabad airport;

(b) if so, the details of the countries to whom these flights have been started;

(c) whether the Government propose to connect Hyderabad through air traffic to some more countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Air India have introduced a once

weekly service to Jeddah from Hyderabad from October, 1996. Indian Airlines have introduced a twice weekly service to Sharjah and Muscat and a thrice weekly service to Kuwait from Hyderabad during the year 1996-97.

(c) to (e) Further augmentation of International flight from Hyderabad would depend upon the growth in traffic which is constantly being monitored by the airlines.

[Translation]

#### Construction of Airport

1046. SHRI PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of airport in Shrawasthi, the Buddhist place of pilgrimage in district Bahraich of Uttar Pradesh has been completed; and

(b) if so, the date from which it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has completed the construction work at Shrawasthi airport and the airport is in operation.

[English]

#### Claims of Compensation

1047. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV :  
SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN :  
SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a cell to render legal assistance to the next of kin of victims of

the mid air collision on November 12, 1996 in Haryana with a view to ensure smooth and speedy settlement of compensation claims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made by the above cell so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) It has been decided to provide legal assistance to the next of kin of the victims of the aircrash in settling claims of compensation with the Saudi Airlines. A provision of Rs. 1 crore has been made for meeting the expenses in this regard.

### Licence for Granite Quarrying

1048. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has given licences to various agencies to carry out survey and to go ahead with granite quarrying the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued guidelines to the States in this regard; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) (a) and (b) Granite has been traditionally a minor mineral as per the provisions of Section 3(e) of the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and as such the grant of mineral concessions for Granite is guided by the rules framed by the respective State Governments for the purpose. The Central Government does not monitor the grant of mineral concessions for minor minerals.

(c) and (d) In view of the tremendous potential of Granite Development, the Central Government constituted Granite Development Council in 1995. The Council further constituted a Sub-Group to look into the issues related to development of Granite in the Country. Report of the Sub-Group on Granite Development has been presented to the Granite Development Council and the Conference of the State Ministers/Secretaries of Mining and Geology in December, 1996.

### ABB Electric Locomotives

1049. SHRI BASU DEV ACHARIA :  
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :  
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of ABB electric locomotives have so far been arrived in the country;

(b) whether such locomotives were distributed to the Zonal Railways or kept at New Delhi;

(c) whether trial run have been conducted;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such locos are performing well according to our climate; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 10 Passenger and 20 freight locomotives have already arrived. In addition; one passenger and two freight locomotives have arrived as bank of spares.

(b) The passenger locomotives have been homed at Electric loco shed Ghaziabad on Northern Railway and the freight locomotives at Electric loco shed Gomoh on Eastern Railway.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Oscillation trials for passenger locomotives at 145 kmph test speed have been completed and locomotives have been put in regular service.

The freight locos are also in regular operation at 60/65 kmph. The Oscillation trials at 110 kmph test speed are planned shortly.

(e) and (f) The performance of the locos has been satisfactory except minor teething problems which are associated with any new technology and the same are being attended to by M/s ABB. Performance of these locos is being closely watched.

### Collision of Matador with New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express

1050. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Matador van collided with New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express at Dadri near Ghaziabad on December 26, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) the total number of accidents that have taken place at the manned and unmanned railway crossings in the country during each of the three years and the number of human lives lost therein; and

(d) the action taken by the Government after the recent level crossing accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 26.12.96, a mini bus entered level crossing No. 148 'C' between Maripat and Dadri Stations on Ghaziabad-Aligarh Section of Allahabad Division of Northern Railway at about 07.26 hours and dashed against train No. 2004 Dn New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express which was on run in the Section.

The accident has been enquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle, who has concluded that the accident was caused by unidentified passenger of mini bus who had snatched keys from the Gateman by force and opened one end of the gate in the face of approaching train. As a result of this accident, five occupants of the mini bus died on the spot.

(c) The number of accidents at manned and unmanned level crossings and number of human lives lost in these accidents during the last three years in the country are as under :

Year	Manned Level Crossings		Unmanned Level Crossings	
	No. of accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of accidents	No. of persons killed
1993-94	12	22	54	146
1994-95	19	52	54	147
1995-96	16	28	52	117

(d) Some of the steps taken by the Railways to prevent accidents at level crossings are as under :

- (i) Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on the road approaches to unmanned level crossings so that the road vehicles may reduce their speed.
- (ii) Errant Railway Staff liable for causing accidents at manned level crossings are taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules and are punished.
- (iii) Accidents at unmanned level crossings occur due to the negligence of road users who cross the level crossing without observing the precautions stipulated in Section 131 of the Motor Vehicles Act. Appeals are issued from time to time to road users to cooperate with the Railway Gatemen and not to intimidate them while performing their duties.
- (iv) Whistle boards are provided alongside the rail track on approach of level crossings to advise the train driver to whistle to warn the road users about the approaching train.
- (v) To educate the road drivers about safety at unmanned level crossings, publicity campaign is launched through various media like quickies on TV, cinema slide, talks on radio and advertisements in newspapers and periodicals.
- (vi) Surprise checks are conducted to ensure alertness of the Gatemen.
- (vii) State Governments are requested from time to time to exercise strict checks while issuing driving licences, especially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy traffic vehicles.

### Private Airlines Collaboration

1051. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Private Airlines which have sought permission to enter into collaborations with Foreign Airlines;

(b) whether any final decision has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Out of the seven scheduled private domestic airlines, only M/s Jet Airways has equity of foreign airlines/NRI. Recently M/s. Modiluft Ltd. has been permitted foreign direct investment (FDI) through GDR issue.

The following Companies having permit/NOC to operate air transport service, also have foreign/NRI equity :-

1. M/s. Elbee Airlines (Permit holder for air cargo services);
2. M/s. Bengal Air Services Ltd. (NOC holder for scheduled air services);
3. M/s. Lufthansa Cargo India Ltd. (NOC holder for operating air cargo services);
4. M/s. T.C.G. Aviation Pvt. Ltd. (Application for NOC to operate air cargo services under consideration).

The following companies have submitted proposals for foreign/NRI equity participation to operate domestic air services :-

1. M/s. Tata Industries Ltd.
2. M/s. Ultima Assets & Investment (P) Ltd.
3. M/s. Choice Airlines
4. M/s. Trans India Airlines Pvt. Ltd.
5. M/s. Assured Airways Ltd.
6. M/s. Deccan Airways Ltd.

(b) and (c) The modalities for permitting foreign equity and NRI equity participation in the domestic air transport services sector are under formulation.

### Production of Steel

1052. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of steel plants in the country in which steel is being produced as per installed capacity;

(b) whether the Government propose to modernise Burnpur Steel Plant;

(c) if so, the time by which modernisation work is likely to be started and completed; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) (a) The details of estimated plant wise crude steel production and capacity utilisation upto January 1997, during 1996-97, have been shown in the *statement* attached.

(b) to (d) Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO) was referred to BIFR in June, 1994. In August, 1996, SAIL had invited offers for participation in the revival/modernisation of IISCO through a joint venture arrangement with SAIL retaining majority shareholding of 51% in the joint venture company. SAIL had received offers from two parties viz. M/s. Tyazhpromexport (TPE) of Russia and M/s. Mitsui of Japan. M/s. Mitsui have since indicated their unwillingness for equity participation which is an essential requirement for selection of a Joint Venture Partner. Consequently at present there is only one offer available for revival of IISCO. In the meanwhile, SAIL have sought extension of time for a further period of 4 months from the BIFR.

As IISCO has been referred to the BIFR, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

#### Statement

*Estimated Plant-wise crude steel production and capacity utilisation during April, 1996 to January, 1997.*

('000 Tonnes)

Production	% Capacity	Utilisation
<b>1. Main Producers</b>		
<b>(A) Steel Authority of India Limited.</b>		
(i) Bhilai Steel Plant	3470.7	106.1
(ii) Durgapur Steel Plant	1009.6	67.3
(iii) Rourkela Steel Plant	1016.0	78.6
(iv) Bokaro Steel Plant	3053.9	91.6
(v) Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited.	292.2	97.4
(vi) Alloy Steels Plant	206.2	95.2
(vii) Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited.	75.1	77.6*
<b>(B) Tata Iron &amp; Steel Co. Ltd.</b>	<b>2583.2</b>	<b>101.6</b>
<b>(C) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.</b>	<b>1831.5</b>	<b>81.4</b>
<b>2. Secondary Producers</b>		
(i) Electric Arc Furnance Units	3575.1	55.3
(ii) Induction Furnace Units	2728.7	48.7

\* Annual Plan is taken as capacity for Visvesvaraya Iron and

#### Gauge Conversion

1053. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has given consent of sharing of 1/3rd cost of gauge conversion of Dharangadhra-Kuda railway line in Gujarat;

(b) whether Salt Association has also conveyed his consent to bear 1/3rd cost of gauge conversion project; and

(c) if so, the time by which the above conversion work is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, in principle.

(c) In the coming years, subject to availability of resources and finalisation of cost sharing arrangement with Gujarat Government and Salt Association.

#### Expansion/Upgradation of Telecom System in Kashmir

1054. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated/utilised for development, expansion and upgradation of telecommunication system in rural/urban areas of Kashmir during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) whether the development of telecommunication in rural areas has been given the top priority and the implementation was very slow due to non-availability of funds and equipments;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that projects in hand for rural areas are completed without any further delay in the State; and

(d) the details of projects which are lagging behind the schedule for implementation in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details in respect of Srinagar SSA are as per *statement-I* District-wise information is not available.

(b) Yes Sir. Though the funds and equipments were available, the development of telecommunications in rural areas has been delayed on account of law and order conditions in Kashmir.

(c) Periodic review of all projects is taken-up at the highest level and all efforts are being made to accomplish the projects.

(d) Details of projects lagging behind schedule in the State are as per *statement-II*.

**Statement-I****Details of Funds Allocated Aid Utilised for Srinagar SSA**

(All figures in Rupees)

Year	Funds Allocated	Funds Utilised		
		Rural	Urban	Total
1993-94	59624000	9201788	30030000	39231788
1994-95	133230000	7921235	32705343	40626578
1995-96	242604000	12050000	190708412	202758412

**Statement-II****Details of Projects Lagging Behind Schedule**

S.No.	Particulars of the Project
1.	Out of 28 Milt Exchanges to be installed only 13 have been installed.
2.	Out of 13 Nos. of 256 Port Exchanges only 4 have been installed.
3.	Out of 5 Nos. of 512 Port Exchanges only 1 has been installed.
4.	Out of 3 Main OCB 283 Exchanges only one main exchange has been installed. Other two are likely to be completed in 1997-98. One RSU is being completed by 31.3.1997.
5.	IDR Earth Station (Satellite), yet to be received/installed.
6.	Out of 40 Nos. of Transmission System, six are nearing completion.
7.	OFC Scheme : (a) 34 MB OFC completed and ready for commissioning. (b) 140 MBPS-Two schemes under progress.

[Translation]

**Use of Helicopters by Pawan Hans**

1055. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Pawan Hans Limited has not made use of its fleet of nineteen helicopters during the last six years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check the wastage of funds?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) 19 Westland-30 helicopters were grounded due to safety reasons in 1991. However, the remaining fleet consisting of 27 helicopters is being used by Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.

(c) Action to dispose off the 19 Westland-30 helicopters has been initiated.

**Facilities at Muzaffarnagar Station**

1056. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to provide more facilities at Muzaffarnagar station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of additional facilities, likely to be provided at this station during the year 1997-98?

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

(b) and (c) Work of provision of a foot-over-bridge from Mandi side at an anticipated cost of Rs. 25.02 lakh has been approved for inclusion in the Works Programme, 1997-98.

[English]

**Backlog of various Posts**

1057. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total backlog of reserved vacancies in different cadres/posts in the Indian Railways;

(b) the total number of posts filled up during 1996-97;

(c) whether the established criteria to clear the backlog was followed during the above period; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The number of identified backlog of reserved vacancies as on 30.6.96 for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Zonal Railways/Production Units in recruitment categories are as following :

	SC	ST
Group 'C'	941	950
Group 'D'	1183	1646

(b) Out of the (a) above the following has been filled up as on 31.1.97 :-

	SC	ST
Group 'C'	441	415
Group 'D'	518	344

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### Metropolitan Transport Projects

1058. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments had approached the Railways for building the metropolitan transport projects;

(b) if so, whether the Government have admitted that State Governments are not willing to provide funds in implementing these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether one of the main reasons to provide funds is that unless the States share the burden equally, the Railways are not in a position to undertake this project;

(e) if so, the details of the States which have shown interest and how many of them have given consent to share the funds;

(f) whether in view of the poor response from the States, the Ministry has dropped the proposal; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some of the State Government had approached Railways for constructions of Metropolitan Transport Projects.

(b) Some State Governments have expressed their inability in providing funds for implementing the MTP projects.

(c) A meeting was called by Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment on 23.3.96 in Nirman Bhavan with West Bengal Government for setting up Calcutta Metro Rail Corporation with the participation of the State Government for operation and maintenance of Calcutta Metro. Representatives of Government of West Bengal stated that they are not in a position to share the cost of such large projects including the cost of assets.

(d) With a sharp reduction in budgetary support for their developments plans, the Railways had approached the States to participate in the projects on cost sharing basis as the Railways are not in a position to bear the full cost of the Metropolitan Projects which are highly capital intensive yielding very low rate of return. Moreover, the main beneficiary of such rail borne intra-urban transport systems, is the city where such systems are installed. It is therefore, only logical that the State Government should bear major part of the cost of such projects.

(e) Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of Maharashtra had sent their proposals on cost sharing basis for extension/expansion of the existing suburban projects to the Railways.

(f) and (g) Under the Revised Allocation of Business Rules 1986, new proposals for rail based urban transport projects are now to be processed and approved by Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employments and State Government concerned.

### Transfer of Officials in the ESI Corporation

1059. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the instructions issued by the Government of India relating to policy of rotational transfer of officers holding sensitive posts for not more than three years are strictly being followed in the Employees State Insurance Corporation;

(b) if so, whether these instructions are also applicable to officers working in the Vigilance Division of the ESI Corporation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The ESI Corporation is a statutory and autonomous body set up under the ESI Act, 1948. In the matters of transfer/posting of staff full powers vest in the ESI Corporation. However, the instructions issued by the Govt. of India in this regard are also generally followed by the ESI Corporation. In the case of certain Regional Directorates and Vigilance Division, Officers are required to be persons of high calibre and proven integrity. As such change in incumbency in the said offices are carried out depending upon job-requirements and other administrative exigencies.

[Translation]

### Bribe Taken by Railway Police Personnel

1060. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints from the passengers getting down at New Delhi Railway Station regarding Railway Police Personnel taking bribe from them in connivance with agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that passengers are implicated in false cases by the said agents in connivance with railway police personnel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No complaint in this regard has been received by the Railways during the year 1996.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

### International recognition for Radars

1061. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA  
SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the radars installed at various airports do not have international recognition;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any person has been held responsible in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

### Railway Hospitals

1062. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Railway hospitals opened during each of the last three years, location-wise;

(b) the details of the Railway hospitals under construction at present, location-wise; and

(c) the time by which these hospitals are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) One each at Nishatpura and Amla on Central Railway and one at Tinsukia on Northeast Frontier Railway.

(b) One at Pune, One at Ambala Cantt and one at Sambhalpur on Central, Northern and South Eastern Railways respectively.

(c) At Pune in 1997-98, at Ambala Cantt by April' 97 and at Sambhalpur by April' 98.

### Pension Scheme

1063. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Provident Fund Subscribers opted for under Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 as on date;

(b) the number of persons benefited under the said scheme as on date;

(c) the number of applications seeking pension after superannuation/retirement under the said scheme are pending with the concerned authorities as on date; and

(d) the plans initiated by the concerned authorities to disburse the pension?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 was enforced w.e.f. 16.11.1995. The scheme is compulsory for all the employees who have been members of the ceased Family Pension Scheme, 1971. It is also compulsory for the persons who became members of the Provident Fund on or after 16.11.95. As on 14.2.97, pension under the new scheme has been disbursed among 1,09,209 beneficiaries.

(c) 15,684 (As on 31.12.96).

(d) In order to ensure disbursement of pension on regular basis, necessary agreement has been made by the EPF Organisation with the nationalised banks. A massive computerisation programme has also been launched for providing prompt service to the EPF subscribers.

### Survey Report of Angamaly-Muvattupuzha-Sabarimala Rail Line

1064. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the report of survey of Angamaly-Muvattupuzha-Erumely-Sabarimala railway line has been received by the Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

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

(b) The work has been included in the Budget 97-98 to be taken up after obtaining the necessary clearances.

### Investment of Provident Fund

1065. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow investment of provident fund money in selected private sector bonds and debentures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any study in this regard and have also consulted the Central Trade Unions regarding this matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

### Air Crashes

1066. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of air crashes taken place during this year, so far;

(b) the number of persons killed therein;

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the family members of the deceased;

(d) the value of property lost therein; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such crashes in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) During 1997 (till date) there has been one accident of Indian Civil registered aircraft belonging

to Aviation Training Centre, Kerala at Bangalore on 22.2.97.

(b) Two.

(c) The amount of compensation has not yet been determined.

(d) The aircraft costing about Rs. 8.8 lakhs has been destroyed.

(e) Safety steps such as safety audit of operators, implementation of recommendations emanating from investigation of aircraft accidents and hazardous incidents, monitoring of flight recorders, issuance of Civil Aviation Requirements, conducting safety seminars/meetings, inspection of aerodromes, etc. are continuously taken to avoid occurrence of air crashes.

### Vulgarity in Doordarshan Programmes

1067. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :  
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

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

(a) whether vulgarity is being displayed in the country on a large scale without any check and the Doordarshan Kendras are also no exception of it;

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

(c) the time by which the Indian Penal Code and Representation of the Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 and other related Acts, are likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Review of laws is a continuing process. The National Commission for Women has a mandate to examine various laws relating to women which provide constitutional and legal safeguards to them. The Commission's recommendations are sent to the concerned Departments/Ministries. Presently, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Women and Child Development) is in the process of reviewing the legislation "Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986" in consultation with the concerned Departments/Ministries. This exercise is likely to take some time.

[English]

### Foreign Tourists

1068. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the number of foreign tourists visited India during each of the last three years and upto December 31, 1996, state-wise/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : According to the information collected from accommodation units by the State/UT Governments, the estimated foreign tourist visits during each of the last three years were as follow :-

State	Estimated Foreign Tourist Visits		
	1994	1995	1996
1. Andhra Pradesh	48720	84092	69988
2. Assam	350	479	938
3. Bihar	45543	49186	52973
4. Goa	210191	229218	232359
5. Gujarat	6001	3005	5863
6. Haryana	1284	2222	2315
7. Himachal Pradesh	51824	47903	50230
8. Jammu & Kashmir	24683	20589	23787
9. Karnataka	46654	59991	64788
10. Kerala	104568	142972	185863
11. Madhya Pradesh	75673	91934	99012
12. Maharashtra	786921	881351	949215
13. Manipur	559	288	218
14. Meghalaya	577	1172	1604
15. Mizoram	115	119	90
16. Nagaland	194	39	54
17. Orissa	26024	28231	32828
18. Punjab	5309	5415	5831
19. Rajasthan	436801	534749	575924
20. Sikkim	7132	5866	6901
21. Tamil Nadu	496721	585751	609306
22. Tripura	-	-	2
23. Uttar Pradesh	571000	617000	664509
24. West Bengal	163208	181489	181781
25. Andaman & Nicobar	3798	3849	5796
26. Chandigarh	8246	8559	9017
27. Daman & Diu	3341	3682	3965
28. Delhi	892007	1007967	1113803
29. Lakshdeep	1743	664	715
30. Pondichery	11029	11697	12597
Total	4030216	4609479	4962272

[Translation]

### Scheme for Small Aircraft

1069. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to manufacture small aircraft with indigenous technology;

- (b) if so, the salient features of this scheme;  
 (c) the estimated cost of this aircraft; and  
 (d) the time by which manufacturing of such aircraft is likely to be started and this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Small aircraft can be manufactured only after obtaining industrial licence. At present, National Aerospace Laboratory is developing light trainer aircraft Hansa-II and a 14 seater utility aircraft Saras Duet. Besides, 2 seater trainer aircraft Swati has been developed indigenously and is being manufactured by BHEL, Haridwar.

(c) The cost of Swati aircraft is approximately Rs. 36.00 lakhs. Cost of other aircraft cannot be given as they are still under development.

(d) while Swati aircraft is already being manufactured, the other two aircraft are still under development.

[English]

#### Revenue Earned by Doordarshan/AIR through Commercial Advertisements

1070. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the revenue earned by Doordarshan and AIR through commercial advertisements as on January, 1997;

(b) the criteria adopted to select good advertisements to be telecast;

(c) the steps taken to increase the revenue of Doordarshan and AIR;

(d) whether there is a stiff competition from various satellite channels on the tariff for commercialisation;

(e) the steps taken to offer more reasonable rates on Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Total revenue earned by AIR and Doordarshan from April, 1994 till January, 1997 is Rs. 68.15 crores and Rs. 465.12 crores respectively.

(b) The advertisements are approved for telecast on Doordarshan strictly as per the code for commercial advertising on Doordarshan.

(c) Constant efforts are being made by both Doordarshan and AIR to improve the functioning as well as the revenue earnings which is a continuous process.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) Doordarshan rationalises its rates from time to time keeping in view the market trends and norms for advertisements.

[Translation]

#### Survey in regard to Health of Labourers

1071. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey in regard to health of labourers working in factories under Satna district of Madhya Pradesh;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Privatisation of Telecom Services in Gujarat

1072. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise telecommunication services in Gujarat especially in Chhota Udaipur, tribal, backward and rural areas;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the agencies involved engaged for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government have made any controlling on these private agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to avoid conflict of interest between private and public sector industrialist?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Government has permitted the entry of Private Sector in providing Basic Telephone Services in the country including the State of Gujarat.

(b) M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd have been issued a Letter of Intent for providing Basic Telephone Services in Gujarat Circle.

(c) and (d) Detailed guidelines have been given in the tender conditions and the Licence Agreement for control on the activities of the Private Operators e.g., they cannot charge more tariff than that fixed by D.o.T.,

(e) There are no public sector industrialist in this case and hence the question of conflict of interest does not arise. As far as Department of Telecom is concerned, sufficient safeguards are provided.

#### Turnover of Indian Telecom Manufacturing Industry

1073. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian telecom manufacturing industry is likely to face 10% fall in its turnover in the current year;

(b) if so, whether the industry which has grown from a turnover of Rs. 2,000 crore in 1991 to Rs. 7,800 crore in 1995-96 is all set to take a plunge in its growth;

(c) whether the telecom equipment manufacturers association has pointed out that Rs. 5000 crore investment in the industry is lying grossly under utilised;

(d) whether the export earnings of the industry have plummeted from Rs. 300 crore in 1995-96 to Rs. 100 crore in the current year;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps the Government propose to take to improve the telecom manufacturing turnover?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) :** (a) and (b) Information available with the Department of Telecommunications indicates that the turnover for the current year is likely to be of the same level as of the last year.

(c) Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association have been claiming the under utilisation of their manufacturing capacity.

(d) and (e) The actual position about the export earnings will be available after the close of the financial year. The production achieved and capacity utilisation depends on production planning which the firms carry-out, at the beginning of the financial year based on market assessment. The exact reasons for under utilisation of capacity is not known to the DoT.

