

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, August 27, 2001/Bhadra 5, 1923 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has, once again created confusion over the Ayodhya issue after his visit to Lucknow. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia, you can raise it after the Question Hour please.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Bharatiya Janata Party is playing politics in the name of Ayodhya...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please sit down; this will not go on record please. I am on my legs.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia, you can raise it during 'Zero Hour'. Question No. 481, Dr. Pandeya.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): All that we would like to say is that it is a very important issue; we will follow whatever you say. We would like to raise it during 'Zero Hour'...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise it during 'Zero Hour'. Q. No. 481, Dr. Pandeya.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This matter cannot be raised during the Question Hour. Please raise it in the Zero Hour.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: We have given a notice on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen your notice. Please raise this matter in the Zero Hour. Let the Question Hour continue.

11.20 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Postal Services

+
*481. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government agree that the postal services in the country require a lot of improvement;

(b) if so, the present state of affairs in respect of the quality of postal services;

(c) whether the postal services have reached inaccessible areas in the country; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the quality and reach of the postal services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table on the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Improvement in the postal services in the country is an on-going process. The quality of postal services is generally satisfactory as would be evident from the following:—

- (i) As per the results of the All India Live Mail Survey conducted in September, 2000, 91.40% of unregistered mail and 93.44% of registered mail in urban areas was delivered within norms. Similarly, 88.77% and 87.29% of unregistered and registered mail respectively was delivered within norms in rural areas.
- (ii) India has the largest postal network in the world with a total of 1,54,551 post offices. On an average, a post office serves an area of 21.26 Sq.kms. and a population of 5462.

* Not recorded.

(iii) *In terms of daily collection, transmission and delivery of mail the postal service touches each and every village in the country.*

(iv) *The receipt of complaints for various essential services has also shown a declining trend as would be clear from the following:—*

Year	Opening Balance	Receipt	Settled	Pendency	Total traffic (in crores)
1998-1999	80266	813063	827447	65882	1576.65
1999-2000	65882	814260	820763	59379	1578.15
2000-2001	59379	787601	788632	58348	1432.60

- (v) Close monitoring the quality of services and making all our efforts for improvement by more effective management and using latest technology and computerization.

Some of the steps taken to improve the quality of service are as follows:—

- (i) New mail offices and transit sections are being opened wherever required to speed up the mail transmission. Services of private airlines are also being utilized wherever necessary.
- (ii) Sanctioning of additional posts of postmen. 980 posts were sanctioned in 1997-98, 852 in 1998-99 and 728 in 1999-2000.
- (iii) Surprise checks on the delivery of mails by the officers and supervisory staff. Coordination meetings with the Airlines/Railways and State Road Transport Undertakings to clear the bottlenecks if any in the transmission of mails.
- (iv) Special arrangements for handling seasonal mails at notified centres have been made.
- (v) Setting up of Information and Facilitation Counters for easy dissemination of information to public.
- (vi) Setting up Computerized Customer Care Centres at 204 District Headquarters.
- (vii) A new scheme known as Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana has been introduced as a third tier of administration for expansion of the postal network in the rural areas. A total of 3213 PSSKs have been opened and another 2000 are being opened during the current year.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has claimed that a lot of improvements have been made in the postal services but still a lot of improvements are required to be made as per his

statement. He has stated that around 90-91 percent of improvements have been made in Urban Postal Services whereas around 87-88 percent of improvements have been made in the rural postal services. The hon. Minister has said that more extensive steps would be taken for making improvements in this field and has also indicated that more Panchayat Sewa Kendras would be opened in the country. The Panchayat Sewa Kendras are still not functioning up to the mark and therefore more such Kendras are required to be opened to enable the smooth working thereof. We receive repeated complaints from the people regarding non-receiving of their mail for days together. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps the Government are taking in this regard so that the people could get their mail in time and also to improve the Postal Services.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): The statistics given also show the extent of improvements made. I had stated this earlier also that there is a proposal to introduce new technology and telecommunication system in those areas where the quantum of work has yet not reduced. This would be balanced in future. So far as the opening of Panchayat Sewa Kendras is concerned, we have decided that areas comprising population of more than 300, where post offices have not yet been opened, would be provided with Panchayat Sewa Kendras. Earlier the limit in this was 300 people which has now been increased to 600 people. This would also provide employment to the unemployed persons there and would also facilitate the common people. I have with me the Statewise details regarding places where Panchayat Sewa Kendras have been opened during the period from 1997 to 2001. This work is in progress.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has told that many Panchayat Sewa Kendras are being opened at Panchayat level in various States, but there has been no improvement in their functioning. Despite all this, there is a list of a competition in the Postal Services. Mail is being delivered through

courier services also. The hon. Minister has also stated about hike in the rates of post cards and envelope etc. Despite this, as the postal department has suffered a loss to the tune of Rs. 10 billions during the last four years as per the report of Accountant General of India. Whether this loss would be covered, or whether the increased rates would add to some benefit and whether the hon. Minister, keeping all this in view, would be able to bring improvements in the postal services? People believe that the postal services are still not competitive. You are talking about computerisation and E-MAIL but no such facilities has been provided in postal service. I would like to know by when hon. Minister would be able to provide this facility? Whether keeping in view the loss suffered, many intellectuals and other people termed this hike as unreasonable, the Minister may also clarify this point in his reply?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Postal Services in the entire world run in losses especially in rural areas. For example 'post-card' - the cost of a post card, starting from its manufacturing till its delivery, stands at 3 rupees 25 paise. We have increased the rate of post card from 25 paise to 50 paise only which means that we are still going into loss of Rs. 2.50 or Rs. or Rs. 2.75 per post card due to this subsidy. The rate of post card was not increased for the last 5-6 years and that is why the Government increased it from 25 paise to 50 paise only and it had appeared in the newspapers that there has been cent percent increase in the cost of post card. But if we compare it with the present rates, we would find that these rates are still too low. We also wish that our postal department become financially strong and for this we have signed a number of agreements during the last one year under which, we have decided to bring IDBI Mutual Fund, ICICI Mutual Fund, speech post, passport service and panchayat post office under the postal department, we have also signed agreements with Western Union Mutual Fund agreement with Western Bank of India and have also initiated E-post service in five States, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala and Goa. In this way we are making every possible effort like introduction of new technology, computerization etc. we are utilising new techniques. It would be very unreasonable to say that the postal department would overcome its loss merely by increasing the rates of post cards, this is not possible. We are making efforts to convert the postal service into value added service.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: The efforts being made by the Government in order to compete with other services...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The 7-8 points as I have stated are to combat the competitive challenges only.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have listened to the reply given by the hon. Minister. Well, statistics for every fact can be provided, but we wish to have information from the hon. Minister on practical points. He has stated that Letter Boxes have been installed by the department in each and every village and letters are collected from these boxes. We would like to know as to how many Letter Boxes have been installed in the villages to collect letters. Because as per my information the department has given the wrong statement and no such letter boxes are there in the villages. My second question is that under the process regarding opening of post offices, the number of post offices, the Government propose to open in proportion to the population and whether some partiality has been committed while opening post offices and if not, the number of post offices opened in his State, district-wise; and whether the required number of post offices have already been opened in each district of his State?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is also from the same State.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I have already stated in my reply that the number of GPO's in the country is 840, the number of departmental sub-post offices is 25166, Additional departmental post offices is 2746 and additional departmental branch post office is 1,25,799. The total number of post offices in rural areas is 1,31,149 and those in urban areas is 16402. So far as number of villages where letter boxes have been provided, is concerned, is 4,05,754.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon. Minister, Sir, please give the actual statistics.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We receive complaints from the other side and we would go by the statistics provided by the Government. We will furnish the written information sent by the Department and as per that there are six lakh seven thousand villages and personal visit in each of the village is not possible. If any complaint is received, be it from any hon. Member, regarding wrong statistics on the papers, we would definitely conduct an enquiry in this regard and submit a report to this effect.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the reply of the Question asked by Hon. Pandey as to what arrangement has been made by the Government to extend postal services to the inaccessible area of the country, it has been told that additional posts of postmen will be sanctioned. As has been told that 980 posts in 1997-98, 852 posts in 1998-99 and 728 posts in 1999-2000 had been sanctioned, however no data has been given with regard to these posts for the year 2000-2001. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many posts of postmen are proposed to be sanctioned so that the people in interior areas may get their postal deliveries like letters etc. You have said in your reply that the Government propose to set up computerised post offices in 204 district headquarters. Through you I would like to know whether the Government propose to increase their number?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajo Singh is the Member of the Consultation Committee of the Ministry. He must be aware of the situation. As far the creation of posts is concerned, the Government propose to reduce the recruitment, but in spite of this the work is going on in these areas where it is needed to be done. The approval for sanctioning of posts is to be taken from the Ministry of Finance and so far as the year 2000-2001 is concerned the takes in this regard are going on and we have been trying to get maximum number of posts sanctioned.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with the advancement of telecommunication, the postal service is neglected. This is because of the fact, as the hon. Minister has rightly said, that in remote areas postcards and inland service is mostly used which does not earn much revenue. There is a norm and as per that norm a certain minimum area is to be covered by a post office. As Members of Parliament when we write letters, unfortunately, the report we receive is not a correct report on ground. What Members say is not believed and instead reports are relied upon. Recently, we have got a letter from the hon. Minister refusing sanction of a well-deserved post office being asked for in a rural area. In view of this, will the Minister examine the real need of various areas of North-eastern region — I know the Minister has a soft corner for North-eastern States - and try to improve the facility?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have also been taking initiative at our own for looking into the question of North East. I try to do away whatever complaints are received.

As for the related area is concerned, a population of 3000 is necessary for opening up a post office in a village. The villages in hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas should have a minimum distance between two such places should be at least three kilometres. The local officers here also been given special powers in such inaccessible areas. The income generating capacity of these hilly tribal or inaccessible areas should be at least 15 percent to that of the investment made there while it should be one third in general areas. So this figure has been revealed a lot in regard to inaccessible, hilly and tribal areas. Though if you want to know I would like to tell that the total number of post offices is 1,54,551 out of which 1,38,149 are in rural areas, 4383 in desert areas, 10,419 in hilly areas, 15,259 are in tribal areas and 178 are situated in inaccessible areas.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Sir, the expansion of postal services is taking place in the country. You are right but how much is being increased is an experience in itself. There is Kingsway Camp in Delhi and the people from Punjab who have here after partition settled here. Though the postal services were available there at that place, however the post office of this area was shifted to some other place in the decade 1960-1970 Adarsh Nagar is situated four kilometres from this place. I myself and the hon. Member representing the Constituency earlier also had requested you. I have also personally requested to you that Kingsway Camp and the areas in its vicinity have approximately a population of one lakh. Earlier a post office used to be there but later on it was shifted. I have been demanding for years to shift the post office back to its original place. Everything including land for a post office is available there but there is no one to listen. Similarly there is no post office in Moti Nagar also which has a population of 50-60 lakhs, I would submit you to at least provide those postal services which were earlier available in the capital of the country.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Allright, we will look into it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I had given you in writing and also met you personally...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Tomorrow I will have a discussion with Shri Dasmunsi and the matter is also to be discussed in Rajya Sabha. I will call you on 30th alongwith others.

[English]

**Inter-Connection to Private Basic
Telecom Service Providers**

*482. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has refused inter-connection to private basic telecom service providers;

(b) if so, the grounds for such refusal;

(c) whether the Department of Telecommunication has disapproved the stand taken by BSNL;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether some of the private basic service providers are facing problems due to this refusal; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (f) According to available information, Points of Interconnection (POIs) are being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) as per procedure prescribed in the Interconnection Agreement after placing of firm demand by the operator seeking such interconnection. Wherever BSNL does not have adequate capacities in its switches to meet such demand, BSNL has proposed for provision of new capacity on Rent & Guarantee basis. It has been suggested to BSNL to review the provisions in their exchanges keeping in view the anticipated demand in a progressive multi-operator environment. After such review, BSNL has further issued demand notes for provision of point of interconnections to the extent feasible, to cater to the demand of points of interconnection.

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are in the 21st century and the telecommunications is the most important service. Today every child in every village needs an internet, he needs to know about the world. Though the Government is doing a lot in this regard however the villages in far flung or remote areas are

devoid of telecommunication facilities. My Lok Sabha Constituency Alwar is not so far away. I have been given the power to sanction 100 connections from the MP Quota and even today some reply is received that the telephone Connection will be provided after six months in a year. The purpose of setting up Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited was to provide similar facilities to public sector as well as private sector operators. So that the far flung areas may be given telecommunication facility. My question is as to apart from giving inter connection what other facilities the private sector companies have been demanding from the Government and what problems are being faced by these companies due to which these are unable to expand their base in rural areas. I would further like to know whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. or Government of India is in a position to meet all their requirements or to resolve all their problems?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Our teledensity in Delhi Telecom Department is increasing unabatedly. Two years back the number of lines was approximately 1.75 crore which has increased to 3.3 crore now in addition to 45 lakh cellular phone lines. Our teledensity has increased to 3.6 in total. But we are not satisfied with that alone. We have set a target for 7.5 crore lines upto 2005 and 17 crore lines upto 2010 so that our teledensity will increase to 7 percent in 2005 and 15 percent in 2010. In addition to it, there are six lakhs 7 thousand villages in our country out of which 4 lakh 10 thousand villages have telephone facility. We are also looking forward to change MAR technology which is not working properly in 2 lakh 11 thousand villages out of above mentioned villages. We are also laying down optical fibre line and we have laid down these lines to an approximate length of ten lakh kilometres during the last two years and this year we have set a target of laying down 1 lakh 26 thousand kilometres of optical fibre line. Last year the prices of optical fibre doubled because of that it was not possible to use it in desired quantity. However, this time its prices have reduced to half, so it could be used extensively.

There are certain TNF areas in Delhi where laying of cables costs are very high because in villages covered under this area, houses are scattered at a distance of 10-15 kms and only a few people apply for connections. Therefore, if a base station is set up through WLL, cables would not be required upto a distance of 25 km. And 500 connections can be given. If required, this capacity can be increased to 500 additional connections and the work in this regard has already been started.

About 13,53,000 telephone lines are operating in Rajasthan. This year we have set a target to lay 2,19,000 telephone lines. The waiting list of 15,000 will be cleared within 6 months through WLL technique. A parliamentary constituency is spread over a large area and sometimes members of Parliament recommend the demands received from the areas where the facility is not available but even then we will fulfil those demands.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to a report in *Hindustan Times* dated 1.8.2001, the BSNL is not cooperating with the Private companies which are willing to provide basic facilities. I would like to know the names of private companies which are willing to provide telecom facility and have made a demand for Interconnection facility from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. alongwith the number and names of those telecom companies which have already got interconnection facility and the places where they are functioning properly. Has any private company made a demand for inter-connection facilities for Rajasthan? How many cities and districts of Rajasthan have been affected by the refusal of providing inter-connection facilities to private companies and what are the reasons behind it? What is the reaction of the Government in this regard?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as providing inter connection to private companies is concerned, on the whole private operators are functioning in 6 circles who were assigned the job to install telephones in 98 thousand rural areas. They have made a commitment to complete this work but till now they have not started the work in rural areas. One thousand villages of Maharashtra are still not having telephones facility. The Government cannot shirk from its accountability. The target of the BSNL is nil in Andhra Pradesh for the last two years. We have completed our job but the 6,000 villages out of 29,000 are under the private companies which have not yet provided telephone connections.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: It is required for the villages.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The hon. Member has put a lengthy question. Six private operators have been assigned this job in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. He made a mention of POI, inter-connection. They have made a demand for 312 in local and 109 in TAX in Andhra Pradesh. I have long details in this regard but I do not want to go into that. Demands are pending in several stages e.g. 2 local and 2 TAX in Andhra Pradesh, in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh it is nil, in Maharashtra it is 45 in local and 21 in TAX, in Punjab

it is 198 in local and 61 in TAX, and 36 local and 27 TAX in Rajasthan. However, inter connection is not provided only on demand, they are required to deposit some money also for it. There is a procedure in this regard and connection has to be provided within a period of 12 months of the date of putting up the demand. From this point of view, the matter of Andhra Pradesh deemed to be sorted out. And so far as other States are concerned, 12 months have not yet completed. Discussion is going on in this regard and the matter is likely to be sorted out. POI are given in areas where VSNL has the capacity, however, the areas not covered under VSNL, are asked to make alternative arrangements. Option is not given under Rent and Guarantee Scheme. Any delay caused for favouritism shown by VSNL on the issue of providing inter connectivity is not a right thing.

RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, private operators are providing such facilities in several States. They made a commitment in this regard several years ago but did not fulfil it so far. Will they be punished for that or they will be forgiven everytime. The matter is pending for the last four years.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are punishing them also but punishment cannot solve the problems of public. We have the right to cancel their licences but I think that will be the final step. We have provided WLL facility which is cost effective also. We had a target to instal telephone in each and every village in 5 States by 15th of August. We have achieved this target in Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. We are not depending on the private operators completely. The job of my department has been completed but it is true that the private operators have not completed their work. Now they have started installing equipment. Hence, we are taking all possible steps, by holding talks with them and also penalising them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, besides, we are making an appeal to them that further licence will be issued to them only when they complete the outstanding work under the new facility.

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for the opportunity given to me. Our Telephone Department is very strong and has full-fledged infrastructural facilities. But I do not know why the Department is lagging behind private operators in providing mobile telephone services and other modern telephone services. For example, the Kerala Circle was all set to

provide mobile services. But the Department is not giving permission to the Kerala Circle. May I know from the hon. Minister as to why there is a delay in giving permission to the Kerala Circle to provide mobile services?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as mobile services are concerned, connections were given to two operators before 1999 but after the new Telecom Policy of 1999 came into force, the number of operators increased to four which included both the BSNL and private operators. The private operators have already submitted their final reply and they are going to start the work in every circle including Kerala. So far as BSNL is concerned, they are going to start their services in every State by the end of this year.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many villages have the MARR telephone services, but 99 per cent of them are not working. I raised the same issue on the floor of the House twice. Previously, inaccessible villages had a lot of communication. Why are you not changing them on war footing or on priority basis? Providing new telephone for each village is a separate issue. You have already created infrastructure through MARR phones. They are not working. There is lack of materials. They are being postponed for years together. They do not have the facilities. Does the Government have any target to provide MARR telephones by this month or by this year? Even after 53 years of Independence, this facility has not been provided. People belonging to even remote and inaccessible villages are requesting for one telephone for their villages. The hon. Minister has just now stated that if there are requests for only two or three telephones, it costs more to lay the optic fibre cable. We have to provide telephones for inaccessible villages, hilly areas and the North-East. It is the obligation of the Government. Even after 53 years of Independence, we are not able to provide each village with a single telephone. Whatever money is required we have to spend. The hon. Minister hails from the rural area and we have to complete it by 2002 or by 2003 on priority basis. Otherwise, there is no social obligation on the Government. Is the Government thinking to provide telephones to the whole of the country?

MR. SPEAKER: The Question is about providing inter-connection to private operators.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: The hon. Minister stated that BSNL will provide WLL cellular phones to Hyderabad by the second half of 2001. But according to the recent

newspaper reports, the materials have been shifted to some other parts. Hence it may be delayed. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he stands by his commitment.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as mobile services are concerned, before 1999, connections were given to two operators but after the new telecom policy of 1999 came into force, the number of operators has increased to four which included the BSNL and the private operators. The final reply from private operators has already been received and they are going to start the work in every circle including Kerala. The BSNL is also going to start its services in every State by the end of this year.

We have decentralised it. As I had said that some inconvenience was caused last year when its prices were doubled in international market. Optical fibre is very costly. That problem has also been resolved. I don't want to hear this pretext from any officer or from any circle that they don't have the material. As far MARR is concerned you here rightly pointed out that there are two lakhs 11 thousand villages under this technology. This technology might have been extremely useful at the time of its adoption. However due to the lack of provision regarding its maintenance, Department of Telecommunications could not get information this technology. However at some places the maintenance agreement has been made as with Shyam telecom in Rajasthan, there it has been giving good performance. However it is lying unfunctional at 90 percent of the places. I have given an assurance to this effect that we will try to look into all aspects relating to the MARR technology by the year 2002.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, day after tomorrow you are going to discuss the Telecom Policy in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I will try to change that. However alongwith it I said that though we have the manpower and requisite efficiency to install telephone lines in six lakhs and seven thousand remote villages but we lack funds to do so. Our colleagues have drawn comparison with China. China has fixed a target for installing 50 crore lines by 2010. However they have

been allocating one third of the total plan budget to Telecommunication to fulfil that target. Our Government does not provide even a single pie as budgetary support for the purpose. We have been investing whatever funds or revenues are earned by us and the money earned from licence fee etc. goes to the consolidated fund of India. We get the funds we will provide telephone connection to each village by 2002. We talk of providing internet connection to each panchayat...(Interruptions)

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: You are claiming to provide telephone connection in every village but the ground reality is that so many block headquarters in North East region lacks the telephone facility.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: There are only seven block headquarters in the entire country which lack the telephone facility. I am not talking about the exchange. That too depends upon monitoring, it keeps on coming and going. However, I am saying something else that...(Interruptions)

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: First you ensure to get the telephone installed in block headquarters. What you are saying is wrong...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I tell you that the Sikkim has the maximum teledensity in the country. It has a teledensity of 40 percent, i.e. 40 persons out of 100 have got the telephone connections in Gangtok...(Interruptions) I respect the sentiment of the hon. Members. However many problems like extremism, terrorism and arson and of kidnapping in remote rural areas exist in our country. Our DET was killed in Manipur. In these situations we do not have adequate manpower. Despite these heavy odds we have been able to install 5 lakh lines as against the targetted 43 lakhs lines. I would like to apprise the hon. Members that by December 2002, there will not exist a single village or block without the telephone facility. This is our commitment. If we get the WLL facility then we will provide telephone facility in the remotest villages of the blocks. ...(Interruptions) I would like to ask my colleagues from North East to give me the names of these blocks in North East region where the telephone facility does not exist in block headquarters. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

I will let you know by tomorrow and I will take action against that officer...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: I am congratulating the hon. Minister because he has promised to take action...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when the ten exchanges of the block headquarters of district Gopalganj which have yet not become functional due to the non availability of the optical fibres, will be started? The mobile telephone facility has been started in Siwan and Motiha district, however our district Gopalganj has not been provided the facility. I would like to know the reasons from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister first do for Bihar then for rest of the country?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have visited the district Kishanganj of Shri Pappu Yadavji last month and the hon. Member is talking about Gopalganj. There is a provision for opening telephone exchange in block headquarters and it has also been provided that there should be a distance of eight to nine kilometres between the two telephone exchanges. In some blocks the telephone exchange are situated at a distance of two kilometres only and the block is connected to that exchange. However as you have said that Bhandaria exchange has been shifted to Jharkhand and you have also referred to the fault in Daltonganj exchange. I would like to say that I got it rectified immediately. You give us the name of block headquarters. The approved exchanges will start functioning by December and optical fibre will also be installed at the targetted places.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Tell us about mobile service.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mobile service is being provided throughout the country. That will also be provided in your area by December.

MR. SPEAKER: You can write a letter to the hon. Minister.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Yes, I will certainly write one.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Yes, Sir, you do.

[English]

Dereservation of Mineral Bearing Areas

*483. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of dereservation of mineral bearing areas which the State Governments have reserved for exploitation by public sector has been discussed during recently convened meeting of the Minister of Mining and Geology;

(b) if so, the outcome of the meeting;

(c) whether representations have also been received from the State Governments for revision of royalty rates of some minerals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Conference of State Ministers of Mining and Geology held on 14.7.2001 discussed the status of review of unexploited areas reserved for public sector exploitation. It was decided that the States would review the areas reserved under the erstwhile Rule 58 of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and denotify areas not required for exclusive exploitation through Public Sector Undertakings. In case of remaining areas, State Governments would send full justification area wise for continuing with reservation to the Central Government within six months.

(c) to (e) Representations are received from time to time from various State Governments regarding revision of royalty rates of minerals. Under the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, rates of royalty on minerals can be enhanced not more than once in a period of three years. The Central Government (Ministry of Mines) had recently revised the rates of royalty of major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing) vide notification dated 12.9.2000. Ministry of Coal has revised the rates of royalty on lignite vide notification dated 15.3.2001, and has set up a Committee on 27.7.2000 under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Coal) to make recommendations on the structure of rates of royalty on Coal, which were last revised on 11.10.94.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing on dereservation of minerals in Question 483. Minerals is my subject and I have examined every single paper of the Ministry. The question is as to whether or not are we dereserving the minerals in true sense.