(f) The following steps have been taken in this regard :

- (i) Licenses for Services to be provided by private operators are having expedited.
- (ii) Expeditious technology transfers, enhanced external commercial borrowings, permitting foreign investment through holding companies, nationalisation of duties etc.

#### **LPT/HPT in Himachal Pradesh**

1074. **SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPT and HPT transmitters proposed to be set up in Himachal Pradesh to promote Doordarshan and to ensure coverage of Doordarshan all over the State;

(b) the provision of expenditure made for this purpose and the amount spent during the last six months in this regard;

(c) whether the requisite staff have been provided for maintenance of HPT in Himachal Pradesh so far;

(d) the details of the staff falling short for HPT at Simla; and

(e) the time by which the said staff is likely to be provided?

**THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) :** (a) One HPT, 6 LPTs and 23 VLPTs are, at present, under implementation/envisaged to be set up in Himachal Pradesh subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities.

(b) The total Capital cost of the sanctioned projects is Rs. 1941 lakhs and the total expenditure incurred upto December, 1996 is Rs. 554.43 lakhs.

(c) The requisite staff for the HPTs in Himachal Pradesh has been sanctioned.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Gauge Conversion**

1075. **DR. BALIRAM :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 737 on July 16, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the conversion work of meter gauge line into broad gauge line between Shahganj and Mau Railway Station has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the details of the long distance trains proposed to be run on this section; and

(d) the time by which the trains are likely to be started?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total cost of the project is Rs. 43.83 cr.

(c) and (d) The matter is under consideration and action as found feasible and justified will be taken.

#### **New Telephone Exchanges in Bihar**

1076. **SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government propose to open new telephone exchanges in Bihar during 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, District-wise?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The programme of 1997-98 has not been finalised yet.

#### **Committee on Exploration of Diamond**

1077. **SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE :** Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Government have constituted a high level committee to monitor various aspects of diamond mining and to ensure transparency in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Grant of prospecting licences and mining leases are made in accordance with the provisions of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and Mineral Conservation Rules, 1960. The applications for grant of concession are received by the State Governments and the State Governments in order to ensure transparency are free to constitute such Committees for evaluating the applications for grant of Prospecting licence/Mining lease subject to provisions of law. The Central Government does not monitor the constitution of such Committees and only in respect of minerals listed in 1st Schedule of the MM(R&D) Act, 1957, the State Governments are required to seek prior approval of Central Government before grant of PL/ML.

[English]

#### Programmes In Gujarati

1078. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the time earmarked for telecast of Gujarati programmes on Doordarshan channels I and II;

(b) the proportion of time allocated for broadcast of news in Gujarati through these channels;

(c) whether the content of all programmes telecast through these channels, including the reporting of news is required to be vetted by authorities in New Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The time earmarked to programmes in Gujarati on Channel I of Doordarshan Kendra, Ahmedabad is 25 hours in a week and Doordarshan Kendra, Rajkot is 3 hrs. 20 mts. in a week. As regards, Channel II, these Kendras only relay Delhi Programmes. However, Doordarshan Kendra Mumbai in their single metro, telecasts 2 hrs. 30 mts. programme in Gujarati in a month.

(b) The proportion of time allocated for broadcast of Gujarati News is 7% of total transmission hours from Doordarshan Kendra, Ahmedabad.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Establishment of Steel Plants

1079. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any progress has been made with regard to the establishment of steel plants in any part of Orissa till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the steel plants are expected to be started commercial production; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) According to the available information 12 proposals have been submitted to the Government of Orissa for the establishment of steel plants at various locations in the State of Orissa. Out of these, two plants have made progress, the details of which are given below :-

S.No.	Name of the Unit & Location	Capacity (MTPA)	Project cost	Likely date of commissioning
			(in Crs.)	
1.	Mid-east Integrated Steel Ltd., Duburi, Distt. Jajpur.	0.5 (PH-I) (pig iron) 1.2 (PH-II) (steel)	530  1680	Likely to be Commissioned in June, 97.
2.	Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd., Duburi, Distt. Jajpur.	0.5 (Pig iron) 0.6 (steel)	1525	Production of pig iron is likely to start by June, 99 and that of billets and wire rods by March, 2000.

#### Investment on High Value Minerals

1080. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to invest on high value minerals;

(b) if so, the States where these high value mineral are available;

(c) whether any systematic steps have been taken for the proper exploration of these minerals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) While the exploraiton activity for high value mineral forms a part of the regular programmes of the Geological Survey of India, both the exploration and exploitation of

such minerals has been thrown open for private sector investment under the National Mineral Policy, 1993. State-wise recoverable reserves of such minerals as per the information available, are indicated in the enclosed *statement*.

**Statement**

*The Statewise Recoverable Reserves of High Value Minerals*

Mineral	State	Unit	Total Recoverable Reserves
1. Gold (as on 1.4.93)	1. Andhra Pradesh	Million	5.85
	2. Bihar	Tonnes	0.007
	3. Karnataka	"	11.263
	4. Madhya Pradesh	"	0.57
2. Diamond (as on 1.4.94)	1. Andhra Pradesh	Carats	89006
	2. Madhya Pradesh	"	976050
3. Mica	1. Andhra Pradesh	Thousand	93.78
	2. Bihar	Tonnes	13.55
	3. Rajasthan	"	1.68
4. Tungsten (as on 1.4.94)	1. Andhra Pradesh	Tonnes	14285053
	2. Haryana	"	1674676.5
	3. Maharashtra	"	9837016.9
	4. Rajasthan	"	13451842.4
	5. West Bengal	"	493356.1
5. Corundum (as on 1.4.90)	1. Andhra Pradesh	Thousand	1.07
	2. Karnataka	Tonnes	13.87
	3. Madhya Pradesh	"	0.02
	4. Rajasthan	"	0.38
6. Silver (as on 1.4.94)	1. Andhara Pradesh	Tonnes	1222670.7
	2. Karnataka	"	4367041.9
	3. Meghalaya	"	660010.5
	4. Orissa	"	1940352.9
	5. Rajasthan	"	129059763.2
	6. Sikkim	"	337509.4
	7. Tamil Nadu	"	592519.4
	8. Uttar Pradesh	"	987053.6
7. Precious Stones (as on 1.4.90) (i) Ruby	Orissa	K.G.	469.5

**Availability of Wagons for Supply of Coal**

1081. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of wagons made available for supply of coal to the various Thermal Power Plants in Delhi during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the wagons were made available in conformity to the demands;

(c) if not, the steps being taken to make available the wagons in conformity to the demand for supplying of coal to the various Power Plants in Delhi;

(d) whether the Government have received any request in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a)

(Figures in Four wheeler  
wagons per month)

Input of coal into Delhi Power  
Houses of Badarpur, Indra-  
prastha and Rajghat.

Year	Offer made by Coal India Ltd.	Supplies by Railways
1994	17504	22891
1995	15786	18761
1996	17756	17048

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. However, during the current year the supplies were marginally less primarily due to payment problems by various power houses of Delhi, which have since been sorted out.

(d) to (f) Occasional distress requests were received from the power stations of Delhi and suitable remedial action was taken.

[Translation]

**Post and Telegraph Offices in  
Villages in UP**

1082. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post and Telegraph Offices in villages in Uttar Pradesh till December, 1996, District-wise;

(b) the number of villages without Post and Telegraph Offices in the State, District-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to open new Post and Telegraph Offices in the State during 1997-98; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, District-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) District-wise number of villages with and without Post Offices and Telegraph Offices in Uttar Pradesh till December, 1996 is given in the enclosed statements I to II respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of Plan targets for the year 1997-98 for opening of Post Offices have not been finalised. Two Telegraph Offices at Akbarpur (Ambedkarnagar) and Mahoba (Mahe) are proposed to be opened during the year 1997-98.

**Statement-I**

Details of District-wise numbers of Villages with  
and without Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh  
till December, 1996.

S.No.	Name of District	Number of Villages	
		with post offices	without post offices
1	2	3	4
1.	Agra	259	645
2.	Aligarh	419	1287
3.	Bulandsahar	330	1029
4.	Etah	283	1224
5.	Etawah	274	1187
6.	Jhansi	172	588
7.	Jalaun	221	721
8.	Lalitpur	142	547
9.	Mainpuri	155	671
10.	Firozabad	135	660
11.	Mathura	203	668
12.	Allahabad	471	3068
13.	Ghazipur	356	2227
14.	Jaunpur	399	2870
15.	Pratapgarh	339	1842
16.	Mirzapur	176	1546
17.	Sonbhadra	133	1213
18.	Varanasi	345	2153
19.	Bhadoi	100	1103
20.	Almora	441	2583
21.	Kheri	366	1346
22.	Hardoi	287	1596
23.	Bareilly	245	1606
24.	Budaun	286	1494
25.	Shahjahanpur	259	1871
26.	Nainital	121	916
27.	Pilibhit	145	1065
28.	Udham Singh Nagar	81	681
29.	Moradabad	291	2184
30.	Rampur	105	993
31.	Bijnor	259	1873
32.	Pithoragarh	392	1794
33.	Chamoli	332	1237
34.	Dehradun	182	564
35.	Ghaziabad	196	489
36.	Meerut	310	590
37.	Muzaffarnagar	274	612
38.	Pauri	415	2790
39.	Saharanpur	172	1106
40.	Haridwar	80	423
41.	Tehri	256	1703
42.	Uttar Kashi	124	554
43.	Azamgarh	379	3342
44.	Mau	192	1280
45.	Gorakhpur	350	2530
46.	Maharaj Ganj	203	1004
47.	Basti	446	4058
48.	Sidharth Nagar	222	2215

1	2	3	4
49.	Deoria	260	1595
50.	Padrauna	208	1487
51.	Gonda	465	2353
52.	Bahraich	356	1534
53.	Ballia	330	1462
54.	Kanpur City	109	138
55.	Kanpur Dehat	285	1337
56.	Unnao	255	1438
57.	Fatehpur	238	1114
58.	Farrukhabad	252	1319
59.	Banda	167	537
60.	Hamirpur	195	731
61.	Faizabad	301	580
62.	Ambedkar Nagar	304	1462
63.	Sitapur	378	1936
64.	Barabanki	348	1702
65.	Raebareli	418	1319
66.	Sultanpur	469	2026
67.	Lucknow	238	506
68.	Mahoba	75	425
Total		17975	94829

### Statement-II

Number of Villages with and without Telegraph Offices in Uttar Pradesh till December, 1996.

S.No.	Name of District	No. of villages having Telegraph Office	No. of villages not having telegraph Offices
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad	61	3478
2.	Azamgarh	70	3651
3.	Ballia	148	1644
4.	Basti	47	4457
5.	Banda	29	1175
6.	Bahraich	83	1807
7.	Barabanki	68	1982
8.	Deoria	134	3416
9.	Padrauna	- (In Deoria)	-
10.	Etawah	187	1274
11.	Faizabad	84	2563
12.	Ambedkar Nagar	- (In Faizabad)	-
13.	Farrukhabad	56	1515
14.	Fatehpur	58	1294
15.	Gorakhpur	76	2804
16.	Gonda	98	2720
17.	Ghazipur	57	2526
18.	Hardoi	144	1739
19.	Hamirpur	52	874

1	2	3	4
20.	Mahoba	- (In Hamirpur)	-
21.	Jaunpur	57	3112
22.	Jhansi	45	715
23.	Jalaun	65	077
24.	Kanpur (C)	26	221
25.	Kanpur (D)	-	1622
26.	Lucknow	113	711
27.	Lakhimpur	250	1462
28.	Lalitpur	31	658
29.	Mainpuri	118	708
30.	Mirzapur	13	1709
31.	Mau	54	1418
32.	Mahrajganj	57	1150
33.	Pratapgarh	50	2131
34.	Raibareli	217	1520
35.	Sultanpur	67	2428
36.	Sitapur	147	2167
37.	Shahjahanpur	35	2095
38.	Siddharthnagar	26	2411
39.	Sonebhadra	-	1346
40.	Varanasi	56	3646
41.	Unnao	37	1656
42.	Bhadohi	- (In Varanasi)	-
43.	Bulandshahar	20	1394
44.	Ghazibad	20	768
45.	Agra	3	901
46.	Dehradun	3	786
47.	Meerut	-	898
48.	Moradabad	-	2135
49.	Saharanpur	-	781
50.	Hardwar	-	299
51.	Muzaffarnagar	89	797
52.	Nainital	73	1733
53.	Rudrapur	-	1730
54.	Aligarh	-	2028
55.	Rampur	-	5298
56.	Bareilly	144	5298
57.	Almora	-	575
58.	Pithoragarh	-	2997
59.	Mathura	-	4302
60.	Etah	-	1518
61.	Bijnore	-	1957
62.	Budaun	3	646
63.	Pilibhit	-	3356
64.	Chamoli	163	344
65.	Tehri	58	-
66.	Uttarkashi	40	-
67.	Pauri	178	-
68.	Ferozabad	-	-
Grand Total		3710	108025

[English]

### Modernisation of Railway Stations

1083. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the plans in respect of expansion and modernisation of Railway Stations in the vicinity of the Capital;

(b) the dates of commencement and completion of the work thereof, scheme-wise; and

(c) the estimated cost thereof, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Works of extension of platform shed at Ballabgarh costing Rs. 12.46 lakh; provision of booking office and extension of shed on platforms at Faridabad costing Rs. 24.60 lakh and extension of shed on platform at Palwal costing Rs.6.18 lakh were taken up. Provision of booking office at Faridabad has been completed and remaining works are targetted for completion by March, 1998.

### Development of Bellary Airport in Karnataka

1084. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka had sought clearance from the Union Government to develop Bellary airport in Private Sector; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRIHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### Exploration of Uranium and Rare Earth Minerals, Maharashtra

1085. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether preliminary explorations carried out indicate availability of Uranium and other rare earth minerals in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of explorations carried out in Maharashtra during the last three years and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the details of action plan worked out to harness mineral resources in Maharashtra and to provide incentives therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Preliminary surveys in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra indicate favourable Geological Horizon particularly in Bhandara and Nagpur districts for rare earth, rare metal and U-mineralisation. Although no

economic concentration of Uranium has been located in this region. There were a few rare-metal and rare-earth mineral occurrences located at Pauninala and Salai area in Nagpur district. None of these occurrences however, has been found economically viable.

(c) Since no economic concentration of uranium has been discovered, it is premature to work out detailed action plan for exploitation thereof.

[Translation]

### Proposal to Link Bilaspur with Air Service

1086. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of districts in Madhya Pradesh linked with air services;

(b) whether the Government propose to link Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh with air service; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Indore, Bhopal, Raipur, Khajuraho and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh are airlinked.

(b) and (c) The airport at Bilaspur is not fit for the jet type of aircraft available in Indian Airlines/Alliance Air's fleet. Moreover, the Bilaspur airport is not operational at present since no airline has shown interest in operating flights to this airport due to adequate traffic.

### Out of Order Telephone Lines in Hilly/Remote Areas of UP

1087. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that telephone lines in hilly and remote areas of Uttar Pradesh have been out of order since long;

(b) if so, whether the Government are making any special efforts to repairs and set in order the damaged telephone lines and telephone service keeping in view the sensibility and strategic importance of this region;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the special schemes implemented in this region in 1995-96 and 1996-97 and proposed to be implemented during 1997-98; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide new telephone connections in remote sensitive regions?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : Yes, Sir. Physical lines get damaged due to heavy snow fall and storms. One such storm occurred on 19.1.97 disrupting some telephone lines.

(b) and (c) Repairs have been taken up on war-footing. All junction lines have been repaired. Most of the telephone lines are likely to be repaired by 2.2.1997.

Action is already in hand to provide reliable telecom service for the hilly/remote areas by using Optical fibre, Microwave and Satellite systems as per details furnished in Statement enclosed.

During the 9th Plan the department is planning to instal satellite based communication to such remote areas where it is not possible to provide telephone services by conventional means.

### Statement

*Details of schemes for Hilly/Remote areas of U.P.*

Year	Microwave Systems	Satellite Systems	OFC Systems
1995-96	12	08	
1996-97 (Planned)	22	08	07
1997-98 (Planned)	20	22	03

12.01 hrs.

[English]

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

#### Review by the Government on the working of and Annual Report of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. New Delhi for 1994-95 etc.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

(ii) Annual Report of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1387/97]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi

Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Raebareli, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Raebareli, for the year 1995-96.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1388/97]

#### Employees, State Insurance (Central) Second Amendment Rules, 1996 under section 95 of the Employees, State Insurance Act, 1948 etc.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Arunachalam, I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) A copy of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Second Amendment Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 582(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 1996 under sub-section (4) of Section 95 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1389/97]

(2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, under section 34 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1390/97]

(3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1391/97]

(4) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon, under section 36 of the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1391 A/97]

#### Review by the Government on the working of and Annual Report of India Tourism Development Corporation for 1995-96.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(1) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the India Tourism Development

Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

- (2) Annual Report of the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1392/97]

**Review on the working of MSTC Ltd. and its subsidiary Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd. for 1995-96.**

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (I) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the MSTC Limited and its subsidiary, Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited for the year 1995-96.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the MSTC Limited and its subsidiary, Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1393/97]

**Radio, Television and Video Cassette Recorder sets (exemption from Licensing Requirements) Amendment Rules, 1996 under Section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Radio, Television and Video Cassette Recorders Sets (exemption from Licensing Requirements) Amendment Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 574(E) in Gazettee of India dated the 19th December, 1996 under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 15.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1394/97]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (I) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith the Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1395/97]

[English]

**Review on the working of and Annual Report of the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. New Delhi for 1995-96 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1396/97]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Construction Company, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Construction Company, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1397/97]

**Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 5 of 1996)-(Commercial)-Participation of Private Parties with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited in Production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas, under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : Sir, on behalf of Shri T.R. Baalu, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the

Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India Union Government (No. 5 of 1996)-(Commercial)-(Participation of Private Parties with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited in production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas, under article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1398/97]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Kaikalā Satyanarayana.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow you all.

SHRI SATYANARAYANA KAIKALA (Machilipatnam) : Sir, In Cinema, Field Artistes...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : The hon. Minister is here. He can immediately respond. He can immediately withdraw these Bills from the list...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. He can immediately delete...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has already started. He is a new Member. He is speaking for the first time in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak. I will give you the opportunity.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYANARAYANA KAIKALA : In Cinema, Field Artistes, Producers etc. pay lakhs of rupees as Income-tax, Property tax etc. when they are in the peak of their career and when they are in much demand ....(Interruptions) But after losing stardom and when they are not in demand, or at the fag end of their careers, they are not in a position to earn even their livelihood ....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat, he is reading something.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him finish his speech.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : A new Member is speaking. He is speaking for the first time.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Can't you allow the hon. Member to make his maiden speech?

SHRI SATYANARAYANA KAIKALA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the important issue of helping veteran cinema artistes who are in distress.

In the peak of their career, artistes, producers and other technicians in the film industry pay lakhs of rupees

to the exchequer in the form of various taxes like Income Tax, Property Tax etc. At the fag-end of their careers when they are no more in demand they are usually not in a position to earn even their livelihood. There are several cases where artistes are not left with enough money for their last rites after their death. Most of us know of the case of reputed artistes like Meena Kumari, Savitri, and Chittoor Nagaiah. There are many other veteran artistes in different parts of the country living in abject poverty.

I appeal to the Government of India to find a way of helping veteran artistes who are in distress keeping in view the fact that they paid lakhs of rupees to the Government in the form of taxes during their heyday. I suggest that a fund be created out of the tax paid by the cine-artistes — say 10 per cent of the amount of tax paid — and that fund be kept aside for helping artiste, producers and others in their old age. Any other assistance, if given by the Government, will boost the morale of the artistes who give their life to continue the traditions and culture of the country...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I would request Shri Srikanta Jena to delete items 16 to 17 in today's Agenda. We cannot allow items 16 and 17 to be discussed today. It is against the interest of the entire country; it is against the interests of the workers; and it is against the promise made by the Prime Minister...(Interruptions) You cannot include these two items in the Agenda. Today, you are bringing this Bill to replace the Ordinance. What Shri Chidambaram is planning to bring today as agenda items 16 and 17 should be deleted forthwith. That is my submission. It should be referred to the Standing Committee. Let the Standing Committee go through it. Please do not be in a hurry. Shri Jena, please get up and assure the House that you will not bring it before the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Earlier there was an Ordinance which was placed before the Standing Committee. We gave our recommendations.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, some hon. Members from Kerala are sitting in *dharna* outside the Parliament. We also share their sentiments.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I got your point.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister that in the last year's Budget, an amount of Rs. 127 crore was granted and this year it went down from Rs. 127 crore to Rs. 34 crore. That is the main issue. The investments for Kerala have come down. No project has been taken up. No request has been considered. Nothing has happened to Kerala. Where can we go?

12.09 hrs.

At this stage, Shri E. Ahamed and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are all senior Members. Please go back to your seats. Shri Banatwalla, you speak from your seat. You speak from your own seat.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, you ask the Minister to request the members to come in and he will examine the matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, you are a senior Member. You go back to your seat and then speak.

12.10 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri E. Ahmed and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.*

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Gentlemen, let the Railway Minister speak please.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : No project has been taken up in Uttar Pradesh also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am doing everything in order to save your Question Hour. You may please sit down.

*[English]*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, let the Minister ask the Members to come in and assure them that he will examine the case...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow you. Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yesterday also, your attitude was not good.

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : I had raised this question day before yesterday also.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you listen to anybody? You did not listen to the hon. Speaker yesterday. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, as I said that when the hon'ble

understood my helplessness and was satisfied. Likewise, if other hon'ble members-whether they are from Gujrat or Kerala or anywhere else-had listened to me carefully yesterday, there would have been no need to raise this issue today again. I am saying it because when last time, I had gone to Kerala, my several Keralite colleagues had met me and submitted three projects before me. You might remember that you people had made a request in December 1996-97 which was in respect of Shornoor of Kuttipur. It has already been linked. Secondly, Sabarimalai is a very important place which should be linked. There are two routes-one from Annamalai to Sabarimalai and another is from Kottayam to Sabarimalai...*(Interruptions)* Why do you not listen? The problem with you is that you do not listen to anyone...*(Interruptions)* There are two routes for Sabarimalai. One is from Annamalai to Sabarimalai but much area is covered by this route. This time, we have linked Sabarimalai with Annamalai. Another route is from Kottayam to Sabarimalai-in between this route there is little distance. We will consider it is future. Everything should be done as per the rules and regulations. After this issue, the matter pertaining to doubling of Mangalore-Shornoor line was raised. We had given the assurance of three sectors and blocks. We are going to complete four sectors. Likewise...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, this is not the way...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, if you have allowed me then let me explain, please...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he had given assurances on several occasions. The people who are supporting his Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the members from Kerala are sitting on dharna. Today, I am going to make an appeal to them. But at the same time, I would say that no injustice has been done to the state of Kerala and inspite of it if they feel that injustice has been done to them, I will call these people in the evening and hold talks with them respectfully. Therefore, I appeal to these people...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You people are reducing the length of Question Hour. You may please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Does he need your pleading?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is capable of making his submissions.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it seems as if we are going to set a very unhealthy tradition. Where the Minister of Railways is speaking on the Railway Budget, all of us may have objections on some or other points...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The hon. Deputy Speaker has allowed me to respond. That is why I am responding...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all of us may have objections. It could be regarding financial matter, Railway goods or gauge conversion. And not only one state but other states may have objections. But the Parliament has got a certain convention to follow. It is not possible for any Railway Minister to implement the demands, made by us orally or in writing, immediately. If we have got any objection, we may express it outside through the means of agitation and the Minister of Railways can also reply outside. When there is discussion on the Railway Budget, we may place our demands before him and then the Minister may reply. And if we do not get the proper response from him, the whole world is there for launching an agitation. The objections being raised by the different states on certain things might be correct and if the Railway Minister intend to respond to all of them then there will be more than ten speeches on it. Tomorrow, the Government will be presenting the General Budget. And after presentation of the Budget, some people will come and say that why the Government is going to impose taxes on iron, on T.V. and other items. They will come to the Well of the House protesting against this move. Will Shri Chidambaram be responding to everyone of them? After all, the Parliament have got a certain convention. This requires serious thinking by every Member of the House...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : These things should be avoided. That is all.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Such things should be avoided in future.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have to speak regarding three Bills. Please allow me to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, what the hon. Member has said not correct. The hon. Railway Minister has been responding to the issues raised by the hon. Members...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Sir, I would also like to say something in respect of this tradition. This is not a healthy tradition. The views expressed by Shri Pramod Mahajan are very correct and pertinent. When the Railway Budget is under discussion, we may raise our objections, and ask for a reply and in case we do not get the Government's response then we may resort to another course...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have said that such things should be avoided in future.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Such a practice should not be followed again in future.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry, I cannot allow you. There should be some limit. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Nitish ji, please sit down. I will have to say about three Bills. These Bills have to be enacted before 3rd April, 1997. Now I quote the precedent of 1993 :

"During Seventh Session (Tenth Lok Sabha), on 5th August, 1993 when Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Bill, 1993 was under consideration of the House, a Member (Shri George Fernandes) sought permission for adjournment of debate to that Bill so that that Bill could be referred to Departmentally Related Standing Committee. The then Deputy-Speaker who was in the Chair ruled that since Bill was for replacing Ordinance and had to be enacted by a target date, hence it could not be referred to the Standing Committee. He further ruled that since the hon. Speaker had not given his consent for adjournment of the debate, motion for adjournment could not be moved. Thereafter, further discussion on the Bill was resumed and the Bill was passed on 10th August, 1993."