[English]

Under Rule 58 of the MCR Act, 1960, 80 percent of the minerals have been acquired by the State Government or the public sector undertakings.

[Translation]

That remains unutilised so far. High Court has given the decision to open the unutilised minerals. According to the National Mineral Policy declared in 1993.

[English]

I am just giving the background for half a minute.

[Translation]

For which the private and public sectors were opened. Hon. Minister has said in his reply that we are dereserving the minerals.

[English]

But nothing significant has been done since 1983 of specific answer has been given by the hon. Minister that under section 58 of MCR Act.

[Translation]

We are dereserving the minerals. I would like to ask this question that when we want to create a level playing field for both the private as well as public sector then why the issue of dereservation of those areas which comes.

[English]

Under Section 17(A) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, has not been raised here? I accused that the Ministry has totally failed to private the basic condition to the private sector also.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the Question, or else the problem will arise?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I am talking about the zink sector. Hindustan Zinc is the only company with private Zinc ore. There are two conditions under the Natural Mineral Policy. First condition is that long term benefit and national interest should be kept in mind.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, second major condition is that we should only sell the value added products and not the raw material. Sir, I am talking about Zinc. Our apparent demand for Zink is 2.75 million tonnes, supply is 1.75 million tonnes and import is 1 million tonnes. As per the policy, the Zinc ore cannot be sold...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your supplementary? You have to ask the supplementary now.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Zink ore cannot be sold.

[English]

In the year 2000-2001, the Ministry has exported 70,000 metric tonnes.

[Translation]

There was a condition under which Private sector was not eligible to export zink ore. Sir, it has been stated in National Mineral Policy, 1993 that long term needs will be taken into consideration. My question is that in view of national interest why the export of concentrated zink was not regulated? Second part of my question is that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, please take your seat.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I expected that hon'ble Member will thank me after reading the reply. But he has tried to expose me.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: No, Sir, it is not so.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that transparency is maintained in this Ministry. Though I am a Minister but like the hon'ble Member I do not have deep knowledge of this subject. Hon'ble Member is a learned person but it is not my subject. I would like to make a submission that after taking the charge of this Ministry, a meeting of the Ministers of Mines of all the States was convened and it was decided that it should be done by States themselves. All the States agreed to this decision and assured that proposal in this regard will be prepared within a period of 6 months and areas would be dereserved accordingly. Information regarding those reserved areas will also be sent to us along with the reasons for it. I would like to assure you that, the Government also want to attract more private capital and give a chance to private sector in this field.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, reply to my first supplementary is not clear then what is the use of asking second supplementary.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I have told you to put a direct question to the Minister. Otherwise you will not get any answer?

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got reply to my first supplementary.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your second supplementary please?

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got reply to my first supplementary. My question is that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you want to say anything about the first question?

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member is elaborating his point. I will reply to it after that.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was that when it has been clearly mentioned in the Mineral Policy that long term needs and value added products will be taken into consideration and we cannot export zink ore because it is already in deficit demand then why 70 thousand tonne of zink ore was exported during the year 2000-2001. This is my simple question.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per my information there is no ban on export of zink. Hindustan Zink Limited can sell zink ore in local market as well as in other countries. There is no restriction on it.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been mentioned clearly in the mineral policy of the Government that export of zink ore has been banned even then zink ore is being exported. My second question

is that certain conditions have been imposed on export and the first condition is that full payment in terms of dollars should be made for it. As a result of it no Indian competitor could compete for it because Indian companies are unable to pay such a huge amount in terms of dollar. A company can pay such a huge amount only through havalas. Such a stringent condition was imposed. Due to which we could not make consumption of our own product. Now we are importing zinc. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether investigation will be done in this regard.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: Please write a letter to me regarding this problem. The matter will be investigated and you will be informed about this...(*Interruptions*)

SHR SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: The hon'ble Minister cannot do so...(*Interruptions*) we will write letter but who will give reply...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the hon. Member is asking whether the Government is going to investigate the matter or not. That is his supplementary.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said that any matter brought in my notice will be investigated if there is need to do so. There is no doubt in it. The hon'ble Member has referred to the policy and rules. The things which are prohibited under rules can be banned.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question has two parts - one relates to royalty. The Government has constituted a Committee in 1997 for determining royalty on the basis of ad valorem prices which had submitted its report 3-4 years ago. What action has been taken by the Government in this regard. This is for the benefit of all the States. After reorganisation Bihar and Jharkhand have become two States. Now mines and minerals have become part of Jharkhand. Monghyre, Banka and Jamui these three districts of Bihar have huge deposits of gold and mica. These three districts will be defined or notified? What action will be taken by the Government in this regard. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that after reorganisation of the State what action will be taken by the Government for extracting gold and mica from these three districts of Bihar on the basis of ad valorem prices.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: The Government does not extract minerals. Public Undertakings and now with changing time private parties do this job. So far the question of royalty on coal is concerned, a separate Department has been there. We have taken into consideration the issue of royalty on gold and other metals...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The survey of gold is done by Government of India. You have replied regarding rate of royalty on coal which were revised on 11.10.1994. The hon'ble Minister has stated that the supplementary asked by me will be replied by another Minister.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far the question of royalty is concerned, the other Department determines it. That department has constituted a Committee to decide royalty. The matter is under consideration with the Committee. The Ministry of Coal will decide it after receiving the report. This is not under the jurisdiction of my Department the issue of royalty of coal is under consideration with the Committee constituted for this purpose.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You have stated that the said Committee was constituted on 27.7.2000. I am saying that this Committee was constituted in 1997. The report has been submitted by the Committee but it is not being implemented for the last four years...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, the Minister is saying that the Committee is examining the matter.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: A Committee was constituted earlier and it has submitted its report. The Government has not accepted its recommendations. The Committee constituted recently is considering the matter...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Reply should also be given to the question raised here regarding Jamui...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the non-revision of royalty on coal and minerals deprives the State of Orissa of hundreds of crores of rupees every

year. How many times has the Government of Orissa applied for the revision of royalty on coal and other minerals? If the royalty on minerals is to be enhanced only after three years, how many times the royalty on minerals from Orissa has been revised since Independence?

Does the Government have any proposal for enhancing the royalty rates in the near future?

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far the question of revision of royalty on other minerals is concerned, I would like to say that royalty on minerals under my Department was revised last year. Revision of royalty on coal is being examined by the Committee constituted for this purpose. So far the question of lignite is concerned the royalty on it has been raised recently from Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 50.

[English]

Training Courses by Central Board for Workers' Education

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

(a) whether the Central Board for Workers' Education (CBWE) has decided to conduct training courses to promote workers' participation in management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the policy in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage and secure the workers' participation in management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) The Central Board for Workers' Education has been conducting training programmes on Workers' Participation in Management of different places in the country. During the year 2000-2001, 27 training programmes at the Regional level and 3 at National level were conducted. In these programmes the number of participants were 843.

The basic objective of the Government is to encourage workers' participation in management and to create a sense of involvement of the workers in the enterprise. In this regard a voluntary scheme of Employees Participation in Management was notified. The scheme is voluntarily applicable to all Central Public Sector enterprises, except those specifically exempted. It envisages constitution of bipartite forums at shop and plant levels. In 1990 the participation of workers in management Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill is under the examination of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my point is that workers should be encouraged under the Workers' Participation in Management Programme. In reply to my question it has been stated that at regional level 27 training programmes and at national level 3 programmes are being conducted for this purpose. So far only 843 workers have participated in these programmes. The figure is not satisfactory. Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what steps will be taken by the Government for increasing the workers participation in these training programmes.

SHRI MUNI LALL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Training Programme was started in 1968. These programmes are being conducted at regional level, sub-regional level and National level. At national level less programmes are being conducted and we are trying to impart training to more and more workers. We have brought a Bill in 1990 in this regard which is pending in Rajya Sabha. We are trying to impart training to more and more workers for making them aware.

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got reply to my question. So far only 843 workers have been participated under this training programme. It is not satisfactory. My second question is that in this present time of disinvestment workers' participation in management and disinvestment should be promoted. I would like to know as to whether the Government propose to formulate any such programme under disinvestment policy and if so, the details thereof?

SHRI MUNI LALL: All these provisions were made in the Bill of 1990. We will give education to more and more workers. It cannot be denied that workers need training under the disinvestment policy and we will take up this.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, a very important question has been raised with regard to participation of workers in the management. I think, for this purpose, a separate legislation is required. Since long, the various Central Trade Unions are demanding participation of workers in the management. Otherwise, the productivity, which we need, will not increase. That is why when the workers will understand that they are a part and parcel of the management, they will make full efforts for enhancing the production.

May I know clearly from the hon. Minister whether the Government is contemplating new laws for ensuring the participation of the workers in the management in the event of disinvestment, privatisation, etc.?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI MUNI LALL: The Bill has already been under consideration in the Rajya Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER: This is regarding workers' participation in the management.

SHRI MUNI LALL: Sir, a comprehensive law is being enacted. It is already in the offing. Workers awareness and participation is linked to the production and for that the Government is very much concerned.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the concept of participation of workers in the management has been in vogue for quite a long time. I would like to know when this concept was conceived and for how long has it been in existence. In that case, what is the effect of it; is it marginal, substantial or nil?

SHRI MUNI LALL: The Bill has already been pending in the Rajya Sabha, it had been referred to the Standing Committee also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The legislation is pending before the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, before the legislation, the concept was very much in existence.

SHRI MUNI LALL: Yes, it was in existence. Earlier it was marginal, now we are trying to make it substantial.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Production in Bharat Gold Mines Limited

*485. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether production has been stopped in the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML);

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether the Government have explored the possibilities to effect certain changes in its management in order to keep the said company operational; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) has been incurring losses almost since inception in 1972. It was referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in 1992 when its net worth got totally eroded. Over a period of 8 years, BIFR got several rehabilitation packages prepared through Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) which was declared Operating Agency. But none of these measures could be feasible and viable. BIFR therefore, decided in June, 2000 that it was just, equitable and in the public interest to wind up the company. On the appeal filed by workers representatives the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) upheld in November, 2000 the order of BIFR. Subsequently, closure of the company was approved under Section 25(O) of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 with effect from 1st March, 2001.

(c) and (d) Besides the efforts made by BIFR, independently efforts were made by the Government to keep the company operational through joint venture route by accepting a competent party as copromoter. During June-July 1994, global tenders were floated by BGML inviting foreign participation for joint venture in exploration and exploitation in the existing lease hold area of BGML and extraction of gold from tailings. In 1995, BGML signed MOU with Normandy Anglo Asian Private Limited (NAAL) for exploration/exploitation of gold from shallow depths.

NAAL backed out from the project in December 1995. In 1997, Ministry of Mines set up a Committee under chairmanship of Additional Secretary and launched a global search for a joint venture partner. However, the Committee did not find any of the bidders as financially, technically or otherwise suitable to be associated as a joint venture partner for reviving BGML.

[English]

C-DOT's Campus Project

*486. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is inordinate delay in the construction of C-DOT's campus project;

(b) whether the said project which was started in 1994 is still incomplete resulting in doubling the cost;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to complete the project without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The C-DOT campus project was approved by the C-DOT Governing Council in 1994-95 at an estimated cost of Rs. 80 crores. Based upon this approval, M/s. Satnam Namita & Associates, Architects were appointed as Associate Architect Consultant (AAC) through open architectural competition, in September, 1994. The scope of work of the AAC included obtaining of various clearances/approvals from statutory authorities. According to the contract with the AAC, the work relating to the campus project was to be completed in a period of four years from the date of appointment. However, the various approvals from the statutory agencies could be obtained only by March, 1998.

Thereafter, estimates were prepared, pre-qualification of tenderers were done, tenders were floated and after evaluation of the bids, the work of construction of the main R&D Building was awarded to M/s. Ansal Properties and Industries Limited (APIL) in February, 1999 at a cost of Rs. 36.79 crores.

M/s. APIL was to complete the contract for the main R&D building in a period of 30 months from the date of appointment. However, due to certain objections from the

Forest Department of the Delhi Government for the commencement of work and due to issues relating to detailed working drawings, the civil construction of the main R&D building is now scheduled to be completed by March, 2002.

As on date, structures for some of the blocks of the main R&D building have come up resulting in completion of 44,000 Square Metres out of a total of 65,000 Square Metres of plinth area. The work relating to fire fighting, fire detection, roads, sewer lines, water supply and internal electrification for these blocks is in progress.

C-DOT has also initiated action for providing infrastructure like lifts, Air Conditioning etc. for which tendering work is in progress.

Scope of work for the remaining components of the project is under finalization, and is expected to be completed in about a month's time. Construction work of these components is proposed to be completed by June, 2003.

In order to complete the C-DOT Campus project without further delay, the campus group of C-DOT has been further strengthened by inducting one Chief Engineer for electrical works. With a view to ensure smooth progress of the work related to the campus, the C-DOT management has also appointed M/s. RITES, a consultancy organization under the Ministry of Railways, as the Construction Supervision and Management Agency (CSM). Further, C-DOT has appointed a Campus Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising of experts in different branches of construction management to advise the C-DOT Board in critical issues pertaining to the project.

It is expected that, due to the combined effect of all the measures taken, as mentioned above, the Project is likely to be completed without substantial cost over-run.

Unemployment among Rural Youth

*487. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research has conducted a survey with regard to the unemployment among rural youth;

(b) if so, the details of the survey report;

(c) whether the unemployment rate among the rural youth is on increase;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), as reported by them, did not carry out any survey with regard to the unemployment among rural youth.

Estimates of employment & unemployment situation are available from surveys on employment & unemployment of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The unemployment rates among rural youth (age group 15-29 years) on Usual Principal & Subsidiary Status (UPSS) basis in 1987-88, 1993-94 & 1999-2000 were 3.8%, 2.9% & 3.7% respectively of the labour force.

Ninth Plan has accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The plan has focused on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

Government have also been implementing special programmes for eradication of poverty and generation of employment. The major poverty alleviation programmes, which provide employment in the rural areas, are Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is also being implemented to provide employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth in both rural and urban areas.

[Translation]

Loss Making Routes of Indian Airlines

*488. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loss making routes on which the Indian Airlines is operating its flights at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal to permit the private airlines to operate their flights on such routes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) A statement-I listing Indian Airlines services which are not meeting direct cost of operations is annexed.

(b) to (d) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. All scheduled operators including private scheduled operators are free to operate any where subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government. A copy of the aforesaid guidelines is also annexed as statement-III.

Statement I

Indian Airlines Limited

Loss making Services (Not meeting Direct Cost of Operations) 2000-01

S.No.	Sector	Service No.
1	2	3
<i>Domestic</i>		
1.	Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore	587-588
2.	Chennai-Trivandrum	931-932
3.	Mumbai-Indore-Bhopal-Gwalior-Delhi	133-134
4.	Bangalore-Goa-Pune-Bangalore	917
5.	Kolkata-Guwahati	229-230
6.	Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Kolkata	411-412
7.	Mumbai-Jamnagar-Bhuj-Mumbai	147
8.	Mumbai-Vadodra	689-690
9.	Chennai-Bangalore	911-912
10.	Mumbai-Ahmedabad	603-604
11.	Chennai-Tirupathy-Hyderabad	943-944
12.	Mumbai-Bhavnagar	635-636
13.	Mumbai-Mangalore	179-180
14.	Chennai-Bangalore-Mangalore	559-560
15.	Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur-Mumbai	491-492
16.	Chennai-Calicut	985-986
17.	Kolkata-Silchar-Imphal	255-256
18.	Mumbai-Rajkot	145-146

1	2	3
19.	Kolkata-Agartala	745-746
20.	Leh-Jammu	425-426
21.	Mumbai-Udaipur-Jaipur	493-494
22.	Kolkata-Aizwal-Imphal	211-212
23.	Kolkata-Tezpur-Dimapur-Kolkata	215
24.	Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar	485-486
25.	Chennai-Nagpur-Bhopal	565-566
26.	Delhi-Guwahati	891-892
27.	Mumbai-Pune	663-664
28.	Delhi-Leh	431-432
29.	Kolkata-Agartala	241-242
30.	Kolkata-Jorhat-Dimapur-Kolkata	257
31.	Guwahati-Agartala	207-208
32.	Delhi-Indore-Bhopal	433-434
33.	Delhi-Guwahati	891-892
34.	Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar-Delhi	485-486
35.	Mumbai-Udaipur-Jodhpur	193-194
36.	Kolkata-Agartala	743-744
37.	Leh-Srinagar	429-430
38.	Kolkata-Dibrugarh	701-702
39.	Leh-Chandigarh	483-484
40.	Kolkata-Agartala	243-244
41.	Mumbai-Cochin	161-162
42.	Kolkata-Silchar	253-254
43.	Kolkata-Imphal	713-714
44.	Delhi-Jaipur-Jodhpur	473-474
45.	Gawahati-Agartala	207-208
46.	Ahmedabad-Bhuj	149-150
47.	Delhi-Lucknow-Patna	409-410

1	2	3
48.	Chennai-Vizag-Kolkata	541-542
49.	Delhi-Bagdogra-Guwahati-Delhi	879-880
50.	Ahmedabad-Mumbai	609-610
51.	Kolkata-Bhubaneswar	261-262
<i>International</i>		
1.	Kolkata-Kathmandu	747-748
2.	Varanasi-Kathmandu	751-752

Statement II

*Copy of the Ministry of Civil Aviation's Order No. AV.
11012/2/94-A Dated 1.3.1994 Regarding Route
Dispersal Guidelines*

ORDER

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (IA) of rule 134 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, the Central Government, with a view to achieving better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions in the country, hereby direct that every operator operating any scheduled air transport service within the country on any route specified in annex hereto, under category-I, shall be required to provide a minimum of scheduled air transport service on routes indicated in category II and III in the Annex. For rendering the prescribed minimum service on routes in Category II and III, an operator may at his option provide the service either by aircraft in his fleet or with aircraft in any other operator's fleet on mutually agreed terms. In the latter case, the arrangements shall have prior approval of the Director General of Civil Aviation.

Sd/-

(P.K. Banerji)

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

To

The Director General of Civil Aviation,
(Attn: Shri H.S. Khola, DGCA),
Safdarjung Airport,
New Delhi.

*Vide Order No. Av. 11012/2/94-A dated 1.3.94
Provision of Service in Different Categories
of Routes*

Category-I

Routes connecting directly

Bombay — Bangalore	Calcutta- Delhi
Bombay — Calcutta	Calcutta — Bangalore
Bombay — Delhi	Calcutta — Madras
Bombay — Hyderabad	Delhi - Bangalore
Bombay — Madras	Delhi — Hyderabad
Bombay — Trivandrum	Delhi—Madras

Category-II

Routes connecting stations in North-Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep.

Category-III

Routes other than those in Category-I and Category-II

Any one who operates schedule air transport service on one or more of the routes under Category-I, shall be required to provide such service in Categories-II & III as indicated below:—

The operator will deploy on routes in Category-II at least 10% of the capacity he deploys on routes in Category-I and of the capacity thus required to be deployed on Category-II routes, at least 10% would be deployed on service or segments thereof operated exclusively within the North-Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep.

The operator will deploy on routes in Category-III, at least 50% of the capacity he deploys on routes in Category-I.

Note 1: A service operated on a Category-I route as a part of international air service will not be reckoned for the above purpose.

Note 2: Capacity deployed will be reckoned in Available Seat Kilometers (ASKM).

Note 3: On multiple sector routes like Delhi-Calcutta-Guwahati-Imphal, the capacity provided on Delhi-Calcutta sector will count towards Category-I, that provided on Calcutta-Guwahati sector will count towards Category-II and the capacity on Guwahati-Imphal sector will count towards service exclusively within Category-II.

[English]

Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme

*489. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme for afforestation of coastal areas of the country is under implementation to form a shelterbelt with a view to reduce impact of cyclones;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the total area proposed to be covered under the scheme, State-wise; and

(d) the total amount allocated, released and spent so far under the scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme envisages plantation in rows along the coastline to create a shelterbelt for checking soil erosion and sand ingress for protection of agricultural fields, homesteads, roads etc.

(c) and (d) A statement is given below.

Statement

State-wise Physical and Financial details of projects under Coastal Shelterbelt Plantations under Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development project Scheme during 9th Plan

(Amount Rupees in lakhs and Area in Hectare)

Sl. No.	States	9th Plan Physical Target	9th Plan Financial Allocation	Release	Amount spent
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2050	472.44	184.96	79.76

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Gujarat	3900	415.00	293.25	145.45
3.	Karnataka	200	55.58	35.45	13.86
4.	Kerala	1000	408.59	99.51	55.28
5.	Orissa	8000	1488.51	441.09	100.74
6.	Pondicherry	448	90.32	20.12	0.00
7.	Tamil Nadu	100	308.70	84.55	9.58
8.	West Bengal	150	30.02	18.16	6.06
Total		16748	3269.16	1177.09	410.73

Survey by ISRO for Water Resources

*490. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has conducted any survey of different landscapes to spot out ground water resources;

(b) if so, the States where this survey has been done; and

(c) the success so far achieved in identifying such resources, especially in the drought affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) The Department of Space is engaged in preparation of ground Water prospects maps using satellite remote sensing techniques for the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan at the behest of the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking water Mission of the Department of Drinking Water Supply. The maps are prepared by incorporating geological (lithological and structural), geo-morphological and hydrological information derived from satellite remote sensing and collateral ground data. Such integrated information provided in the ground water prospects maps help in narrowing down the target zones and systematic selection of sites for drilling after conducting necessary follow-up ground surveys (hydrogeological/geophysical) to establish drinking water sources. About 700 such maps have so far been prepared and provided to the concerned user agencies. A sample survey of 20,000 bore-wells drilled previously using such maps had shown a success rate of over 90%.

Speed Post Services

*491. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Post (DoP) has proposed to provide speed post service via speednet;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the department proposes to open more speed post centres after introduction of speednet service;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the DoP has opened information facilitation counter at all district headquarters; and

(f) if so, the type of information being provided by these centres?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (f) The Department has plans to provide Speednet in all 120 National Speed Post Centres for tracking Speed Post and the Express Post articles through internet. This will provide an online facility to the customers for obtaining information about delivery status of the speed post articles booked by them. Under Speednet system, each Speed Post/Express Post article will be having a barcode number, which will be scanned through barcode scanners at all the points of processing, from booking to delivery. Customers will be able to track their Speed Post and Express Post articles through internet and get the current status of Speed Post delivery.

The Department has plans to open additional Speed Post Centres based on commercial considerations, assessment of the need, the anticipated revenue and transport network.

Information and Facilitation Counters (IFCs) have been opened at all important post offices in the country, most of which are co-terminous with district headquarters, out of which 423 (four hundred twenty three) are computerized centres. These counters provide basic information on value-added services, postal tariff, pin codes, small savings schemes and Postal Life Insurance Schemes. The Information and Facilitation counters accept complaints and issue acknowledgements on the spot.

Establishment of International Financial Facility for Aviation Safety

*492. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has stressed the need for India to take up steps in establishment of International Financial Facility for Aviation Safety;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on such remarks made by ICAO;

(c) whether the funds required to correct safety related deficiencies have been assessed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The Secretary General of International Civil Aviation Organisation during his visit to India in March 2001 raised the issue of establishment of International Financial Facility for Aviation Safety seeking India's support for the same. The matter is however at nascent stage and would require deliberation between the member States of ICAO before a decision could be taken.

Investment in Irrigation and Water Management

*493. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is urgent need to increase public investment in irrigation and water management to increase agricultural out-put; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to bring about an improvement in the resource position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) and (b) As per the Agriculture Policy adopted by the Government of India, the agriculture output is required to grow at the rate of 4% per annum against an average growth rate of about 2.5% achieved during the last five decades. The envisaged increase in agriculture output would in turn require covering about 20 million hectares under irrigation in the next fifteen years. The share of investment in irrigation and water management in the State Plans has been declining over the years. There is need to reverse this trend in order to complete all on-going irrigation projects, supporting renovation and modernization of projects for stabilization of irrigation benefits from old projects, restoration and rehabilitation of traditional water harvesting systems and developing new resources. The Government of India has been supplementing the resource position of the States by way of providing loans and grants under the Command Area Development Programme since 1974-75 and under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme since 1996-97. The Government of India is also facilitating turning over of irrigation projects to farmers' associations for their operation and maintenance and bringing higher efficiency in application of water, encouraging institutional funding for all types of irrigation projects and their management, facilitating external funding for consolidation and management of water resources projects.

Pending Irrigation Projects

*494. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of major irrigation projects are pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details of such projects along with reasons for non-clearance as on date, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to lay down any time-frame for clearance of these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (d) Out of 92 major irrigation projects received from various States in Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal, 60 projects have been accepted by the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources, subject to certain observations and 32 projects are in various stages of appraisal. The details of these projects is given in the enclosed Statement.

Clearance of major/medium irrigation projects depends on resolution of inter-State issues wherever involved and compliance of observations of the various central appraising agencies by the State Government.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Project	State	Major/ Medium	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Crores)	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Nettampadu Lift Irrigation Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	Major	134.30	A
2.	Kalwa Kurthi Lift Irrigation Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	Major	134.30	A
3.	Pulichintala Irrigation Project	Andhra Pradesh	Major	506.20	B
4.	Krishna Delta System Mod.	Andhra Pradesh	Major	659.16	B
5.	Bhima Lift Irrigation	Andhra Pradesh	Major	744.00	B
6.	Sriram Sagar Stage-II	Andhra Pradesh	Major	697.70	B
7.	Flood Flow Canal from SRSP	Andhra Pradesh	Major	1331.30	B
8.	Jurala	Andhra Pradesh	Major	545.32	B
9.	Vamsadhara Phase-I of Stage-II	Andhra Pradesh	Major	123.936	B
10.	Vamsadhara Project Stage-II	Andhra Pradesh	Major	275.74	B
11.	Punpun-Mohar-Dardha	Bihar	Major	102.26	B
12.	Kadwan Reservoir Project	Bihar	Major	1111.14	A
13.	Tilaiya Dadhar	Bihar	Major	220.11	B
14.	Upper Mahananda Irrigation Scheme	Bihar	Major	126.53	A
15.	Punasi Reservoir	Jharkhand	Major	221.65	B
16.	Subernarekha (Multipurpose)	Jharkhand	Major	1428.82	B
17.	Ajoy Barrage/Siktia Barrage	Jharkhand	Major	248.10	B
18.	Upper Sakri Reservoir	Jharkhand	Major	123.81	B
19.	Kanhar Reservoir	Jharkhand	Major	1015.76	A
20.	North Koel Reservoir	Jharkhand	Major	836.11	A
21.	Konar Irrigation	Jharkhand	Major	336.69	B
22.	Modernisation of Machchu-I	Gujarat	Major	8.12	B
23.	Western Yamuna Link Channel	Haryana	Major	31.26	B
24.	Satluj Yamuna Link Canal	Haryana	Major	61.76	B
25.	Renuka Dam	Himachal Pradesh	Major	1224.64	B
26.	Upper Tunga Project	Karnataka	Major	556.00	A

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	Markandeya Reservoir Project	Karnataka	Major	134.53	A
28.	Singatalur (Huligudda) Lift Irrigation Scheme	Karnataka	Major	123.00	A
29.	Hippargi Irrigation	Karnataka	Major	186.70	B
30.	Idmalayar Irrigation Project	Kerala	Major	107.00	B
31.	Bansagar Unit-II (Canals)	Madhya Pradesh	Major	344.68	B
32.	Bargi Multipurpose Project	Madhya Pradesh	Major	566.34	B
33.	Kolar Project	Madhya Pradesh	Major	139.14	B
34.	Tanwar Tank	Madhya Pradesh	Major	24.38	B
35.	Pench Diversion	Madhya Pradesh	Major	184.04	B
36.	Mahan	Madhya Pradesh	Major	39.00	B
37.	Rajghat Canal	Madhya Pradesh	Major	309.21	B
38.	Upper Narmada Project	Madhya Pradesh	Major	211.92	A
39.	Halon Irrigation Project	Madhya Pradesh	Major	193.01	A
40.	Dudhganga Irrigation	Maharashtra	Major	204.58	B
41.	Warna Irrigation	Maharashtra	Major	337.81	B
42.	Koyna-Krishna Lift Irrigation	Maharashtra	Major	259.10	B
43.	Arunavati Project	Maharashtra	Major	66.48	B
44.	Punad Irrigation	Maharashtra	Major	29.22	B
45.	Lower Wunna Project	Maharashtra	Major	87.55	B
46.	Human River Project	Maharashtra	Major	494.60	A
47.	Lower Wardha	Maharashtra	Major	61.99	A
48.	Gunjawani	Maharashtra	Major	86.77	A
49.	Sangola Branch Canal	Maharashtra	Major	37.01	B
50.	Talamba Irrigation Project	Maharashtra	Major	289.09	B
51.	Lendi Irrigation Project	Maharashtra	Major	177.615	A
52.	Tipaimukh Dam Project	Manipur	Major	2899	B
53.	Ong Dam Project	Orissa	Major	304.66	B
54.	Kanupur Irrigation Project	Orissa	Major	428.32	B
55.	Ib Irrigation Project	Orissa	Major	968.03	A
56.	Brutang	Orissa	Major	227.25	B

1	2	3	4	5	6
57.	Upper Indravati Ext. Project	Orissa	Major	136.67	B
58.	Upper Kolab Ext. Project	Orissa	Major	71.66	B
59.	Improvement of Salki Irr. Project	Orissa	Major	11.57	B
60.	Improvement of Taladanda Main Canal and Distributory No. 12	Orissa	Major	57.06	A
61.	Improvement of Sason Canal System of Hirakud Distribution System	Orissa	Major	34.92	B
62.	Anandpur Barrage Project	Orissa	Major	482.26	B
63.	Drainage Development (Phase-I) in Mahanadi Delta Stage I & II	Orissa	Major	227.75	A
64.	Punjab Irr. & Drainage Project Ph. III	Punjab	Major	1149.00	A
65.	Raising Lining of Bhakra Main Canal	Punjab	Major	20.46	B
66.	Kandi Canal Extension from Hoshiarpur to Balachaur	Punjab	Major	147.12	B
67.	SYL Main Canal Part-I	Punjab	Major	601.25	D
68.	Mod. Project estimate of SYL Canal Part-III	Punjab	Major	195.44	B
69.	Shahpurkandi Dam Project (Ravi Project Unit-V)	Punjab	Major	1324.18	B
70.	Project Estimate of Installation of 245 nos. deep tube-wells Ph-II	Punjab	Major	48.80	A
71.	Sri Dashmukh Irrigation Project	Punjab	Major	647.00	A
72.	Pipalda Lift Irrigation	Rajasthan	Major	11.39	A
73.	Utilization of Yamuna Water in Bharatpur District	Rajasthan	Major	172.96	A
74.	Util. of Yamuna Water in Jhunjhunu	Rajasthan	Major	273.00	A
75.	Indira Gandhi Nahar Stage-I (ERM)	Rajasthan	Major	121.92	B
76.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project (ERM)	Rajasthan	Major	733.60	B
77.	Krishna WS to Madras Stage-I	Tamil Nadu	Major	176.46	A
78.	Mod. of Cauvery Delta Ph-I	Tamil Nadu	Major	78.80	B
79.	Raising of Meja Dam	Uttar Pradesh	Major	65.00	B
80.	Bansagar Canal	Uttar Pradesh	Major	190.27	B

1	2	3	4	5	6
81.	Kanhar Irrigation	Uttar Pradesh	Major	341.45	A
82.	Maudaha Dam	Uttar Pradesh	Major	125.16	B
83.	Chittaurgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Major	36.70	B
84.	Lining of Channel in Bundelkhand	Uttar Pradesh	Major	57.37	B
85.	Modernisation of Agra Canal	Uttar Pradesh	Major	74.16	B
86.	Increasing Capacity of Bhupali Pump Canal	Uttar Pradesh	Major	60.53	C
87.	Eastern Yamuna (Hathnikund) Link Channel	Uttar Pradesh	Major	22.49	B
88.	Kachnoda Dam	Uttar Pradesh	Major	70.45	A
89.	Improving Water Management and Existing Sarda Canal System (ERM)	Uttar Pradesh	Major	120.98	A
90.	Uttar Pradesh Water Restructuring Project (ERM)	Uttar Pradesh	Major	843.70	A
91.	Kishau Dam	Uttaranchal	Major	4099.00	C
92.	Mod. of Kangsabati Res. (Phase-I)	West Bengal	Major	471.90	A

Status:

- (A) Under Examination.
- (B) Accepted by Advisory Committee subject to Certain Observations.
- (C) Deferred by Advisory Committee.
- (D) Pending with Planning Commission for Investment Clearance.

Eco-Friendly Vehicles on National Highways

*495. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration to encourage eco-friendly vehicles on the National Highways;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take up with vehicle manufacturers to design and produce the environment friendly vehicles;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction;

(d) if not, the impediments in implementation of such a proposal;

(e) whether any financial incentives have been offered to vehicle manufacturers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (f) Encouraging the use of eco-friendly fuels for motor vehicles as a part of Govt. policy is a continuous ongoing process. use of eco-friendly fuels like Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Electric Battery etc. as an automotive fuel is now permitted for vehicles plying on Indian roads. Incentive in the form of concessional customs duty of 5% has been provided for kits required for conversion of petrol and diesel driven vehicles into CNG and LPG mode. The customs duty on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and excise duty on CNG have also been kept at lower than conventional levels. A pilot project

involving a grant of Rupees one lakh per vehicle has been sanctioned for demonstration and evaluation of 200 number of battery powered 3-wheelers. Extensive testing is being carried out on 40 numbers of battery operated passenger cars. Financial assistance to the extent of 50% of basic cost of vehicle is being provided to buyers indigenously manufactured ten seater and bigger capacity passenger vehicles powered by batteries. Use of fuel cell system for running a vehicle is also under demonstration. Three pilot projects for commercial use of alcohol have been commissioned in States of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

Density of Traffic on Golden Quadrilateral Project

*496. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expected density of traffic is not going to materialise on the Golden Quadrilateral Project;

(b) if so, the investment made so far on this project;

(c) whether any study has been done on the cost-benefit aspects of this project;

(d) if so, the manner in which the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) is likely to justify the huge loans raised for the project; and

(e) the steps being taken to find areas of traffic to be linked to the new highway system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Projects on Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) have been found economically viable on the basis of Economic Internal Rate of Return (EIRR).

(e) As GQ is a part of the existing National Highway (NH) network, therefore traffic gets linked to it through this network.

[Translation]

Security at Airports

*497. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Jammu and Kashmir and Bangalore Airports as "Ultra Hyper sensitive airports";

(b) if so, whether any circular has since been issued by the Government recently to the respective airport authorities in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the airport authorities for the safety of these airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Threat perception for our airports is assessed periodically, and airports are categorized from time-to-time on this basis. Security measures are adopted at the airports accordingly, keeping the International Civil Aviation Organisation's guidelines in view. Security measures taken include:—

- (i) Perimeter wall/fencing.
- (ii) 100% screening of hand baggage by X-Ray machines or by manual check.
- (iii) Secondary ladder point check of passengers and their hand baggage.
- (iv) Deployment of sky marshals on selected routes at random basis.
- (v) Deployment of Quick Reaction Teams.

In addition further strengthening of security arrangements is undertaken, wherever required, on the basis of changing threat perceptions, including for the airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and in J&K.

Proposal of Nepal Government for Air Flights to Kathmandu

*498. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Nepal to allow the private airlines to operate flights to Kathmandu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Installation of Sophisticated Instruments at IGIA

*489. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sophisticated instruments installed at IGIA for safe landing of aircraft in poor visibility has developed functional snags;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken some action to repair the said instruments for safety of aircraft and passengers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir. The equipment for Instrument Landing System installed at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi in February, 1999 has already been made operational as Category-II and has been upgraded for operation as Category-IIIa. Certain deficiencies found during flight calibration of these facilities last year have since been rectified. The Certification procedures of these facilities are expected to be completed by middle of November, 2001.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Aircraft on Dry Lease by Indian Airlines

*500. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines had decided to procure some aircraft on dry lease with a view to increase its capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the capacity of the Indian Airlines is likely to be increased and profitability improved?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Board of Directors of Indian Airlines in its meeting held on 17th August, 2001 have approved the dry-leasing of 4 A-320 Aircraft for a period of five years. Two of these aircraft are scheduled for delivery in November, 2001 and the other two in March 2002.

Indian Airlines already has in its fleet 2 A-300-B4 aircraft, and 2A-320 aircraft on dry lease.

Alliance Air, a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines, has also issued a global tender for dry lease-in of six ATR 42-500 aircraft.

(c) In Indian Airlines Budget for the year 2001-2002, a capacity increase of 1.3% is estimated over the previous year. The revenue generated by the increase in capacity will have a positive impact on the operating margins and the profitability of the Company.

[Translation]

Non-Payment of Wages

4951. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers of some public sector undertakings in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand have not been paid salaries for years together;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken by the Government to ensure the payment of salaries to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) According to available information there are arrears of wages and salaries for some months in a few Central Public Sector Undertakings in the State of Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. The main reason for non-payment of salaries is recurring losses and non-generation of internal resources. The Government has set up a Group of Ministers to find out ways and means for clearing the outstanding dues of workers in Central Public Sector Undertakings including those located in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand.

*[English]***Flying Clubs**

4952. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Chief Flying Instructor/Pilot Instructor Incharge are authorise flights of more than one flying club;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has permitted underqualified people to supervise flying training activities at Bhopal and Amritsar; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) At present, no Chief Flying Instructor in the country is authorising flying training at more than one flying club.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Direct Travel to Tourist Places under New Rules

4953. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have removed the restrictions of using aircraft with a maximum of 30 seats to facilitate direct travel to the tourist destinations;

(b) if so, whether the new rule does not place any size restriction on the aircraft to be used for taking the people to tourist places of their choice;

(c) if so, whether the new norms permit the foreign tourist charters to fly into all the international airports; and

(d) if so, the detailed guidelines finalised in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) As per the revised guidelines issued by the DGCA on 10th July, 2001 regarding operation of tourist charter flights in the case of tourist charter by Indian operators to foreign countries, although there would be no restriction on the frequency of operation with an aircraft having up to nine seats, no operator shall be permitted to operate from/to India more than six times in 90 consecutive days with an aircraft having more than nine seats.

(c) and (d) Tourist charter flight can land at all 12 international airports and four additional airports namely Agra, Jaipur, Varanasi and Port Blair. In addition tourist charter flights are also permitted to land at airports having customs and immigration facilities.

Industry Status to Mining Activities

4954. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to give industry status to the mining sector; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) In terms of Section 2(c)(iii) of the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964, any concern engaged or to be engaged in 'mining including development of mines' is an industrial concern and therefore, mining is already recognised as an industry for financial assistance to the sector.

Development of Roads as National Highways

4955. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received to develop the Fulnkhra (NH-5) - Niali - Madhab - Charichhak - Gop - Konark - Puri (NH-203) Road; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) The proposal to develop Phulnakhara — Puri road as National Highway had been received in the Ministry in January, 2001. The proposal forwarded by the State Government of Orissa would be considered alongwith similar proposals received from other State Governments after finalisation of the Tenth Five Year Plan keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance to States

4956. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in the country to provide assistance to the State Governments for augmentation and tapping the water resources;

(b) the allocation made and the funds released to each State under each scheme during each of the last three years and till date; and

(c) the achievements made by the each State in the conservation and tapping of water resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) There are ten Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented in the country to assist the State Governments for augmentation and tapping of water resources. These Schemes are:

Ministry implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes		Schemes under operation	
1.	Ministry of Water Resources	(i)	Command Area Development Programme
		(ii)	Rationalization of Minor Irrigation Statistics
2.	Ministry of Agriculture	(iii)	Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers*
		(iv)	National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas*
3.	Ministry of Rural Development	(v)	Integrated Rural Development Programme**
		(vi)	Million Wells Scheme**
		(vii)	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme
		(viii)	Ganga Kalyan Yojana**
		(ix)	Swaranajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
		(x)	Employment Assurance Scheme

* These schemes have been integrated into a new scheme titled 'Macro-management of Agriculture' w.e.f. 4th November, 2000.

** These schemes have been discontinued with effect from 1.4.1999 and a new self employment programme i.e. Swaranajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana has been launched since that date.

Central assistance to the States is provided on the basis of the approved financing pattern, provision of budget made by the State Governments for State sector, approved norms and the performance under the

concerned schemes. The position of the funds released and achievements made during the past three years (1998-99 to 2000-2001), State-wise, as reported under different schemes is given in the enclosed statements I to XI.

Statement I

Details of State-wise Central Releases made under the Command Area Development Programme during the period 1998-1999 to 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Central Releases				Total
		1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002**	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
STATES						
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	10.00	3.75	34.75	48.50
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	33.45	0.00	33.45
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Gujarat	324.19	650.00	18.67	0.00	992.86
7.	Haryana	1294.63	841.74	503.02	515.63	3155.02
8.	Himachal Pradesh	52.90	15.81	68.17	0.00	136.88
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	233.99	248.99	165.19	0.00	648.17
10.	Karnataka	668.00	885.37	1863.73	870.84	4287.94
11.	Kerala	806.04	788.11	745.62	351.61	2691.38
12.	Madhya Pradesh	245.99	167.20	123.41	0.00	536.60
13.	Maharashtra	1719.15	660.60	461.14	0.00	2840.89
14.	Manipur	132.33	128.05	113.09	0.00	373.47
15.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00
16.	Meghalaya	0.00	18.40	0.00	0.00	18.40
17.	Nagaland	6.43	15.00	0.00	0.00	21.43
18.	Orissa	774.40	365.28	1035.92	0.00	2175.60
19.	Punjab	500.00	3352.06	2133.49	0.00	5985.55
20.	Rajasthan	3834.87	2700.00	1592.19	647.12	8774.18
21.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.25	2.25
22.	Tamil Nadu	2507.27	2336.74	1677.38	162.16	6683.55
23.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3959.24	2804.92	3247.32	0.00	10011.48
25.	West Bengal	275.00	306.73	424.77	0.00	1006.50
Total		17334.43	16295.00	14215.31	2584.36	50429.10
<i>*Union Territories</i>						
1.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total		17334.43	16295.00	14215.31	2584.36	50429.10

* The Daman Ganga project is spread over Gujarat & the UTs of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. It is counted once under Gujarat.

** Releases till date.

Statement II

*Details of State-wise Physical Achievements in Respect of on-Farm Development Works for the period
1998-99 to 2000-2001 under the Centrally Sponsored CAD Programme*

(Unit = Thousand hectare)

S.No.	States/UTs.	Field Channel				Warabandi				Land Levelling				Field Drains			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<i>States</i>																	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.34	5.54	2.07	10.95	10.24	6.18	12.62	29.04	4.30	5.00	0.00	9.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.08	0.08	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.15	0.03	0.18
3.	Assam	0.83	0.00	0.05	0.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.54	0.47	3.81	4.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04	1.44	1.50	0.00	2.94	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Gujarat	20.60	5.73	2.85	29.18	8.38	3.34	0.00	11.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02
7.	Haryana	23.65	25.11	18.03	66.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.30	1.64	1.94	0.00	0.25	1.65	1.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.45	0.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.39	3.35	3.47	12.21	90.69	37.34	31.10	159.13	1.26	0.26	0.17	1.69	2.45	0.96	0.46	3.87
10.	Karnataka	10.35	13.04	28.90	52.29	8.20	8.43	6.88	23.51	5.41	15.43	11.57	32.41	2.82	3.04	3.38	9.24
11.	Kerala	7.12	2.59	2.86	12.57	20.28	5.74	1.68	27.70	0.12	0.08	0.11	0.31	32.54	21.23	18.46	72.23
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10.86	10.84	4.95	26.65	1.18	0.00	0.00	1.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Maharashtra	27.67	27.27	28.36	83.30	8.69	0.25	0.00	8.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.27	27.27	28.36	68.90
14.	Manipur	4.48	2.87	2.08	9.43	0.16	1.05	0.00	1.21	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.08	0.57	0.44	1.09
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	2.80	2.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Nagaland	0.05	0.16	0.03	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.12	0.05	0.23
17.	Orissa	12.89	9.11	9.51	31.51	13.40	6.83	1.86	22.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.96	1.74	2.98	8.68
18.	Punjab	0.00	40.37	67.03	107.40	0.00	0.00	8.33	8.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Rajasthan	65.95	49.09	40.82	155.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.28	1.81	1.93	15.02	9.76	1.81	1.93	13.50
20.	Tamil Nadu	53.82	53.89	25.08	132.79	81.82	75.65	56.52	213.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.19
21.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	71.54	115.49	134.64	321.67	89.29	121.58	136.73	347.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.14	58.40	71.54
23.	West Bengal	3.36	4.57	6.56	14.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total States		322.44	369.87	382.87	1075.18	333.77	268.14	260.43	862.34	22.56	22.58	13.83	58.97	64.96	70.18	115.13	250.27
<i>*Union Territories</i>																	
1.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total UTs.		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total		322.44	369.87	382.87	1075.18	333.77	268.14	260.43	862.34	22.56	22.58	13.83	58.97	64.96	70.18	115.13	250.27

*The Daman Ganga project spread over Gujarat and UTs of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. It is counted once under Gujarat.

Statement III

Details of State-wise Central Releases made under the Centrally sponsored scheme of Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics (Expenditure on the Statistical Cells) during the period 1998-99 to 2000-2001*

(Unti = Rupees in Lakh)

S.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Central Releases			Total
		1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	
1	2	3	4	5	6
States					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.22	14.07	12.45	41.74
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	5.57	7.46	6.15	19.18
4.	Bihar	6.22	0.00	0.00	6.22
5.	Chattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Goa	0.00	3.92	0.00	3.92
7.	Gujarat	24.33	18.29	3.02	45.64
8.	Haryana	15.84	7.77	11.56	35.17
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13.01	7.76	9.26	30.03
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	9.53	10.01	9.67	29.21
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	38.42	38.42
13.	Kerala	0.00	34.64	12.95	47.59
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11.64	0.00	14.13	25.77
15.	Maharashtra	21.93	20.97	18.86	61.76
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland	0.00	11.20	5.32	16.52
20.	Orissa	9.17	12.45	11.35	32.97
21.	Punjab	9.33	5.38	10.06	24.77
22.	Rajasthan	1.78	0.00	0.00	1.78
23.	Sikkim	4.33	1.01	5.36	10.70
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	1.61	12.42	14.03

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Tripura	6.46	6.44	6.38	19.28
26.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	10.29	13.75	13.06	37.10
Total States		164.65	176.73	200.42	541.80

Union Territories

1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.01	0.00	2.67	4.68
3.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total UTs		2.01	0.00	2.67	4.68
Grand Total		166.66	176.73	203.09	546.48

*These cells have been constituted in the States for collection of information on Minor Irrigation Statistics.