*[Translation]*

As of now this is not required. Wherever it becomes necessary, we will refer it to the Committee. As yet, these are allowed. This is the ruling.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I would like to make a submission that after that ruling, it so happened that the Insurance Regulatory Bill, which was initiated by an Ordinance, was referred to the Standing Committee. I would also like to make a submission...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am not aware of the later situationon.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Yes, Sir. He is right...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : On the Depository Bill, there was an Ordinance and this Depository Bill was fully considered by the Standing Committee. Therefore, I humbly request that at least...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Well, I will go through all the records again.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Sir, what about these whose names are listed for Zero Hour?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am speaking about you

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : My submission is that these Bills be withdrawn today. We have not yet started the discussion. Let these be deleted from today's List of Business...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will again go through all the relevant records.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : They are listed in the List of Business and on listing, the Bills would come up. At that point of time, if the Member has any objection and if he is asking him to refer them back to the Committee, he can do so but standing in the Zero Hour, talking about the List of Business and asking a particular item to be deleted, I do not know how we can do it. We cannot do it like that.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Hon. Member, I raised it before the Questions were taken up because it refers to the List of Business. To that, he will give a ruling. He referred to the List of Business...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seats now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Sir, yesterday also I had risen to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am not allowing you. Please take your seat. Will you please take your seat? Please take your seat. Please sit down. Why do you not sit down? When I allow you, only then you can speak. Please keep quiet now.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the last many months i.e. since August, 1996 supply of ration, particularly wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene has not been made to the entire hilly region of Uttar Pradesh. Adequate quantity of foodgrains is lying in the FCI godowns but the same is not reaching the people of hilly regions in the State. Due to this wheat and rice is not available to the people living in Dharchula, Munsayari, Kapkot, Bageshwar, Garnd. solt and other regions closed to Himalaya which are predominantly inhabited by the tribal people.

Sir, there is not much agricultural land in these areas and a starvation like situation has arisen there. I fear that Kalahandi like situation and situation prevailing elsewhere may arise in these areas also. Every kind of imbalance exists in the hilly regions. Foodgrains are not available there. People should have got 10 kg. of foodgrains per unit but they are getting only two-three kg. of foodgrains per unit. The situation is very horrible there, people are crying for food. Despite drawing the attention of the Government repeatedly, no action has been taken so far thereon. I, through you, demand a through investigation into the various foodgrain scams and supply of foodgrains which is not reaching hilly parts of the State and, at the same time, request that the supply and delivery of full quota of ration be ensured in these areas. With these words, I conclude and extend my thanks to you.

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very serious matter. On the 27th January, a dacoity took place in Dadar-Bhagalpur Express between Dhanouri and Urain railway station. Nine coaches of the train were looted. Four persons were killed in the incident when they were trying to protect the ladies from molestation by the miscreants. Among the dead were Shri Kamala Das, an employee of the Chittranjan Rail Coach Factory and his wife Smt. Sumitra Devi, Shri Shankar Yadav, a worker of Jamalpur factory and Shri Umesh Varnwal, a businessman of Jamalpur, who died in the hospital. Jamalpur remained closed in protest against this incident. A huge procession was taken out by the angry people in Jamalpur. They were fired at by the policemen in which six persons were injured. Monghyr, Lakhisarai and Pahelgam remained closed against this incident. Jamasampur and Bhagalpur also remained closed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is that after Independence, such an incident never took place. I do not know if any such incident had taken place during the time of Britishers. But to the best of my knowledge, no such incident had taken place even during that time

also. The incidents of rape, murder and dacoity have taken place simultaneously. I regret that the Minister of Railways is sitting here, but he is keeping quiet. He should make a statement on this incident. Janata Dal is in Power in Bihar and at the Centre also.

Neither the Bihar Government nor the Centre have given any amount of compensation to the kith and kin of the people killed in the incident. They have not been given even a single penny. The logic extended by the Ministry of Railways is that as per the prescribed rules, they give compensation only to those persons who are killed in the terrorist activities. But what is the justification for not giving any amount of compensation to the people travelling in a train and killed in a train dacoity. Today, the whole of Bihar is in the grip of terrorism. The Minister of Railways says that the law and order is a subject of the State. But I want to ask him as to who is ruling in the state of Bihar? Whether it is not the Janata Dal which is in power in the state?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is Zero Hour. You have to be very brief in this Hour.

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Please, let me complete my point...*(Interruptions)* In the last six months, seven incidents of train dacoity have taken place only in that particular section, but no action has been taken on any of them. Not even a single person has been given any amount of compensation. If law and order is a subject of the State which has failed to protect the lives of the people as they are being killed there like this and the Union Government is fully aware of it, then at whose mercy they are left? What for Article 356 is there? Is it only for Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mandal ji, this is not a Budget speech. This is Zero Hour.

*[English]*

You have to conclude. Please conclude now. Others also have to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vinay Katiyar. I have called another hon. Member now. Shri Brahamanand Mandal, please sit down.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : If the Bihar Government fails to provide security to the people of Bihar, if it is unable to protect the lives of passengers travelling in trains, then the Centre should dismiss that Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Shri Vinay Katiyar. You may please sit down. At least there should be any limit for it.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : The Government should institute a judicial enquiry into the incident in order to find out as to who are the guilty persons involved

in the case...*(Interruptions)*\* At whose mercy the Centre Government have left the people of Bihar? ...*(Interruptions)* People should not be left at the mercy of their fate. If the Hon'ble Home Minister is unable to do something, he should tender his resignation. I demand that (i) compensation should be given to the people killed and injured in the incident, (ii) Bihar Government should be dismissed (iii) a judicial inquiry should be instituted to probe the cases of train dacoity and Jamaspur Police firing incident...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Whatever submissions have been made by the Hon'ble Member, I have nothing more to add in that. But a very serious matter is under discussion. Earlier, only a few coaches were looted but now the entire train is being looted. Today the honour of women is not safe, the dacoits are molesting and raping them during the incident of train robbery. This is a matter of serious concern. I would urge upon you to kindly take up this matter with the State Government and find out some security measures for the safe travelling of our passengers. You just can not run away from your responsibilities by holding someone else responsible for the act...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar) : What is the reaction of the Minister of Railways on this incident of train dacoity and killings ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I want to bring this point on record. A few days back, our Railway Minister had made a statement on the operation of our train services, on the situation of law and order and on the incident of train robbery. Now the House is in session. Therefore, I through you, urge upon the Railway Minister to make a full fledged statement over this issue and let us know as to how far the Centre is accountable for such incidents. What are the Government's policies for giving compensation to the affected people in such a situation? He should come up with a categorical statement on this issue. The entire country, particularly Bihar, is facing such problems as far as the operation of train services is concerned. In view of this, may I know about the proposed steps to be taken by the Government in this regard? You can not run away from your responsibilities just by making a statement publicly. You will have to take stern action. Boards portraying Gandhiji are displayed here and there at different railway stations mentioning therein that in case someone was found travelling without a ticket, he would be penalised or jailed. I want to know from the Railway Minister that when the passengers do not feel safe inside the trains, the honour of our women is not safe as they are being raped, fish-plates are being removed in order to derail the trains, the incidents of train dacoity are taking place and when such incidents are occurring daily then what are the actions proposed to be taken thereon by the Ministry of Railways? Railways is their property and hence, he is accountable for every incident. I would urge upon you to kindly give instructions. Please, do

\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

not keep mum. He wants to run away from the responsibility by keeping mum. He should come out categorically on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Train dacoity is a serious matter.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do you not allow me to speak? Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you want to challenge me also?

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you not allow even me to speak? Please sit down now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : We want to reply to his question as he has accused the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You go on shouting. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, this is not correct. You must take some action...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it enough? Please take your seat now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very serious matter here. The Hawala Scandal which has taken place recently...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me. If you do not allow even me to speak, what will happen? Please keep quiet.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I want to draw the attention of the House as well as of Government towards a very serious matter. The Hawala

Scandal which has taken place recently has adversely affected the economy of the country...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down do not cross the limits

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Jena, is there any limit? Can you not control you Members?

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : A question regarding State Government was raised by the hon. Member which was provocative and so the hon. Member wanted to give his clarification. If you give him one minute time to speak...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Can it be without permission? He does not allow even me to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will not allow him.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will not allow him today.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, the Minister of Railways should say something. It is not a matter of State Government alone. The entire train is being looted and women are being raped. He should say something.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The point is very simple. Since the matter is raised by Shri Nitish Kumar and other hon. Members, and if that is an important matter concerning the State of Bihar, a Member from the State of Bihar should also be allowed to speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The matter does not relate to Bihar Government. The matter has been raised regarding the train dacoity where women have been raped and the train was stopped for an hour.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Please go through the records if the question relates to Railways and there is no reference to Bihar Government then you can delete it.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

[Translation]

I have said that the matter is serious. When decoity and every other thing has taken place in the train there cannot be more serious matter, than this

[English]

The Government should take notice of it.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The only point is that there should not be any remark regarding Bihar Government. That is my point.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Why do they not ask it from the Minister of Railways...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I would like to draw your attention towards corruption and scandal. There was a case of hawala scandal in the country recently and now a more serious hawala scandal has taken place. We have raised a matter here regarding Indian Bank Scam in the last session. That matter has been referred to the courts and is now under its supervision. I do not want to comment over it but, another scam has come to light. Some of businessmen here have collectively sent billions of rupees outside the country. I am not saying all this. This statement has been made by the Director of the Finance Corporation of India Shri Jaidev Agarwal in 'Jansatta' of 1st February recently that Rs. 570 billions have been sent outside the country through Export-Import channels. If there is any truth in his statement I would urge upon the Government and demand that the matter be thoroughly investigated. This sum of Rs. 570 billions, which was sent to America was reviewed by three economists there who disclosed that this amount has been deposited there illegally and it has come through Import-Export channels from India. If this illegal transaction to America had not taken place, the external debt of the country which is to the tune of 19 billion dollars would have come down to 16 billion dollars...(interruptions). You are supporting corruption. This matter does not pertain to you. You talk about yourself. But the external debt burden of 19 billion dollars would have come down to 16 billion dollars if this money had not gone outside the country and the payment on account of interest would also have reduced by 15 percent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can not read from written material. You just have to mention your point in brief during zero hour.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I will conclude in one minute. Our foreign Exchange Reserve would have increased from 25 billion dollars to 40 billion dollars and rupee would have gained value against dollar in the country. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government of India to take action against those businessmen who have sent money outside the country in the last three years through illegal means and also make a statement in this regard.

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have been observing what has been going on in the House for the last half-an-hour or so. That is why, we need more women in the House. We cannot compete in lung power with our male colleagues. I am trying to raise an important issue. But I am being drowned by all the shouting of the men around me.

Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the dangers of dual pricing of foodgrains, the policy which the Government has just initiated. The Government's decision to help the poorer sections of the people is very well intentioned. But is the Government aware of the serious and far-reaching problems it would create? Firstly, how are we going to identify millions of people below the poverty line which is an impossible task? Secondly, foodgrains meant for the poor usually get into the hands of undesirable people and land up in black market. That has been our experience in the past. Last, but not the least, the huge burden of food subsidy which the Finance Minister has taken upon himself will certainly result in inflation. Thus, instead of helping the poor, we might end up in increasing the sufferings of the people. I would like to know if the Government has taken adequate safeguards against all these three points that I have raised. I thank you for giving me the time.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : The incident of bomb blast in Delhi is a very serious...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already allowed you.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there are many sick and weak tea gardens in Assam, particularly in Southern Assam. The condition of sick and weak tea gardens of my constituency of Karimganj in Southern Assam is very serious. Some of the tea gardens have already been abandoned by this time and some are going to be abandoned.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Please give me a chance too.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Since you have already spoken, you will not get a chance now.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : No, I have not spoken...(Interruptions)

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Sir, I have drawn the attention of the Government regarding this matter on several occasions. But nothing has been done to revitalise the sick and weak tea gardens. What is more pathetic is that the tea labourers of such tea gardens are living in inhuman conditions without their weekly

wages and rations with wretched and tottering huts to live in...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not proper to speak like this. Please keep quiet.

*[English]*

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : So, I urge upon the Government to look into the matter seriously and take welfare measures to save the tea labourers of the sick and weak tea gardens and at the same time take immediate steps to revitalise these tea gardens at a very early date...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Sukdeo Paswan.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please maintain decorum in the House.

*[Translation]*

I have allowed Shri Paswan. Let Shri Paswan speak.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Employment Gurantee Scheme is a Central Scheme and the guidelines issued in this regard are not being followed. Members of Parliament are not consulted with regards to who are the people to be included or not to be included from the district under Employment Gurantee Scheme. It is my suggestion that the guidelines with regard to Employment Gurantee Scheme should be changed and the Members of Parliament representing the area be appointed as chairman of the scheme and the DM as Secretary...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : At least 75 percent of the recommendations made by the Members of Parliament under the Employment Gurantee Scheme should be accepted.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : If you hand over all the powers to the members of Parliament then what will be left for Panchayats to do...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am unable to understand the mood of the House today.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the manner in which funds for the Local Area Development Scheme for MPs are examined likewise, Employment Gurantee Scheme should be monitored on computer directly under the supervision of speaker or Deputy Speaker. In the end I would like to say that under the speedy Action Scheme, which is also a Central Scheme, earlier MPs were consulted about installing handpumps in villages where such facility was lacking. However, this system has now been discontinued and MPs are not consulted about the

location for installing handpumps. So the MPs should have a say in the implementation of speedy Action Scheme...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a good suggestion and if you want to say something go ahead I am not stopping you.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir the Government of India has already issued the guidelines regarding Employment Assurance Scheme. There is a demand that the guidelines have to be changed and that the local Members of Parliament should be associated with process of selection of projects. I think this is a consistant demand from the Members of Parliament. But in what way they will be associated with the process of selection of projects, on this we will have to take the opinion of the leaders of different political parties. Then only the Government will come before the House and tell what exactly could be changed in the guidelines...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow you often this.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards an important matter related to the Security of the country and I request through you that Government should reply to this. In 14 days from the 4th to 18th of this month, the army of our neighbouring country China have intruded upto six kilometers deep into the area of Himachal Pradesh six times, i.e. it has intruded six times upto six kms. This army has come upto the place named 'Track Junction' in H.P. Whatever was their intention or whether they wanted to probe into, they accomplish it and return. According to the information received so far, Indian Army is posted in that area. Our army has not taken such action against the Chinese army which may give an impression that they cannot enter into our territory and do any inspection. Our army has confined itself to showing the white flag whenever the Chinese Army infiltrated as if we don't want to say anything to them or creat any dispute about the territory. This has been the attitude of our army. I am sorry to say that although such type of incidents has happened six times with in a span of 14 days but no discussion has taken place on it in the House. Of course, it got little coverage in some newspapers but I am not able to understand as to why this incident did not catch the attention of the House, hon'ble Minister of Defence as well as Minister of External Affairs. This Parliament is the highest forum of the country. We discuss almost every thing here, we discuss whether our taps or drains are in order or not. But when such a threat comes to our frontiers, I am unable to understand why this is not discussed in the House.

I humbly request through you to the Government by which I mean hon. Minister of Defence and Minister of External Affairs, to both I want to say and request to tel

what kind of situation has developed on our borders and why Chinese Army infiltrated into India. All this information should be made available to the House.

Recently, the Chinese President visited our country and as soon as his visit was over those events started happening. I know the attitude of China towards our entire northern borders till now, i.e. to intrude into for a few days and then go back. In case we do not resist it they say that they have set up a heliped, there so this place belongs to them. Thus this issue becomes the cause of conflict. They have been saying that the northern border of India's is vague and it is a open boudary. In the name of this open boundary, the tendency of their taking control of our areas has been continuing from the very beginning i.e. from the time of Panditji. Panditji had once said -"

[English]

'Not a man lives there, not a blade of grass grows there'

[Translation]

Today, the same issue is raising its head over the land of Himachal Pradesh. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir you kindly order this Government, the hon. Minister of Defence and Minister of External Affairs to make a statement on this issue so that the House may consider this issue.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Kanaujia.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise an important matter...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Kanaujia.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, what has happened to this side...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA (Kheri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time and want to say through you to the Government sitting over there and claiming itself a messiah of the poor, and want to bring a few facts to its knowledge. Our Dudhawa National Park is surrounded by some 40,000 houses of the 'Tharu' tribe where 70-80 thousand people live and who are being grossly mistreated. On this issue, I have written several letters a number of times and want to bring this matter to the notice of the House as well. The people of the 'Tharu' tribe have been living there since before independence and cultivating the land, but today their lands are being taken away. The Dudhawa National Park has been declared as a reserved forest but they are not being given any alternate land. The land on which they have been working for hundreds of years

and which is registered in their names, mutation has also taken place and they are giving revenue and yet they are being evacuated from that land. Besides being forcibly removed, cases are also being filed against them.

The second thing is that in my area the people of the 'Tharu' tribe who are living inside the forests are being removed from there in the name of reserved forest and are not being given any alternate land. I demand that they should be given some alternate land. The people of 'Tharu' tribe are poor. If their animals stray into this area due to absence of boudry and barbed wires in the jungle then these animals are caught and shut and a fine is charged from them. Wild animals come and kill their children and animals and destroy crops but no compensation is paid to them.

Sir, through you I want to say to this Government, which calls itself a 'messiah' of poor people that the people of 'Tharu' tribe are very poor, they should be protected and should not be evacuated from their lands. If they are to be shifted in the name of 'reserved forest' then arrangement should made be first for an alternate for them because they have been living there for Hundreds of year and the land is their name. Moreover observation is going on around their land. This should be stopped forthwith. This is my request to the Government in the House in this regard.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to bring an important matter to your notice.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : What has happened to this side? No one from this side has been given a chance.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow you later on your can speak then. Please sit down.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : My question is related to life and property. Please give me a chance...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down. I have already called the name of next Member.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I have to raise a very important point in the House...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me see your notice. Please sit down.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker had promised me yesterday that he would give me a chance to speak today...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will not allow you like this.

[English]

This will be a bad precedent. I will not allow it this way. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I have followed your orders six times till now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. You will have to follow it ten times.

[English]

Shri T. Govindan to speak now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. I have already called Shri T. Govindan.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter is related to life and property...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. I can not allow you like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This has been indicated against the notice you have given.

[English]

This matter has already been raised by some other hon. Member."

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the matter which I want to raise is related to life and property. So, I may please be permitted to raise this issue. What ever has been said earlier has been said on different issue...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. This matter has already been raised by some other hon. Member. This cannot be allowed today.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I cannot violate the rules. I have not allowed you. You are going on shouting.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you don't allow me, I will sit on 'Dharna' in the House itself.

12.56 hrs.

*At this stage honourable Member Shri Rajesh Ranjan Alias Pappu Yadav came and sat on the floor near the Table.*

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN : The recent price rise of Urea by ten per cent is a serious matter. It came which the peasants are crying for reduction in fertiliser price. Subsidy allowed to fertilisers like Potash Phosphate is a farce because of the Urea price rise worth Rs. 715 crore a year. It will adversely affect agricultural production.

Almost all political parties demanded withdrawal of the recent price rise of Urea. In Kerala, the price of one bag of Urea was Rs. 170.15. Now it will be Rs. 187.58. With the huge crop damage and increase in production expenses, the peasants will be compelled to avoid the paddy crops. We have to remember that there was price rise for the fertilisers by 30 per cent in 1991 and, in 1992 it was doubled. In Kerala, the rice production is only one-third of the total yearly demand. It will be going down more. This is an irony that when a man who is proud as a farmer is ruling the country now, this anti-peasant move has come. I request the Government to withdraw the recent Urea price rise.

12.59 hrs.

*At this stage honourable Member Shri Rajesh Ranjan Alias Pappu Yadav went back to his seat.*

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PARDHAN (Khurja) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to bring to the attention of this House and Government the Narora Atomic Power Project located in my Parliamentary Constituency Khurja which generates electricity using atomic power. The condition of the oustees of this project is very miserable. I had raised this issue in the House during the last session also and at that time Mr. Speaker had ruled that this issue should be addressed at once and the problems should be solved. The Minister had then given me assurance that a committee would be set up which would include representative of the people. I would like to state that nothing has been done till now in this regard.

Sir the oustees of four to five villages from my area Narora are now leading a very miserable life. The life of the people of Bijova, Nai Basti, Bagipur etc. has become difficult. The people of these villages are living in low lying areas where water accumulates during the rainy season and living becomes not only difficult but impossible.

Sir, list time the hon. Minister had that their children would be given admission in school there. The members of their families would be attended in the hospitals situated there and treatment would be given to them. But neither are their children given admission in Projects schools nor are the sick family members in their houses are attended in Projects hospitals. In this way all the statements made by the hon. Minister have proved to be untrue. I want to draw your attention towards their critical condition and request you that their problems should be solved speedily and that a committee should

be set up there which will includes people's representatives...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this connection if the ruling given by hon. Speaker during the last session and the assurance given by the hon. Minister is fulfilled then this problem can be solved...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, It has all been mentioned in the agreement concluded at that time. It also includes that electricity will be provided within an area of 12 kms. but, nothing has been done inspite of Government order. It is my humble submission through you that their problems should be completely resolved.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise an urgent matter of Public importance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, those who shout are being heard if we are not given a chance to speak how can we raise important points...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, you sit down. You can not go on like this. You can not speak without permission.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What has gone wrong with the mood of the House today. I am not allowing you.