Statement IV

State-wise Physical and Financial Progress Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers during the Period 1998-99 to 2000-2001

(Area in thousand hectares) (Rupees in Lakh)

S.No.	Name of State	Physical Achievements				Financial Achievements			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh								
	(a) Agri.	5.46	9.87	3.54	18.87	233.00	240.00	73.00	546.00
	(b) Forest	5.79	4.56	6.12	16.47	418.50	525.00	200.00	1143.50
2.	Assam	0.54	0.28	0.26	1.08	10.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
3.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00
4.	Chattisgarh	0.00	0.00	2.87	2.87	0.00	0.00	92.00	92.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Gujarat								
	(a) Agri.	5.91	6.65	5.39	17.95	333.00	400.00	281.00	1014.00
	(b) Forest	0.66	1.34	—	2.00	100.00	80.00	17.00	197.00
6.	Haryana	3.25	4.80	4.56	12.61	218.00	80.00	178.00	476.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	11.88	7.89	4.62	24.39	893.20	562.00	268.00	1723.20
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.88	9.51	4.81	22.20	599.00	650.00	448.11	1697.11
9.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Karnataka	31.68	40.72	35.05	107.45	1115.00	1500.00	998.25	3613.25
11.	Kerala	0.00	0.20	1.13	1.33	68.88	40.00	17.00	125.68
12.	Madhya Pradesh								
	(a) Agri.	40.12	37.20	15.81	93.13	1844.73	1600.97	350.00	3795.70
	(b) NVDO	7.01	13.26	9.58	29.85	559.86	500.00	127.80	1187.66
13.	Maharashtra	10.31	23.71	11.21	45.23	1300.00	700.00	744.00	2744.00
14.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00
15.	Orissa	7.22	1.56	0.95	9.73	112.39	300.00	34.00	446.39
16.	Punjab	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.60	51.00	20.00	8.00	79.00
17.	Rajasthan	26.50	37.47	23.15	87.12	1559.00	1430.00	1597.90	4586.90
18.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Tamil Nadu	7.43	6.08	3.35	16.86	580.00	375.00	550.00	1505.00
20.	Tripura	0.76	0.86	0.37	1.99	30.00	51.00	37.50	118.50
21.	Uttar Pradesh	47.32	63.10	51.68	162.10	1900.18	1425.13	2158.24	5483.55
22.	Uttaranchal	6.69	7.23	6.98	20.90	534.26	562.90	560.45	1657.61
23.	West Bengal	0.24	0.89	20.87	22.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
24.	DVC	17.48	24.90	6.04	48.42	400.00	500.00	500.00	1400.00
25.	Hd. Qtrs.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	36.00	51.00	107.00
Total		244.73	302.08	218.39	765.20	12900.00	11578.00	9296.25	33774.25

Statement V

Details of State-wise Releases made & Area Treated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Watershed Development Projects in Rainfed Areas during the period 1998-99 to 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Central Releases (Rs. in Lakh)				Area Treated in hectare			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	900.00	900.00	300.00	2100.00	36728	37484	10859.00	85071
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	31.00	17.00	23.00	71.00	830	0	619.00	1449
3.	Assam	125.00	0.00	10.00	135.00	1715	0	100.00	1815
4.	Bihar	125.00	0.00	7.00	132.00	990	1925	0.00	2915
5.	Chattisgarh	0.00	0.00	964.90	964.90	0	000	22562.00	22562
6.	Goa	8.00	3.00	2.00	13.00	1000	1000	750.00	2750
7.	Gujarat	2000.00	2000.00	1000.00	5000.00	61780	91187	45124.00	198091
8.	Haryana	220.00	35.00	78.18	333.18	6544	5367	4148.00	16059
9.	Himachal Pradesh	175.00	200.00	300.00	675.00	2600	5915	7332.00	15847
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	38.00	15.00	31.75	84.75	0	167	0	167
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	2000.00	1700.00	1686.75	5386.75	92300	48372	41418.00	182090
13.	Kerala	1434.00	150.00	495.00	2279.00	0	18480	20123.00	38603
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1609.00	2650.00	1710.16	5969.16	90230	90082	62158.00	242470
15.	Maharashtra	3060.00	800.00	2000.00	5860.00	71675	46660	55546.00	173881
16.	Manipur	200.00	300.00	30.00	530.00	250	8900	5681.00	14831
17.	Meghalaya	200.00	250.00	30.00	480.00	3552	0	9060.00	12612
18.	Mizoram	700.00	466.00	466.00	1632.00	11233	12500	10850.00	34583
19.	Nagaland	500.00	500.00	590.00	1590.00	11149	11103	9307.00	31559
20.	Orissa	550.00	200.00	605.00	1355.00	13623	9815	1900.00	25338
21.	Punjab	45.00	8.00	16.00	69.00	1125	0	1130.00	2255
22.	Rajasthan	4000.00	3700.00	3831.00	11531.00	89459	85167	129127.00	303753

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23.	Sikkim	150.00	300.00	200.00	550.00	4500	4370	3522.00	12392
24.	Tamil Nadu	1650.00	1700.00	1160.00	4510.00	50567	48899	33736.00	133202
25.	Tripura	300.00	350.00	177.08	827.08	6412	10450	4233.00	21095
26.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	1661.94	1661.94	0	0	16200.00	16200
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1750.00	1512.00	592.60	3854.60	69947	80556	39895.00	190398
28.	West Bengal	600.00	750.00	124.00	1474.00	22408	19897	10468.00	52773
Total States		22370.00	18606.00	18092.36	59068.36	650617	638296	545848	1834761
<i>Union Territories</i>									
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	65.00	34.00	23.00	122.00	972	920	635.00	2527
2.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.00	0.00	2.00	3.00	0	0	0.00	0
Total U.Ts		66.00	34.00	25.00	125.00	972	920	635	2527
Grand Total		22436.00	18640.00	18117.36	59193.36	651589	639216	546483	18372.88

Statement VI

State-wise Allocation and Releases made Under Integrated Rural Development Programme during the period 1998-99

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Allocation 1998-99*	Central Release 1998-99*
1	2	3	4
<i>States</i>			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7734.30	3870.32
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	403.82	202.78
3.	Assam	10492.72	5246.36
4.	Bihar	25336.66	6608.31
5.	Goa	17.82	24.43
6.	Gujarat	2911.34	1455.17
7.	Haryana	1712.78	602.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	721.32	323.26

1	2	3	4
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	892.74	319.20
10.	Karnataka	580.48	2439.51
11.	Kerala	2620.60	1346.69
12.	Madhya Pradesh	12842.50	6421.25
13.	Maharashtra	11542.22	5772.63
14.	Manipur	703.42	87.76
15.	Meghalaya	788.10	144.49
16.	Mizoram	182.36	104.25
17.	Nagaland	540.60	86.70
18.	Orissa	8846.44	4384.65
19.	Punjab	832.40	416.18
20.	Rajasthan	4434.88	2084.45
21.	Sikkim	201.90	90.57
22.	Tamil Nadu	6838.82	3463.58
23.	Tripura	1270.06	635.03
24.	Uttar Pradesh	27883.22	13889.50
25.	West Bengal	9831.06	2321.76
Total States		140162.56	62431.33
<i>Union Territories</i>			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	60.58	63.00
2.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	41.53	21.88
3.	Daman and Diu	27.43	13.72
4.	Lakshadweep	6.85	3.43
5.	Pondicherry	56.83	29.93
Total UTs		202.22	131.96
Grand Total		140364.78	62563.29

*Scheme discontinued since 1.4.98.

Statement VII*Allocation and Releases made under Million Wells Scheme during 1998-99***

S.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Allocation* Rs. in lakh	Release	Achievement of Wells in Numbers
1	2	3	4	5
States				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3165.49	3163.08	7110
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	69.60	102.99	80
3.	Assam	1808.38	3777.99	2954
4.	Bihar	10369.79	7753.78	15766
5.	Goa	7.30	3.65	51
6.	Gujarat	1191.55	1191.54	2498
7.	Haryana	701.01	473.00	643
8.	Himachal Pradesh	295.23	203.49	531
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	365.38	319.71	1628
10.	Karnataka	2390.40	2390.40	2106
11.	Kerala	1072.56	1055.09	4070
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5256.18	4401.39	17584
13.	Maharashtra	4725.23	4725.23	8243
14.	Manipur	121.24	118.94	465
15.	Meghalaya	135.83	274.79	809
16.	Mizoram	31.43	70.00	865
17.	Nagaland	93.16	104.26	256
18.	Orissa	3620.68	3620.68	11124
19.	Punjab	340.69	0.00	0
20.	Rajasthan	1815.11	463.06	2838
21.	Sikkim	34.80	77.50	47
22.	Tamil Nadu	2798.99	2798.99	5048

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11412.05	7446.38	396
25.	West Bengal	4023.65	1769.75	6154
Total States		56064.62	46791.95	95136
<i>Union Territories</i>				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	13.47	0.00	6
2.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	13.47	13.47	22
3.	Daman and Diu	0.45	0.00	0
4.	Lakshadweep	0.90	0.00	0
5.	Pondicherry	17.06	0.00	0
Total UTs		45.35	13.47	28
Grand Total		56109.97	46805.42	95164

*Central + States' share.

**Scheme discontinued from 1.4.1999.

Statement VIII*Allocation and Releases made under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme during 1998-99 to 2000-2001*

S.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Allocation made during the period (Rs. Crore)				Central Releases (Rs. in crore)				Population Covered (in lakh)			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
States													
1.	Andhra Pradesh	99.91	92.83	176.78	369.52	99.91	125.34	192.91	418.16	27.57	49.60	49.50	126.67
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	36.23	21.76	43.65	101.64	21.64	19.80	22.06	63.50	0.18	0.83	0.68	1.69
3.	Assam	61.20	41.80	73.72	176.72	64.17	20.90	54.60	139.67	8.33	26.27	18.42	53.02
4.	Bihar	117.69	93.80	46.87	258.36	0.00	46.90	0.26	47.16	14.71	2.37	0.15	17.23
5.	Chattisgarh	-	-	15.80	-	-	-	15.80	-	-	-	23.02	-
6.	Goa	2.84	3.52	14.04	20.40	0.00	0.00	8.88	8.88	0.23	0.20	0.02	0.45
7.	Gujarat	58.61	64.28	74.85	197.74	69.51	78.44	192.60	340.55	19.89	25.28	9.07	54.24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8.	Haryana	21.91	33.34	19.62	74.87	20.25	38.57	20.99	79.81	12.82	28.66	20.88	62.36
9.	Himachal Pradesh	19.67	23.16	56.78	99.61	29.13	31.07	53.84	114.04	1.45	2.95	5.27	9.67
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	55.15	64.34	90.70	210.19	46.59	31.90	36.94	115.43	1.70	0.45	0.00	2.15
11.	Jharkhand	-	-	47.45	-	-	-	23.85	-	-	-	0.00	-
12.	Karnataka	91.77	93.59	108.59	293.95	100.71	114.09	84.19	298.99	21.24	25.30	18.88	65.42
13.	Kerala	46.74	43.07	68.68	158.49	46.74	34.46	51.50	132.70	5.78	4.67	4.50	14.95
14.	Madhya Pradesh	110.63	94.44	128.95	334.02	110.61	123.30	128.95	362.86	36.68	24.13	32.98	93.79
15.	Maharashtra	133.02	136.14	169.34	438.50	163.85	173.02	189.34	506.21	56.86	51.81	61.02	169.69
16.	Manipur	13.30	9.07	14.75	37.12	6.67	0.00	0.00	6.67	0.00	0.94	0.23	1.17
17.	Meghalaya	14.25	9.74	17.16	41.15	17.09	7.79	17.97	42.85	0.57	1.57	1.75	3.89
18.	Mizoram	10.18	6.96	12.26	29.40	10.18	6.96	11.62	28.76	1.04	1.73	4.96	7.73
19.	Nagaland	10.58	7.24	12.75	30.57	7.97	5.79	8.23	21.99	0.60	0.19	1.37	2.16
20.	Orissa	52.37	48.74	84.57	185.68	47.94	48.48	53.50	149.92	6.97	10.39	5.44	22.80
21.	Punjab	16.69	17.20	35.02	68.91	22.05	23.21	29.03	74.29	1.24	3.12	4.17	8.53
22.	Rajasthan	109.55	172.41	233.51	515.47	119.42	156.44	284.74	540.70	3.71	35.44	2.68	41.83
23.	Sikkim	4.34	4.60	6.50	15.44	14.01	10.46	3.25	27.72	0.23	0.49	0.35	1.07
24.	Tamil Nadu	79.23	65.35	84.30	228.88	105.28	89.58	84.62	279.48	41.71	66.87	104.73	213.31
25.	Tripura	12.62	8.62	15.21	36.45	21.29	11.62	15.21	48.12	1.07	0.55	1.70	3.32
26.	Uttaranchal	185.38	147.75	166.79	499.92	162.97	148.25	150.92	311.22	54.89	33.00	15.01	102.90
27.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	23.04	-	-	-	23.04	-	-	-	0.42	-
28.	West Bengal	71.70	70.08	78.95	220.73	64.27	56.06	141.40	120.33	20.33	43.06	43.10	106.49
Total States		1435.52	1373.83	1920.63	4643.69	1372.23	1402.53	1840.24	2774.76	339.80	439.87	430.30	1209.97
Union Territories													
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.22	0.72

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.13	0.13	0.07	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.42
3.	Daman and Diu	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.23	1.23	0.00	2.46
4.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Lakshadweep	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	6.00
6.	Pondicherry	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.57	0.23	1.37
Total U.Ts		0.57	0.57	0.30	1.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.19	2.19	6.59	10.97
Grand Total		1436.09	1374.40	1920.93	4645.13	1372.23	1402.53	1402.53	2805.06	341.99	442.06	436.89	1220.94

Statement IX*Allocation and releases made Under Ganga Kalyan Yojana During 1998-99*

S.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Total Allocation	Central Release 1998-99
1	2	3	4
States			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	929.50	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	69.41	0.00
3.	Assam	306.19	0.00
4.	Bihar	1807.34	0.00
5.	Goa	16.29	0.00
6.	Gujarat	341.54	0.00
7.	Haryana	81.68	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	27.18	0.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	102.50	0.00
10.	Karnataka	623.33	0.00
11.	Kerala	227.25	0.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1177.24	0.00
13.	Maharashtra	1012.56	0.00
14.	Manipur	50.33	0.00
15.	Meghalaya	53.09	0.00
16.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4
17.	Nagaland	36.79	0.00
18.	Orissa	753.95	0.00
19.	Punjab	58.49	0.00
20.	Rajasthan	488.61	0.00
21.	Sikkim	6.83	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00
23.	Tripura	87.50	0.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2262.06	0.00
25.	West Bengal	832.88	0.00
Total States		11352.54	0.00
Union Territories			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.00
2.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00
3.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00
4.	Delhi	0.00	0.00
5.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00
6.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00
Total UTs		0.00	0.00
Grand Total		11352.54	0.00

*The scheme have been discontinued from 1.4.99.

Statement X

State-wise allocation, Release & No. of Swarojgaris made Under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY) during 1999-2000 & 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Allocation (Rs. on Crore)			Central Releases (Rs. in crore)			Swarojgaris (in lakh no.)		
		1999-00	2000-01	Total	1999-00	2000-01	Total	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
States										
1.	Andhra Pradesh	62.19	53.03	115.22	62.19	52.84	115.03	1.65	1.76	3.41
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.37	2.77	4.14	0.92	0.99	1.91	0.03	0.02	0.05
3.	Assam	35.53	71.95	107.48	30.62	0.00	30.62	0.18	0.37	0.55
4.	Bihar	203.75	126.16	329.91	119.18	29.79	148.97	1.06	3.77	4.83

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5.	Chattisgarh	0.00	28.00	28.00	0.00	11.28	11.28	0.00	0.91	0.91
6.	Goa	0.60	0.50	1.10	0.60	0.25	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	23.41	19.96	43.37	23.41	12.17	35.58	0.19	0.88	1.07
8.	Haryana	13.77	11.74	25.51	17.84	10.88	28.72	0.17	0.77	0.94
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5.80	4.95	10.75	4.76	2.46	7.22	0.09	0.30	0.39
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.18	6.12	13.30	4.12	1.95	6.07	0.06	0.11	0.17
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	47.55	47.55	0.00	8.09	8.09	0.00	0.90	0.90
12.	Karnataka	46.96	40.04	87.00	23.48	16.01	39.49	0.19	0.87	1.06
13.	Kerala	21.07	17.96	39.03	20.83	9.19	30.02	0.29	1.13	1.42
14.	Madhya Pradesh	103.27	60.04	163.31	100.13	34.21	134.34	1.12	2.15	3.27
15.	Maharashtra	92.84	79.15	171.99	92.84	57.70	150.54	0.88	2.63	3.51
16.	Manipur	2.38	4.82	7.20	1.19	0.24	1.43	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	2.67	5.40	8.07	1.31	0.24	1.55	0.01	0.02	0.03
18.	Mizoram	0.61	1.25	1.86	0.58	0.62	1.20	0.00	0.02	0.02
19.	Nagaland	1.83	3.70	5.53	1.02	1.74	2.76	0.05	0.04	0.09
20.	Orissa	71.13	60.65	131.78	72.22	43.53	115.75	0.75	2.58	3.33
21.	Punjab	6.69	5.71	12.40	6.65	4.54	11.19	0.02	0.36	0.38
22.	Rajasthan	35.66	30.40	66.06	35.66	25.94	61.60	0.34	1.36	1.70
23.	Sikkim	0.68	1.38	2.06	0.68	1.37	2.05	0.01	0.06	0.07
24.	Tamil Nadu	54.99	46.89	101.88	69.99	46.26	116.25	0.65	2.50	3.15
25.	Tripura	4.30	8.70	13.00	4.88	8.60	13.48	0.08	0.44	0.52
26.	Uttaranchal	224.22	181.63	405.85	133.38	77.37	133.38	0.61	3.72	4.33
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	9.54	9.54	0.00	3.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	79.05	67.41	146.46	39.52	0.00	39.52	0.89	0.47	1.36
Total States		1101.95	997.40	2099.35	868.00	461.70	868.00	9.32	28.14	37.46

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Union Territories										
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.60	0.50	1.10	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.01	0.01	0.02
2.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.60	0.50	1.10	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Daman and Diu	0.60	0.50	1.10	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Lakshadweep	0.60	0.50	1.10	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Pondicherry	0.60	0.50	1.10	0.30	0.25	0.55	0.01	0.00	0.01
Total U.Ts		3.00	2.50	5.50	1.50	0.25	1.50	0.02	0.01	0.03
Grand Total		1104.95	999.90	2104.85	1402.53	1402.53	1402.53	9.34	28.15	37.49

Statement XI*State-wise Releases and Works Completed under Employment Assurance Scheme during 1998-99 to 2000-2001*

Sl.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Financial Progress Central Releases (Rs. in lakhs)			
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16740.00	10288.76	6483.20	33511.96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2140.00	719.27	812.95	3672.22
3.	Assam	11018.00	4701.11	5273.31	20992.42
4.	Bihar	18596.00	25388.02	9714.15	53698.17
5.	Goa	180.00	55.00	15420.90	235.00
6.	Gujarat	4410.00	4301.49	15.18	8726.67
7.	Haryana	1660.00	1981.53	7814.32	11455.85
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2050.00	945.06	2007.25	5002.31
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4760.00	2755.00	1081.80	8596.80
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	6870.60	6870.60
11.	Karnataka	10350.00	6670.05	5577.1	22597.15
12.	Kerala	3861.00	3486.12	2200.9	9548.02

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Madhya Pradesh	22033.00	17464.11	10630.11	50127.22
14.	Maharashtra	8167.17	11002.98	7730.68	26900.83
15.	Manipur	890.00	307.87	478.58	1676.45
16.	Meghalaya	610.00	220.74	500.88	1331.62
17.	Mizoram	800.00	402.16	183.36	1385.52
18.	Nagaland	2100.00	276.09	403.52	2779.61
19.	Orissa	12752.00	17621.12	16216.23	46589.35
20.	Punjab	2720.00	813.98	615.6	4149.58
21.	Rajasthan	8935.00	6888.13	8412.98	24236.11
22.	Sikkim	320.00	313.10	403.84	1036.94
23.	Tamil Nadu	18720.00	10597.49	5824	35141.49
24.	Tripura	1440.00	711.46	1276.22	3427.68
25.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	1135.06	1135.06
26.	Uttar Pradesh	35153.65	36155.49	18544.23	89853.37
27.	West Bengal	8270.00	9483.71	6631.13	24384.84
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	40.00	27.36	0.00	67.36
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	30.00	27.36	17.52	74.88
30.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.91	0.00	0.91
31.	Lakshadweep	100.00	1.82	0.00	101.82
32.	Pondicherry	0.00	34.66	0.00	34.66
Total		198845.82	173641.95	126854.70	499342.47

*[English]***Greening of Bhubaneswar**

4957. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalked out any time bound action plan for plantation of trees etc. for

making Bhubaneswar city green which has been affected by the recent Super Cyclone in the State;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Orissa Forest Department

has already taken-up roadside plantations covering a road length of 16.20 Km and also plantations in small blocks covering an area of 31.30 hectares in the capital city of Bhubaneswar. Orissa Forest Department has also distributed 19,135 saplings free of cost to private institutions and individuals for plantation of vacant areas in the city.

Performance of H.T.L.

4958. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of Hindustan Teleprinter Limited (HTL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether HTL is in losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to overcome the losses;

(e) whether there is any proposal to privatise HTL; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Quarterly Performance Review meetings are being held regularly.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Government has decided to disinvest 74% of its shareholding in HTL Ltd. and it is in advanced stage.

Operation by Unauthorised Agencies at IGI Airport

4959. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether unauthorised ground agencies are working at the domestic and international terminals of IGI Airport in the Capital;

(b) whether the officials from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security conniving with the staff of such ground handling illegal agencies, are issuing them passes on regular basis; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures being taken to curb such activities specially in the light of Kandahar high jacking incident of December, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Certain private agencies have been entrusted with ground handling functions by airlines under self-handling. This issue was examined and it was decided that till the new Ground Handling Regulations were notified, those agencies may be permitted to provide these services, which meet the conditions laid down by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). Moreover, Hon'ble Delhi High Court has permitted the existing ground handling agencies to continue their operations at IGI Airport. Hence, it is incorrect to say that the officials of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) are conniving with the staff of these agencies in issuing passes. The new AAI (General Management, Entry for Ground Handling Services) Regulations, 2000, have been notified. In accordance with these Regulations, an operator or carrier may either carry out ground handling service at an airport by itself or engage the services of (i) the Airports Authority of India, (ii) the two national carriers Air India and Indian Airlines and (iii) any other handling agency licensed by AAI. Apart from the above, M/s. Cambata Aviation (P) Limited are carrying out ground handling services at international airports. AAI have initiated the process of selecting private companies for providing ground handling services in a cost efficient and competitive manner, at international airports. Government has also decided to strictly enforce the provision that private security agencies should not be permitted for providing security services to airlines.

Civil Aviation Development Projects in West Bengal

4960. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various Civil Aviation Development Programme and projects taken up at the beginning of Ninth Plan for West Bengal;

(b) whether these projects are running in a time-bound manner as scheduled;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay;

(d) the total amounts sanctioned so far for each projects; and

(e) the steps taken by the Central Government to accomplish these projects?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) The details of development projects taken up by the Airports Authority of India in West Bengal during 9th Plan are—

- (i) Construction of new terminal building equipped with all modern facilities with peak hour capacity of 500 passengers at Bagdogra was completed at a cost of Rs. 11.43 crores in October, 2000.
- (ii) Work relating to construction of new approach road to civil air terminal at a cost of Rs. 4.01 crores is in progress at Bagdogra and is likely to be completed in October, 2001.
- (iii) Modification of international terminal building at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport (Phase-I) Kolkata has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 10.78 crores.

These projects are on schedule and the progress of work is regularly monitored at various levels.

[Translation]

Setting up of Airports in Maharashtra

4961. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether various political organisations and public representatives of Maharashtra have requested the Union Government for setting up of some more airports in the State;

(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 (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Maharashtra is considering proposals for construction of new international airport at Navi Mumbai to meet the long term requirements. The State Government has been asked to complete the proposed technical/traffic studies and then send a formal proposal for the consideration of

the Government. The State Government of Maharashtra has also requested for technical feasibility study for construction of an airport at Shirdi in District Ahmednagar of Maharashtra. The site identified by the State Government was found suitable for construction of airport designed for operation of 50 seater aircraft. The State Government was advised for acquisition of land and also for obtaining No Objection Certificate from Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Environment and Forests. State Government has not intimated further progress on the subject. However, Airports Authority of India has no proposals to set up new airports in the State of Maharashtra.

NALCO Ash Accident

4962. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any Committee to inquire into NALCO ash accident;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of loss occurred to Government as a result thereof;

(d) the details of damages caused to NALCO Aluminum Shelter and Thermal Power Plant due to this accident;

(e) the action taken by the Government so far to fill up the cracks caused by the said accident; and

(f) the precautionary measures being adopted by the Government to prevent such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government constituted a Committee to enquire into the NALCO ash pond breach. It was a 3 member Committee under the Chairmanship of Executive Director, NTPC Eastern Region as Chairman, and, DGM (Ash Utilisation Division), NTPC and Director, Impact Assessment Division, Ministry of Environment & Forests as members. The broad terms of reference of the Committee were as follows:

- (i) The reasons for breach on embankment of the ash pond of Captive Power Plant (CPP) at Angul.
- (ii) The quantum of damage due to the breach.
- (iii) To suggest remedial measures for avoiding future recurrence.

(c) and (d) No damages were caused to Aluminium Smelter and CPP of NALCO. NALCO made payment of Rs. 1121.76 lakhs through the District Administration for relief and rehabilitation of the persons/area affected by the breach for compensation for crop, damages/loss, water supply, repair and renovation of damaged infrastructure etc.

(e) and (f) Necessary repair and restoration work was carried out by NALCO and has since been completed. A dedicated work group has been constituted for operation and maintenance of ash handling system including ash pond of CPP so that such accidents can be prevented in future.

Shifting of Nehru Yuva Kendra

4963. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the location of Nehru Yuva Kendra based in Jashpur Nagar of Chhattisgarh has been shifted;

(b) if so, the reasons for shifting thereof;

(c) the date by which this kendra was set up in Jashpur Nagar; and

(d) the details of the action being taken to set up Nehru Yuva Kendra in the above district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The Nehru Yuva Kendra based in Jashpur Nagar has been shifted to Raigarh on 27.9.1987 to operate from the District Headquarters for better coordination with the district administration.

(c) The Nehru Yuva Kendra was set up in Jashpur Nagar on 4.5.1973.

(d) Presently, there is no proposal to open a Nehru Yuva Kendra at Jashpur Nagar, since NYKs are usually located in district headquarters.

[English]

Expenditure on Wages

4964. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of expenditure incurred exclusively on wages for the workers out of total expenditure shown by the organised and unorganised industrial units during the last three years, separately; and

(b) the comparative figure of profit increase by these establishment and the wage increase incurred by them for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) As per the Annual Surveys of Industries, the information on estimated value of wages to workers, total inputs (total value of fuel and material consumed etc.) and profits for the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 for the manufacturing/factory sector is as under:

(Rs. in crore)				
Year	Wages	Inputs	Profit	Wages as % of Inputs
1996-97	24946	475416	41432	5.2
1997-98	27012	580563	36822	4.7
1998-99	24826	610044	47306	4.1

As per the first ever nation wide Survey on Informal Sector (1999-2000) conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation, aggregate value of emoluments, expenditure and net surplus in respect of enterprises are Rs. 31552 crore, Rs. 816751 crore and Rs. 147371 crore respectively. The emoluments thus accounts for 3.9% of the expenditure.

Borewells Poisoned in Karnataka

4965. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether borewells in many districts in Karnataka are being poisoned by a disease causing contaminant;

(b) if so, whether the Central Ground Water Board has observed that the deadly pollutant nitrate has tainted groundwater and wells in many districts in the State;

(c) if so, whether the nitrates have also polluted the canal command areas of the Ghata Prabha, Tungabhadra and Cauvery rivers;

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

(e) the extent to which the steps have helped in checking the disease caused by the contaminated water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No disease causing contaminants have been observed to poison the bore-wells in Karnataka as per data available in the Central Ground Water Board.

(b) Pollution to ground water due to high nitrate content in shallow ground water samples (dugwells) collected from network observation stations are observed as local contamination in isolated patches in parts of Karnataka. However, high nitrate content in ground water is not deadly poisonous.

(c) High nitrate contents in ground water are observed/reported in isolated patches in canal command areas of the Ghata Prabha, Tungabhadra and Cauvery rivers.

(d) and (e) Provision of safe drinking water is planned, financed and implemented by the State Governments. The Central Ground Water Board provides technical services to the State Governments in this endeavour. Further, the Department of Drinking Water Supply in the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Urban Development extend financial and technical support to the State Governments in their efforts to supply safe drinking water, in such areas.

The Government of Karnataka has taken up water quality analysis of all sources in rural areas of Karnataka to ascertain the potability of drinking water. In order to mitigate the problem of drinking water and provide safe and potable water, water supply schemes under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission are taken up with surface sources such as rivers, canals, distributaries, minor irrigation tanks etc.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections

4966. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of spare telephone pairs and cables available in Darbhanga district of Bihar as on date alongwith the number of persons on the waiting list in each exchange of said district;

(b) the reasons for not providing telephone connections in the said district inspite of availability of hundred of pairs and cables in Bithouli and Trimudani Ghat telephone exchange; and

(c) the time by which the said connections are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The exchange-wise details in respect of Darbhanga District of Bihar are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) BSNL has already given 1336 new Telephone connections in Darbhanga District. Telephone connections are being provided in most of the exchanges from the available exchange capacities and with the existing cable network.

There are some technically non feasible (TNF) areas where telephone connections cannot be provided due to non availability of primary or distribution cable pairs or spare capacity of exchange. The corrective measures are being taken to clear the waiting list upto 31.3.2002.

Trimudani Ghat village was technically non feasible area. Now a 20 pair cable has been laid from Bithouli exchange to the village. 8 connections have already been provided and balance 3 persons in the waiting list will also be provided telephone connections by 30.09.2001.

(c) The said connections of Trimudani Ghat will be provided by 30.9.2001.

The existing waiting list of different exchanges of Darbhanga District is likely to be cleared by March, 2002.

Statement

Exchange-wise Capacity, Working Connections, Waiting List, Spare Cable Pairs on MDF in Darbhanga District of Bihar

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Equipped Capacity of Exchange	Working Connections	Waiting List	No. of Spare Cable Pairs on MDF
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Alinagar	192	183	10	17
2.	Benipur	1000	991	45	259
3.	Biraul	712	560	47	440
4.	Ghanshyampur	336	331	40	69
5.	Jaideopatti	184	130	25	70
6.	Kasthan	168	167	30	33
7.	K. Rasyari	152	80	20	120
8.	Makrampur	184	180	25	20
9.	Shivnagar Ghat	184	180	25	20
10.	Andama	152	50	50	150
11.	Baghant	328	188	104	212
12.	Baheri	336	335	95	65
13.	Bhalpatti	176	172	111	28
14.	Bhuskaul	152	130	29	70
15.	Bithouli	336	151	30	249
16.	Darbhanga	14000	11617	95	5883
17.	Hathauri	184	149	45	51
18.	Kansi	336	217	15	183
19.	Khutwara	152	82	88	118
20.	Kusothar	152	59	21	141
21.	Laheriasarai	4000	2958	105	2042
22.	Lahta	152	144	80	58
23.	Manigachi	304	143	72	257

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Nehra	336	233	20	167
25.	Paghari	184	85	20	115
26.	Purkhopatti	304	146	67	254
27.	Sakatpur	152	148	106	52
28.	Sonki	152	51	36	139
29.	Surha	1000	392	140	858
30.	T. Sarai	1000	376	255	974
31.	Ujjan	152	108	35	92
32.	Ughara	184	179	20	22
33.	Bharwara	1000	669	44	550
34.	Hanuman Nagar	336	184	50	162
35.	Hayaghat	336	182	50	196
36.	Jalley	1000	648	60	560
37.	Kachhua Chakuti	384	276	69	124
38.	Kamtaul	1000	637	243	595
39.	Karjapatty	344	242	41	214
40.	Keoti	208	206	121	40
41.	Ladari	152	122	139	70
42.	Majhauria	336	331	19	62
43.	Mazra	152	46	56	138
44.	Panchov	336	182	45	38
45.	Pindaruch	168	158	90	38
46.	Raiyam	304	169	128	205
47.	Saraya	184	175	15	22
48.	Simri	1400	1130	42	600
49.	Tektar	152	125	26	67

Legend:

MDF—Main Distribution Frame.

*[English]***Construction of ROB's in Kerala**

4967. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties created by Railway level crossing all over India, especially in Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in constructing ROB's on National Highways;

(c) whether the Development of National Highways is seriously affecting this problem;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals for construction of Road Over Bridges on National Highways are taken up in a phased manner depending upon the availability of funds and *inter-se* priority etc.

(c) and (d) The presence of railway level crossings on various National Highways including those in Kerala is hampering the free flow of traffic and causing delay at some locations.

(e) Due to constraints of funds, the construction of ROB's on National Highways are also taken up under Build-Operate and Transfer (B.O.T.) scheme. From the revamped Central Road Fund, an amount of Rs. 300 crore per year has been allotted since 2000-2001 to Ministry of Railways for safety works at Rail Road Crossings including the construction of ROB's. Meetings are being held periodically between the officers of this Ministry and Railways to sort out the outstanding issues to expedite the construction of ROB's on the National Highways.

Jobs on Compassionate Ground

4968. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide jobs on compassionate ground in favour of wife/son of Postal employees in case of death during service period;

(b) if so, whether the Government have laid down some guidelines in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) A dependent family member of a Government servant who dies in harness or retires on medical ground, is eligible for being considered for appointment on compassionate grounds.

(b) The Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions is the nodal Ministry which administers the scheme for compassionate appointment. This Department follows the instructions issued by the nodal Ministry from time to time.

(c) The object of the Scheme is to grant appointment on compassionate grounds to a dependent family member of a Government servant who dies in harness or retires on medical grounds leaving his family in penury and without any means of livelihood, to relieve the family of the Government Servant concerned from financial destitution and to help it get over the emergency. Such appointment can be provided only to fill upto 5% of Vacancies that arise for direct recruitment within a year. While considering a request for compassionate appointment availability of vacancy for such appointment is a relevant consideration and recommendation for such appointments within a year on compassionate grounds can only be in really deserving case, as determined by considering all relevant facts and circumstances including financial condition of the family of the deceased or medically retired Government servant.

Internet and Cellular Facility in Assam

4969. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide Internet and Cellular/Mobile facility in the hilly districts of Assam;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) is providing Internet facility throughout Assam including two Hilly Districts i.e. Karbi Anglong and N.C. Hills. Also, the following private Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are providing Internet service through their nodes at Guwahati

- (i) M/s. HCL Infinet Ltd.
- (ii) M/s. Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd.
- (iii) M/s. Reliance Infocom Ltd.
- (iv) M/s. Patriot Automation Projects Pvt. Ltd.

Expansion or fresh start of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) is not permitted at present by Private Operators as well as BSNL in Assam Telecom Circle on security considerations. However, CMTS in Assam Telecom Circle is being provided by M/s. Reliance Telecom Limited in Guwahati City only.

Post Offices in Punjab

4970. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed and the achievements made for setting up of post offices in rural and urban areas of all the districts in Punjab during the Ninth Plan period; and

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to complete the remaining work within the targeted period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The targets fixed for Ninth Plan period and district-wise achievements made for setting up post offices in rural and urban areas of Punjab are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Post Offices are opened as per the targets on the norm based justification subject to availability of resources.

Statement

The Targets Fixed and the Achievements made for setting up of Post Offices in Rural and Urban Areas in the Districts of Punjab during the Ninth Plan Period

Targets Fixed

Year	Targets		Achievements made	
	DSO	EDBO	DSO	EDBO
1997-98	2	17	2	13
1998-99	2	15	2	14
1999-00	1	10	1	9
2000-01	3	14	3	14
2001-02	2	6	1	—
Total	10	62	9	50

District-wise Achievements

District	1997-98		1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2001-02	
	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Amritsar	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	—
Bathinda	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Faridkot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ferozepur	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	-
Fatehgarh S.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gurdaspur	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	3	-	-
Hoshiarpur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Jalandhar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kapurthala	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ludhiana	1	1	1	3	-	1	1	1	-	-
Mansa	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Moga	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mukatsar	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nawashahar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Patiala	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ropar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sangrur	-	3	-	4	1	1	-	2	-	-
UT Ch. Garh	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Total	2	13	2	14	1	9	2	15	-	1

DSO = Departmental Sub Office

EDBO = Extra Departmental Branch Office

U = Urban

R = Rural UT Ch. Garh = Union Territory Chandigarh.

*[Translation]***Non-Deposit of EPF**

4971. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of establishments declared as EPF defaulter till March 31, 2000 along with the amount outstanding against them, State-wise; and

(b) the number of the establishments out of them which have cleared and which have not cleared the outstanding amount by March 31, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Details of defaulters of Rs. 10 lakh and above for the financial year ending 31.3.2000 and 31.3.2001 are given in the enclosed statement.

The details of recovery made as on 31.3.2000 and as on 31.3.2001 are furnished below:

1999-2000	Rs. 626.33 crore
2000-2001	Rs. 796.98 crore

Statement

S.No.	Region	No. of establishments in default of Rs. 10 lakhs and above	
		As on 31.3.2000	As on 31.3.2001
1.	Andhra Pradesh	62	70
2.	Bihar	17	25
3.	Delhi	11	16
4.	Gujarat	54	64
5.	Haryana	40	37
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0	6
7.	Karnataka	34	21
8.	Kerala	36	46
9.	Maharashtra	133	147
10.	Madhya Pradesh	43	57
11.	North Eastern Region	13	16
12.	Orissa	56	48
13.	Punjab	28	25
14.	Rajasthan	23	20
15.	Tamil Nadu	112	114
16.	Uttar Pradesh	79	61
17.	West Bengal	83	73

*[English]***Electronic Telephone Exchanges in U.P.**

4972. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up electronic telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Kheri district;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) it is planned to open 7 electronic telephone exchanges in Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh (East) Circle during 2001-2002. In the whole of Uttar Pradesh, 283 exchanges have been planned during 2001-2002 (258 exchanges in UP (East) and 25 exchanges in UP(West). The district-wise details of the proposed exchanges are given in statement I for UP (East) Circle and in statement II for UP (West) Circle.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Statement I**Electronic Telephone Exchanges Proposed in Uttar Pradesh (East) Circle During the Year 2001-02**

Sl.No.	District	Electronic Exchanges Planned
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	4
2.	Ambedkar Nagar	3
3.	Auraiya	4
4.	Azamgarh	6
5.	Bahraich	6
6.	Balia	7
7.	Balrampur	4
8.	Banda	3
9.	Barabanki	6
10.	Basti	3
11.	Bhadohi	3
12.	Chandauli	2
13.	Chitrakoot	3
14.	Deoria	5
15.	Etawah	4
16.	Faizabad	3
17.	Farrukhabad	4
18.	Fatehpur	8
19.	Ghazipur	4
20.	Gonda	7
21.	Gorakhpur	9

1	2	3
22.	Hamirpur	4
23.	Hardoi	8
24.	Jalaun	8
25.	Jaunpur	10
26.	Jhansi	2
27.	Kannauj	3
28.	Kanpur	4
29.	Kanpur Dehat	7
30.	Kaushambi	2
31.	Lakhimpur-Kheri	7
32.	Lalitpur	0
33.	Lucknow	12
34.	Mahoba	2
35.	Maharajganj	4
36.	Mainpuri	7
37.	Mau	4
38.	Mirzapur	4
39.	Padrauna (Kushi Nagar)	5
40.	Pratapgarh	8
41.	Rae Bareli	6
42.	Sant Kabir Nagar	2
43.	Shajahanpur	7
44.	Shrawasti	4
45.	Siddharth Nagar	2
46.	Sitapur	8
47.	Sonebhadra	3
48.	Sultanpur	10
49.	Unnao	10
50.	Varanasi	7
Total		258

Statement II

Electronic Telephone Exchanges Proposed in Uttar Pradesh (West) Circle During the year 2001-02.

Sl.No.	District	Electronic Exchanges Planned
1.	Agra	2
2.	Aligarh	2
3.	Bareilly	2
4.	Bijnore	2
5.	Badaun	1
6.	Bagpat	1
7.	Etah	2
8.	Ghaziabad	2
9.	Meerut	1
10.	Mathura	1
11.	Moradabad	1
12.	Muzaffar Nagar	2
13.	Bulandshahar	2
14.	Rampur	2
15.	Saharanpur	2
Total		25

Rescheduling Flights on Mumbai-Bhavnagar-Mumbai

4973. SHRI RAJU RANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines is going to reschedule the flight timing of Mumbai-Bhavnagar-Mumbai, particularly in the morning; and

(b) if so, whether it will be a direct flight or hopping one?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Due to low seat factor and lean season, the flight operating on the sector Mumbai-Bhavnagar-Mumbai has been restructured to operate as Mumbai-Bhavnagar-Jamnagar-Mumbai four times a week with B-737 aircraft from 1st July till 30th September, 2001.

Due to commitment of aircraft operating this service at Mumbai in the early morning hours, it is not feasible for Indian Airlines to operate the service to Bhavnagar in the morning.

[Translation]

International Standard In Sports Infrastructure

4974. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for lack of international level sports persons in our country;

(b) whether our country lacks the sport infrastructure of the international standard; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government propose to provide the required infrastructure facilities of international level in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Severe financial constraints and the enormity of the challenge of sports promotion and development of sports infrastructure across the country are main reasons for the slow development of sports performance in the country. In addition, the ratio of persons participating in competitive sports is low in comparison with those participating in recreational sports - leading to lesser competition and consequently lower performance. Food habits, age of entry into the sports discipline, environment and motivation play a crucial role in deciding the level of performance of a sports person. Besides, sports is yet to be made in integral part of our educational curriculum. All factors mentioned have contributed towards the lack of international level sports persons in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Govt. provides assistance for creation of sports infrastructure under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure.

[English]

Model Airports

4975. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the airports in the country which have been developed as model airports;

(b) the facilities that are available at these airports with comparison to normal airports; and

(c) the airports that are proposed to be developed as model airports during the current and the next financial year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The airports at Jaipur, Lucknow, Vadodara, Indore, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Calicut, Coimbatore, Patna, Imphal, Bhuvaneshwar and Guwahati have been developed as Model Airports.

(b) The distinct facilities available at model airports in comparison to normal airports are terminal building to cater to about 500 passengers at a time; excellent passengers facilities; modern technical and operational infrastructure for efficient Air Traffic Control service; adequate navigational and visual aids for all weather flight operations; efficient and reliable aeronautical communication services; standard length of runways for modern wide-bodied AB-320/AB-300 jet aircraft operations; spacious aprons for aircraft parking; efficient ground safety services and capacity to handle Limited International Flight Operations.

(c) Development of airport as model airport is undertaken on the basis of traffic demand. There is no plan, at present, to develop any new airport as model airport. However, development works have been taken up/planned at Kangra, Jaipur, Jammu, Leh, Lucknow, Pathankot, Varanasi, Bhuvaneshwar, Gaya, Bhuj, Jabalpur, Porbandar, Rajamundry, Agartala, Dimapur, Guwahati, Tezpur, Lilabari and Imphal airports during the current and next financial years.

[Translation]

Bilateral Agreements with Countries

4976. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries with which India has signed agreements in the civil aviation sector;

(b) whether the Government are considering to enter into agreements with several other countries; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) India has so far finalised Air Services Agreements with 96 countries, a list of which is enclosed as statement. India was also signed an agreement for promotion of aviation safety with Russian Federation and a joint financing agreement with European Union. Entering into agreements with different countries in the field of civil aviation sector is an ongoing process depending upon the need felt by the two sides.

Statement

*List of Countries with whom India has finalised
Bilateral Air Services Agreement*

Sl. No.	Country
1	2
1.	Afghanistan
2.	Algeria
3.	Armenia
4.	Australia
5.	Austria
6.	Azerbaijan
7.	Bangladesh
8.	Belarus
9.	Belgium
10.	Bhutan
11.	Brunei
12.	Bulgaria
13.	Canada
14.	China
15.	Croatia
16.	Cyprus
17.	Czech Republic
18.	Denmark
19.	Egypt
20.	Ethiopia
21.	Fiji

1	2
22.	Finland
23.	France
24.	Georgia
25.	Germany
26.	Ghana
27.	Greece
28.	Gulf (Oman)
29.	Gulf (Qatar)
30.	Gulf (Bahrain)
31.	Gulf (UAE)
32.	Hong Kong
33.	Hungary
34.	Indonesia
35.	Iran
36.	Iraq
37.	Ireland
38.	Israel
39.	Italy
40.	Japan
41.	Jordan
42.	Kazakhstan
43.	Kenya
44.	Republic of Korea
45.	Kuwait
46.	Kyrgyzstan
47.	Latvia
48.	Lebanon
49.	Lesotho
50.	Lithuania
51.	Luxembourg
52.	Macau
53.	Madagascar

1	2
54.	Malaysia
55.	Maldives
56.	Malta
57.	Mauritius
58.	Mongolia
59.	Morocco
60.	Myanmar
61.	Nepal
62.	Netherlands
63.	New Zealand
64.	Nigeria
65.	Norway
66.	Pakistan
67.	Philippines
68.	Poland
69.	Portugal
70.	Russian Federation
71.	Romania
72.	Saudi Arabia
73.	Seychelles
74.	Singapore
75.	Slovakia
76.	Slovenia
77.	South Africa
78.	Spain
79.	Sri Lanka
80.	Sweden
81.	Switzerland
82.	Syria
83.	Tajikistan
84.	Tanzania
85.	Thailand
86.	Turkey

1	2
87.	Turkmenistan
88.	United Kingdom
89.	U.S.A.
90.	Uganda
91.	Ukraine
92.	Uzbekistan
93.	Vietnam
94.	Yemen Arab Republic
95.	Yugoslavia
96.	Zambia

[English]

Saving of Revenue

4977. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was saving of Rs. 1503.99 crores in Capital (voted) on account of shortfall in installation of manual telephone exchanges, less procurement of apparatus, cables, line and wires, shortfall in provision/ installation of Village Panchayat telephones due to discarding of Multi Access Rural Radio (MARR) technology, delay in finalisation of land acquisition and completion of building works; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Surrender of funds for an amount of Rs. 1503.99 crores was projected for the year 1998-99 under MH-05225 Capital Outlay (Plan) but actually the savings were Rs. 1414.66 crores, Mainly the savings of funds was under Long Distance Transmission System. The savings occurred due to less receipt of equipment, non finalisation of land deals, less completion of Building works and installation of lesser VPTs than targeted.

(b) The system of assessing of requirement of funds under Capital Outlay (Plan) is now streamlined through regular monitoring, based on which the Department was able to improve the situation vastly and there was no savings/surrender of funds during the year 1999-2000.

Accounting Information System in DOT

4978. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the accounting information system in Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is lacking in assessing the requirement of funds of the department;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it had incurred expenditure of Rs. 448.07 crore and at the same time surrendered Rs. 11.91 crore on the last day of the financial year without knowing where from the sum became surplus; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the DoT to tone up their said system to avoid such lapses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) In the year 1996-97, the excess of Rs. 448.07 crores under Revenue (voted) portion is mainly under appropriation from Telecom surplus (due to more revenue realization and less expenditure under Working Expenses), which is only a technical excess in which no actual expenditure in excess of the sanctioned grant was incurred. The amount of Rs. 11.91 crores surrendered under Revenue is under Plan controlled by the Ministry of Finance. Whereas the excess is under non-plan, controlled by DOT. The surrender of savings was finalized based on the actuals up to January 1997 and the anticipated expenditure during February and March 1997.

The accounting system in the Department of Telecommunications has been revamped consequent on the formation of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. The operational revenue and expenditure now forms part of the Company accounts.

[Translation]

Certificate and Diploma Courses for WUSHU

4979. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sports Authority of India has started certificate and diploma courses to coach for Wushu game;

(b) if so, the qualifications required for seeking admission in the said certificate and diploma courses;

(c) the future prospects for students passing the certificate and diploma courses; and

(d) the qualifications based on which Coach for Wushu game is appointed by the Sports Authority of India and in the Indira Gandhi Stadium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of qualification required for seeking admission in the said courses are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) A person becomes eligible to be appointed as a coach in any college/department after passing the Diploma Course.

(d) For appointment as a Coach by SAI in any discipline, an individual should have Diploma in Sports Coaching in the respective discipline.

Statement

*Qualifications required for seeking admission in
Diploma Course in Sports Coaching and Certificate
Course*

I. Diploma Course in Sports Coaching (One Year)**Category-A**

Minimum 3 years Bachelor Degree in Arts/Science/Commerce from any recognized University with the following sports achievements:—

(a) Represented the country in major international competition.

Or

(b) Obtained any one of the first three positions in National Championships for Senior.

Or

(c) Obtained any one of the first two positions in All India Inter-University/Junior National Championship.

Or

- (d) Two times participation in recognised National Championship for Senior.

Or

- (e) Three times participation in Inter University Championship.
- (f) Three times participation in inter-services Meet/ All India Police Games/Inter-Railways Championships.

Category B

- (a) Master in Physical Education with participation in Inter-University Championship or Senior National Championship.

Or

- (b) Three year Bachelor of Physical Education/Post Graduate Diploma in Physical Education/One year B.P.Ed.. after graduation with two times participation in Inter-University Championship.

Category C

The academic qualifications may be relaxed to 10+2 in respect of medal winners in Asian Games/ Championships, Commonwealth Games/Championship, World Championship & Olympic Games.