*(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

*[English]*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as you know, shipping is the lifeline for the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Islands are scattered from Port Blair, the Southern Island, the last Island, the Great Nicobar which is 350 nautical miles away. These Islands do suffer from lack of adequate inter-Island shipping services. For the last one year, the shipping services went from bad to worse and the people, particularly the tribal people living in those remote and isolated Islands, are suffering the most. Time and again, this matter was raised. I tried to draw the attention of the Government and the Minister of Surface Transport to take immediate action to provide inter-Island shipping services to those parts of the country but it was a futile attempt. That is why, once again, through you, I draw the attention of the Government as also the attention of all the Members, irrespective of party affiliations, to this issue and request the Government to kindly consider the plight of those people to have a link with Port Blair, the capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, then how can these people live? Even their marketing facilities, even the vegetables grown by the farmers, and even the essential commodities are all affected due to lack of inadequate inter-Island shipping services.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is busy talking with somebody, he has no time to hear this important issue raised by a Member coming from the Island Territory...*(Interruptions)*

I would, therefore, request him to kindly respond to this matter because it is not one individual person's issue but it is the issue of all the people living in that part. That is why, I request the Government that it should immediately provide one ship either on charter basis or a second-hand vessel should be purchased to provide immediate relief to the people living particularly in Great Nicobar Islands, in Kondul Islands, in Kamotra Islands, in Katchall Islands, in Chawra Islands, in Teresa Islands and in Car Nicobar Islands. I hope my appeal will not fall on deaf ears and the Government would do everything possible.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Gentlemen, I have to make one announcement. Listen to me first, please.

On the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, the reply of the hon. Prime Minister will be on Monday and not today, at 4 p.m.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me. I will request Mr. Jena to meet me in the chamber to explain the attitude of the members of his party.

*[English]*

I feel that this should not be repeated in future.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, as you know, the IDPL was a very prestigious Central Public Sector Undertaking. It was one of the largest pharmaceutical companies of the world. It used to supply almost all the necessary essential life-saving drugs and that also at a very cheap price. But over the years because of mismanagement and corruption, such a prestigious Central Public Sector Undertaking had become sick. Ultimately, the work-force was reduced from 14,000 to 7500. As asked by the BIFR, the IDBI has submitted a revival plan which is very much against the PSU itself as also the work-force. All the trade unions together have submitted an alternative revival package which will retain all the existing work-force as also make it profitable.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government not to accept the IDBI's proposed revival package but listen to the proposals of the employees, of all the trade unions about that alternative revival package so that this prestigious IDPL as also the people working in this prestigious public sector undertaking can be saved...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have no objection if he wants to say something.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Goel.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I would like to draw attention of the House towards the issue of security of the citizens. Two incidents of bomb blast took place in my area, i.e. Sadar Parliamentary Constituency...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : This is a very important issue...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (WB) The revival package is a must...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : The Minister is here. He should respond to this...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : We demand a statement from the hon. Minister...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : We want to know the response of the hon. Minister. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : In Delhi 15 incidents of bomb blast have taken place since September 1993 till date...(Interruptions) There was bomb blast in Lajpat Nagar, in a bomb blast in Paharh Ganj eight people were injured. In the bomb blast incident of Geeta Colony 4 persons were injured, in a bomb blast in Sadar Bazar on 3rd January...(Interruptions). I want to point out that the Intelligence Bureau had not given any forewarning even in a single case of bomb blast. Delhi Police gave no hint of any apprehension in any of these cases...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Goel. After that I will ask the Minister if he wants to say anything.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : What message will go to the nation if so much sense of insecurity prevails in Delhi, the capital of the country. In my constituency two bomb blasts took place, that too in the crowded area of Sabzi Mandi but the incidents were not reported to the Chief Minister...(Interruptions) I want that the Union Home Minister should make a statement in this regard. This is the sixteenth incident of bomb blast in Delhi which has jeopardized the security of denizens of Delhi. The Intelligence Bureau should be asked as to why no caution was issued by them even in a single case of bomb blast...(Interruptions) Sir, You please ask the Home Minister to make a statement in this regard...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you want to say anything?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : They have not been paid wages since January. What does the Minister want to do about it?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, two days ago some comrades of a Union had met me and given me a memorandum seeking to know as to how that unit could be revived. After obtaining complete information from the Department I would certainly appraise them of the latest position in this regard. They had met me in my office. I have my sympathies with them but you see the nation is passing through severe economic crisis. I am helpless in this matter, even then I am trying to find out as to what can be done in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet at 14.10 hours.

13.08 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.16 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Sixteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need to strengthen core sector for generation of Power**

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Even after five years of Liberalization of the economy the country could not make desired economic progress to lack of strong basic infrastructure mainly due to inadequate availability of power. The Government has made an arrangement of separate captive coal mines for the core sector to solve the problem of inadequate availability of power. Despite this the private entrepreneurs could not make any significant progress in this direction. It is, therefore, essential that the Government should strengthen this core sector instead of totally depending on private entrepreneurs. Allocating one mining block to various users is not the only solution. The private entrepreneurs will adopt latest technologies to maximise their production which in turn will reduce the employment opportunities. This apart, motivated by an urge to maximise their profit these private entrepreneurs will remain indifferent towards maintenance of mines, in the same way, as was seen prior to nationalisation of Coal mines. It would be better if the Government streamlines the coal mining operations and restructures the coal mines as it would attract the

private entrepreneurs to make capital investment on equal sharing basis. Though since inception the Coal India Ltd. has been catering to the needs of steel sector and also to the needs of the entire country, but it is earning profit only for the last five years and is not in a position to mobilise adequate funds to develop or restructure its mines to match the needs of the next decade.

The Central Government should therefore, streamline and restructure this core sector on the same pattern as has been followed in the case of captive coal mines of Tata.

**(ii) Need to review the declared support price of Copra**

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargoda) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Agriculture Minister and the Government of India towards the poor support price declared for copra. The coconut farmers are totally disappointed by this. As Kerala's economy is based on coconut price, ups and downs in coconut price would also affect the economy of the State. There is no representation in the Central Agricultural Evaluation Commission from Kerala. The Government of Kerala had convinced the Centre about the increase in copra price. It is a just demand to evolve a separate fund for agricultural damage from natural calamities. The Government of Kerala has demanded to include all crops in the agriculture insurance scheme and to exempt small and marginal farmers from paying premium. It is true that the coconut production in Kerala is declining because of various diseases. Till date, the Government has not succeeded in providing effective preventive measures. There must be a comprehensive project to remove ill and old trees and plant new hybrid varieties.

I request the Union Agriculture Minister to reconsider the declared support price for copra.

**(iii) Need to Protect the interests of Sugar cane growers particularly in U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : There is wide spread resentment and confusion amongst the sugar cane growers of Uttar Pradesh as a result of quashing of the orders of the U.P. Government by Allahabad High Court on fixation of sugar cane prices and non-payment of increased sugar cane prices by the sugar mill owners. A huge sum of Rs. 250 crore is still outstanding for payment to the farmers. Whereas as per the UP Sugar cane Purchase Act and rules thereunder, making payment of price for sugar cane within fifteen days procurement is mandatory and in case the payment is not made within the stipulated period, then an interest of 12.5 per cent would have to be paid on it. But this rule has never been followed strictly as a result of which the condition of sugar cane growers have become even more miserable.

Out of 118 sugar mills in the state crushing is going on only in 115 mills. The Central Government sugar mills at Gauri Bazar and Anand Nagar have been closed down as a result of which the sugar cane crop is decaying in the fields. As a result of closure of mills at Anand Nagar, the condition of sugar cane growers of Maharajganj and Siddhartha Nagar has become very miserable because sugar cane is the only cash crop growth by the farmers of this area.

It is, therefore requested that the Government should ensure the payment of the same price for sugar cane as was fixed by the U.P. Government. Arrangements should be made for sale of sugar cane of the farmers of Siddhartha Nagar and Maharaj ganj who are affiliated with Anand Nagar Mill. These two mills of the Central Government should be revived up at the earliest and immediate steps should be taken to ensure remunerative price to sugar cane growers.

**(iv) Need to waive off outstanding Special Term Loan against Punjab**

[English]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Special Term Loan of more than Rs. 5500 crore is outstanding against the Punjab Government. This amount has accumulated over the years when the State Government was handling the problem of militancy which was a national problem. The Punjab Government is not in a position to make payment of this huge loan. It is requested that the Central Government should waive off this loan.

Last year also, a delegation of the Punjab MPs had met the Prime Minister on this behalf and he had assured of a favourable consideration in the matter.

The former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao had declared the waiver of the loan when he visited Punjab in 1995 but no action was taken thereafter. I, therefore, request the Union Government to waive off the outstanding loan of the Punjab State for the overall development.

**(v) Need to set up a new Railway Zone In Bilaspur District, Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE (Bilaspur) : The people from various political parties, ordinary citizens and members of Yuva Sangharsh Samitee of district Bilaspur of Madhya Pradesh have been agitating and going on hunger strike for the past 158 days. There is great resentment among the people of that areas against the Government over this issue and the situation can be explosive. Last year such agitations the Bilaspur Railway Station in Madhya Pradesh was set on fire and railway property worth Rs. 300 crore was damaged.

I, therefore, urge the Government to give sanction for setting up a new Railway Zone in Bilaspur district.

**(vi) Need to set up a unit of Institute of Fashion Technology at Bellary, Karnataka**

[English]

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH (Bellary) : Sir, Bellary in Karnataka State has earned a name in foreign countries for its jeans garments. The jeans pants and other garments stitched in Bellary are being exported to Dubai, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and to other countries. About 20-30 crores of business are being carried on every month in Bellary. There is no facilities for the jeans manufacturers at Bellary. They should be provided with the latest fashion technology and other inputs.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Textiles to set up a unit of the Institute of Fashion Technology at Bellary to boost export of jeans garments.

**(vii) Need to include Beta Community of Orissa in the List of Scheduled Caste**

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : A large number of people belonging to Beta community are living in Athamalik belt in Angul district of Orissa. The people of Beta community are very poor, backward and economically weaker section of the society. They have not matrimonial alliance as well as relations with Scheduled Caste (sub caste Hadi) community residing in Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Phulabani, Cuttack, Balasore and other districts of Orissa. Their main profession is to make baskets and other materials from bamboo.

The Beta community has appealed to the State Government of Orissa for their inclusion as Scheduled Caste. The State Government of Orissa has strongly recommended their case to the Central Government for their early inclusion in the list of Scheduled Caste.

As the case of Beta community is genuine and the matter is pending since long, it is urgently necessary on the part of the Central Government to consider their demand. As such, I demand that Beta community living in Athamalik belt of Orissa be included in the Scheduled Caste list without any further delay.

**(viii) Need to Ensure Payment of dues to Sugar cane growers in U.P. particularly in Bulandshahar District**

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the sugarcane growers of Bulandshahar in Uttar Pradesh are not getting payment of their outstanding dues from the sugar mills and as a result of this the farmers are facing lot of hardships. Rs. 9.50 crore is outstanding against Ajanta Sugar Mill but the State Government is neither paying attention towards this matter nor any action is being taken against the defaulting sugar mills as a result of which there is great resentment among the farmers. In spite of Prime Minister's assurance payment of outstanding dues is not being made to the farmers.

Therefore, I urge the Central Government to issue instruction to ensure payment of outstanding dues to the sugarcane growers of U.P., particularly of Bulandshahar district as early as possible.

14.30 hrs.

**MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—Contd.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we take up the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

I would like to tell that the time allotted for this discussion was nine hours. Nine hours and fifty two minutes have already been taken.

[Translation]

Still some parties are there to speak. The other speaker have taken more time, therefore now I am calling those who have yet to speak...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to me first.  
(Interruptions)

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Reply is not going to be given today. So, we have plenty of time and we should also be allowed...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : From our party, nobody has spoken so far...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your name is already there in the list. I hope, you are satisfied.

I am saying that I am calling those members whose turn has not come I will see to that later.

[English]

Shri Ramanathan may please continue his speech...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Sir, you please allot five minutes to each to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allot time to every-one to speak. Now Shri Ramanathan.

[Translation]

\*SHRI M. RAMANATHAN (Coimbatore) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, today we have taken up the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address. As I rise to support the motion I wish to thank you for providing me with an opportunity to speak

\* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri M. Ramanathan]

and share my views on behalf of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. Our country India won its freedom in 1947. After fifty years of independence, at the historic moment when we are celebrating the golden Jubilee of our independence, we find a great change in our political system. In the last general elections, people gave a district verdict and as a result of which we have a coalition Government at the Centre consisting of about 14 parties. United Front Government led by Hon'ble Shri H.D. Deve Gowda has assumed office at the Centre. At a time when United Front Government's policy statements are pronounced through the President of India, I have been given an opportunity to welcome and support the Motion of Thanks to the President. I am proud and happy to have this honour.

What we witness today is an important phase in our political life. After a gap of about 50 years the mandate of the masses of India is very clear and they no longer favour a single party Government at the Centre. They have put an end to it. Instead the people of India have favoured a multi party Government, a federation of several regional and smaller parties. People have decided in favour of the coming together of several State-level parties to get united under a common minimum programme and form a United Front Government. I would like to point out today in this august forum that the verdict of the people in favour of a multi-party Government augurs well for ushering in a federal set up in the near future. I wish to emphasize that an era of federation is unfolding and I want this House to take note of it.

India is a vast country with a wide diversity. There are several languages, national races, castes and creeds. Plural culture with several forms of arts pervade the length and breadth of this country. Several cultural entities co-exist here. I would like to remind this House that there are several kinds of people with different life style and tradition. Ours is a very big country with a population of about 100 crores of people living in the vast stretch between Kashmir and Kanyakumari. Its vastness itself would emphasize the need to preserve the unity and integrity of the country through secularism. We must bear this in our minds with an utmost sense of responsibility. If we do not follow secularism, narrow mindedness could dismember the country. I would like to place this as a word of caution. We cannot afford to forget this, we must free ourselves from the clutches of religious fundamentalism. The basic objective of this United Front Government will be to secure and safeguard the unity and integrity of this vast country with ethnic multiplicity. This sole aim and objective alone must prevail and this is our foremost duty. We have heard and read about many countries of the world. I would like to point out to this House that we refer to America as United States of America. We do not call it 'All America'. Likewise China is never referred to as 'All China'. For that reason Japan is not 'All Japan'. Britain is not 'All Britain' but it is United Kingdom. Only when we refer to India we use the expression 'All India'. Why? Why do we call it that way? Great ancient kingdom

like Vangam, Kalingam, Koorjaram were there in the vast stretches of this great land between the Himalayas and the Cape Coumarin. If we are to put it in the words of great poet Rabindra Nath Tagore whose song we have adopted as our National Anthem, "Punjaba Sindhu Gujaratha Maratha, Dravida Utkala Vanga" are there. This country is comprised of Punjab, Sindh, Gujarat, Maratha, Kannadam, Telugu, Malayalam, etc. It is only the Britishers who came to trade with India through the East India Company, evolved this united country. We cannot forget this historical fact easily and it is a reality. India did not remain as one country. It was a country that was made to be one. It was not there before. It was made one thereafter. If we are to preserve the unity and integrity of this country, this 'All India', secularism alone can bind us all together. We can ensure stability only through the principles of secularism. I would like to lay stress on this point at this juncture and I wish all of us to keep this in mind with the utmost sense of responsibility.

Deputy Speaker Sir, we have been raising slogans like 'Garibi Hatao' to alleviate poverty. We have been chalking out several schemes, plans and programmes all these years. We have heard of all kinds of socialism, right from Avadi socialism to Democratic socialism. I may be a new member to this House. But I was a member of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for six years from 1970 to 1976. I was also a two time member of the legislative council. The point I would like to highlight is the fact that members like me from the DMK are keeping abreast of the current affairs and political developments. But I seek to express myself only now. Let me come to it.

I find in this policy statement made by the President of India an action plan to alleviate poverty. It is taking shape under the aegis of this United Front Government. Rs. 8000 crores has been allocated as food subsidy to benefit the poorest of the poor to get at least one meal a day. There are about 32 crores of people who live below poverty line and they find it difficult to get even one meal a day. I would like to thank our Prime Minister for giving shape to this arrangement and for having it pronounced through the President in his address.

Likewise, 'Right to work' - employment opportunity to all is addressed to. This is our goal and we want to reach that target. When our principle and policy remain the same, we also focus our attention to provide jobs to lakhs of educated unemployed youth found all over the country. Their number would run to several millions. I would like to thank this United Front Government for coming out with a scheme to meet the needs of the educated unemployed youth. I would like the Government to take note of the plight of the large number of the unskilled labour force in this country. Those who can do nothing but manual labour mostly in the unorganised sector are there. Their problems should also be attended to. In a vast country like India, we find crores of skilled labour. I wish the United Front Government to evolve a comprehensive plan to make use of their services productively. I want to put it emphatically.

I would next come to the principle of federalism. This is one of the basic objectives of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. We say 'Autonomy to States; Federal set up at the Centre'. More power to the State Governments to ensure a strong Federal Government at the Centre. Our late lamented leader Anna advocated State autonomy and convened an All India Conference. We are proud of that. I would like to bring to your notice that our leader and the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu takes the message of State autonomy to all the States of this country from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. He gives voice to the concern born of needs as felt in all the States. He is making ceaseless efforts to get this message across. He continues to strive treading the path our leader Anna. It is heartening to note that our Prime Minister convenes the meetings of the Chief Ministers frequently. He gets the view points of the Chief Ministers in the forums like National Development Council. I fervently hope that the Sarkaria Commission recommendations on Centre-State relations will take a positive shape through this inter active role of the Centre. I also hope that more powers would be given to the States. I feel the President's Address indicates the approach of the Union Government.

Deputy Speaker Sir, DMK has got its own identity and cherished ideals. Likewise all the constituent parties of this United Front Government have got their own individualities, ideals and aspirations. We hail from the tradition of the Dravidian Movement. We come from the great Thanthari Periyar who served the masses till he was 96 to bring about a casteless and creedless society. DMK was founded by our leader Anna who was a member of the other House of this Parliament. We have in our leader, Dr. Kalaignar a true heir to Anna. He rules Tamil Nadu now as a fourth time Chief Minister. We are the followers of Anna and now Kalaignar. We take to the masses ideals, cherished philosophies and principles of DMK to bring about an egalitarian society ensuring equality and equality with social justice.

DMK's fundamental and foremost aim and objective is to establish a casteless, creedless society; ushering in a free society with equality where there is no unequal classes clashing with each other; there will not be any trace of imperialistic or feudalistic tendencies; uplifting the downtrodden and the backward classes of the society ensuring social justice; protecting the rights of the minorities; providing rights to women and establishing gender equality; taking up the cause of women's rights: striving to obtain official language status to our ancient, classic and living language Tamil in the Government of India; getting due recognition to our cherished language Tamil which is rich and profound with a long history and vast literature.

Great poet Bharathi Dasan said,

"Let the conch shells proclaim  
That Tamil is our life sublime,  
Our prosperity and our lifeline."

We hail from a glorious tradition. So we stand for State autonomy and a federal Centre.

I feel that President's Address gives expression to our cherished ideas.

Deputy Speaker Sir, this is my maiden speech in this House. I may be allowed to continue for few more minutes.

All of us talk about women's rights. Almost all the lady members, our sisters speak of it. They are asking us as to when will they get one third reservation in all the legislative bodies. I would like to state here that Tamil Nadu is the forerunner in enacting a law to provide property rights to women equal to that of men. It was our leader Dr. Kalaignar who is the present Chief Minister who enacted this welcome social law. I am proud to bring it to the notice of this House. So we have a long tradition of upholding women's rights. As part of the United Front, we will not shy away from providing reservation to women in Legislative Assemblies and Parliament. DMK will be supportive of this move to accord equal status to women. Mothers and sisters, lady colleagues who are in this House must note. Our ancient scriptures provide for various kinds of alms called Dhanam. Various Dhanams like Dhanam of cows, food, dress, gold, flowers, nine kinds of grains are there. There is also a Dhanam called 'Kannika Dhanam'. Unmarried women are treated like a material given away as alms. Women are considered to be commodities gifted away. Our Vedas refer to this and it is very much in our Shastras. I would like to ask those who uphold Shastras in the line of Rig, Yajur, Sama and Adharvana Vedas. Do you consider women are commodities to be distributed at will. Women are not to be treated like animals. They are neither sheep nor cows. Women are our mothers and sisters. That is why I would like to appeal to my colleagues in this House whether we should perpetuate this system of Kannika Dhanam.

Deputy Speaker Sir, Thank you. I would like to appeal to all the right thinking people, scholars, well educated men and the champions of women's cause to give thought to this. We must change the condition of women without which how can we give protection to women and how can we accord them equal status.

It is after a long struggle for 18 years from 1812 to 1929. Raja Ram Mohan Roy could convince Britishers to abolish Sati. Even after that victory of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, to give security to women, Sati continues and Roop Kanwars are celebrated even today. I would like to ask you a question, whether we are really a freed society. Are we free from this social evil? Roop Kanwars are still burnt in the pyres of their husbands.

I would like to refer to untouchability. Even seeing a low caste man is considered a sin in some places among some men. This I would like to call unseeability. A down trodden man cannot go near an upper caste man. Unapproachability is also there. Can we allow this untouchability to continue?

The great Tamil saint poet Thiruvalluvar who wrote 1330 couplets said, "All of us are equal by birth and it is only our occupation and deeds that can be judged and make us different from one another."

[Shri M. Ramanathan]

All of us are born of our mothers equally ten months after we were conceived. Nobody is there who was in his mother's womb for thirty months. So how can there be a difference like high born and low born. With utmost sense of responsibility and social concern we must ask ourselves this question.

I would like to remind you of an incident. Late Sampoorananda was a great leader of Uttar Pradesh. He was a Chief Minister of that State. His statue was unveiled in the seventies. Late Jagjivan Ram who was a Minister in the Cabinet of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru unveiled the statue of Sampoorananda. We have heard of that unpleasant things that followed the unveiling of Sampoorananda's statue in Uttar Pradesh. We have read from the newspapers with dismay and disbelief. Jagjivan Ram was fondly called as 'Babuji'. Just because Babuji unveiled the statue of Sampoorananda, some people went to the venue of the statue the next day and washed it with the Ganga water. They said it was like cleansing to bring in sanctity. Can we lift our head instead we can only hang it in shame. How can we face the world and claim that we have put an end to untouchability? I wish to raise a question in this House as to whether we are clear and clean in our hearts.

I wish to state one more thing. I have spent about 6 years in prison for political reasons in my public life. I have opposed the imposition of Hindi and the imperialistic motif behind it. I would like to make it very clear in this House. I do not hate Hindi language or the people who speak Hindi or those who have Hindi as their mother tongue. We do not hate that language or those people but we oppose the advocacy of Hindi, the imposition of Hindi. If you think everything should be carried out only through Hindi then you may not have this united India as one India for every. If you want India then you should shed the thought that Hindi alone must rule. You must give up that notion that everything can be carried out through Hindi and Hindi alone can do that. We know about article 343. We know the history of that enactment. I am not going into its detail for want of time.