II. Diploma Course In Sports Coaching (one year) for candidates from North Eastern Region and Andaman and Nicobar

- (i) The educational qualification for this course for candidates from North East Region and Andaman and Nicobar is 10+2 pass. Graduate and 10+2 passed candidates with science are preferred.
- (ii) The candidate should have either participated 3 times in the North Eastern Sports Festival conducted by the SAI (only for candidates from North East).

Or

- (iii) A candidate should have obtained 3rd place in any of the competitions namely, Junior National Championships organised by National Federations, Inter University Championships organised by the AIU, National Games organised by National Federation, National School Games organised by National School Games Federation of India.

Or

- (iv) 3rd place in the Rural Sports or National Women Sports Competition organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India.

III. Certificate Course

In-service Physical Education Teachers/Classroom Teachers/Departmental Candidates/others having flair for games & sports with minimum educational qualification of matriculation and participation in game/sports concerned are eligible for seeking admission in Six Weeks Certificate Course. The candidate should be between 20-45 years of age.

Construction of National Highway between Rajkot and Okha

4980. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether road transport has increased considerably in Jamnagar district of Gujarat as a result of setting up of heavy industries there on a large scale;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct a National Highway between Rajkot and Okha cities following the above reason;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the plan, proposal and estimate thereof;

(d) the time by which the said National Highways is likely to be constructed;

(e) whether the Gujarat Government has submitted any scheme to the Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The proposal would be considered along with the similar proposals received from other State Governments after the finalization of the 10th Five Year Plan keeping in view the traffic needs, *inter-se-priority* and availability of funds.

[English]

Telecom Services

4981. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a whopping saving of Rs. 849.27 crores in the purchase of infrastructural areas of Telecom Service;

(b) if so, the areas in which these shortcomings persisted; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to overcome them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Savings of funds for an amount of Rs. 849.27 crores was projected for the year 1996-97 under MH-5225 Capital Outlay (Plan), but actually savings amounted to Rs. 818.78 crores only. Major savings occurred under the scheme Long Distance Transmission System due to non receipt of expected equipments viz. apparatus & plants, cables, Lines & wires and VPTs.

(c) The system of assessing of requirement of funds under Capital Outlay (Plan) is now streamlined through regular monitoring, based on which the situation regarding surrender of funds has been improved and there was no savings/surrender of funds during the 1999-2000.

Afforestation Projects aided by Japan

4982. SHRI P.D.ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Japanese aided afforestation project has been stopped soon after the Pokhran Nuclear Test due to the ban imposed by Japan on India at that time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to get back the project for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Decline in Water Level

4983. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has pointed out that 70 water sources suppliers of the country show the decline in water levels which ultimately lead to grave water crisis in future; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed by the Government to avoid such situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Central Water Commission prepares weekly reports on storage position of 70 important reservoirs in the Country. Storage in the reservoirs depends on rain fall in the catchment of the reservoir and withdrawal from the reservoir and thus storage fluctuates on year to year basis. Out of the total storage of 130.553 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) in these 70 reservoirs, the storage position as on 25.5.2001 i.e. before onset of monsoon was 17% of the live storage which has increased to 55% due to monsoon rainfall and increased flow in rivers during the current monsoon.

Desiltation of Cauvery Command

4984. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Water Commission has directed Government of Karnataka not to desilt the Cauvery Command Area;

(b) if so, whether any favourable feedback has been received from Karnataka Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) In order to enable the World Bank to complete the preparation of the Project Concept Document for Karnataka Tank Improvement Project in a time bound manner and to avoid delay in signing the agreement for the project, Government of India suggested to Government of Karnataka that tanks falling within the

Cauvery Basin may not be included. In response, the Government of Karnataka informed that they have since decided to delete the tanks falling in the Cauvery basin from the proposed project.

Transfer of Staff of BALCO

4985. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present management of Bharat Aluminum has transferred a large number of officers from Delhi office to Korba;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether these transfer orders are contrary to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Central Government and Messrs Starlite?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) As informed by BALCO (Bharat Aluminum) management, they have decided to run the company from Korba itself, where the plant is located, in order to have a firmer grip and better focus on the business. There were 135 employees in the Managing Director's office in New Delhi. Since the Managing Director now operates from Korba, there was no logic and little work for these employees in Delhi. As a consequence, senior management staff numbering 45 from the Managing Directors' office in New Delhi have been transferred to Korba.

(c) The transfer orders are not contrary to any of the clauses of the share holders/share purchase agreements between the Government and M/s. Sterlite Industries signed at the time of BALCO disinvestment.

Evaluation of Projects

4986. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is playing into hands of Foreign Consultants in estimations, evaluation of their projects resulting inflation in estimation of projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to overcome the above ills of NHAI to ensure NHAI to follow the procedures laid down by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir. The Foreign and Domestic consultants prepare the projects on the basis of detailed investigation and follow standard norms for cost estimation by taking into account the likely cost of construction inputs.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Use of Pesticides

4987. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to Research findings reported by the Malaria Research Centre scientists in New Delhi on the dangers of pesticide coils, mats etc. on human health.

(b) if so, the details of the findings thereof;

(c) whether these coils etc. are based on pesticides and related solvents and synergists, all imported;

(d) if so, the value thereof indicating country of manufacture during the past three years; and

(e) whether the annual sales have run into crores of rupees and several million pieces are sold and if so, the numbers and value thereof indicating the funds spent on advertising, names of main manufacturers and names of the advertising media (TV, print media) specially since these recommend closing of door etc. after spray;

(f) whether these advertisements are in accordance with the FAO code on Advertising and the Environmental Protection Act; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per information made available by Malaria Research Centre, New Delhi, a report entitled "Health Hazards on Mosquito Repellants and Safe Alternatives" was published in Current Science Volume 80 No. 3, February 2001. The Report States that 11.8% people using various types of repellants including coils and mats containing allethrin and other pyrethroid and deet based cream, complained of ill health affects.

(c) and (d) The allethrin and related pesticides of synthetic pyrethroid groups are commonly used in manufacturing of repellants. The coil, mat, liquid vaporizer and aerosol formulation of allethrin are registered under the Insecticide Act, 1968 for use for control of mosquitos. The safety of these formulations are duly evaluated by the Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticide Act, 1968 before approving their use. The Act also regulates the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of various kinds of insecticides with a view to prevent the risk to human beings and animals.

(e) to (g) As per information published in the above paper, the current Indian market for various repellants is in the range of Rs. 500-600 crores with annual growth of 7-10%. No code on advertising for mosquito repellant, mats, and coils has been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. There is neither any ban nor control over expenditure on advertisement under the Insecticides Act, 1968. However, any false claim or any violation of conditions of registration are punishable under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

[*Translation*]

Amendments to Forest Act by Madhya Pradesh

4988. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh is making amendments in the Forest Act in the light of the directions issued by the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have given its approval to the said amendments;

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

(e) whether the Union Government have noticed any lapses in regards to the amendments made in the Act; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh had assured Hon'ble Supreme Court that necessary amendments will be made in Madhya

Pradesh Transit (Forest Produce) Rules, 2000 as well as Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code, 1959.

(c) to (f) As per the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 8.1.2001 in W.P (Civil) 202/95, Government of India have given approval to the amended Madhya Pradesh Transit (Forest Produce) Rules, 2000, with certain changes. The Government of India have also suggested changes in the draft provisions of the amendments proposed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in the Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code, 1959.

[*English*]

Cheating for Dope

4989. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any sports persons of the country have been found guilty in regard to cheating for dope used in National/International meets during the last decade and current year, till-date;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Telephone Exchanges

4990. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of Telephone Exchange at Googamukh and Ghilamara under TDM, Tejpur in Assam;

(b) the reasons for non working of these exchanges; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to restore the working of said telephone exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) A 256 ports telephone exchange with reliable OFC system is functioning satisfactorily at Googamukh and a 256 ports telephone exchange with reliable Digital UHF system is working satisfactorily at Ghilamara under TDM, Tejpur in Assam.

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

[Translation]

More Powers to State Govts. for Mining

4991. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of giving approval to mining schemes to ensure revenue collection employment generation and development the Union Government propose to give power to the State Governments;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have sent proposal for mining;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Central Government has delegated powers to the State Governments for approving mining plans in respect of 29 notified non-metallic/industrial minerals (in case of open cast mines) through an officer or officers having the requisite educational qualifications, experience and pay scales prescribed under the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960.

(b) to (e) As per information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines, so far State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Sikkim, Haryana, Maharashtra and Nagaland have nominated officers to approve mining plans of 29 notified minerals (in case of open caste mines). No proposal from Uttar Pradesh has been received so far by IBM.

[English]

Financial Condition of Civil Aviation Industry

4992. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether aviation industry has become a financially unviable one;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to save the aviation industry?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Security at the Airports

4993. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee set up in 1984 had made some recommendations to strengthen security at the airports considered sensitive from the point of view of the security;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government to each of the recommendations; and

(c) the arrangements made at the Jaipur Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No such Committee was set up in 1984.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All security measures as prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation in Annex-17 to the Convention on Security are followed at all airports, including Jaipur airport.

[English]

Child Labours in A.P. and Uttaranchal

4994. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Child Labours identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal during the last two years, State-wise and area-wise;

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

(c) the time scheduled workers out and the amount sanctioned for their rehabilitation, State-wise and area-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sea Wall in Kerala

4995. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for the construction of Sea-wall in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Kerala has submitted two proposals for construction of sea wall in Kerala. The first proposal estimated to cost Rs. 3.00 crores for construction of sea wall for a length of 1680 in between Azhikode and Eriyadu between KERI CP 4004 and 4012 was submitted to Central Water Commission (CWC) which was examined and comments have been sent. The reply is awaited from the State Government. The other proposal amounting to Rs. 267.47 crores was received in CWC in March 2001 which envisages construction of 76 km. of new sea wall, 58 km. of reformation works and 23 numbers of groins, for inclusion in the National Coastal Protection Project. This was examined and comments sent in July 2001 to the Govt. of Kerala for further modification of the proposal. Reply to the comments is awaited from State Government.

Contaminated Ground Water

4996. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the ground water in some districts of Karnataka contain a large quantity of fluorine; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Provision of safe drinking water is planned, financed and implemented by the State Governments. The Central Ground Water Board provides technical services to the State Governments in this endeavour.

Further, the Department of Drinking Water Supply in the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Urban Development extend financial and technical support to the State Governments in their efforts to supply safe drinking water, in such areas.

The Government of Karnataka has taken up water quality analysis of all sources in rural areas of Karnataka to ascertain the potability of drinking water. In order to mitigate the problem of drinking water and provide safe and potable water, water supply schemes under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission are taken up with surface sources such as rivers, canals distributaries, minor irrigation tanks etc., for tackling the problem of excess fluoride.

M.P. Flying Club Limited, Indore

4997. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether M.P. Flying Club Limited, Indore, has imported 3 aircrafts and 2 engines during the financial year 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the cost incurred on the procurement of the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Madhya Pradesh flying Club, Indore has informed that 3 aircraft and 2 engines were imported at total cost US\$ 1,90,472/- (i.e. Rs. 73,33,172/-) and also the club had spent Rs. 1,01,152/- towards incidental charges.

Navratna Status

4998. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to accord Navratna Status to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted to accord Navratna Status; and

(d) the number of Public Sector Undertakings has come under the said status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has submitted a proposal for grant of higher status than Navratna (Maha Navratna), since the powers available to Navratna Companies are not considered adequate by BSNL for their efficient functioning. The competent authority will take appropriate decision after due consideration of the proposal.

(c) Although, no fixed criteria was adopted by Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) for according Navratna Status, but various factors like size, performance, nature of activity, future proposals and the potential to develop as a global giant, etc. have been taken into consideration in selecting Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) as Navratna enterprises. However, now the criteria is being finalised by DPE.

(d) In 1997, Government identified 11 PSUs as Navratnas. They are Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Indian Petroleum Corporation Limited (IPCL), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VNSL).

[Translation]

Allotment of STD/ISD/PCO Booths

4999. SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO booths;

(b) the number of said booths functioning in each state at present;

(c) the number of applications lying pending for allotment of said booths in the country and particularly in each district of Rajasthan and Orissa, as on July 31, 2001, State-wise;

(d) the reasons for their pendency;

(e) the time by which the said applications are likely to be cleared; and

(f) the number of such booths proposed to be allotted during 2001-2002, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Air Pollution in Mumbai

5000. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Mumbai air has high content of carbon monoxide" reported in the 'Business Standard' dated December 26, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan formulated to deal with the increasing high content of carbon monoxide in Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. The news item captioned "Mumbai air has high content of carbon monoxide" had appeared in the 'Business Standard' dated December 26, 2000.

(b) The levels of carbon monoxide (CO) monitored in Mumbai at different locations indicate that levels of carbon monoxide exceeded the prescribed standards during certain times of the day.

(c) An action plan has been prepared and implemented for control of pollution including reducing the content of carbon monoxide (CO) in Mumbai. Measures taken for reducing vehicular pollution include implementation of stringent emission standards known as Bharat Stage II akin to EURO II norms for motor vehicles; promotion of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) driven vehicles; regular monitoring of Ambient Air Quality at 12 metro junctions in Mumbai.

[Translation]

Exploitation of Mineral Wealth

5001. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of Maharashtra surveyed to explore mineral wealth during the year 2000-2001; and

(b) the steps taken to proper exploitation of the minerals in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Geological Survey of India (GSI), a subordinate organisation under Ministry of Mines, has been carrying out survey for exploration of mineral wealth in Maharashtra. During the year 2000-2001, it undertook investigations for Manganese ore in Nagpur and Bhandara districts, for Gold and Copper in Nagpur, Bhandara and Gondia districts, for Bauxite in Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg Districts for Diamond in Bhandara, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts, for Chromite in Nagpur, Bhandara districts and for Dimension stones in Dhule, Thane, Bhandara and Gadchiroli districts.

Regional exploration for Coal by GSI and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) is continuing in Wardha, Chandrapur and Nagpur districts.

(b) The National Mineral Policy, 1993 and its subsequent amendments by the Government are aimed at speedy and systematic exploitation of the mineral resources by the State.

Revival of Abandoned Airports

5002. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to revive the abandoned airports;

(b) if so, the time by which Chaibasa airport is likely to be made operational; and

(c) the time by which Ranchi-Chaibasa-Kolkata air service is proposed to be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The utilisation of airports depends upon traffic demand. Airline Operators are free to start their operations from any airport keeping in view of commercial potential and availability of aircraft. No airline has indicated any plan to start operations from Chaibasa. In any case, Chaibasa airport belongs to the State Government and therefore, Airports Authority of India has no plans to make this airport operational.

Foreign Assistance to Irrigation Projects

5003. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
DR. BALIRAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the irrigation projects in the country implemented/likely to be implemented with assistance of the World Bank and other external agencies, location-wise;

(b) the total amount received from such sources during each of the last two years, State-wise and project-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The details of the projects implemented/being implemented with external assistance and funds received during the last two years project-wise are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	Name of the Project	Funding agency	Date of Agreement/ completion	Amount of assistance (million donor currency)	Reimbursement received during		Cumulative Reimbursement upto 31.5.2001	Present Status
						1999-2000	2000-2001		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	(i) AP-III Irrigation Project	World Bank	03.06.1997 31.01.2003	US\$ 325.00	13.71	22.74	US\$ 113.966	Ongoing

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		(ii) Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation Component)	World Bank	<u>03.01.1999</u> 31.3.2004	US\$ 142 million	39.74	12.63	US\$ 53.200	Ongoing
		(iii) Modernisation on KC canal project	JBIC Japan	<u>25.01.1996</u> 26.3.2003	Yen 16049.00	Yen 1384.05	Yen 872.33	Yen 3276.470	Ongoing
		MAPWIL Irrigation Project	Nether-lands	<u>14.11.1994</u> 14.11.2002	NLG 26.847	*	*	NLG 12.282	Ongoing
2.	Gujarat	(v) Hydroplus Fusegates on 8 ungated schemes	France	<u>10.12.1998</u> 30.06.2003	FF 34.74	28.17	0.81	Ff 31.700	Ongoing
3.	Haryana	(vi) Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project	World Bank	<u>06.04.1994</u> 31.12.2001	US\$ 209.7	32.94	14.79	US\$ 185.482	Ongoing
4	Kerala	(vii) Community Irrigation Project	Nether-lands	<u>15.12.1993</u> 30.6.2000	NLG 2338	*	*	NLG 2149	Extension of the project is under consideration of the donor agency.
		(viii) Kerala Minor Irrigation Project	EEC	<u>21.05.1992</u> 31.12.2000	ECU 11.80	0.00	0.620	ECU 3.390	Ongoing
5.	Maharashtra	(ix) Maharashtra Minor Irrigation Project	Kfw Germany	<u>21.12.1998</u> 31.12.2006	DM 45.00	0.00	0.00	DM 0.467	Ongoing
		(x) Saline Land Reclamation Project-II	EEC	<u>11.7.1995</u> 31.12.2005	ECU15.5	0.00	0.00	ECU 0.00	Project yet to start
6.	Madhya Pradesh	(xi) Rajghat Canal Project	JBIC Japan	<u>25.02.1997</u> 31.03.2002	Yen 13222.00	828.60	683.32	Yen 3108.70	Ongoing

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7.	Manipur	(xii) Ground Water Exploration Project	France	<u>23.11.1996</u> 31.12.2001	FF 4.53	0.90	1.67	FF 4.621	Ongoing
8.	Orissa	(xiii) Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project	World Bank	<u>05.01.1996</u> 30.09.2002	US\$ 290.90	28.67	16.76	US\$ 154.596	Ongoing
		(xiv) Bengali Irrigation Project	JBIC Japan	<u>12.12.1997</u> 05.02.2003	Yen 7760.00	1075.11	552.66	Yen 3065.30	Ongoing
		(xv) Lift Irrigation Project	KfW Germany	<u>19.02.1993</u> 31.12.2000	DM 55.00	6.74	2.68	DM 40.57	Ongoing
		(xvi) Orissa Minor Irrigation Project	EEC	<u>03.07.1995</u> 31.12.2004	ECU 10.70	0.00	0.664	ECU 1.108	Ongoing
9.	Pondicherry	(xvii) Modernisation of Tank Irrigation System	EEC	<u>21.02.1997</u> 31.12.2004	ECU 6.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	Ongoing
10.	Rajasthan	(xviii) Sidhmukh & Nohar Irrigation Project	EEC	<u>07.06.1993</u> 31.12.2000	ECU 45.00	0.00	0.00	ECU 34.22	Ongoing
11.	Tamil Nadu	(xix) Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project	World Bank	<u>22.09.1995</u> 31.03.2002	US\$ 282.905	7.50	19.54	US\$ 125.831	Ongoing
12.	Tamil Nadu	(xx) Tank Irrigation System Phase II	EEC	<u>27.04.1989</u> 31.12.1999	ECU 24.50	1.946	*	ECU 21.955	Completed
13.	Uttar Pradesh	(xxi) Bundelkhand Water Resources Management Project	Netherlands	<u>12.06.1996</u> 31.05.2001	NLG 3.087	*	*	NLG 1.35	Completed

*Figures not available.

[English]

Airports Handling International Flights

5004. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Airports handling International flights at present in the country; and

(b) the names of the Airlines operating from such airports and also the names

of the foreign countries connected from each airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Trivandrum, Bangalore, Goa, Hyderabad, Cochin, Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Calicut, Trichinapalli, Coimbatore, Lucknow, Varanasi and Patna are presently handling international flights.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

S.No.	Airline	Airports in India	Countries connected
1	2	3	4
1.	Air India	Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Calicut, Cochin, Trivandrum, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Goa	USA, UK, France, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Kenya, Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Malaysia
2.	Indian Airlines	Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bangalore, Chennai, Cochin, Coimbatore, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Calcutta, Calicut, Lucknow, Mumbai, Trivandrum, Varanasi, Trichinapalli	UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Nepal, Thailand, Singapore, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Kuwait, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Maldives
3.	Aeroflot	Delhi, Mumbai	Russia, Bangladesh
4.	Air France	Delhi, Mumbai	France
5.	Air Kazakhstan	Delhi	Kazakhstan
6.	Air Mauritius	Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai	Mauritius
7.	Alitalia	Mumbai	Italy
8.	All Nippon Airlines	Mumbai	Japan, Thailand
9.	Asiana Airlines	Delhi	South Korea
10.	Austrian Airlines	Delhi	Austria
11.	Biman Bangladesh	Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta	Bangladesh, Belgium, USA, UAE
12.	British Airways	Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai	UK, Bangladesh
13.	Cathay Pacific Airways	Delhi, Mumbai	Hong Kong, UAE, Thailand
14.	Delta Airlines	Mumbai	USA, Germany
15.	Druk Air	Delhi, Calcutta	Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand
16.	Egypt Air	Mumbai	Egypt, UAE
17.	EL-AL Israel	Mumbai	Israel
18.	Emirates	Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad	UAE

1	2	3	4
19.	Ethopian Airlines	Delhi, Mumbai	Ethiopia, Thailand
20.	Gulf Air	Mumbai, Delhi Trivandrum, Chennai	Points in Gulf
21.	Iran Air	Mumbai	Iran
22.	Japan Airlines	Delhi	Japan
23.	KLM	Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta	Netherlands
24.	Kenya Airways	Mumbai	Kenya
25.	Korean Air	Mumbai	South Korea
26.	Kuwait Airways	Mumbai, Delhi, Trivandrum, Chennai	Kuwait
27.	Kyrgyzstan Airlines	Delhi	Kyrgyzstan
28.	Lufthansa German Airlines	Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai	Germany
29.	Malaysian Airlines	Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai Bangalore, Hyderabad	Malaysia
30.	Necon Air Ltd.	Patna, Varanasi	Nepal
31.	North West Airlines	Delhi, Mumbai	USA, Netherlands
32.	Oman Air	Mumbai, Trivandrum Chennai	Oman
33.	PIA	Mumbai, Delhi	Pakistan
34.	Qantas Airways	Mumbai	Australia, Singapore
35.	Qatar Airways	Mumbai, Trivandrum	Qatar
36.	Royal Jordanian Airlines	Delhi, Calcutta Mumbai	Thailand, Jordan
37.	Royal Nepal Airlines	Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Bangalore	Nepal
38.	Royal Brunei Airlines	Calcutta	Brunei, Singapore, UAE
39.	Sabena	Chennai	Belgium
40.	Saudi Arabian Airlines	Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai	Saudi Arabia
41.	Scandinavian Airlines System	Delhi	Denmark
42.	Singapore Airlines	Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai Calcutta	Singapore, UK

1	2	3	4
43.	Silk Air	Trivandrum	Singapore
44.	South African Airways	Mumbai	South Africa
45.	Sri Lankan Airlines	Chennai, Trivandrum Mumbai, Delhi, Trichinapalli	Sri Lanka
46.	Swiss Air	Delhi, Mumbai	Switzerland
47.	Syrian Arab Airlines	Delhi, Mumbai	Syria, UAE
48.	Thai Airways	Delhi, Calcutta	Thailand
49.	Turkmenistan Airlines	Delhi, Amritsar	Turkmenistan
50.	United Airlines	Delhi	USA, Hong Kong, UK
51.	Uzbekistan Airways	Delhi, Amritsar	Uzbekistan
52.	Virgin Atlantic	Delhi	UK
53.	Yemen Airways	Mumbai	Yemen, UAE

Safety Measures for Workers

5005. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken appropriate measures for implementation of 50 Kgs. norms as per ILO standards with the State Government for protection of health of workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any notification has been issued to States for compliance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) A decision was taken by the Central Government, in 1994, to switch over to 50 Kg. Packaging of foodgrains keeping in view of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 127 and Recommendation No. 128 regarding Maximum Permissible Weight to be carried by an adult person. It was also decided that the total **change** over to 50 Kg. packaging of wheat and rice will be resorted to in a **phased** manner in the next 5 years starting from the 1994-95 Kharif

Marketing Season. Wheat and levy rice are already being procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI) in 50 Kg. bags and only paddy is being procured in 75 Kg. bags. It is expected that FCI would be able to switch over to 50 Kg. bags completely with effect from Rabi Marketing Season 2002-2003.

As per available information cement, fertilizers and chemicals are already being packed in 50 Kg. bags.