Many may feel like asking me as to where is the imposition. I would like to give an example. There are Central Government offices in Tamil Nadu and most of them are in Chennai. I happened to see the name board of an office. It has been written as 'Videsh Sanchar Bhawan'. It is alright if it is written so in Hindi. But in English also the same is written which in fact is its transliteration but not the translation. We do not get to know the meaning which may enable us to know as to what is the function that takes place in that office. We cannot get the meaning in Tamil, our mother tongue also. Though the name of the office is written in Tamil it is only the transliteration of 'Videsh Sanchar Bhawan'. You could have written it as 'Overseas Communication Centre' or 'Overseas Communication Corporation'. Why should you deprive us from knowing about that Central Government office and its function. Is it not Hindi imposition? We do not object to your having it written

in Hindi. But why don't you give its Tamil and English equivalent. I express the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu in this august forum. I wish the Government and its officials take note of it. I would like to know about the attitude of the ministries and officials. I ask of you this with great concern. Let me cite another example.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How many papers are there in your hands?

SHRI M. RAMANATHAN : This House must know this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI M. RAMANATHAN : The Tamil version of the preamble of the Constitution of India was sent to Tamil Nadu. 'Sovereign Democratic Republic' can be meaningfully translated into Tamil. Equivalent words are there in the Tamil language which is ancient & rich. But what have they provided as its translation? "Sampoorna Sampanna Prabhuthuva Loka Thanthramaka Gana Rajya". It is not Tamil translation but Tamil transliteration of the Hindi translation. Is it what you call Tamil translation? Is it Tamil?

Let me conclude now. Just before that I appeal to you. This includes the Chair too. In Tamil Nadu, we had enacted a law to enable all Hindus irrespective of caste to become temple priests. We had sent it to Delhi to get Presidential assent, citing Ahama shastras, Brahmins have prevailed upon it. They said that non-Brahmins will not have access to Karuvarai (Karpa Griha), Artha Mandapam (worship hall), Maha Mandapam (place for rassembly). Due to this that law is yet to see the light of the day. I appeal to this House that we must pass that law again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude. Leave some points for your other friends.

SHRI M. RAMANATHAN : Sir, let me conclude with this. There are people raising questions as to how long this Government will last? Whether it is for a day or 10 days or 10 months, this United Government will do whatever it can do to safeguard the rights of the minorities, downtrodden and the poorest of the poor. This Government will strive to uplift the millions of poor who live below poverty line. DMK is a party which accepted late Jaya Prakash Narain. During emergency when all leaders alongwith Jaya Prakash Narain were in jail, DMK Government was the only Government that convened the Legislative Assembly to pass a resolution seeking to revoke emergency and to release all the political leaders and to restore the freedom of the press. The leader who took that bold step was none other than our leader and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaignar. Sharing that concern for preserving the democracy in this country, I wish to point out that the President's Address elucidate these sentiments. While concluding, I welcome and support the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to the Parliament.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for the

opportunity given to me to express our views on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address. On behalf of my party (RSP) I rise to extend my support to the Motion of Thanks proposed by our hon. friend Shri Sharad Yadav.

I have the highest regards for the President and I do appreciate his Address given before both the Houses. While appreciating the Address given by the President, I have some reservations also which I will explain in my speech.

We have come to judge the three areas of top priority to be taken care of by the United Front. It was announced by the United Front that there are three areas of top priority to be taken care of in the interests of the people of India. These three areas are : (1) cleanliness in high offices, (2) restructuring Centre-State relations, and (3) the economic promises of the Common Minimum Programme.

The success or failure of the Government can be judged only in respect of these three areas of top priority as announced by the United Front at the time of assuming power. This Government has assumed power just eight months back and this short tenure of eight months is too little to critically estimate the achievements or failure of the Government. Only the motives of the Government, the mode and principles of planning of the Government can be judged, and can be critically estimated.

It is also a fact that this Government has assumed the power only to pay respects for the unusual complex mandate of the people. And the mandate of the people was to just form a coalition Government and to form a secular Government on the basis of social justice and equity. So, the judgement should and can easily be estimated by seeing the performance of the Government in this respect alone.

Secularism and federalism are the two key words of this Government. So far as I can understand from their promises, secularism and federalism are the two key words on which this Government stands. We can judge it when we see that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have come, without any fear, to cast their votes according to their own choice. There was a secessionist force and they are now taking part in the political process of the whole India.

Holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir is a good sign of federalism. We have seen that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have come forward to take part in the political process of the Indian mainstream. The bright beautiful and people and young men of Jammu and Kashmir were entirely misguided during the last decade. Today, we see that they are coming forward to take part in the political process and in the developmental process of the State and they are taking part in the various developmental activities of the State. This is the one good side of the coin.

There is also another side of the coin. We see that the stability is being established in the economic field of Jammu and Kashmir or in the political and social

fields of Jammu and Kashmir. But the stability in Jammu and Kashmir or its attempt to restore the stability in Jammu and Kashmir does not imply the satisfactory stability in the case of North-Eastern States of India.

If you look at the serious conditions and subversive activities going on in the entire North-Eastern Region, you will be puzzled. There are subversive activities; there are foreign mercenaries; there are the ISI activities. There are some people in North-Eastern States who think that they are not the citizens of India. They are always trying to get themselves alienated from the mainstream of the Indian society and that is the reason why subversive activities are also going on. The North-Eastern States are in such a horrible state in the social field.

We have just seen that the Prime Minister has made an announcement for the restoration of normalcy in this State in the economic and social fields. He has already announced a revival package to the tune of Rs. 9000 crore for the restoration of economic and social life of the North-Eastern States. More things are necessary for this purpose.

Economy is the backbone of a particular area and for the people living in a particular area. That economic backbone has been broken down and the whole situation stands on the break down of the economic situation. The reason behind the subversive activities and the reason behind the secessionism in the North-Eastern Region is only the frustration of the people in the economic life. So, a simple announcement cannot solve this problem. Let us hope for the best that they are brought back to restore the economic life; to rejuvenate the economic life and to restore the political process of this area.

Economic frustration has not been touched by the President's Address. It is very painful that there is poverty; there is hunger; there is unemployment; but there is no positive attempt on the part of the Government to solve these basic problems.

15.00 hrs.

We can see that the Employment Assurance Scheme is being implemented in different districts of the country. But this Employment Assurance Scheme is not enough. It cannot solve the problems of unemployment of educated youth. It is the agro-industry which can only solve this problem. There is a good attempt made for the continuation of agro-industries. Our country is based on agriculture but agro industry is not possible unless the scientific way of land reforms is made therein. Land reforms is a State Subject. There is no positive attempt on the part of the Central Government to ensure that land reforms are done in a scientific process, in a modern way, and within a target period. This is the basic problem.

We have heard many things from our Government and from the hon. Finance Minister that foreign investment is coming, and multinational corporations who are coming will solve the basic problems. I want to know from the Government where is the foreign investment. So far as foreign investment is concerned,

[Shri Pramothas Mukherjee]

it has been recorded in the table that there is a foreign investment but more than 60 per cent of the foreign investment had been intended to be employed in the heavy industries. But the heavy industries in India cannot solve the problem of unemployment. It is only the agro-industries and the small scale industries which can solve the basic problem of unemployment in the rural areas of our country. But there is no effort made in this direction. What else can we do with the help of foreign investment which has not been utilised for infrastructure building but which has been utilised only for the heavy industries? What else can we do with the help of multinational corporations? The heavy industries cannot solve our basic problems. So, the whole country tends to be bankrupt in economy. This bankruptcy in the economic life of the country is leading to the failure of the foreign policy of this Government. I may seek your permission to remind India's defeat in the election to the non-permanent seat in the Security Council. India's defeat against Japan indicates the failure of diplomacy and foreign policy of the Government of India.

15.03 hrs.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR *in the Chair*]

We have a heritage that we took the leadership of the Non-aligned Movement. There is a heritage of Nehru, Nasser and Tito. So, who took the lead? India took the lead. We took the leadership. But, today, it indicates that we have lost our credibility. We have lost our prestige. We have lost our leadership. In the election to a non-permanent seat in the Security Council against Japan, India could not secure the votes of the Non-aligned countries. All the non-aligned countries did not come forward to cast their votes in favour of India although at one time, we took the leadership of the Non-aligned Movement. Today the scenario of the world has been changed. The whole world was a bipolar world. But, today, the whole world has become a unipolar world. We know the evils of transition from bipolar world to unipolar world. This unipolar world is governed by the Euro-American imperialist forces. We know all these things. But till today, there is a historical necessity of the Non-aligned Movement. India could take up the leadership of this Non-aligned Movement but India could not attract non-aligned countries to cast their votes in favour of India. This is the failure of the Government of India in respect of its diplomacy and foreign policy.

Sir, I have heard from the Ministry of External Affairs that Pakistan had influenced a good number of countries. The countries that were influenced by Pakistan did not cast their votes in favour of India. What does it indicate? Our Government had absolutely failed to the diplomacy of Pakistan. Pakistan could not do anything at the time of Pandit Nehru or for that matter even at the time of Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

Why today we have to kiss the failure because of Pakistan? We cannot do that. It was not expected to be

done. You would be astonished and we were astonished when we heard that though Russia had cast its vote in favour of India, France cast its vote in favour of India, Cuba, Egypt and Iran had also cast their votes in favour of India, yet India could not secure votes from the Non-aligned countries for opposition from Pakistan. It is astonishing that India could not utilise its friendship with Russia, France, Cuba, Egypt and Iran. This is the failure of the diplomacy and the foreign policy of the Government of India. there is no mention of this failure in the President's Address. That is why, though we appreciate it and we have the highest regard for the President, we cannot absolutely support the President's Address. We give our support with some reservation.

Lastly, I have something to say on the Non-Aligned Movement. India even today can take the leadership of the Non-Aligned Movement. That Movement has been carried on with some historical importance in spite of the division of the world. Today, the Third World countries, the hungry generations, the unemployed youth and the innumerable suffering people are fighting against Euro-American Imperialism. India today can take the leadership of those hungry people of the Third World countries to fight against imperialistic forces.

Sir, we welcome the recently concluded Ganga Water Sharing Treaty between Bangladesh and India. We also appreciate the efforts of the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu for having played a significant role in the making of this Agreement. But Sir, with a broken heart, I beg to remind here that this area, that is, Farraka, Malda, Murshidabad, the territorial districts of West Bengal have suffered on account of recurrence of floods.

Hon. Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Dewe Gowda had visited this area and he announced that something positive would be done for the people in order to rescue them from the recurrence of floods. But no positive action has been taken so far. This cannot be accepted as a good gesture on the part of a democratic and sovereign Government. Commitment to the people must be fulfilled within a reasonable period.

Sir, anti-erosion schemes in the interest of people of these territorial districts should be adopted immediately. This is my suggestion. I would like to say something about safe drinking water and education. I have been given to understand that you have also spoken on that. Safe drinking water should be supplied to the people in rural areas. Free and compulsory education upto the age of 14 years be given to every one. It was the commitment of the Constitution makers and this should be immediately fulfilled. Otherwise, the country cannot progress.

Progress and sovereignty depend upon the good wishes and sincere efforts of the Government. We expect that Government will cooperate and will go forward in this direction. With these few words, I conclude my speech giving our support to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : I rise to oppose this matter. I will concentrate my speech on the Kashmir issue. Hon'ble President has said in his address that

[English]

"The successful conduct of Assembly elections and the installation of a popular Government in Jammu and Kashmir have been major steps in the process of restoration of normalcy."

[Translation]

Hon'ble President has said that after elections complete normalcy has been restored in Jammu and Kashmir. Today Farookh Abdullah had to attend a meeting in Doda, however two bomb blasts took place there yesterday wherein nine ladies were injured. I apprehend that someone of them might have succumbed to injuries by now. In Doda district itself one bomb blast took place at Kishtwar in which our one youngman lost his life.

I would like to place some figures before you. During the post election period 141 young men were killed in the month of August, 103 were killed in September, 88 in October, 89 in November, 116 in December, 90 in January and 49 as on 15.2.97. Now you can assess as to how much normalcy has been restored there so far. My colleagues could not venture to contest the elections there. The same Farookh Abdullah and his party, who had once boycotted the Parliamentary elections, has been voted to power by the people with two third majority. Among those all who have emerged victorious in election, not even a single MLA ventured to visit his constituency for thanks giving to voters. You claim that you have restored normalcy there. About 30 thousand people were killed in the state during the last 18 years. Four hundred people have been rendered destitute. I have a 'Hindustan Times' report with me which suggests that earlier only Pandits were forced to seek exodus but as on date more than 600 muslim families have been ousted from the state. 600 families have come down to Jammu from Kashmir. Just because they had cast their votes, bombs were hurled at their homes. They are being shot, modesty of their daughters and daughters-in-law is being outraged. They are ultimately deserting their ancestral property and migrating to Jammu.

I want to tell you that the spree of violence which we have witnessed there during the last eight years, have rendered four lakh people destitutes, about five thousand school and college buildings were torched and two thousand bridges were blown out. We have to deploy two lakh military personnel to ensure safety of Amarnath bound pilgrims. Modesty of a number of women were outraged, a number of children were rendered orphans, number of aged parents were rendered helpless as their sons and daughters had been killed. There is no end to the list of such persons. It is a long story. It was necessary that after installation

of the new Government, it should have come forward with a blue print on the strategy to combat the problems which have cropped up due to insurgency. The whole country would have supported them, but what happened. The first thing that Farookh Abdullah's Government demanded was autonomy. They set up a committee for autonomy. One committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. Karan Singh and another under the chairmanship of an agent of foreign countries. Nobody is demanding autonomy. No militant organisation is asking for autonomy. None of those who have taken up arms ever made a mention of autonomy but he is asserting his claim for autonomy. Our Prime Minister and Home Minister also say that J & K would be given greater autonomy. How much autonomy the Government want to give to the J & K state. Today the laws being passed in the Parliament are not being enforced on J & K. If one wants to purchase a 10 yard patch of land in the state, that is not allowed there. Our youth from Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Assam and Bihar can shed their blood, lay their life there on the border but they are not allowed to purchase a small patch of land there. Panchayati Raj has been introduced throughout the country but in J & K they are running this institution in their own way. We have already accorded such a status to Kashmir that we are bound to pay early for it. Even then today we are talking of giving greater autonomy to Kashmir. Instead of resolving the problems and complexities which have cropped up there as a result of insurgency and proxy war launched by Pakistan, we have started making fictitious announcements. Every third day Dr. Abdullah comes out with a statement. On the one hand our Parliament has passed resolution and both the Houses have taken solemn pledge to annexe Pak occupied Kashmir on the other hand Farookh Abdullah suggests us that we should treat the Actual line of control as our boundary. I fail to understand whether there is any Government at the centre or not. A Chief Minister of such a small state is giving dictates to the country. Yesterday in Mumbai, in reply to a query he admitted having said that and had further asked for any other better solution.

Our country taught a good lesson to Pakistan in 1971 war. About 93,000 Pakistani soldiers were made prisoners by us and one third of Pakistani Territory had been seized by us. But see the irony of our fate that whose policies have led the country to face all this, at their instance, we returned their soldiers and their land and also offered our Chhamb sector to them. I would like to know as to who has made this Chief Minister a Super Prime Minister? What kind of speeches he is making? I want to warn the nation through this house that this conspiracy is going on since 1947. America and its allies are in a bid some how or other to create disturbances of long continuance in Jammu and Kashmir. Recently Mr. Wisner had visited J & K and made a speech there! As I have already said, when an ambassador visits a foreign country, his tour programme is dully chalked out by Home Ministry of the host country. But how strange that the American Ambassador called on our General and had talks with our army personnel. How do we allow all this. Name out any nation which

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allows a foreign ambassador to meet any General of its army. But it is happening so in India. A well hatched conspiracy is being carried out by America whereunder support is being extended to Taliban Forces. America and ISI are determined to disintegrate Kashmir from India and some of our own people are also in league with them.

Yesterday, he made the point. First, the Kashmiri Pandits had migrated from there and it is not their job to facilitate their return to the State. They should return on their own and in case they failed to return their services would be terminated. What an irony that on the one hand you have failed to protect their lives, and honour of their women folk, on the other hand if somehow they have managed to flee from there, now you are asking them to return on their own. Now a days the Muslim families are also perhaps seeking exodus from there on their own.

I want to say that such irresponsible statements are detrimental to the interests of the nation. We should try to see that the Chief Minister does not make such statements. We should persuade him not to make such statements. Recently the Prime Minister announced packages and allocation of funds for the State. It is a good thing. The State is in need of such packages and funds as it has suffered a lot. Besides it is our duty to take care of it. But earlier whatever funds used to be released to the State were going in the coffers of militants. Even now our Government does not have any authority there, rather than militants are exercising their authority there. They can call a strike or close down the Secretariat there whenever they desire so. After the sunset: D.C. takes instructions from the leaders of militants. In view of such a state of affairs prevalent there a monitoring Committee should be formed to ensure that the public funds allocated for the development of Kashmir are not being deviated. This is all the more needed considering that 32 crore people in this country are living below the poverty line who can't afford even two square meals a day. This is not the first package. Earlier also many packages have been announced. According to the State Government and General Krishna Rao, one lakh crore rupees have already been given to the State. Besides that we have fought three wars against Pakistan in 1947, 1965 and 1971. Now the fourth war is being fought. Despite all this the streets of the state are lighted on the 14th August but black out creeps in on the 15th August. When our soldiers pass through the streets, they say "see, the Indian dogs are going." It is a sorrowful tale that I am narrating to you. We should try to see that the money released to the State is spent on the development of the nation.

Just now it was told that the Government has taken up the barbed fencing of the border there. Arms are being received there from Pakistan and militants are going across the border for training and returning to the State. All these activities are going on. Ultimately the Government thought that if barbed fencing is done there, as was done in Punjab, we might succeed in checking

such movements across the border. In reply to my Question No. 557 regarding the progress made so far in barbed wire fencing of the border there it was replied that.

[English]

"The scheme for financing floodlighting of the international border in the Jammu sector was sanctioned on the 28th March, 1995 and an expenditure of Rs. 17.22 crore was incurred. But the work had to be stopped in July, 1995 due to heavy firing from Pakistan side."

[Translation]

Now tell me how reasonable it sounds that after already having incurred an expenditure of approximately 17.50 crore we abandoned the work of border fencing. This happened two years ago, i.e. in 1995. During the intervening period of two years people pilfered the whole material. This is how Rs. 17 crore were wasted just because fire was opened from Pakistani side. Where stands Pakistan if compared with us! What a shame that a tiny country like Pakistan succeeded in compelling our country of 95 crore people to stop this work. After these incidents of bomb blasts in Doda and Kashmir valley in the aftermath of elections the security forces have ceased their operations there. They say the Government should declare Doda as a disturbed area, and their hands should be strengthened, otherwise they would not carry on their operations there.

The Afghans and Sudanese staying here have not come here on an excursion. They carry guns with them. What alternative has been left for silencing their guns. If the hands of security forces are tied and you do not allow them to operate on their own, how insurgency can be checked there. Therefore, I request you to let them do their job. I had an opportunity to meet our army personnel there. They told me that if the Central Government directs us to stop this work then what can we do. I asked them who refrains you from retaliatory firing in case they open fire against you. In reply they told me that they were of course asked to refrain from firing. That is why I say that we should formulate a clear cut policy in this regard. This money belongs to the nation. Therefore, we must be very considerate while deciding as to how this should be spent.

We have failed so far in restoring normalcy in Kashmir for a distinct reason. A popular Government has been installed there which is something commendable indeed. It is better that elections have been held there. But after elections...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : You had said that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : I have just given an indication. I would not like to go into its detail further. However, I had put a question that the person who could not dare to contest the election just two months back, won the election by two-third majority after two months. This should be analysed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please make your point why are you replying to his points when he is speaking while sitting in his seat.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : No, now you are deviating from your point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please tell about it when you are given a chance to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can make your point after him. Chaman Lalji several other Members from your party also want to speak on it.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : I would make my points in brief. I would like to say that even today the situation there is quite grave. This resolution says that Kashmir is an integral part of India and it will remain so. Such an environment should be created there so that no power of the world could disintegrate it. But since 1947, we have not formulated any effective policy on Kashmir. Our approach has not been positive about Kashmir and we continued to target one family or the other and the outcome is before us. At one time Sheikh Abdullah was arrested and imprisoned. At another time, Bakshi Saheb was arrested and sent to jail. Then Farooq Abdullah was made a target and he was removed from power. Later on his brother in law was also given similar treatment. If we deal with Kashmir in this manner we will never be able to solve the Kashmir problem and it would rather get complicated further. I would like to say that this Resolution should be viewed comprehensively. It is really a strange situation that at one moment, Farooq Abdullah says that this is our actual line of control and that should be made as border line. On the other hand Deve Gowdaji gave a statement that-

*[English]*

"We can have a minor adjustment"

*[Translation]*

At first such statements are made but later on, these are contradicted. What is the truth? The truth is that Frank Wisnor discussed this matter with the General of the Army as well as with the Leader of Huriyat Party. Who are these Huriyat people? They have never considered Kashmir as an integral part of India. Now, when these people will come to Delhi, the Ministry of Home Affairs will make proper arrangements for them. Their offices will be set up in Jammu and Delhi. I would like to ask as to whether we have got any Government or administration there or not? It should be established that we have a Government there. We should have a clear-cut policy on this matter. How can a person enjoy a right to live in this country when he does not consider Kashmir as an integral part of India and speaks against India. We should pay attention towards creating normalcy in the State. Tourism is an important means of employment there, but it has ruined to a great extent. In this regard, nothing has been mentioned either by Shri Deve Gowda or from the side of the Government or in the President's Address. In the package announced by the hon. Prime Minister, Rs. 3000 crore have been

given from Dulhasti Project and Rs. 2500 crore for a railway line. Along with this an assurance was also given for construction of Moughal Road. Moughal Road is a project which has been rejected by the defence forces four times. According to Defence persons, it is a dangerous project. Despite this the Government has given an assurance for its construction. I feel that the Government should think in the national interest and promote tourism in the State which can be done only when normalcy is restored. We should create such a situation in the State so that Hindu and Muslim migrants of the State could return to their homes safely.

I would also like to say that the forces and army personnel deployed there for restoring peace should be given a free-hand. So far as question of holding elections in the State is concerned and which is being talked widely. I would like to say that elections were not held there because of Farooq Abdullah or the Prime Minister. At that time, Farooq Abdullah was in London and no one could dare to visit the State. These elections have been held with the help of security forces but not a single word has been mentioned about it in the President's Address. Nothing has been said about their betterment and welfare. Moreover, no credit has been given to the security forces which earned fame for this country. It is necessary to trust them.

I would also like to say a few words more. There is a proposal for generation of 15000 MW power from a project on a river in Jammu and Kashmir. We will be able to meet the requirement of power from Delhi to Jammu if it is implemented. In this regard, I had tried to raise a question yesterday. We are making a payment of Rs. 968 crore during 1997 to a French Company which had given up this project five years ago. I would like to know as to why this payment is being made now. This matter should be inquired into by a Parliamentary Committee because public money is involved in it. The Committee should look into whether proper utilization of the allocated funds is done or not. Due to militancy no developmental work has been taken up therefor the last few years. But an expenditure worth crores of rupees has been shown. It should also be inquired into. The Railway Minister has come to the House. I would like to draw his attention towards an important issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Guptaji, please think about the colleagues of your party. I have no objection because some more time is still left for your party. Please try to conclude at the earliest.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : I would like to raise one more point regarding Railways and then conclude. Last year, it was stated that Udhampur railway line would be completed by December 1997 but now it has been said that it would be completed by 1999. I would like the hon. Minister to apply his mind in this regard. The Government should also pay attention towards the welfare of those migrants living in various parts of the country and willing to return to their State. Favourable circumstances should be created there so that these people could go back home. Barnalaji had mentioned regarding construction of Thein Dam. As a result of it about 30 thousand people are being displaced. The

[Shri Chaman Lal Gupta]

Government should think about their rehabilitation. A demand for the construction of a bridge between Basauli and Kathua over river Ravi is being raised for the last ten years. It should be constructed by including it in any of the projects.

Sir, in the end, I would like to say that Kashmir can remain an integral part of the country only when a clear-cut policy is formulated for the State. The whole country should give a befitting reply to the sinister designs of the ISI of Pakistan. The statements of political leader including that of Shri Farooq Abdullah should be appropriate so that the morale of the country and the security forces who are sacrificing their lives never goes down. We should pay utmost attention towards it.

Sir, in the end, I would like to say once again that I strongly oppose the Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Beni Prasad Varma will make a statement regarding village public telephones.

15.37 hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

[Translation]

#### Re: Village Public Telephones

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : Sir, I discussed the subject relating to Village Public Telephones with senior officers of my Ministry and following decisions were taken :

(a) A thorough inquiry into the veracity of the reports of the field units regarding functioning of Village Public Telephones be got conducted by an independent agency such as the Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad or any of the Indian Institutes of Management. A decision regarding appointment of a specific agency will be taken soon.

(b) The CBI will be asked to investigate as to whether all norms of administrative, technical and financial suitability were observed while ordering and procuring the equipment for the Village Public Telephones during the last seven years when the MARR System was introduced by the department.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think that your efforts for improvement in the functioning of telephones in rural areas will continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : This will also help in that case...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This effort should have been continued.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : It is our endeavour...(Interruptions) That is why, we were constrained to take such a decision today.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of Half-an-Hour discussion was raised in the morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is a separate issue. Inquiry is a different matter. I had said that required measures for improvement in it should continue...

(Interruptions)

SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI (Srinagar) : Please reply to my question in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You might have heard the reply given by the hon. Minister.

15.39 hrs.

#### MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. President's Address has been placed before Parliament as a document of the Government. At present, the country is facing an acute problem of unemployment and this document reveals that the Government has not paid any attention towards it. Not only this but the policy of this Government has been against the educated unemployed youth of the country. Now-a-days, every Minister and even the Prime Minister mentions privatization in his speech. More and more privatization will hamper the momentum of cooperative movement which has been going on in the country for the last many decades. The Central Government is trying to go in for privatization of Railways, Airways, Power, Transportation and roads etc. Under such circumstance, what will remain with the Government? It is at the behest of a political party that they are conspiring to invite multinational companies in the country which will render the youth of the country unemployed.

At present, computerization and mechanisation is in vogue. India is the most populous country in the world. I request you to pay attention towards the welfare of educated youth by following the path of Mahatma Gandhi. When we encourage cottage industry in the country, only then we will be able to provide employment to the youth. Unemployed youth of the country will get few opportunities of employment if multinational companies are invited and big industries are set up by the ruling party to run its Government and to seek support of other political parties. More mechanisation will breed more unemployment. Instead of encouraging privatisation more industries should be set up in the cooperative sector.

What is the position of power sector today? Not only the Chief Minister of Northern India but the Chief Ministers of all the States favour privatization of power

sector. Why did the need of privatisation arise? Ten years ago these very leaders used to say that cooperative movement would be encouraged but now, attempts are being made to discourage it. Some political leaders are trying to play with the lives of the youth of the country. In every case, be it social, political and unemployment, they are bearing the brunt. It is a grave injustice to them.

My second point relates to the farmers of the country. The hon. Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda proclaims to be a humble farmer but I am sorry to say that the farmers have suffered more during the last months of his regime. India produces largest quantity of wheat. Last time when a discussion was going on wheat, I had stated that wheat was exported before, but now wheat is being imported and that is also at a time when wheat is likely to reach the market. At that time it could have been procured at a rate of Rs. 415 per quintal but now it is being imported at a rate of Rs. 630 to Rs. 635 per quintal. Is this step not anti-farmers? The Government should announce its policy and bonus should have been given to farmers for producing more wheat. But, this Government acted just contrary to it. It is making attempts to weaken the financial position of farmers. This import of wheat will weaken the economic condition of farmers further. When the crop of wheat is ready for harvesting and it will be reaching the market within a month, it is being imported and thus farmers will not get remunerative price for their produce. Same is the case of Cotton. I would like to say that in Haryana 'Narma' cotton was purchased at a rate of just Rs. 800 to Rs. 1100 per quintal...*(Interruptions)* It is like resorting to export and also ruining the condition of farmers. Cotton produced by farmers is being brought at lower rate, whereas the rate of clothes are rising day by day but no attention has been paid towards it even by the hon. Prime Minister. Sugarcane was purchased at a rate of Rs. 15-Rs. 20-Rs. Rs.30 per quintal in Uttar Pradesh. This issue was also debated in Haryana and it was decided that sugarcane should not be procured at the rate of Rs. 80 per quintal there. However, a trader of Uttar Pradesh obtained a stay from Allahabad High Court and pleaded that farmers of Uttar Pradesh should be given the same price of sugarcane as prescribed by the Government in Delhi. Is it not a gross injustice to the farmer of U.P.? The Union Government has fixed the price of sugarcane at Rs. 48 per quintal. The farmers will not be able to get even the cost price of their produce unless the rate of sugarcane is fixed at Rs. 80 or 85 per quintal. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to show some sympathy towards farmers. This Government talks of welfare of farmers but it is instead making attempts to ruin them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now, one of our colleagues was saying that wheat will be procured and it will again be exported. Likewise, cotton has been produced in a large quantity and it has been procured deliberately by the Government so that farmers are not able to get remunerative prices for their produce. In the same way, sugarcane and rice are produced in large quantity here. FCI godowns are full of rice stock, but after sometimes

the Government will say that it would be imported. The intention of the Government seems to be mala-fide and it want to earn by exporting foodgrains. It is an anti-farmers Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I come to the issue of law and order situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you have objection if the Government earns by export?

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : This money is being earned by the representatives of public and not by the Government. If the Government earns it could be used for developmental works. It will be a loss to the country and the people if this money is grabbed by such persons. A scam involving Rs. 200 crore has been unearthed in the FCI in Haryana. We have been raising an issue time and again that wheat is being looted and taken out from FCI godowns in Haryana through landlords. But the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies stated that he would look into the matter. The SRN of FCI, Haryana has been absconding for the last one month. He is a proclaimed offender. In this way, the Government is playing with the people of this country and is trying to remain in power. What was the need to oppose Congress Party in the elections of 1996 if the policies and programmes of the former Government were to be implemented?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, several hon. Members are present here and they know that the law and order situation prevailing in various parts of the country is not satisfactory. Crores of rupees are being grabbed forcefully as ransom. Traders and rich people are being kidnapped in broad daylight in Delhi the capital of the country. People are being murdered publically. A few days back, I had read a statement of the Governor of U.P. in a newspaper stating therein that the incidents of murder had declined by 30. It means 900 murders are committed during one and a half month and someone says that it is 30 less than the last time. Such statements reveal that the Government and particularly, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is not worried about the law and order situation. I admit that some such incidents have also taken place in Haryana but the miscreants of U.P. would not have shifted to Haryana or Delhi if a popular Government had been formed there. There is a saying that rider of two hordes at a time cannot go far but our hon. Prime Minister is riding 13 horses. This alliance will not last long but it would ruin the people of the State before its collapse...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAY (Patna) : Please say something about the free and fair elections held in Kashmir.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : I would like to say that in Kashmir, elections have been held with the help of security forces. In 1991, Congress Party had also held tried to hold such elections in Punjab. But what had been its outcome. The MLAs of Congress party won the election by securing just 500 votes each. You know Congress party's plight in 1997 elections there I will consider the elections of Kashmir free and fair and formation of a duly elected Government in the State

[Shri Jai Prakash]

only when security forces stay in their camps. Elections conducted at the point of guns cannot be called elections. In Punjab, we had seen that in trucks ballot boxes were taken to people and they were forced to cast their votes. After five years, Congress party was completely routed in Punjab. Raireddyji you will also meet the same fate. I cannot say what will happen after six months or ten months. This President's Address lacks direction and purpose. This Government is anti-youth, anti-farmer and anti-trader. Today, the traders of the country are a disgruntled lot...*(Interruptions)* After few days, you will also be in opposition...*(Interruptions)*. Therefore, I would like to say that the President's Address is a baseless and directionless document and I strongly oppose it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, will BSP be given a chance to speak or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Members from BSP had spoken for quite a long time, Yesterday BSP's turn in second round is yet to come. Please sit down.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Five Members of a single party have spoken here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. It is not your turn. You will be given a chance in the second round in accordance with the number of parties in the House. Not a single Member from AGP has spoken so far.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA (Phillaur) : Sir, I have not got a chance to speak even for one minute during the last one year.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not get disappointed. Have some patience.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA : I have already given a notice. Please allow me to speak for just five minutes. Let my people know that I speak here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Patience is an important quality in Parliamentary career.

Dr. Prabin Chandra Sarma.

[English]

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA (Guwahati) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to take part in the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the Presidential Address. I have taken the stand on my behalf and on behalf of my Party colleagues to support the Motion. I have seen and I have gone through the Presidential Address, and this Presidential Address is based on the basic tenets of the Constitution of India and on the premise of sovereignty, secularism, socialism, justice and equality.

In this connection, I congratulate the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues that they have taken in real pursuit of resolving the various issues of the country. During the last eight months, I have seen that they have made a good stride and they have been successful on many fronts. It is, of course, sure that the task before

them is stupendous and it will become very much arduous to translate these realities enshrined in this Presidential Address.

The Presidential Address is basically on the premise of the Common Minimum Programme. This Common Minimum Programme was, by and large, accepted in this Parliament by all the Members cutting across party affiliations. But then I have seen in this Parliament that there have been certain passionate views and these passionate views have been expressed by some of the Members, probably not without reasons.

But then the personal views have been expressed by only a very few political parties. You can very well understand without naming them also that they have given a suggestion that this is a Government which is constituted by as many as 13 political parties and 13 is considered to be an unlucky number for many. But for the United Front, this number 13 is the most lucky number and I consider that with this unlucky number 13, this United Front Government is going to rule for not less than five years and during these five years, the personal view that have been expressed here by some of the members of political parties — I have got great respect for them — are concerned, I am not in conformity with them. It is simply because the demands which they have made could not be fulfilled during the last 50 years and now they have asked this Government to perform and fulfil those demands within eight months which is impossible and, therefore, this United Front Government cannot be expected to perform a miracle and they are not definitely going to perform a miracle. But I am confident that the United Front Government will have to accept this challenge and this challenge must be accepted with fortitude, courage and conviction.

I have gone through the main issues that have been incorporated in the President's Address. These are the happy beginnings and I believe that this Government will be in a position to discharge the onerous responsibility that has been bestowed upon them.

Ours is definitely an agricultural country. We are grateful to Shri Chaturanan Mishra that he has created a new dynamism in making improvement in agriculture.

Similarly, so far as drinking water is concerned, there is a positive commitment on the part of this Government that this drinking water facility will be provided to a large number of people of this country.

Primary health care has been assured and the present lapses will be definitely eradicated.

Removal of illiteracy is a very big problem. It is a very big task and I believe this Government, by their own efforts and also by involving all people including the NGOs, will remove illiteracy. It is a slur on the part of India that we are still having more than 30 per cent of illiterates. This should be wiped out and all measures should be taken towards this end. This has been mentioned in the President's Address.

The Employment Insurance Scheme may go probably a long way in resolving the present unemployment problem.

[English]

As regards enhancement of the road and rail transport, we are very much thankful to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan that he has taken really a positive attitude towards making rail communication the common man's mode of transport and I believe that within the coming two, three or four years, many of the areas to which the rail has not reached will be in a position to have rail connection enabling people to travel through taking advantage of railways.

The new industrial policy may also help in strengthening the internal industrial sector and also in having a liberalised economy so far as the industry is concerned. In this connection, I am in full agreement with Shri Pramothes Mukherjee that only big industries may not solve the unemployment problem of the country and I, therefore, urge upon the Government that the minor and medium-scale industries should also be given utmost importance.

16.00 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Some of my party colleagues belonging to different political parties have said that the Government is not likely to continue for long. In this connection, Shri Nitish Kumar, who is in the Chair now, has also expressed doubt about this. While he was taking part in the debate, he said that some of our Ministers are only sleeping. I have not seen my Ministers sleeping. What I have seen is that they are pondering over what these Members of Parliament are speaking; how they are behaving inside the Parliament. At the time of taking the Oath, we have said that we shall definitely uphold the very Constitution of India. If we are to uphold the very premises of the Constitution of India, then all the Members of the different political parties must know that India is a country having a Union of States. If India is a Union of States, then, definitely, each and State has its own peculiar custom, its social heritage, its different problems. Therefore, we have admitted that India is a country where unity in diversity is practised. If these are the premises of the very Constitution of India, then, all the Members must know that though we may have difference of opinion, we may have different ideologies and we may have different cultures and cultural heritage, yet so far as the country is concerned, the country is one. But there are different people living in this country.

From 1947, this country was ruled by only a single party. That era is over. This country is not likely to be ruled by only one single party. If my opposition friends of the BJP are thinking that they will be in a position to rule the country when the next elections will be held - according to them, if it is held as early as possible, it is better - then, I must tell them that the United Front Government will definitely come with a much bigger strength. It is simply because the centre of governance is just like an atom of an element. I do not know whether it will be parliamentary or unparliamentary. But I believe it will be parliamentary. The atom is the nucleus of an element. Like that, Parliament is also the nucleus of the

Government. In this nucleus of the Government, there are different orbitals and the orbitals are occupied by the electrons. Those States which are far away from this nucleus are so far given a scanty respect and scanty attention. Sometimes, they have been neglected and sometimes they have even been deprived. That is the basic logic based on which there is an emergence of these different regional political parties. These regional political parties will ever grow and they will be more strengthened. The next election which is going to be held in 2001 A.D. will show to this very House - it is my prediction - that these regional political parties and also other political parties having regionalism in mind but nationality in outlook will come with a thumping majority to give the actual pattern of governance of this nation. And the governance of this nation is just the beginning towards federalism and federalism will be translated into action only by 2001 A.D. We are all for federalism because we have given all importance to the Sarkaria Commission. We have already mentioned, on various occasions, that the Sarkaria Commission is the *summum bonum* of the present day context of politics. And if it is so, then some of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission have already been accepted and some are yet to be accepted. We are debating it and I believe that the real federalism will start by the end of this century and we begin the next century with the real federalism in the country of India.

Now I have got some more points to make. On foreign affairs, our relations have improved. I am thankful to Shri I.K. Gujral that he has been able to improve the relations with the international community. The effort must continue. We want to see much more and much better results in this regard. We are hopeful that he will be in a position to do it.

I am also thankful to Shri P. Chidambaram as he has brought a new dimension to the Indian economic sector. Yesterday while participating in this debate, some of the Members had mentioned that it has presented only a gloomy picture. But to me, the picture is not that gloomy one. It is because the rate of GDP from 7.1 per cent in 1995-96 is maintained in 1996-97. The economic growth in 1996-97 as estimated by the CSO is estimated to be around 6.6 per cent and the GDP at actual cost. As far as performance is concerned, India is considered among the ten top performers, yet the debt burden is decidedly of a great concern. I believe that the United Front Government in the coming four years will be in a position to relieve the people of this country from this debt burden by taking more stringent measures on the front of economy and on the front of finance.

Fiscal budget and the budgetary developments are also quite satisfactory. The budget for 1996-97 has continued the process of fiscal adjustment within the framework of the CMP and the correction of 0.8 per cent through reduction of fiscal deficit as a proportion of GDP from 5.8 per cent in 1995-96 is achieved. Therefore, I thank Shri P. Chidambaram also. Definitely the Presidential Address that has been presented to us is not gloomy; definitely there is still scope for

[Dr. Prabin Chandra Sarma]

improvement. The Presidential Address is only a booklet which can be read in fifteen to twenty minutes. It cannot incorporate all the suggestions that have been made by all the Members in this Parliament. Therefore, it is only a document where the philosophy is laid down. That philosophy is now to be translated into action and I believe this Government will be in a position to do it.

There has been certain anxiety and this anxiety has been expressed so far as Punjab is concerned, so far as Kashmir is concerned and so far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned. These anxieties are not without reasons. I think the Home Minister Shri Indrajit Gupta that he has been very careful in taking stock of the whole internal law and order situation and the governance at the Centre. He is posted with every happening, every incident of the country. He has made a statement which has been reported in today's papers saying that he has made a statement in the Parliament House which has gone against the interests of the Government. I do not believe so. It is a statement based on the reality he has seen. But then it is not the failure of the Government. It cannot be said that it is a failure of the Government because there is President's rule in Uttar Pradesh. There are many different factors and the statement made by the hon. Home Minister has been contradicted by the Governor of Uttar Pradesh.

Therefore, I believe that there are causes of anxiety and these causes must be removed. There anxieties must be removed by our joint participation, collective participation, and by cutting across party lines. Then only these problems can be resolved.

Now, there is anxiety in Assam and there is anxiety in the North-Eastern region. There is insurgency and for this insurgency it cannot be said that there is no genesis behind it. There is definitely some genesis behind it and that genesis has been mentioned by Shri Promotes Mukherjee that 'the economy is the main factor' and some of the provisions of the Constitution itself have also added to this prevailing insurgency or the turmoil or the misgivings. That is why, the North-eastern region requires special care. It has been in the minds of the people of the North-east region that the North-eastern region has been neglected for nearly five decades. I am grateful to the hon. Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues that they have given a package for North-east. But as Shri Promotes Mukherjee has said that this package is of Rs. 9,000 crore, it is not so.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Sarma, please conclude.

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Sir, I may kindly be given two or three minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay.

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Sir, this package is of Rs. 6,100 crore.

So, a beginning has been made. But I believe that the Government takes adequate care that these misgivings that are looming large are assuaged to the satisfaction of the people of the North-eastern region.

Here, two very important points have not been taken care of but I believe that these will be taken care of while taking the overall thing into account. The infiltration into Assam is a contentious issue and it has changed the demography of the entire State of Assam and to some extent the North-eastern States. The very identity of Assam and its nationality. Assam's nationality is a composite culture. Assam is not a community only by those who speak Assamese. It is a nationality composing very many different languages, as many as 216. And, there are different religious and linguistic groups and that is for this reason, this infiltration problem — which is mounting gradually and the demography is likely to be destroyed completely, having the fear of even losing its identity — should be taken care of.

One more important point that has not been taken care of — probably, I may be wrong — is that the education in higher sector has not been given due thrust. At the moment, in the country, we have 164 universities; 36 deemed universities; 8,600 colleges; 66 lakh of enrolments; and the country is of agrarian region. This agrarian country has only 1.1 per cent enrollments in agricultural colleges and 40.5 per cent in the Humanities Department.

Therefore, I believe that education in the higher level has not been given due care. So, this should be taken care for which a new thrust is required. Though I have not seen the hon. Minister of Human Resources Development sitting here, I draw his pointed attention, through you, that there should be a new direction to education because annually we are producing more than nine lakh of graduates and those nine lakh of graduates have not been in a position to be given the opportunity to enter into the world of work. There should be a new direction to education so as to give them the opportunity to enter into the world of work.

One of our friends from the DMK has rightly pointed out that this Right to Work should also be made a Fundamental Right and towards this direction, we must make some endeavour.

Shri Nitish Kumar yesterday made a very important point that drug trafficking in the Northeastern region is a serious threat. It should be taken care of. There is another problem which should be addressed to. It was Shri K.P. Singh Deo who said that the Defence and the Defence personnel are not properly attended to. This also should be taken care of.

I say that this Parliament is the sanctum sanctorum. It has its own sanctity. This Parliament is to produce not only politicians, but statesmen also. Politicians have an attribute and you may call that attribute as a vice also. That is, they are hypocrites. But these hypocrites cannot run a country of India's magnitude. This country can be run only by the statesmen and statesmen are produced from among the Parliamentarians. It is for this reason that I sincerely hope that this Parliament will be in a position to produce not only very big politicians, but statesmen also so as to take care of India. I believe that this Parliament is just like the soul of the human being. I am a part and parcel of that. When that being the

case, I must conclude with this saying :

'ETADAYAM EDAM SARVAM  
SARVA ATMA TATTAVMASI'

With these few words, I conclude my speech. I whole heartedly support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool) : Mr. Chairman Sir, on behalf of Telugu Desam party we express our hearty thanks to the President for addressing both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 20, 1997. We appreciate the gesture of the President in mentioning about the stable condition of our coalition Government which is doing its job nicely in promoting socio-economic development and in finalising the Ninth Plan.

The President, in his Address has renewed India's offer of dialogue to the new Pakistan Government. This is a welcome gesture for establishing peace in the region. The President, speaking about the Armed Forces, said that it is in a state of constant preparedness to safeguard the territorial integrity of the country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can take the help of your notes, do not read them out, please.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : I am not reading, Sir.

The President, who is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, said that they are ever ready. He was mentioning about Agni, Prithvi and other achievements. He has not mentioned about Vikrant and that in spite of our best efforts we could not replace it which is a aircraft carrier to strengthen the navy.

We have not made any enough provision for the Armed Forces. Even in the Fifth Pay Commission Report, it is mentioned that there are 14000 vacancies of officers. They have not made any special gesture to tap the sources and to increase their strength by recruiting the personnel to fill these posts.

Speaking about corruption, the President said that it should be tackled by consulting all the political parties. I appreciate the gesture of the Government for initiating a national debate on the issue of corruption and transparency.

Speaking about internal security, the President has said that inside the country there is Naxalism and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and in the North-Eastern States. We have not taken any concrete steps to tackle this. Though the Prime Minister has promised funds to the North-Eastern States, in practice, the funds have not been given. Unless the funds flow there, industrialisation takes place, railways lines and roads are built and development activities which will give employment to the unemployment youth, take place, terrorism cannot be curbed.

Regarding family planning, which is the priority area, it has been not mentioned in our President's address whatever development has to take place would be directly proportional to the population. Unless we curb the population growth, nothing could be achieved.

For example, let us take our neighbouring country, China, where they have a restriction on child birth - one child in a family in urban areas and two in rural areas. I do not want that we should go to such an extent. But there should be such a type of legislation for the restriction of child birth. Then only would the country develop.

Regarding the usage of oil, it is said that eighty per cent of the oil is being used by the Government. Sometimes, I see that when a VIP goes abroad, a convoy of cars goes along with him and there is a wastage of fuel. Instead, if only the protocol persons go along to see off the VIP, it would save a lot of oil. Also, in the case of bureaucrats who stay away from their places, a vehicle has to go in the morning to pick them up, again come back in the evening and drop them. This is a mere wastage of fuel. Instead, if facilities for loaning or purchase of vehicles and fuel, and maintenance allowances are given, such types of wastage can be curtailed.

About the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, a passing remark has been made by the President. It is not going to make any difference. It is not going to help. A concrete step should be taken. A law should be passed to punish the guilty who do not implement the reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Regarding the new PDS, I would say that it is a welcome gesture. But the assessment of people below the poverty line is objectionable. For example, in States like Andhra Pradesh, we are already having a scheme of subsidies. They have taken it that the purchasing capacity of the people of Andhra Pradesh is more. This is very wrong. So, this system has to be changed and reassessment had to be done in Andhra Pradesh.

With these words, I conclude.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI (Hyderabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, while fully supporting the motion of thanks on President's address, I, on behalf of the people, want to bring this fact into the knowledge of the Government that the President's address contained a lot of things but it lacked a mention about the provisions made for the minorities, especially the Muslim community.