So far as packing of sugar is concerned, it has been decided to switch over to 50 Kg. bags and also suitably amend the Sugar (Packing and Marketing) Order 1970 as soon as such bags are approved by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

The Central Government had issued instructions to concerned States on 16th May, 1995 for resorting to 50 Kg. packaging of wheat and rice.

Demolition of Bandh

5006. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem regarding Demolition of bandh by Nepalees appearing in the "Rashtriya Sahara" dated August, 1. 2001;

(b) if so, the total damages caused to the bandh; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information furnished by Irrigation Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, this is not the case of demolition of bandh but it is regarding the culvert on the drain that was damaged. There is a drain from Krishnanagar (Nepal) to Barhni (India), which carries rain water and dirty water of Krishnanagar (Nepal) and flows into Barhni (India). A 3-Meter span culvert is existing on the drain. Local town area authority of Barhni (India) blocked the opening so that no rain water enter into ward No. 7 of Barhni (India). On 31.7.2001 due to heavy rain, people of Krishnanagar (Nepal) demolished the blockage. No action has been taken by local authority of Barhni Town area (India). Extent of damage is not known.

[Translation]

Law on Noise Pollution

5007. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact any law to check noise pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the draft of the law in this regard has been prepared; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Government have notified the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 vide S.O. 123(E) dated 14.2.2000 and it has subsequently been amended vide S.O. No. 1046(E) dated 22.11.2000. Salient features of the Rules are:

- (i) Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 relates to regulation and control of noise producing and generating sources.
- (ii) Ambient air quality in respect of noise has been laid down
- (iii) State Governments shall take measures for abatement of noise including noise emanating from vehicular movements and ensuring that existing noise levels do not exceed the ambient air quality standards.
- (iv) Area not less than 100 metres around hospitals, educational institutions and courts to be declared as silence area for the purpose of these Rules.
- (v) Restriction has been imposed on the use of loudspeakers/public address system.
- (vi) Penal provisions have been provided in consequences of any violation of these Rules.

The other legislations issued by the Government to check noise pollution include the following:

- (i) Ambient air Quality standards in respect of noise for industrial, commercial, residential areas and silence zones have been notified vide GSR 1063 (E) dated 26.12.1989.
- (ii) Noise Limits for Automobiles at the manufacturing stage to be achieved by 1992 and domestic appliances and construction equipment at the manufacturing stage published under GSR 742 (E) dated 30.8.1990. Noise standards for motor vehicles have been made more stringent vide notification GSR 742(E) dated 25.9.2000 (amendment).
- (iii) Standards/Guidelines for Control of Noise Pollution from Stationary Diesel Generator (DG) Sets published under GSR No. 7 dated 2.1.1999.
- (iv) Noise Standards for fire-crackers published under GSR No. 682 (E) dated 5.10.1999.
- (v) Noise limits for generator sets run with petrol or kerosene published under GSR 742 (E) dated 25.9.2000.

Allocation and Expenditure on Pollution Control

5008. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on publicity media to control/lessen pollution during the last three years;

(b) the details of the various organisations operating to control/lessen pollution in the country especially in respect of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years and the current year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Introduction of International Flights

5009. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess the possibilities for introducing the International flights from various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to start International Air Services from States in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details of such places?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Operation of international flights from different airports is reviewed from time to time depending upon traffic demand, as part of ongoing process. Since their Upgradation as international airports, Bangalore has been granted as a point of call to the designated airline of Hongkong, Germany, Malaysia and four Gulf Air owning States, Hyderabad to Malaysia and UAE (Dubai); Amritsar, Ahmedabad and Cochin to Turkmenistan and Oman. Malaysian Airlines have already commenced operations to/from Bangalore and Hyderabad whereas Turkmenistan Airlines is operating to/from Amritsar. Emirates Airlines of Dubai is also operating daily services to Hyderabad. Indian Airlines and Air India have also introduced some new flights and have plans to introduce more flights from some of these airports with the aircraft acquired on dry lease.

[English]

Minimum Wages

5010. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether minimum wages in certain scheduled employments in some of the States are either quite low or have not been revised for a long time;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to amend Minimum Wages Act, 1948 to safeguard the interests of the workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 was enacted primarily to safeguard the interests of the workers in the unorganised sector. The provisions of the Act, bind the employers to pay the minimum wages fixed under the Act. Under the Act, both Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix and revise the minimum wages of the workers engaged in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions. As regards revision, the Act stipulates that the minimum wages are to be revised at intervals not exceeding five years. The Central and the State Governments have been revising the minimum wages in their respective spheres periodically. In order to protect the wages against inflation, the Central Government have introduced Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) which is linked to Consumer Price Index (CPI). The VDA is revised twice a year effective April and October based on the increase in the CPI number. Twenty three States/Union Territories have also adopted VDA as a component of minimum wage. The fixation of minimum wages depends on various factors like socio-economic and agro-climatic conditions, cost of living, productivity, paying capacity and local conditions influencing the wage rates which vary from State to State and region to region. Therefore, there is no, uniformity in the minimum wages throughout the country. To bring parity, the Central Government floated the concept of national floor level wage. Initially it was fixed at Rs. 35/- per day in 1996 based on the recommendation of the National Commission on Rural Labour in 1991 and subsequent increase in the price level. The national floor level wage was last raised to Rs. 45/- per day with effect from November, 1999, keeping

in view the increase in the price. All the State Governments have been requested to ensure that in none of the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions, the minimum wages are below the floor level wage.

Certain amendment proposals to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 have been under consideration of the Government. However, in view of the steps and procedure involved, it is not possible to specify any time frame for finalisation of these amendments.

Construction of Airport at Raiganj, West Bengal

5011. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a new airport at Raiganj at the new District Headquarter of Uttar Dinajpur in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether a survey in this regard has been conducted for operation of flights on Kolkata-Raiganj-Purnea-Patna sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Village connectivity Programme by B.S.N.L.

5012. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of lines identified by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for its village connectivity programme during 2001-2002, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose;

(c) the names of the suppliers;

(d) whether some vendors who are supplying material have been failed to make timely supply;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken/being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The BSNL has placed order for procurement of 6 lakh lines of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system for rural application during the current financial year 2001-2002. About 1 lakh Village Public Telephones (VPTs) are planned to be provided on WLL systems. State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Rs. 1800 crores have been allocated for this purpose.

(c) Three vendors viz. M/s. LG Systems, M/s. HFCL and M/s. ITI are the suppliers for these systems.

(d) and (e) The supply of equipment has been delayed due to non completion of Production Quality Testing (PQT) in time. The testing has since been completed by all the vendors. 117,500 lines of equipment has already been dispatched to field units. Balance quantity is likely to be delivered by December, 2001.

(f) All the firms will be imposed with Liquidated Damages charges for delayed supply of equipment as per rules.

Statement

State-wise Allotment of WLL Equipment

Sl. No.	State	VPT Target For this year	No. of WLL Lines allotted	VPTs on WLL System
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	4000	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	13000	0
3.	Assam	7707	30000	6850

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	26499	93000	20000
5.	Jharkhand	25510	48000	18500
6.	Gujarat	0	15000	0
7.	Haryana	0	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2631	11000	1658
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2742	11500	1700
10.	Karnataka	10	13500	10
11.	Kerala	0	15500	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	316	18500	100
13.	Chhattisgarh	4017	34000	2400
14.	Maharashtra	0	9000	0
15.	Goa	0	0	0
16.	Meghalaya	4325	7000	2400
17.	Mizoram	149	4500	100
18.	Tripura	202	5000	200
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	2898	5000	300
20.	Manipur	1697	4000	1200
21.	Nagaland	530	5000	400
22.	Orissa	22024	64000	13318
23.	Punjab	0	0	0
24.	Rajasthan	0	12000	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	0	7500	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	14563	83000	11000
27.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	4747	32000	4000
28.	Uttaranchal	8106	19000	2000
29.	West Bengal	14409	35000	13209
30.	Sikkim	126	1000	30
31.	Calcutta	47	0	0
32.	Delhi	0	0	0
Total		143255	600000	99375

Projects Under Research and Development

5013. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new projects undertaken by the Government under the Research and Development Schemes during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) the total number of studies completed under the Research and Development Scheme during the year 2000-2001;

(c) whether the Government have received and monitored the progress of 59 ongoing projects under the above scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) One hundred eleven (111) new research projects have been initiated during the Ninth Plan period under Research and Development Scheme of the Ministry.

(b) Thirty (30) studies were completed during 2000-2001 under the Research and Development Scheme.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Progress of all the ongoing research projects is regularly assessed by evaluation of their annual technical reports and also by experts through holding of review and monitoring meetings. Midcourse corrections are made, if required.

[Translation]

Sexual Harassment to Children and Women

5014. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding increase in cases relating to sexual exploitation of children and women working in unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the number of cases registered during the last three years in this regard, separately, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the details of action taken on enforcing Supreme Court order regarding creation of complaint cells in Government and Private offices to tackle sexual harassment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any complaints of increasing cases relating to sexual exploitation of children and women working in unorganized sector.

(c) In pursuance of the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court, Central Government has asked the various Central Ministries, Central Public Sector Undertakings, State Governments/UTs and All India Employers and Employees Organisations to set up Complaints Committees headed by women for redressal of complaints regarding sexual harassment of women at their work place. As per information available, most Organisation have set up the Complaints Committees. Further amendments have also been made to the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, so that sexual harassment of women at the work place in the private sector constitutes an offence for which a workman is liable for disciplinary action.

Norms for Opening of Telephone Exchanges

5015. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms for opening of telephone exchanges in the rural areas;

(b) whether the said norms are being violated;

(c) if so, the number of such cases noticed during the last one year, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such tendencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) As per the existing norms, a telephone exchange is planned at a place in the rural area, when the registered demand reaches 10 or more and this demand cannot be met from the existing exchange of the SDCA. However, these norms are under revision.

(b) No, Sir.

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

*[English]***Cutting of Trees**

5016. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of new roads, widening of roads and other developmental activities have necessitated cutting of trees in big cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken in the matter; and

(c) the manner in which it is proposed to ensure that the ecological balance is maintained?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Construction of new roads, widening of roads and other developmental activities in big cities at times do require cutting of trees. If these trees exist on non-forest lands, the permission for felling is governed by the local Trees/Forest Acts.

However, if such trees exist on forest lands, then prior approval of the Central Government under the provisions of the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 is required. In such cases, while according approval, the Central Government stipulates planting of at least twice the number of trees to be felled or compensatory afforestation in lieu of the extent of the forest land so diverted.

Outstanding dues against Subscribers

5017. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of subscribers who are to owe crores to rupees to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the amount recovered so far;

(d) the total amount written off during the last three years by DoT and MTNL and criteria adopted for this purpose;

(e) whether his ministry has taken some special steps to reduce the outstanding dues;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the extent to which the high power committees and liquidation boards have been helpful for early liquidation of outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, there is only one individual subscriber in West Bengal Circle who has to pay over Rs. 1 crore to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

(b)

Telephone No.	Bill date	Amount in Rs.
Ranaghat-58606	21.04.1998	40,46,280
	11.06.1998	25,63,108
Ranghat-58611	21.04.1998	32,58,019
	11.06.1998	23,09,442
Total:		1,21,76,849

(c) Nil as the case is being investigated by the CBI.

(d) The amounts written off during the last three years are as under:

Year	Amount written off (Rupees in thousands)	
	DOT/BSNL	MTNL
1998-1999	1874	967
1999-2000	24967	11216
2000-2001	4354	17890

Criteria adopted for write off of dues:

- (i) Very petty amounts outstanding where pursuit would be uneconomical.
- (ii) Whereabouts of subscribers not known or the subscribers are proved to be insolvent.
- (iii) Closure of subscriber firms or concerns.
- (e) and (f) The following steps are being taken to reduce the outstanding dues:
- (i) Targets for liquidation of outstandings are set and performance monitored against them by BSNL/MTNL Head Quarters each year.

- (ii) Incentive to staff has been enhanced for early recovery of dues.
- (iii) High Power Committees and Liquidation Boards have been set up in the Circles of BSNL and MTNL to facilitate liquidation of dues.
- (iv) The collection efficiency of Circles is monitored each month.
- (v) The Circles of BSNL/MTNL are being regularly pursued to apply revised tariffs, issue bills promptly and do prompt disconnection for non-payment.

(g) Liquidation Boards and High Power Committees are helpful in reducing the outstanding dues as they are empowered to write off irrecoverable amounts.

[*Translation*]

Exploitation of Labourers in Chhattisgarh

5018. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that labourers of Chhattisgarh are doomed to exploitation;
- (b) the number of complaints received by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to save the labourers of Chhattisgarh from exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[*English*]

Bonded Labour in Tamil Nadu

5019. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that more than 1000 families are working as bonded labour in rice mill of Perambur, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government against the mill owners in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the further steps likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) A Non-Governmental organisation has brought to the notice of the State Government that more than 1000 families are working as bonded labourers in Rice Mills in Red Hills, Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu. In order to identify the bonded labourers, the District administration is conducting a survey. Further action to release and rehabilitate the identified bonded labourers and also action against the keepers of the bonded labourers under the existing laws, would be taken based on the survey report.

Release of Water into Bhima and Krishna Rivers

5020. SHRI R.S. PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Government of Maharashtra to release water into Bhima and Krishna rivers from Ujani and Koyna dams to tide over water crisis in Bagalkot and Bijapur districts in the State;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra has not agreed to the request of the Government of Karnataka;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to intervene and resolve the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Government of Karnataka have informed that they had requested Government of Maharashtra in January, 2001 for release of 4 TMC of water in Bhima river from Ujani Dam. Another request was made in April 2001 for 2 TMC release of Krishna Water from Koyna Dam.

(b) As reported by the Government of Karnataka, 0.786 TMC of water has been received at Takali Barrage in Bhima river released from Ujjani from 18.02.2001 to 31.05.2001. This water has been utilised by both the States along the common boundary upto Takali barrage. It has also been reported that Government of Maharashtra has not responded to the request regarding release of Krishna water.

(c) and (d) No request has been made by the Government of Karnataka to the Central Government for intervention in the matter.

Reconstruction of Old Bridges

5021. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bridges on the National Highways which are over fifty years old, State-wise;

(b) if so, whether periodical and systematic inspections of these bridges are carried out to check the strength of these bridges *vis-a-vis* increased pressure of traffic on these bridges;

(c) if so, whether reconstruction work of old bridges are going on;

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

(e) whether any projects in respect of reconstruction of old bridges on NH-17 are pending with the Union Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement I.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) Yes, Madam. Reconstruction/rehabilitation of 66 no. of bridges is going on.

(d) State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement II.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of States	No. of Bridges which are over 50 years old
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil
3.	Assam	1
4.	Bihar	14
5.	Chhattisgarh	40
6.	Delhi	Nil
7.	Goa	21
8.	Gujarat	1
9.	Haryana	2
10.	Himachal Pradesh	48
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil
12.	Jharkhand	21
13.	Karnataka	10
14.	Kerala	43
15.	Madhya Pradesh	170
16.	Maharashtra	105
17.	Manipur	Nil
18.	Meghalaya	2
19.	Mizoram	Nil
20.	Nagaland	Nil
21.	Orissa	10
22.	Punjab	20
23.	Rajasthan	6
24.	Sikkim	Nil
25.	Tamil Nadu	330
26.	Tripura	Nil
27.	Uttar Pradesh	89
28.	Uttaranchal	1
29.	West Bengal	4
Total		951. nos.

Statement II

Sl.No.	Name of States	No. of Bridges where rehabilitation/ reconstruction is in progress
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Bihar	9
3.	Chattisgarh	2
4.	Himachal Pradesh	26
5.	Jharkhand	9
6.	Karnataka	3
7.	Kerala	1
8.	Maharashtra	1
9.	Tamil Nadu	11
10.	West Bengal	1
Total		66 nos.

Dolphin Mobile

5022. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dolphin Mobile Service has been commissioned after proper completion of Acceptance Test (A.T.);

(b) whether the payment of the contractor of this work has been made after AT Certificate;

(c) whether there was a condition in the tender that the payment of the work will be made after Customers Acceptance Module (CAM) only;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities committed in CAM procedure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Dolphin Cellular Mobile Service of MTNL has been launched in Delhi on 7th February, 2001 and in Mumbai on 28th February, 2001. The service was launched commercially after taking provisional clearance from the licensing authority subject to the condition that pending tests will be completed in a time bound manner.

(b) MTNL has procured this equipment from M/s Indian Telephone Industries (ITI), a Govt. of India Undertaking. As per the contract with ITI, 50% of the contract price of the equipment has been released to the

contractor on the basis of the goods delivered. Further, on account payments in phases have been released to M/s. ITI to be adjusted against final payment to facilitate faster progress of the work.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) & (d) above.

[Translation]

Criteria for Arjuna/Dronacharya Awards

5023. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for conferring Arjuna Awards and Dronacharya Awards in the field of sports;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding unfair distribution of the above awards and that the recipients are drug users and non-deserving as well;

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check such unfair practice in this field of sports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The Government has laid down the following criteria for Arjuna Awards and Dronacharya Awards:—

Arjuna Awards: To be eligible for the Arjuna awards, a sports person should have had not only good performance consistently for the previous three years at the National/International level with excellence for the year for which the Award is recommended but also should have shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and sense of discipline. Government also considers giving Awards to such sports persons who have contributed their life time to sports and sports promotion.

Dronacharya Award: This Award is open to coaches whether they work full time or part time as coaches, the primary and fundamental emphasis being on honouring such coaches as have produced outstanding achievements in the year for which the award is given and, consistently, very good achievements during the three years previous to the year of the Award. Government also considers giving award to such coaches, who have, contributed their life time to sports and sports promotion.

(b) and (c) There are a few representations from individuals indicating that although they are deserving, they were not given Arjuna Awards and also indicating that there is long list of deserving sports persons who have not been considered for Arjuna Awards. It has also been suggested that objective guidelines are required to be formulated so that there could be no deviation with subjective outlook.

(d) There exists an objective criteria for selection of the awardees and a well established procedure in this regard.

Kosi and Ganga Action Plan

5024. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has requested the Union Government to implement Kosi and Ganga Action Plan as Central Project; and

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Pollution abatement works under Ganga Action Plan Phase I have been taken up in the year 1985 in 25 class I towns of which 6 are in UP, 4 in Bihar and 15 in West Bengal. The share of Bihar in this programme was Rs. 53.29 crore. The Ganga Action Plan Phase I was closed on 31.3.2000. Later, in 1996, the Ganga Action Plan Phase II, which is part of the main scheme of National River Conservation Plan, was approved at a total cost of Rs. 1276.26 crore out of which the share of Bihar is Rs. 32.90 crore. No proposal has been received from the Government of Bihar for inclusion of Kosi River under National River Conservation Plan.

[English]

Development of NH-6 as Super National Highways

5025. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to develop the National Highway-6 from Sambalpur to Kharagpur via Keonjhar as a Super National Highway;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections

5026. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephones have not been provided even after issue of O.B. by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of such cases lying pending as on date;

(c) the time by which these connections are likely to be provided;

(d) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of MTNL; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) In Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) Delhi, the telephones are generally provided after issue of O.B. except few localities where underground cable pairs are not available.

(b) There are 11,731 O.Bs pending as on 14.08.2001 due to non-availability of underground cable pairs.

(c) These connections are planned to be provided by December, 2001.

(d) and (e) The functioning of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is reviewed periodically. Annual Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is also signed between Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the Government and the performance against the targets fixed in the MOU are reviewed.

Expansion of Telephone Exchanges

5027. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for expansion of existing telephone exchanges in Maharashtra particularly in Jalgaon district is under consideration of the Government;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;
- (c) the time by which this proposal is likely to be cleared; and
- (d) the estimated cost to be incurred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been prepared by BSNL for the expansion of Existing Telephone exchanges in

Maharashtra and the exchange capacity particularly in Jalgaon district will be expanded by 22948 lines.

(b) The district-wise proposal for the expansion of existing telephone exchanges in Maharashtra is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The proposal will be cleared by 31.3.2002.

(d) The overall estimated cost to be incurred is Rs. 870.91 crores for Maharashtra circle and Rs. 43.6 crores for Jalgaon district.

Statement

District-wise details for the expansion of existing exchanges in Maharashtra

S.No.	Name of the Districts	Switching Target from Small & Medium Exchanges	Switching Target from Max Exchanges	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmednagar	23376	12508	35884
2.	Akola	648	8000	8648
3.	Washim	616	1000	1616
4.	Amravati	2396	6000	8396
5.	Aurangabad	3528	4756	8284
6.	Beed	528	8000	8528
7.	Bhandra	1632	2000	3632
8.	Gondia	632	500	1132
9.	Buldhana	2132	7500	9632
10.	Chandrapur	1080	6000	7080
11.	Dhule	3816	3000	6816
12.	Nundurbar	1816	3000	4816
13.	Gdachiroli	1264	1500	2764
14.	N. Goa	1264	13256	14520
15.	S. Goa	1816	7096	8912
16.	Jalgaon	12448	10500	22948

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Jalna	160	2000	2160
18.	Kalyan	6264	51500	57764
19.	Kolhapur	11448	11000	22448
20.	Latur	13160	6000	19160
21.	Nagpur	1896	15500	17396
22.	Nanded	7264	13000	20264
23.	Nasik	6896	18244	25140
24.	Osmanabad	5264	5000	10264
25.	Parbhani	748	4500	5248
26.	Hingoli	964	1000	1964
27.	Pune	6688	48344	55032
28.	Raigad	5080	9000	14080
29.	Ratnagiri	556	6500	7056
30.	Sangali	4996	13000	17996
31.	Satara	7792	12000	19792
32.	Sindhudurg	1264	4000	5264
33.	Solapur	11976	8000	19976
34.	Wardha	1264	8000	9264
35.	Yeotmal	528	6200	6728
Total		153200	337404	490604

Non-Payment of EPF

5028. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the members of Business India Provident Fund Trust and the employees of Business India Television International Limited (BITIL) have made a complaint for delay in disposal of matters of final settlement of their provident fund and granting advance as per the rule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several employees who are on the verge of starvation have already resigned;

(d) if so, the number of employees who have resigned so far;

(e) whether the employees of BITIL are not providing details of their personal provident fund account;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government propose to take any action against the Business India Provident Fund Trust of flouting the laws regarding provident fund;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (i) Employees Provident funds organisation has received some complaints about the functioning of Business India Provident Fund Trust from some employees of M/s. Business India Television International Ltd. who are members of the said Trust.

Since investigations of the functioning of Business India Provident Fund Trust revealed some serious irregularities, the relaxation order issued under para 79 to the said trust was withdrawn and necessary action as contemplated under law was taken by EPFO and as a result the entire arrears of contribution amounting to Rs. 2.3 crore were realized.

The establishment has, however, filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble High Court at Mumbai wherein the Hon'ble High Court stayed the withdrawal of relaxation subject to the employer furnishing a bank guarantee and has also defrozen the attachment of the bank accounts. On account of the stay order of the Hon'ble Mumbai High Court, securities have not been transferred to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and Employees' Provident Fund Organisation cannot settle any claim as the matter is now sub-judice.

Planting of Bombs in Planes

5029. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases regarding planting of bombs in planes occurred during the year 2000-2001 and till date;

(b) the number of cases out of these found false;

(c) whether a false informer can easily be identified through Caller ID;

(d) if so, whether any proposal is under consideration with the Government to install 'Caller ID' at main exchange and offices of Airlines to identify the false informers and take proper action against them accordingly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) In the year 2000, 37 calls were received regarding alleged planting of explosives/bombs in various flights. This year, there have been 29 calls till date.

(b) All the calls were found to be hoax.

(c) Through the "Caller Identification Facility", the telephone number from which a person is making call can be traced.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. "Caller Identification Facility" has already been installed on important telephones at a number of airports.

Unorganised Labour in Construction Work

5030. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of local unorganized labour engaged in the construction of newly constructed Vikramshila Ganga Bridge in Bhagalpur district of Bihar;

(b) whether any benefits/employment have been provided to these labourers after the construction of the bridge;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to provide employment/benefits to these labourers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Swaran Rekha Irrigation Project

5031. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to seek assistance from the World Bank/A.R.B.P. for the Swarn Rekha Irrigation Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the success achieved in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The first phase of the Swaran Rekha Irrigation Project (Bihar) was implemented with the World Bank assistance of US\$ 127 million during January 1983 to April 1989. The Swaran Rekha Irrigation Project Phase II proposal (estimated cost Rs. 473.15 crores) was posed to the World Bank on 23.06.1997. However there has been no response from the World Bank. An amount of Rs. 64.500 crores has been released to Government of Orissa for Swaran Rekha Multipurpose Project as Central Loan Assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP).