This Government has come to power with the support of Muslim Voters, but so far as the welfare of Muslims is concerned, nothing has been said about it. Neither your Common Minimum Programme contains anything for us nor we have been given any representation in your Steering Committee...*(Interruptions)* We have understood you very well...*(Interruptions)* Only after having understood you, I joined this side. Now what can one do if one deliberately does not want to understand the situation. All that I want to say to you is that you do all these things for us, otherwise you note it that such things can not continue for long. You can't pacify anybody by mere assurances. You yourself surmise as to what is the definition of Article 30 A and what does it mean. This has been referred to the

[Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi]

Supreme Court and today the judges are going to give their opinion on it. It would have been more convenient if you could pass a resolution in this regard in the Parliament itself. But I am sorry to say that even the Muslim Members sitting here are doing nothing in this regard, instead they are tight lipped on this issue. All that I would say is that you had announces a clear cut policy in this regard. You say that people of particular communities should be provided reservation. I am not opposed to that. In the entire world, reservation is given to down troddens of minority communities. But here the reservation is being provided by beaurocracy in the name of *Dalits* or backwards. You tell us where the people of minorities should go. They should also be given reservation in services. In the similar manner when you are going to provide reservation to women in the Assemblies, seats should be reserved in the Parliament and Assemblies for Muslims women. You want to pacify us only with talks. I don't think any problem can be solved in this manner.

Now I want to raise an another important issue. The then Home Minister Mr. Chavhan had made an observation that while the Babri Masjid was being demolished, the then Prime Minister Shri Narsimha Rao was watching the incident on T.V. There is a famous saying that Nero was fiddling while the Rome was burning. How strange it is that our 'Nero' was also fiddling while the edifice of Babri Mosque was being demolished. Even the Home Minister says that Shri Narsimha Rao is responsible for this incident, as despite being persuaded again and again he simply continued watching the T.V. and issued no orders. I would like to Government to investigage this aspect of the incident and prosecute Mr. Narsimha Rao and bring him to book. If you don't do so, I will think that you simply talk of the welfare of Muslims and other minorities and you can't do anything else for them. If you are actually sympathetic toward them, then prosecute him. But if you merely go on saying that you want to do something for them, that will be termed simply as an eye wash. The right thing would be to prosecute and hang Mr. Narsimha Rao, so that a message may go to the people that they should take lesson from it and eschew such things. I would like to urge upon the Members, specially the Muslim Members of the Janta Dal to vigorously pursue this issue within their party and they should not focus their attention to votes only.

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri-Garhwal) : Our Prime Minister had made an announcement from the ramparts of Red Fort that he would give us Uttarakhand. But unfortunately it finds no place in the President's Address. Should I construe from it that he has also got two teeth-one for show off and another for eating purpose. In another words he is applying double standards. Whenever a Prime Minister deliveres his speech from rampart of the Red Fort, he is supposed to be directly addressing the nation. The audience sitting before him in the Red Fort ground becomes the witness of his speech. He is heard on T.V., and Radio also. Not only nation but international people sitting over there

also listen to him. Therefore when a Prime Minister is delivering his speech from the Red Fort or giving any assurances from there, it should be done with some credibility. That credibility is missing in the President's Address which hurts us a lot.

I hope that if the Prime Minister has missed it, he should be responding to it in his reply. Whether I shall understand that the announcement from the Red Fort was made by him in view of the forth coming Assembly election in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)? What was his idea behind making this announcement, that he would win the elections by maing such announcements? Now since he has not got the victory, whether still he would not like to give us a separate state? Whether it is a fact that mention in this regard has not been made in the Address because of the mounting ppressure on him from Mulayam Singh Yadav. And if so whether it does not loose his credibility? It does not the credibility of only our Prime Minister but also the credibility of our nation. I would request him to correct his mistake, he has made, and respond to this demand in his reply. Some people might say that since it was a Pandora Box, it found no mention in the Address. It is his public announcement. He must have made this announcement from remparts of the Red Fort after considering all the pros and cons and all the aspects properly. It is, therefore, wrong to say that it does not open the Pandora Box. Pandora Box was opened when Kangra was included in Himachal. It was opened when the state's Reorganization Commission had requested not to do so. It was opened when the state of Assam was divided into many parts. But the Pandora Box does not open today when the people are demanding a separate Uttarakhand and an announcement in this regard has already been made by our Prime Minister that.

[English]

Uttarkhand district' is not a commencement of smaller States. It is the culmination of States being created in the Himachal Region. This is a culmination.

[Translation]

He said that Kangra was the beginning point and Uttarakhand is the culmination point in the Himachal region. But so far it has not been matterialised therfore. it would be wrong to say that Pandora Box opens today. It would be the culmination point of a particular movement. Apart from this, it is different from one more point of view and that is, the demand for separate statehood is coming from the local people and it has also been endorsed by the Lucknow Government not only once but twice. Once it was endorsed by the B.J.P. Government and another time it was endorsed by the Mulayam Singh Government. They said that they have sent the proposal unanimously to the Centre and not it is upto the Central Government to take action on formation of Uttarakhand. Such was not the case in other states and in other demands. It is different from one more point of view. Many people do say that wherefrom the process should start? It should start at the State level or Central Level. The proposal has been

initiated at the State level. They have prepared not only bills but also have given their powers to the Centre. Not only one Government, but two Governments have given you the powers and asked you that whenever the formation process is completed, send the same to us for ratification. You must initiate the action, It was originated at the State level and now it is at the Central level. The Centre has to complete the process and send the same to Lucknow for ratification. Therefore, it has also been answered now as to wherefrom it was initiated. In view of all these things I would like to request you to keep your credibility intact. He must refer to this issue while replying to the debate.

Apart from this, there is no mention about the hilly and backward regions in the Address. I can not take much time as the bell is likely to ring, which otherwise would waste the time of my colleagues. I would like to place two instances before you.

Now I want to draw your attention towards the para 26 of the President's Address. It has been said in the Address that-

[English]

"A major priority of the Government is to initiate and implement a set of concrete measures for providing basic minimum services to improve the quality of life of the poor..."

[Translation]

This includes seven issues out of which none is applicable to my hilly region for example, in part-2 of this paragraph, it has been written that -

[English]

"Provision of efficient Primary Health-Care for every group of 5,000 persons;"

They do not realise that these hills have sparsely located population. They do not realise that the population of 5,000 will be spread over a much larger area than it is in the plains. It will not be applicable to the hills.

Similarly, there is also a mention about 'provision of Safe Drinking Water in every habitation'.

[Translation]

In reality, it would be a different definition of habitation. If the above habitation of five thousand people is to be taken into account, it will not be applicable to the hills. Even after fifty years of our independence, we have not been able to provide drinking water in every village. When such a situation is there, how can we provide drinking water to every house. Therefore, whatever he has said, is something beyond reality. There is an ulterior motive behind this scheme and the scheme has been divided into two parts-Non-backward hilly region and backward hilly region. Likewise if you read para 29, it has been said in that para that-

[English]

"The Government is committed to bringing the gap in the levels of development of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, backward classes and minorities and to bring them on par with the rest of the society."

[Translation]

In my view, this also does not hold any water. This is also not applicable to my region. Our hilly backward region is inhabited only by the backward castes. There are backward castes, minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in backward areas. If you compare these non-prosperous lots with the prosperous ones, you will have to give priority assistance to backward castes, you will have to give more emphasis on this. Probably then only you would be able to bridge this gap. Even after this efforts, probably there will exist this gap between minorities and other backward castes in the hilly regions- and this is likely to increase in the future.

Sir, I have only three demands. A separate arrangements should be made for our hilly areas and we should be given a separate Uttarakhand state. With these words I conclude and extend my thanks to you.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have given me this opportunity after a gap of four days for which I express my thanks to you. I wanted to dwell on many subjects but as the situation demands, I would like to confine myself only to the Jammu-Kashmir issue.

A mention has been made in the President's Address about the elections held in the state of Jammu-Kashmir. These elections were conducted by the U.F. Government for which I want to congratulate them. In my view, more than this U.F. Government the then Congress Government deserved our congratulations for they had decided to conduct the elections in an entirely different situations. Apart from the Congress party, the then Governor of the state and other personal of security forces deployed there sat together and chaled out the plan to hold the elections in the state.

Lok Sabha election in Jammu-Kashmir were held after a long gap of seven years. Therefore I hold that initiative was taken by the Congress party and they deserved our congratulations the most. I also congratulate you for having conducted the assembly elections successfully.

Sir, the people of J and K have given a clear mandate to the National Conference Party and we have respected that mandate by offering our support to Dr. Farooq Abdullah and his party. Our offer is very constructive. We have decided to support him on issues pertaining to the problems of poverty and other ones. After a period of seven years of political wilderness, Farooq Saheb and his party has come back to power but we find that there is no change in his style of functioning. We were under the impression that there would have been some changes in his style, otherwise it is the same as it was earlier. I would only say that your party

[Shri P. Namgyal]

has crossed over to number 14 from the unlucky number 13 and the National Conference has become your secret sharer. Therefore, if any thing goes wrong you will be held equally responsible for that. I would only say, as I have said earlier also, that the National Conference rode to power on the basis of only one issue. They said that their party would bring back Jammu-Kashmir to the 1952 position i.e. except for Defence, External Affairs and Communications, all other subjects will be controlled by the state itself. Earlier we have opposed this move and in future also we will oppose it for its consequences will not be in the interest of our nation. People will start raising same voice from every region which may disintegrate India. Therefore, we would welcome only regional autonomies under the existing system. But if you want to go back to 1952 position, then certainly we are going to oppose it.

Sir, as far as the law and order situation is concerned, certainly it has improved quite a lot after the elections. At some places it has improved but at some other places we have seen no improvement. This is my view. Chaman Lal ji has endorsed my view already, particularly in respect of Doda. He said that situation in Doda has further worsened. He has said so very correctly which is beyond any doubt. The Government should pay much of their attention towards this problem. In view of this, I would request you to again give a free hand to the Security Forces which they were given earlier to check the terrorists in the valley.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are ringing the bell but I want to cover certain issues of my region Laddakh. You must be knowing that there is an Autonomous Hill Council in my region on the lines of Automous Council in Darjeeling. Our Council had demanded from the State Government to accord the Chairman of this Council the status of a Cabinet Minister, like the one given by West Bengal to the Chairman of Darjeeling Hill Council. We did not say anything as new. But an advise came from the State Government suggesting us to give the Chairmanship to a member of National Conference then they would accord him the status of Cabinet Minister. They would not give this status to any congressman. There is nobody in the Council from National Conference. They had boycotted the Lok Sabha elections...*(Interruptions)* You are ringing the bell, so far only our four people have spoken whereas we are five in number. On this issue, I would request the hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly intervene. Terrorism have reached our region Laddakh also and the incidents of Bomb blasts are taking place there. The Government should address itself to our problems. We are grateful to our Prime Minister that he has announced a financial package for J and K state but it does not include the name of Laddakh anywhere. Prime Minister had also gone to Laddakh. There also he had promised that he would be giving some special fund to the region. Ours is a very typical problem. Our region is not that much affected by terrorism as the valley is. But we have to go through the terrorist infested area in order to reach our places in Laddakh. Due to this there comes a lot of

difficulties in making special supplies to these areas and ultimately it is hindering our development. Therefore you should pay your attention towards funding us. Unless you pay your attention towards this problem you, will not be able to resolve our problems.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether it is your last point?

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : No, this is my real point. Farooq Saheb has given a statement on the matter of J and K that let us get the matter resolved by converting the existing Line of Actual Control (LAC) into a permanent International Border. I think that is for the first time he has talked seriously.

They have given this suggestion for the first time but the Laddakh Congress had suggested this measure in 1993 itself when Congress was in the power at centre. We had submitted this proposal even before the European delegation who were on their visit to Laddakh, the Kashmir valley and Jammu. We had submitted a memorandum to them.

*[English]*

suggesting the same thing with minor adjustment here and there.

*[Translation]*

Like there is Hazipur area. We had suggested that this area should remain with us. They discussed about Chhamb. We told them that we should get Chhamb also. Another thing is that there cannot be any compromise on the matter of Siachin. A delegation of United Nation Human Right Commission had also visited our region. We gave them the same suggestions. We told them also that this is the only solution to the J and K problem.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : What is the point of Congress Party, please tell us.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : I am talking about Congress. You people sit in Delhi and talk very high but we have to face the enemy directly. This is our matter. We want some kind of solution to this problem. Today Nawaz Sharief is in the power in Pakistan. This is for the first time that a party in Pakistan has got a two-third majority...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Namgyal ji, now please conclude.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : I am going to finish. Sir, what is happening in Afganistan. Taliban has occupied two-third part of Afganistan. How did Taliban came into existence? ISI, CIA and a couple of other forces had conspired for this purpose. General Zia-ul-Haq imparted training to the unemployed and jobless youths in colleges and schools. They were made fundamentalists. Recently Afganistan was invaded. You must be knowing that these forces had given Taliban a twenty days' contract by paying them 95 million dollar per day. The Taliban had assured these forces that in case they are paid 95 million dollar per day they will take Afganistan under their possession. But they could not achieve success in those twenty days. That period was extended for another five days. But even after that they failed to achieve

success. Their strategy was that after the possession of Afganistan their next move would be to march towards Kashmir and invade it. That danger is still looming large which needs the Governments' immediate attention for resolving the Kashmir problem permanently. With these words I conclude and thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I extend my support to the President's Address.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri Sharad Yadav. While welcoming the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, I would like to make certain observations in regard to the form of Government now ruling the country.

It is a welcome feature that the United Front Government has been formed under Shri Deve Gowda in order to keep the fascist forces at bay. But I would like to make an observation here to the members of the ruling party—the United Front, as well as the main party supporting the Government — that they have come to this agreement to continue with the United Front Government with a view to having a secular Government for the country. The secular forces, both in the United Front as well as in the supporting parties, are having certain differences on certain vital points. Whatever be the differences of opinion among the parties who are in the Government and also the parties which are supporting the Government, they must always bear in mind that any difference of opinion among the secular forces would only help those who are to take over the power - the fascist forces and the communal forces.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAJ CHIKHALIA (Junagadh) : What is the definition of secularism, Ahamedji?

SHRI E. AHAMED : I will reply to your question after my speech.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, therefore, it is time for the Congress party to take over the responsibility to have a wider front of the secular forces in the country as it is perhaps the largest secular force in this country.

There is absolutely nothing wrong for the Congress Party to have a discussion and if necessary to agree to a new Common Minimum Programme with a view to have a stable, viable and an effective Government at the Centre and also in order to keep these fascists and communal forces away from taking over the power of this country. I am sure that it is the responsibility of the Congress Party as well as those secular forces and parties in the United Front Government. They should not forget to discharge their most important responsibility in the best interests of this country as well as for the secular and democratic polity of this country. My party, the Indian Union Muslim League had already taken a stand, despite the difference of opinion amongst the secular parties in the United Front Government and any other party in the larger interests of this nation, that the secular forces are to forge a unity for the purpose of

maintaining a secular and democratic Government at the Centre.

I may take only a few minutes to bring certain matters to the attention of the United Front Government so as to remind them of the non-implementation of the points they had mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme, the Magna Carta of the United Front Government. It is always known that many of the assurances which have been mentioned have not been implemented, of which I would like to mention certain assurances given to the minority community. Even in the President's Address, it is mentioned that the interests of the minorities would be protected. I would like to know from the hon. Ministers of the Government what are the interests that they have protected so far in the contexts of the issues raised by the minority community in the country. It is seen in the Common Minimum Programme that the United Front Government was founded on the plank of secularism and democracy.

It was sure that there was a threat to secularism at the time of the demolition of the *Babri Masjid*. After the demolition, all the parties who are now in the United Front had been propagating from the housetops that they will do justice to the minority interests in respect of the *Babri Masjid* reconstruction. Even some of the Ministers had assured the community when they were in the Opposition that as soon as they come to power, the *Babri Masjid* would be reconstructed, but it is still only a hallow promise which remains there. I am just referring to the Common Minimum Programme wherein it is mentioned: 'The contentious issue of *Babri Masjid-Ramjanmabhooni* will be referred to the Supreme Court under article 138(2) of the Constitution. Stringent steps will be taken to implement the Protection of the Places of Worship Act.'

Firstly, it is mentioned that article 138(2) will be invoked in respect of the *Babri Masjid*. As soon as it has been announced, my Party has welcomed it. Even now, we ask, 'Why has it not been referred to? It there is any reason for the Government not to refer it to the Supreme Court, they are to explain the reason to the nation, especially to the community. Therefore, I would like to remind the Government that whatever commitments they have in respect of the *Babri Masjid* and to the nation at large as well as to the community, they have to keep it up.

The second promise that I would like to remind - which they have forgotten - is with respect to the 15-point Programme. In the Common Minimum Programme, it is mentioned: 'The United Front Government will review and if necessary enlarge the 15-point Programme for the minorities and ensure the implementation of the programme.'

I would like to know what steps have the Government taken so far to review the 15-point Programme and enlarge it, if it is found necessary.

17.00 hrs.

So, I would like to mention that many State Governments have not so far implemented the points

[Shri E. Ahamed]

mentioned in the 15-Point Programme. The minorities have not been given their due. Of course, we have been getting something in Delhi. Sir, in a light vein, I should say that in the month of Ramzan, there were a lot of Iftar parties. Every Minister was giving Iftar party. Are we to satisfy only with Iftar parties of the Ministers? You must also have something more. Therefore, the United Front Government should do something better, concrete and practicable for the members of the minority community.

Thirdly, I would like to mention about TADA prisoners. TADA had been allowed to lapse. It had been scrapped. The TADA prisoners are languishing in jails. I do not want that any culprit is released without trial. I would say that in a democratic polity the rule of law should prevail. Under the rule of law if a prisoner who is languishing in a jail is guilty, he should be tried by a proper court of law. If he is an innocent person, he should be released. This was what we had raised along with the members of the United Front Government. I do not know why the United Front Government have forgotten their commitments they had made to the country. I, myself, had raised this issue in the last two Sessions on the floor of the House but unfortunately I did not get any reply with respect to the policy or the decision of this Government in respect of TADA prisoners who are still languishing in jails. Therefore, I would like to remind the Government that they must come out with a statement with respect to their policy towards those prisoners who are languishing in jails. I am given to understand that even the Review Committee is not holding its meetings to review the cases of the prisoners of TADA.

Another important matter I would like to mention is about the representation of the members of the minority community in the administration. There are no higher officials representing the minority community in the Government. I do not want to say that the rights and privileges of any other section should be given to the minority community. As citizens of this country, whatever is legitimately and legally due to them, should be made available to them. It is a backward community both socially and educationally. It has twelve per cent of our population. But, subject to correction, it does even have three per cent representation in the Government services. This was the information given to me. I urge upon the United Front Government to bestow their attention to it.

Sir, with only one word, I would like to conclude my speech. There is also a welcome feature in the President's Address which I would like to quote. In Para 41, it is stated :

"With Pakistan, we are committed to ending confrontation and establishing a harmonious relationship and durable peace, as provided for in the Shimla Agreement. We believe that fostering people-to-people contacts and promoting trade and economic links will contribute to this process. We are ready for

a dialogue with the new Government of Pakistan and hope for an early resumption of talks."

I hope the new Government of Pakistan under Mr. Nawaz Sharief will positively respond to it. I will avail of this occasion to remind Leaders across the border that they must always bear in mind that the best interest of Pakistan lies in having the best relationship with a country like India. The neighbouring relationship with India is the best in the interest of Pakistan. I am sure the Leaders will also respond to the wishes of the majority of the people of Pakistan to have the best of relationship and also to normalise the relationship with the people of India. The people of India are always responsive to the positive approach in this direction.

With this hope, I support the Motion moved by Shri Sharad Yadav.

[English]

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : Sir, supporting the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, I wish to mention a few points.

The Address explains the achievements of the Government in the past. It also explains the scheme of performance and the transactions that would be carried on in future. At a time, when the Government was formed, no single party was in a position to take up the responsibility and. So, by the combination of different parties or — those were the circumstances at that time — a combination of secular parties, the Government was formed under the banner of a Common Minimum Programme.

Sir, the nation would have plunged into an election if this Government had not been formed at that time. Thus this Government has saved the nation from the strains of another election. The interested parties have created suspicion among the people that this Government is not a stable Government and have questioned the stability of the Government by making a false propaganda.

This Government is a new experiment and has proved to be a stable Government by its performance and with good achievements. The Common Minimum Programme is the harmonious blending of the ideas and ideologies and principles and policies of different parties embedded in its. The Government is committed to implement the Common Minimum Programme ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, it is a very important discussion, but there is no Cabinet Minister in the House

MR. CHAIRMAN : Three Ministers are there in the House and Mr. Ramoowalia will come back.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Our experience is that when there is a discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, senior Ministers listen to the views of the hon. Members. That is why I am saying. If I am right, that is the practice in this House.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUBANS PRASAD SINGH) : Only we three people are here to listen the hon'ble members.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ramoowalia has taken permission and he will come back.

SHRI N. DENNIS : The Government is committed to implement the Common Minimum Programme and by the implementation of the CMP several problems faced by the people would be solved. Within a period of eight months the Government has proved its maturity in performance and achievements.

Regarding economy, I would say that it is in the path of growth and stability which can be seen from the fact that we have a comfortable foreign exchange reserve of 19.5 billion US dollars. Thus, international and internal confidence is created and a favourable atmosphere is achieved for the foreign investment in our country. The policies and procedures are simplified for quicker clearance of projects.

Agricultural growth has to go side by side with the industrial production for the removal of poverty and unemployment.

Though the food production has increased, we cannot be complacent on the ground that the per unit production of wheat or rice is lower than the per unit production of wheat or rice in other countries. Moreover, the per capita availability of food in our country is also lower than the per capita availability of food in other countries. The rate of population is increasing faster than that of the food production.

The condition of agricultural labourers is an area of concern and attention has to be paid for their development and progress. Agro based industries have to be established in the rural and backward areas.

Fisheries is one of the sectors in agriculture and the conditions of fishermen have to be taken care of. As the fishermen are poor, they are fully depending on sea and fishing is their only occupation. The fishermen have to be supplied with fishing materials and also equipments. Now, there is sea erosion in several parts of our sea coast. They are not in a position to operate their fishing vessels into the sea because the natural berthing places have been damaged. So, fishing harbours have to be opened wherever it is necessary.

Regarding the Rural Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation Programmes, they are strengthened with increased allotment but the banks are not helpful and are causing delay in releasing the amount sanctioned by the authorities. The purpose of these programmes is defeated because of the undue delay caused by the bank authorities. The loans sought by the applicants for opening industries and other things under this scheme have to be released in time.

I am happy to point out that in the Chief Minister's Conference held in last July, a decision has been taken for providing seven basic amenities like drinking water, food, shelter and other basic amenities to the poor people and an amount of Rs. 2,216 crore has been allotted for this purpose with an intention to implement this scheme. It is seen now that about 32 per cent of the people are living below the poverty line and they are without these basic amenities.

With the introduction of the new Public Distribution System, which is intended for the poor, about 32 crore people would be benefited by subsidised foodgrains.

Mid-Day Meals Scheme would be extended throughout the country from April 1997

The condition of physically handicapped persons deserves sympathetic consideration and they have to be helped with concrete programmes.

Regarding the achievements of this Government, it is not possible to achieve everything overnight. No Government would achieve all these things within a short time. More so in a wide country like ours with problem of huge magnitude. In the given circumstances, atmosphere and time, this Government has performed well with the tremendous achievements within a short period of eight months. To cite examples, the Inter-State Council meeting which was not held for several years was conducted by this Government. So also, the meetings of the National Development Council and the Chief Ministers' Conferences are held periodically. These would provide opportunities for discussion and solution to several problems.

The Government propose to eradicate corruption in public life and it showed its intention to solve this problem, to remove and eradicate this menace by the introduction of Lok Pal Bill.

The election in Jammu and Kashmir was conducted after several years in a sensational and anxious circumstances though troubles were fomented from across the border. Apart from this, after and before the election itself, economic packages were given to the people of Kashmir. Similarly, steps were taken for providing economic packages to the people of the North-Eastern States for their uplift and also for the uplift of educated unemployed. The illiterate unemployed people have also been helped. Elections were conducted in Punjab also.

Regarding foreign policy, our relations with foreign countries have considerably improved. The visits of foreign dignitaries and Heads of States of neighbouring and other countries to our country and the visit of our Prime Minister to foreign countries have enhanced the relations of our country with other countries. Our ties and relationship with other countries have improved and thereby trade and commerce also progressed well. In this connection, I would like to point out the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangalore to our country and the agreement arrived at for sharing of the Ganga water and similarly the conclusion of Mahakali Treaty with Nepal regarding joint utilisation of water, the recent visit of the President of the People's Republic of China and

[Shri N. Dennis]

normalisation of our relationship with Pakistan, all these approaches improved our relations with foreign countries. So also with regard to our relationship with other countries, we have considerably improved our approaches.

Regarding the promulgation of an Ordinance to amend the National Highways Act of 1955 and also the National Highways Authority of India Act 1988 would facilitate the speedy land acquisition and also enable the private participation in the road construction work, I would like to say that that is an area wherein the allocation is very low and it is not meeting the requirement. It is too inadequate. When the Ordinance is made as a law, it would make road formation, construction and maintenance in a better way which is highly essential.

Due to the increase in the vehicular traffic, the demand for oil is very high. So it is highly essential to make more allocation for exploration and production of oil.

The last point that I would like to point out is regarding the explosion of population in our country. The fruits of our developmental activities would not yield the desired result if the population is not controlled to the minimum. Death and infant mortality rates are reduced. Birth rate has to be reduced to a lower level.

The increase of production of foodgrains has its limits. The percentage of literacy in our country has increased. But at the same time the number of illiterates has gone up due to population explosion. So, zero percentage of birth-rate has to be achieved by the turn of the century. An important point would suggest is that legislation has to be enacted for the adoption of one-family-one-child norm in our country so as to enable the fruits of our developmental activities are fully enjoyed by people.

Lastly, I would say that the performance of this Government during even within a short period is encouraging and I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion on President's Address is almost in its final stage. The Ministers in this Government are from ten different parties. This is the United Front of 13 Parties and one party is extending support from outside. First of all, I would like to thank the Congress party for having stated that they would extend issue based support which is a very responsible statement indeed. We have seen the fate of unconditional support extended earlier in this House. Once the Congress Party had given unconditional support to the Government led by Shri Charan Singh which was withdrawn without any prior notice resulting in the fall of that Government. In 1989, once again the party sitting on the Opposition benches extended unconditional support to V.P. Singh Government. That too was unnecessarily withdrawn. They did not ever give any clarification to people regarding the issue on

which support was withdrawn. Thereafter, the Congress Party once again gave its support to Chandra Shekhar Government. That too was unconditional support. However without any intimation and without giving any notice, the Congress again played truant. Thus, the Chandra Shekhar Government also fell...*(Interruptions)* You simply stated that you were withdrawing the support. That is why you are in this position today. Now the Congress Party is caught in a trap. This is the fate of issue based support. If they try to backtrack from their commitment, the public will confront them and ask them about the issue which proved to be an impediment in the way of support. That is why, I am saying that this Government would last for a term of full five years. They have no way out to backtrack this time. This is a peculiar combination having a secular character. This Government has been formed to keep secularism alive. At the time of formation of this Government, a common programme had been evolved and the Government should always keep it in view. Even if one does not go through the entire text of the Common Minimum Programme, one must keep in mind its third para wherein it has been stated :

[English]

"The United Front Government will not be a replacement of one set of rules by another. It will mark the beginning of an alternative method of Government based on federalism decentralised accountability, equality and social justice, economic and political reforms, respect for human freedoms and openness and transparency which will ensure the dignity of both the nation and the individual citizen."

[Translation]

This para sums up the entire programme. We will have to deliberate on the President's Address in the context of this very extract in order to find out the factual position. It is all right if everything is covered within the Programme but if the Government tried to transcend, it will have to be careful. This Government has completed only eight months in power. This Government was formed with an objective to check the communal forces and it has been successful on this count. If we take into account the achievements of this Government from that point of view, it also includes setting up of Inter-State Council and holding its meeting. If we think of federalism, it is not possible without the Inter-State Council. Secondly, the meeting of National Development Council is also going to be held. Thirdly, first round discussion of the Planning Commission has already taken place. Fourthly, elections have been held in Kashmir after a gap of nine years and a Government has been formed there. Our colleagues from the Opposition benches criticise by saying that the elections were held there at gun-point and the military personnel cast their votes first. It does not behave well on your part to say like this because the representatives elected from that state are sitting right here with you. In case no B.J.P. member had been elected from Kashmir, then your allegations would have

been viewed as a credible statement. Have the B.J.P. candidates also won the elections at gun point? It is not right to say such things against those who have won on the basis of votes cast by the people.

The Government has taken a new stand regarding N.P.T.C. and C.T.B.T. which is a very big achievement. Our relations with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Srilanka have improved. The entire House should express its gratitude to this Government in this regard.

However, this Government also stands to be criticised on certain points. It has been stated in the third para of its C.M.P. :

[English]

"The United Front Government will not be a replacement of one set of rulers by another".

[Translation]

How far is this statement true. We have to see as to whether this Government is running on the basis of this very principle or not. So far as the economic policy, the industrial policy and the labour policy are concerned, this Government is following the foot steps of the Congress. How long would this continue? It is the uppermost point in our minds. It is regrettable indeed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Hossain, are you yielding?

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Yes, Sir.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : During the last Congress regime, the same economic policies were pursued and during that period, my learned friend's Party has conducted at least three *bandhs* and six general strikes in the country. Will his Party think about repeating the *bandh* again because we are following the same economic policies?

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : I would like to inform all those who are raising these queries that my party has its own policy and we will function in accordance with the policy of the Left Front. Please do not think that I would not raise my voice against the United Front just because the Left Front is a constituent of the United Front. I have my own theory—Unity Strengthens Unity and this is the principle which we follow. If the need be, we will organise 'bandh' and our partymen will come out on the roads but you should not think that we will topple the Government. In order to strengthen the Government and to pressurise the Government whichever... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Then Why do not you join the Government?

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : We are very much a part of the Government and a part of the United Front.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Your leader Shri Jyoti Basu has stated that they have lost an opportunity to join the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the chair. Do not reply to them.

[English]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : No, I am not going to answer any question... (Interruptions) Please do not try that I lose my temper... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

My friends from Congress party are surprised on this point. Something has been said about the Industrial Sickness at page 8 of the CMP of the UF. However, we see today that the N.T.C. and the I.D.P.L. workers are on the roads. The Congress did not do anything about it, but you have made a commitment... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA (Serumpore) : It was the Congress which has initiated for the settlement of the problems of the N.T.C. workers.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please continue with your speech. Why are you getting distracted?

[English]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : But that has not been implemented by you. That is the trouble.

[Translation]

The Government is not acting on the point mentioned in the programme regarding Industrial Sickness and rehabilitation. N.T.C. and I.D.P.L. workers are sitting idle. What is the matter?

About L.I.C. also, you have stated at page nine:

[English]

"We have gained considerable experience in the working of the banking sector. The said experience will be applied to the restructuring of the insurance industry. But, at the same time, public sector companies like LIC, GIC etc. will be strengthened".

[Translation]

But the Government is thinking of going in for privatisation. If the Government allows the privatisation of the L.I.C., foreign capital will flow in but the money of the people of our country will flow out to foreign countries. There is no need to go in for privatisation of L.I.C. what kind of policy do you have here? The Government is considering the option of privatising the entire power sector. This was the policy of the Congress to have foreign investment upto 51 percent of the total required capital in 16 industries. Now it has been mentioned in the President's Address that there would be foreign capital investment upto level of 74 percent in heavy industries. We have been Opposing Congress policies for years together and you too have been raising voice against their policies. Nothing has been said about the privatisation of coal industry. Moreover, it has not been criticised. This Government too has been smitten with the obsession of privatisation. The Government has thrown the doors open for the entry of foreign

[Shri Syed Masudal Hossain]

companies. The Government is also thinking about making certain changes in the FERA under the pressure of big Industrial Houses.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : That has been dropped.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Similarly, the Government has issued orders regarding the import of certain items. The Government has opened its doors for all such items as cars, electronic goods, air conditions and cosmetics.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi) : There is Pepsi Cola and Coca Cola also.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : These companies had come during your regime. There is a big difference between your programme and your policy. We have to keep the promises made to the people. The World Trade Organisation is exerting pressure on the Government. The Congress too is against this agreement. Voices are being raised against WTO even within those parties which are part of the Government which has signed this agreement. This is the opportunity which can be used for coming out of it. Hence the Government should make such an effort despite pressure being mounted by the I.M.F. and the World Bank and heavy debt burden on the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : If you say so, I would conclude right now. I want to raise some more point. I wish to speak on Economic survey also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may raise all these points during the discussion on budget.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : The points that he has made make a lot of sense. Whatever he has said about the entry of Multinational companies in India is very much true. Please let him carry on.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already spoken on that issue. Please sit down.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : I express my gratitude to Shri Kalpnath Rai.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not stretch it further. A number of Members are yet to express their views.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : I thank Shri Kalpnath Rai for having supported me. Shri Nitish Kumar is not present here. Whatever I have heard during the course of discussion was a mere fault finding exercise. Now of the speakers has gone into the depth to critically evaluate the contents of President's Address. He did not even spare the C.P.I. (M) for having joined hands with the Congress. He is not present in the House at this moment. He is a follower of Ram Manohar Lohia. It is under compulsion that some of his followers are sitting on this side whereas some other followers such as George Sahib and Kalpnath Rai Ji are sitting on the other side. Some of the followers are in the B.J.P. also. The 14 constituent parties of the Government will have to keep in mind that the circumstances have brought us

together. We are against some of your policies. We are against your economic policy. We have been raising our voice against this very economic policy for years together and this Government has been formed to counter the threat posed by the Communal forces. We would like to work in union throughout the five year term.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heard the President's Address on 20th February very intently and for the last two days I have been hearing the speeches of my colleagues, especially from the United Front. I am amazed and surprised about the investigative abilities of our United Front friends. According to them, it is one of the very good Presidential Address. They have invented some positive points in this Presidential Address, which is otherwise dry, drab and without any direction, as they have invented a national leader in our hon. Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda. When I read through the Presidential Address... (Interruptions)

SHRISONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : You are from Karnataka.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Therefore I know him very well from a very close vicinity. But there is nothing personal against him.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please continue with your speech or else you'll lose time.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : But they are interrupting me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am addressing the Chair.

[English]

Sir, the Presidential Address lacks direction, commitment and political will; more than anything, it lacks hope for the future which should be the basic thrust of a Presidential Address. My friends from the United Front have said in their speeches that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government has been a 13-day wonder. It has been a 13-day wonder. It will resurrect again. But unfortunately, here is a conglomeration of parties which has been a 13-party blunder. Now, one more party has joined them... (Interruptions) When it was formed it was a 13-party blunder. Now, one more party has joined with a new honeymoon in Srinagar.

Sir, the speciality of the United Front is, especially of the Janata Dal, that they are fighters. They fight: if they do not get anybody to fight, they fight among themselves... (Interruptions) In Karnataka especially, Shri Ramakrishna Hegde and Shri Deve Gowda came together twice and they parted twice. When I see this phenomenon, I feel and people jocularly say that it is a matter of love at first sight and divorce after first night. They are coming together and parting away. It reminds me of an old film 'Amar Akbar Anthony'. Shri

Ramakrishna Hegde, Shri Bommai and Shri Deve Gowda came together in 1983 in front of the people, they parted in 1988, they again came together in 1994 and they have once again parted in 1996. I hope that the people would not be excusing this any more. Now, only two people are together.

In the Presidential Address there have been tall claims, especially about Panchayati Raj. It has been said :

"Panchayati Raj institutions and Nagar Palikas provide an ideal framework for planning, formulating and executing programmes for economic development and social justice."

Sir, Karnataka has been the home of Panchayati Raj institutions. My dear friend and colleague Member of Parliament from Bangalore (North), Shri Narayanaswamy is sitting here. He recently addressed a Press Conference in Bangalore regarding the position of Panchayati Raj system in Karnataka. He said:

"I am sorry to say that Karnataka which had become a model to other States by implementing Panchayati Raj system effectively has now lost its credit."

These are his words. He says further :

"The soul of Nazir Sahib, the champion of Panchayati Raj system in Karnataka must be stirring in the grave."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you quoting from the newspaper cutting?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Yes, Sir. I am quoting from the newspaper clipping and he can deny that.

It further says :

"Without mincing words I say that if we have the commitment to decentralise, the administrative changes in the present Act have to be made. I am saying this not as a Janata Dal worker but a person who has faith in the Panchayat system."

This amendment to the Panchayati Raj Act has been brought by the very Janata Dal Government and not by the Congress Government or not by the other Government. This is the way they are telling one thing here here in the Lok Sabha but doing exactly opposite to the same thing.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH (Chitradurga) : Sir, may I give a clarification?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. When you get an opportunity, you could give clarification.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, in Karnataka, we have got 88,000 Gram Panchayat members. These 88,000 Gram Panchayat members had an opportunity to elect ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI (Koppal) : Sir, I would like to know whether he is speaking on the President's Address or the Governor's Address...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, these 88,000 Gram Panchayat members comprise an electoral college to elect the members of the Legislative Council and local bodies.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ananth Kumar, please try to confine to the President's Address. The debate is on the Motion of Thanks.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I am only taking the analogy.

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : Sir, I am on point of order...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, is he speaking in the Indian Parliament or the Karnataka Assembly?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I would answer the hon. Member's query through you.

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has some point of order. Let him raise it.

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : Sir, our friend is talking only about the Karnataka Assembly. Let him talk on the Presidential Address.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, it is no point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I have already told him to confine to the President's Address.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, this is not his mistake. The Calcutta paper has said that Deve Gowdaji is the Prime Minister of Karnataka and Chief Minister of Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, in Karnataka for Legislative Council from Gram Panchayat, there were people's representation. For that representation a Constitutional amendment was moved in this very House. I am not speaking about Karnataka. When that Constitutional amendment came before this august House my friends from the Treasury Benches, who speak of the sons of the soil and who speak of humble farmers, opposed it. They wanted to block it. I should congratulate Shri Sontosh Mohan Devji as well as my friend Shri Kondaiiahji who is not present here. We sent the amendment. We said that you cannot remove the Gram Panchayat members from the electoral college of the Legislative Council through the Constitutional amendment Bill in the Parliament. For, you had given a word to the people of the country that you are going to give representation to the grass-root people. But when they were betraying the whole thing we had a floor coordination here and we sent the signals that you cannot do that. They had to withdraw the Bill and had to bring it in an amended form. Now, because of Bhartiya Janata Party and Congress, 88,000 Gram Panchayat members have got their voice in the Legislative Council of Karnataka. That goes to the credit of both the parties.

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : But ultimately we withdrew the Bill.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : You had to. You were forced to do that. You do not have the number. You have got only 42. You should remember that sad fact.

Sir, our hon. Prime Minister day in, day out talks of probity in public life and he also talks of bringing the Lokpal Bill. He has said that the Government is concerned about corruption in public life and is determined to take the effective steps to eradicate this evil.

Sir, the charity should begin at home. When the Prime Minister holds such a high office and when he contemplates such high ideals, he should make himself available to such scrutiny. When in a book, namely, 'King of Corruption' by Prof. Venkatagiri Gowda, an hon. Member of the Tenth Lok Sabha wrote about him concerning many allegations...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : Sir, I am on point of order. Shri Venkatagiri Gowda is not a Member of this House now. He cannot make such a reference.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should not refer to that.

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : Sir, he cannot give further reference of that book because the matter is sub judice...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : The matter is pending in a court of law. The matter is sub judice.

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : It is sub judice and he cannot refer to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has mentioned that he is not referring to the contents of the book.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Sir, the court has said..

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not yielding.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY (Bangalore North) : Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not yielding. I am not referring to the contents of the book.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Members is not yielding.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not referring to the contents of the book.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : If he is not yielding, you may kindly permit us. I am referring to a court order.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Under what rule are they raising the point of order?

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under what rule? What is your point of order?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : Sir, the matter is sub judice

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, it is not *sub judice*. I can quote from Kaul and Shakhdar's Rule of Procedure.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : The matter is pending in a court of law.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Under what rule are you raising this point of order?

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : I am just mentioning...

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : The matter is *sub judice*.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not yielding; they are interrupting me...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : Sir, kindly permit my point of order.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Under what rule are they raising this point of order?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Let him raise his point of order.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : I am on a point of order. The matter is *sub judice*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under what rule are you raising this?

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : I am coming to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you coming to the rule?

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : The fact is that there was an interim order of the court in Karnataka which had prohibited any publication of the contents of the book.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ananth Kumar, you should not refer to the contents of the book.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not referring to it. Prof. K.V. Venkatagiri Gowda, who was the hon. Member of the Tenth Lok Sabha, came out with a book "The King of the Corruption and the Unmaking of India" containing many allegations against our hon. Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda. I am not going into the allegations; I am not going into the contents of the book. But our hon. Prime Minister, day in and day out, sermonises the country about corruption in public life; he says that he will bring in a comprehensive Bill, Lokpal Bill, to check corruption. I demand that the hon. Prime Minister, when he comes here to give the reply to the debate, must make himself available to scrutiny by a House Committee.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : This matter is not before the House Committee. What a wrong demand the hon. Member is placing in this House! When it is not before the House Committee, how can he go for scrutiny? The hon. Member cannot speak whatever he likes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not referring to the contents of the book.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not referring to the contents of the book...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, this is not right our Hon'ble Colleague is delivering his speech and they are interrupting him again and again.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : This is an allegation.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Due to this kind of attitude of the Janata Dal, what happened in the recent by-elections in Karnataka? What happened in Ramanagaram? Where is Ramanagaram? Ramanagaram is an Assembly segment vacated by Deve Gowda ji. It was never held by Bharatiya Janata Party. Ramanagaram Assembly segment was held by Deve Gowda ji.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You try to confine yourself to the Motion that is before you.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, the hon. Prime Minister always quotes the examples from Karnataka. He has gone to Bangalore twenty-one times...(Interruptions) They should listen and they can reply later. In Ramanagaram Assembly segment, they were defeated by 9,500 votes. Our hon. Prime Minister does not have the forthrightness to enter the Lok Sabha. He is a wise man; he is an intelligent man.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ananth Kumar, you may conclude now because your Party has a number of speakers.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am concluding ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : My friend is quoting profusely from Dr. Venkatagiri Gowda. Kindly enlighten the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member has not quoted from the book.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am not yielding ...*(Interruptions)* In the Ramanagaram Assembly segment, Janata Dal lost its by—election by 9,500 votes. In Chickanakannahalli also, they lost the by—election.

When the Prime Minister, after vacating his recently held Assembly segment, has spoken in his address...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : You should give me some time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have spoken for more than 15 minutes and your party has a number of speakers. So, please conclude.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am concluding. I am quoting from his speech on confidence motion :

"My people of Karnataka, five crore

population of Karnataka, have given the mandate to run the State without the support of anybody. I have the courage to tell this august House I have the people's support. On the people's support, I sat in Karnataka as a Chief Minister and ran the State Government for one and a half years."

I appreciate this. He had the support of the people of Karnataka in 1994. What happened in 1997? In 1997, he did not dare to enter Lok Sabha, facing people directly. Rather, he chose Rajya Sabha. That is all right. It is another part of the same Parliament. I am not denigrating it. But the question is, he lost his Assembly seat also. The people of Karnataka told him in loud and clear voice that "We are not voting you as the Prime Minister. We are rejecting you as a MLA also. Go back." That is the clear and loud message to Shri H.D. Deve Gowda...*(Interruptions)* They brought a film actor. They spent crores of rupees...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Regarding employment assurance, there have been vague references...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI : The hon. Member says that they have spent crores of rupees. He has to prove it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your party has a number of speakers who will speak on this subject also.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Regarding employment assurance, there have been only vague references in this President's Address. In the entire country, two crore educated unemployed are there...*(Interruptions)* Our hon. Prime Minister always quotes from Karnataka experience. He says "There we have got an employed person for each house." But for the 20 lakh educated unemployed in Karnataka and two crore educated unemployed in the entire country and eight crore uneducated unemployed in the country, there is no concrete plan whereas in his own house, he has given two employments. He has made one son a Minister. Another son has come and occupied the seat of an hon. Member in this House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ananth Kumar, you should not refer to such things. I told you a number of times. You try to confine yourself within the motion.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : He himself is indulging in hereditary rule and nepotism in Karnataka ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you referring to that? I have told you not to refer to such things. Please try to confine to the motion.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Please conclude.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am referring to that because in 1977, we together fought against the hereditary rule of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Now if the same person indulges in that, it is a betrayal of the faith.

**18.00 hrs.**

MR. CHAIRMAN : You conclude, please. There are a number of speakers.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am concluding. What has happened to the real sons of the soil of this country? What has happened to the farmers of this country? What has the Janata Dal done? What has the United Front Government's dispensation done?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you not concluding?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I am concluding now. To complete one sentence, it requires a little time...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Conclude now, please.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : For the agriculturists, this Government has not promised anything. The Government has raised the rates of electricity power, urea and all the agricultural inputs. In the light of this, I do not support the Motion. I cannot thank the President's Address. I do not support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. I request our friends of the United Front to hear the criticism with patience and generosity ...*(Interruptions)* I am not alleging anything about them. I am just putting in front of the House the case of nepotism, the case of corruption and the case of non-fulfilment of the employment assurance ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : They do not have the courage to face the truth. Hon'ble member has spoken the truth...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Why can you not conclude now?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : The hon. Prime Minister has assured that he would be enunciating the National River Water Policy. He has assured both the Houses of

Karnataka about this. But that National River Water Policy has not been enunciated...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chitta Basu to speak now.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already called Shri Chitta Basu to speak. Shri Ananth Kumar, take your seat, please. Why can you not conclude now?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : All the assurance have been given to the people and all the assurances have been betrayed. In the light of these things, I do not support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned the names of some Members who are the Members of the other House in Karnataka. So, they should be deleted from the records...*(Interruptions)* Those names should be deleted from the records...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ananth Kumar, you cannot refer to the names of Members who are not the Members of this House. So, I will go through the records. If it is found that some expressions are unparliamentary or they cannot be mentioned here, those things will be deleted.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I did not utter a single unparliamentary word.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Take your seat, please. I have said 'if'.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I rise to support the Motion. Where is the time to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can start. Then, the House will be adjourned.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address which he has delivered in brilliant words.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can continue tomorrow.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 28th February, 1997 at 11.00 a.m.

**18.03 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, February 28, 1997/Phalguna 9, 1918 (Saka).*