[English]

Telephone Connections

5032. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in each district of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan at present separately;

(b) the number of telephone connections provided during the last three years and till date, district-wise; and

(c) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The district wise waiting list as on 31.07.2001 for Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The number of telephone connections provided during last three years and till date for Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are given in enclosed Statements II and III respectively.

(c) The waiting list as on 31.07.2001 is likely to be cleared by the month given below:

Madhya Pradesh	March 2002
Rajasthan	March 2002

Statement I

District-wise waiting list for Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan As on 31.7.2001

Sl. No.	Name of District	Waiting List
1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh		
1.	Balaghat	76
2.	Barwani	257
3.	Betul	1919
4.	Bhind	1474
5.	Bhopal	1039
6.	Chhatarpur	618
7.	Chhindwara	191
8.	Damoh	209
9.	Datia	71
10.	Dewas	365
11.	Dhar	148
12.	Dindori	79
13.	Guna	154
14.	Gwalior	829
15.	Harda	755
16.	Hoshangabad	1020
17.	Indore	1926
18.	Jabalpur	4921
19.	Jhabua	60
20.	Katni	1449
21.	Khandwa	1064
22.	Khargone	494
23.	Mandla	527
24.	Mandsaur	1820
25.	Morena	361

1	2	3
26.	Narsinghpur	788
27.	Neemuch	778
28.	Panna	177
29.	Raisen	186
30.	Rajgarh	551
31.	Ratlam	916
32.	Rewa	523
33.	Sagar	1176
34.	Satna	227
35.	Sehore	362
36.	Seoni	125
37.	Shahdol	652
38.	Shajapur	353
39.	Sheopurkala	75
40.	Shivpuri	215
41.	Sidhi	1387
42.	Tikamgarh	569
43.	Ujjain	1243
44.	Umaria	125
45.	Vidisha	414
Total		32668

Rajasthan

1.	Ajmer	7717
2.	Alwar	11012
3.	Banswara	1483
4.	Baran	2463
5.	Barmer	5686
6.	Bharatpur	7613

1	2	3
7.	Bhilwara	1641
8.	Bikaner	4350
9.	Bundi	2684
10.	Chittorgarh	945
11.	Churu	5735
12.	Dausa	5028
13.	Dholpur	573
14.	Dungarpur	9644
15.	Hanumangarh	3393
16.	Jaipur	1486
17.	Jaisalmer	12585
18.	Jalore	7237
19.	Jhalawara	1867
20.	Jhunjhnu	1179
21.	Jodhpur	8039
22.	Karauli	10277
23.	Kota	1055
24.	Nagaur	1558
25.	Pali	15049
26.	Rajsamand	3070
27.	Sawaimadhopur	3704
28.	Sikar	5255
29.	Sirohi	4617
30.	Sriganganagar	1631
31.	Tonk	7608
32.	Udaipur	3807
Total		159991

Stateemnt II**Madhya Pradesh Telecom Circle***District-wise Status of Telephone Connection given in last three years and till 31.7.2001*

Sl.No.	District	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	1.4.2001 to 31.7.2001
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Balaghat	1222	2109	1929	354
2.	Barwani	with Khargone	682	1399	244
3.	Betul	2111	2372	3243	892
4.	Bhind	292	1815	2498	215
5.	Bhopal	18423	13487	11609	165
6.	Chhatarpur	1000	2905	3703	604
7.	Chhindwara	2314	3064	5022	1129
8.	Damoh	468	1810	2049	593
9.	Datia	708	1235	1564	298
10.	Dewas	2441	2745	4175	380
11.	Dhar	2294	2317	3652	886
12.	Dindori	with Mandla	329	305	82
13.	Guna	1522	2800	2045	693
14.	Gwalior	9955	8454	6464	277
15.	Harda	with Hoshangabad	1735	852	209
16.	Hoshangabad	3002	1840	3978	458
17.	Indore	13867	12033	9558	-4002
18.	Jabalpur	5400	4038	9096	1268
19.	Jhabua	803	1628	2184	451
20.	Katni	with Jabalpur	1650	1000	87
21.	Khandwa	3038	2015	3625	348
22.	Khargone	3304	2023	1906	276
23.	Mandla	495	231	796	204
24.	Mandsaur	4011	4489	2932	511

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Morena	1318	2930	2597	448
26.	Narsinghpur	1510	1500	2451	574
27.	Neemuch	with Mandsaur	515	2554	681
28.	Panna	401	855	746	65
29.	Raisen	368	1243	788	222
30.	Rajgarh	974	1212	2076	534
31.	Ratlam	3124	4002	4710	1002
32.	Rewa	2955	2543	916	825
33.	Sagar	2502	1870	3039	95
34.	Satna	3143	2594	3179	499
35.	Sehore	2003	2788	1772	119
36.	Seoni	1080	1407	1920	859
37.	Shahdol	3210	2484	3140	965
38.	Shajapur	1415	1050	1590	165
39.	Sheopurkala	with Morena	1179	715	81
40.	Shivpuri	3242	2218	1569	-369
41.	Sidhi	1214	1066	1914	244
42.	Tikamgarh	538	1191	2943	418
43.	Ujjain	4859	4462	7848	2134
44.	Umaria	with Shahdol	528	468	175
45.	Vidisha	2076	2418	2325	616
Total		112602	117861	134844	16974

Statement III*Rajasthan Telecom Circle**District-wise Status of Telephone Connection given in last three years and till 31.7.2001*

Sl.No.	District	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	1.4.2001 to 31.7.2001
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ajmer	14206	8525	15092	1825

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Alwar	8666	9604	10589	1682
3.	Banswara	1844	2396	3066	572
4.	Baran	1658	1318	2959	652
5.	Barmer	2179	4000	4562	602
6.	Bharatpur	3716	3938	8920	1548
7.	Bhilwara	8750	5515	7342	857
8.	Bikaner	6483	6000	7258	1410
9.	Bundi	1505	2275	2591	310
10.	Chittorgarh	3525	4703	5025	1399
11.	Churu	4637	5500	8100	1145
12.	Dausa	1876	2669	2423	179
13.	Dholpur	800	665	2181	734
14.	Dungarpur	1293	1950	2455	847
15.	Hanumangarh	3297	6600	8553	902
16.	Jaipur	28354	25384	24459	3298
17.	Jaisalmer	830	1300	1572	489
18.	Jalore	3078	4940	5142	767
19.	Jhalawara	1739	1321	2755	51
20.	Jhunjhunu	5202	6501	6550	744
21.	Jodhpur	12636	15022	13001	2441
22.	Karauli	2114	2395	1099	252
23.	Kota	9896	8286	7563	1002
24.	Nagaur	3000	8000	11123	2388
25.	Pali	9367	7083	11001	2045
26.	Rajsamand	4018	3330	2875	763
27.	Sawaimadhopur	2128	3098	2609	817
28.	Sikar	4926	6505	8508	489

1	2	3	4	5	6
29.	Sirohi	3995	3570	3867	506
30.	Sriganganagar	8603	9916	10408	876
31.	Tonk	1931	2451	2600	209
32.	Udaipur	4503	7671	10638	2056
Total		171445	182395	216886	33857

Projects Under AIBP**Statement**

5033. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

(Rs. in crores)

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects included in Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) since its inception;

(b) the number of projects earmarked for completion in the States during Ninth Plan and number of projects completion or likely to be completed during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the total funds released under these programmes State-wise;

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued to States by his Ministry to complete the projects under AIBP in time, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) 140 projects have been included under AIBP since the inception of this programme in 1996-97. As per the information received from State, out of major and medium irrigation projects that received Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under AIBP, 18 projects have since been completed. The State-wise details of funds released till date under AIBP are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) AIBP guidelines expeditious completion of major/medium irrigation projects covered under this programme. Projects costing less than Rs. 500 crore are to be completed in 2 years time.

Sl.No.	Name of State	CLA released till date
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	375.025
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15.00
3.	Assam	70.197
4.	Bihar	332.970
5.	Jharkhand	43.925
6.	Goa	70.400
7.	Gujarat	1592.623
8.	Haryana	44.500
9.	Himachal Pradesh	40.562
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	16.440
11.	Karnataka	574.390
12.	Kerala	41.150
13.	Madhya Pradesh	536.153
14.	Chhattisgarh	38.450
15.	Maharashtra	277.105
16.	Manipur	64.390
17.	Meghalaya	8.206
18.	Mizoram	2.866
19.	Nagaland	7.730

1	2	3
20.	Orissa	395.520
21.	Punjab	315.120
22.	Rajasthan	423.497
23.	Sikkim	1.360
24.	Tamil Nadu	20.00
25.	Tripura	61.384
26.	Uttar Pradesh	827.350
27.	Uttaranchal	0.00
28.	West Bengal	86.825
Total		6283.1368

Coastal Regulation Zone in Daman and Diu

5034. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry vide Notification No. SO 114 (E) dated February 19, 1991 has declared some of the coastal stretches as the coastal regulation zone;

(b) if so, whether the study for the last many years has revealed that no place in Daman District of Daman and Diu is influenced by the total action; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the said notification is not made applicable for the District of Daman?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (c) The Central Government had issued Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification vide S.O. No. 114 (E) dated 19th February, 1991 which declares the coastal stretches upto 500 metres on the landward side from the High Tide Line (HTL) and the land between Low Tide Line and HTL as Coastal Regulation Zone for the entire country including Daman and Diu.

(b) The Central Government is not aware of any such study regarding the extent of tidal influence in Daman District of Daman and Diu. However, as per the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan of Daman, the

CRZ area along the rivers Kolak, Daman Ganga and Kalai which have tidal influence is upto 100 metres on the landward side from the HTL or width of the river whichever is less.

[Translation]

Telephone Advisory Committee

5035. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria/guidelines for formation of Telephone Advisory Committee (TAC);

(b) whether the requests from members of Parliament for nomination of members to TAC are not being accepted; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs) are constituted taking into account different types of users of telephone service by giving proper representation of persons representing them, for each Telecom district which is headed by an officer of the rank of Junior Administrative Grade and above. Besides this, TACs are also constituted for each Telecom Circle and Union Territory except in U.P. where Zonal TACs are functioning one each at Dehradun, Lucknow and Varanasi. A TAC is constituted after nominations to various TACs are made in the prescribed categories by Hon'ble Minister of Communications after considering all the representation and recommendations received from various sources i.e., Union Ministers, MLAs, VIPs, field offices and requests received directly in the Telecom Commission Headquarters including requests received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

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

[English]

Multi Access Rural Radio System

5036. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Multi Access Rural Radio (MARR) system was chosen to provide rural telecom network;

(b) if so, whether an outlay of more than Rs. 980 crores was set apart for implementing MARR system;

(c) whether MARR equipments/accessories worth Rs. 22 crores are lying surplus and unusable in stores;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of villages targeted to be linked under this system and the number of villages provided with this facility so far State-wise;

(f) whether the Comptroller & Auditor General (C&AG) of India has severely commented upon the selection of MARR system as it was found technically deficient; and

(g) if so, the other options are being tried out in place of MARR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Construction of Bye-pass around Solapur

5037. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for diversion of National Highway-9 and 13 by way of a bye-pass around Solapur city was made last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost of the project and the steps taken by the Government for implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) A feasibility study for Solapur bypass between NH 9 and 13 was sanctioned in 1999. However, the State Government has now proposed to improve the existing State Highway connecting NH 9 and 13 to serve as Solapur bypass as a BOT project of State Government.

(c) No estimate for construction of bypass is under consideration of this Ministry.

Hike in Air Fare on Port Blair-Kolkata-Port Blair Sector

5038. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently increased the air fare for Port Blair-Kolkata-Port Blair sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether air fare for Port Blair-Chennai-Port Blair sector has also been increased and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the air fare for Port Blair-Kolkata-Port Blair and Port Blair-Chennai-Kolkata sector is higher than the North East;

(e) if so, whether the Government are aware that it has affected the tourism industry in Andaman & Nicobar Islands which is the only source of revenue;

(f) if so, whether the Government are proposing to take back 15 percent hike in air fare as was done for North East sector with a view to encourage tourism there; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Effective 25th May, 2001, the fare on Kolkata-port Blair sector including Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT) and Passenger Service Fee (PSF) was increased from Rs. 5925/- including IATT and PSF. was increased from Rs. 5925/- to Rs. 6785/- as part of the flexi fare policy.

(c) Both Indian Airlines and Jet Airways operate between Chennai and Port Blair and continue to charge a fare of Rs. 5995/- including IATT and PSF. This fare was not changed effective 25th May, 2001.

(d) to (g) Indian Airlines has historically maintained lower air fares to/from and within North Eastern region than the rest of India. The fares applicable on Indian Airlines services to/from Port Blair are on the pattern of fares of rest of India. Fares on Port Blair and North Eastern sectors have been increased after about three and a half years. Indian Airlines cannot assess the impact of increase in the fare on tourism as air travel is only one of the many factors having an impact on tourism.

Irrigation Projects affected by Floods in Orissa

5039. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Irrigation Projects affected by recent floods in Orissa;
- (b) the extent of damages caused to Irrigation Projects; and
- (c) the steps taken to renovate those Irrigation Projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) According to the Government of Orissa, 7 major and 11 medium projects are affected by the recent floods.

(b) 1165 breaches have occurred in canal embankment. 1.75 lakh ha. of 'ayacut' was affected. Besides, there are 693 breaches in river and saline embankment.

(c) The Government of Orissa have estimated that Rs. 27.15 crores is required for repairs to breaches and Rs. 278.55 crores for flood damage repairs.

Delay in Delivery of Speed Post

5040. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the incidents of inordinate delay in the delivery of Speed Posts;
- (b) if so, the action taken against the officials that are responsible for the delay; and
- (c) the progress made in the computerisation of Speed Post Centres in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The delivery efficiency of Speed Post service is monitored in a sustained & regular manner to identify the number of articles delivered on time and the causes for delay, if any. If the delay is on account of negligence on the part of any departmental official, suitable punitive action is taken. Out of one hundred twenty (120) National Speed Post Centres, computers have been provided at one hundred & sixteen (116) Centres.

Financial Assistance to Child Labour

5041. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the date on which the child labour schemes were launched;
- (b) the number of special schools recognised under the NCLP scheme and number to which financial assistance has been provided, State-wise;
- (c) whether any applications for recognition of schools and release of grants under the project/scheme are pending with the Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has been implementing two schemes for the benefit of children withdrawn from work namely the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects and the Scheme of Grants-in-aid. The scheme of National Child Labour Projects and the scheme of Grants-in-aid were launched in 1988 and 1981-82 respectively.

So far, 100 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned in 13 child labour endemic states for coverage of about 2.10 lakh children withdrawn from work. State-wise details of number of special schools sanctioned are given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Under the scheme of NCLP, Projects are sanctioned on the basis of proposals received from the district duly recommended by the concerned State Government. Number of special schools/centres to be sanctioned depends upon the number of child labour shown in the project proposal as identified during the survey. Grants are released to the project society, headed by the Dist. Collector, for implementation of the project.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Projects sanctioned	No. of Schools/ sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	982
2.	Bihar & Jharkhand	8	194
3.	Karnataka	5	190

1	2	3	4
4.	Madhya Pradesh & Chattisgarh	8	237
5.	Maharashtra	2	74
6.	Orissa	18	614
7.	Rajasthan	6	180
8.	Tamil Nadu	9	425
9.	Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	11	470
10.	West Bengal	8	347
11.	Punjab	3	107
Total		100	3820

Introduction of Direct Flight to Puttaparthi

5042. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has connected Puttaparthi with new direct flight;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other additional facilities to be made available to Puttaparthi?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines is operating twice weekly A-320 services on Mumbai-Puttaparthi-Mumbai sectors.

(c) Puttaparthi airport management authority has plans to instal a Very High Frequency Omni Range (VOR), which will be an additional facility for navigation and landing purposes.

Road Projects of Maharashtra

5043. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any road projects for approval during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of projects approved/pending rejected till date;

(d) the assistance provided during the said period, project-wise;

(e) the reasons for rejecting the proposals; and

(f) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be approved by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) The proposals included in the Annual Plan of National Highway Works and sanctioned during the last 3 years are as follows:

Year	Annual Plan		Proposals Sanctioned	
	Nos.	Amount (Rs. Cr.)	Nos.	Amount (Rs. Cr.)
1998-1999	111	85	95	78.05
1999-2000	130	149.35	97	109.23
2000-2001	69	91.26	58	85.32

(d) Project-wise assistance is not provided to States. Funds are allocated State-wise. The funds allocated for development of National Highways to the Govt. of Maharashtra including the projects under external assistance, during the last 3 years were as follows:

1998-99	Rs. 113.82 crore
1999-2000	Rs. 218.02 crore
2000-2001	Rs. 214.66 crore

(e) The proposal were returned unsanctioned because of technical deficiencies, limitation of funds and higher priority accorded to improvement of riding quality.

(f) Does not arise as fresh proposals are submitted by the State Government each year based on Annual Plan.

Child Labour

5044. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought assistance from the International Labour Organisation for imparting training and to educate the workers of unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the I.L.O. thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Change of Tickets by the Jet Airways

5045. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether private airlines particularly the Jet Airways change the tickets booked under business class to economy class just before the date of flight which causes a lot of inconvenience to the passengers;

(b) if so, the number of such cases relating to Jet Airways that have come to notice during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Overbooking of tickets to a limited extent is an accepted industry practice worldwide in the airline business to ensure optimum capacity utilisation. In such a situation, occasionally, it is probable that last minute changes have to be resorted to in so far as class by which the passenger travels is concerned. During last three years, Jet Airways has downgraded 0.05% tickets of the total capacity offered in business class, while no such instance has been reported in Sahara Airlines. More details in this regard are however, being collected from all the scheduled operators.

Wage to Industrial Workers

5046. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether salary and other facilities have not been paid to CCI employees since March, 2001;

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

(c) whether budgetary provisions were made for paying wages salary to the CCI employees;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the payment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) Cement Corporation of India (CCI) is a sick company which has been referred to the BIFR. Due to severe liquidity crunch and accumulated losses, the employees of Cement Corporation of India have not been paid wages and salary since March, 2001. The primary responsibility of paying wage and salary rests with the Company. However, the Government has been providing non-plan support within its budgetary constraints, to Cement Corporation of India for payment of salary and wages to its employees. A sum of Rs. 41.40 crore was released to the company during 2000-2001 and Rs. 6.33 crore during 2001-2002 for payment of salary and wages by way of re-appropriation of funds.

[English]

Investment by Mitsubishi in Telecom Sector

5047. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the investment made by Mitsubishi in the telecom sector in the country;

(b) the number of retail outlets set up by Mitsubishi at present; and

(c) the number out of them set up in Mumbai and Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) According to the available information, Mitsubishi has not made any investment in telecom sector in India so far.

(b) and (c) Such information for Telecom Sector is not centrally maintained.

Office of Russian Government for Planes to India

5048. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian Government have offered some of their indigenously manufactured planes like Tupolev aircraft and the four engine Ilyshin-96 to India to replace the Airbus and Boeing for domestic operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether the safety and other aspects of these planes have been fully and independently tested; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) In February, 1999, the Ministry of Civil Aviation referred a proposal from the Trade Commissioner representing the Russian Federation in India offering Russian aircraft including TU-204 and IL-96 to Indian Airlines. The details of the information required by Indian Airlines in respect of these aircraft were explained on 15.03.1999 to the team from M/s. Aviaexport who represent the interest of Russian aircraft manufacturers. Preliminary information on Russian manufactured aircraft was provided to Indian Airlines in April, 1999. However, requisite information/data asked for by Indian Airlines for technical evaluation was not provided by the Russian Authorities.

Subsequently on 31st July, 2000, M/s. Sirocco Aerospace International requested Indian Airlines for tender documents to enable them to offer TU-204 aircraft. In view of non-availability of requisite information/data for technical evaluation and the advanced stage of the techno-economic evaluation study, to replace the fleet of B-737 and A-300 aircraft as well as augment capacity, it was decided by Indian Airlines not to respond to the offer of M/s. Sirocco Aerospace International.

Transformation of Post Offices into Integrated Citizen Service Centres

5049. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has prepared a strategy to transform the post officers into integrated citizen service centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other measures taken by the Government to provide better postal services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Department of Posts has been closely monitoring the quality of services and making all out efforts for improvement through more effective management and using latest technology which includes computerisation of counter services including savings bank operations, transmission of money orders through VSAT, setting up of computerised customer care centres for expeditious handling of complaints, establishment of computerised registration centres, etc. Live Mail surveys are carried out periodically to find out whether mails are delivered within the prescribed norms.

[Translation]

Demand of Indian Labour by Foreign Countries

5050. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGHI:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether some countries including Canada have shown interest in labour import from India for their manufacturing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications received, cleared and pending with the Government in this regard, country-wise;

(d) the policy of Government in this regard and the existing system of labour export in international market;

(e) the number of registered agencies engaged in labour export, State-wise;

(f) the number of persons sent abroad through these agencies during the last three years, till date, State-wise and year-wise;

(g) the details of Trades/areas of skills in demand in international market, country-wise; and

(h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to export skilled/semi-skilled labourers to these countries, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (h) The Emigration Act, 1983 regulates migration of Indian workers abroad for employment on contractual basis. Under the Act, only the Recruiting Agencies registered with the Ministry of Labour can conduct the business of recruitment for overseas employment and the Government is not directly involved

in recruitment. Seventeen categories of persons are not required to seek emigration clearance for taking up employment abroad. Besides this, emigration clearance is not required for fifty countries including Canada. The State-wise break-up of number of Registered Recruiting Agencies and the number of persons sent through them for employment are indicated in the enclosed Statement I and II respectively.

Statement I

State	During the Years		
	1998	1999	2000
Andhra Pradesh	30,599	18,983	29,299
Assam	513	24	—
Bihar	14,569	5,866	6,726
Gujarat	8,528	3,956	5,722
Goa	945	543	1,331
Haryana	1,692	288	52
Himachal Pradesh	207	130	214
Jammu & Kashmir	769	262	35
Karnataka	11,535	5,287	10,927
Kerala	91,720	60,445	69,630
Madhya Pradesh	6,429	904	1,746
Maharashtra	24,657	9,871	13,346
Orissa	2,079	549	573
Punjab	26,876	15,167	10,025
Rajasthan	19,824	9,809	10,170
Tamil Nadu	69,793	47,402	63,878
Tripura	1	14	
Uttar Pradesh	33,728	11,789	9,157
West Bengal	3,765	1,559	1,940
Delhi	5,535	3,569	3,165
Pondicherry	285	180	35
Sikkim	1	12	2
Chandigarh	78	872	2045
Others	1,236	2,071	2,164

Statement II

State	No. of Registered Recruiting Agencies
Andhra Pradesh	36
Gujarat	10
Goa	13
Haryana	5
Himachal Pradesh	2
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Karnataka	17
Kerala	145
Maharashtra	480
Orissa	1
Punjab	26
Rajasthan	15
Tamil Nadu	163
Uttar Pradesh	5
West Bengal	4
Delhi	207
Chandigarh	21

*[English]***Industrial Training Centres**

5051. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether several applications to start Industrial Training Centres (ITCs) particularly in Kerala are pending with the Government for the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon so far; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Applications for opening of Industrial Training Centres are invited by concerned State Governments/Union Territories.

Approval for opening of Industrial Training Institutes/Centres and their adequacy in numbers is decided by the respective State Governments/Union Territories as per their need. Directorate General of Employment & Training in the Ministry of Labour does not maintain these records.

As per the information received from the State Government of Kerala, out of 146 applications received in November 2000, only 9 applications are pending with them and are under process of inspection prior to affiliation.

In the State of Kerala no application for starting of ITCs for the period 1997-2000 is pending with the State Government, except 9 applications of November 2000 as mentioned above.

(c) and (d) Not applicable in view of the information furnished above.

*[Translation]***Sujan Ganga River Project**

5052. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Sujan Ganga River Project of Bharatpur in Rajasthan is still lying incomplete;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Central Water Commission has not received from Rajasthan Government any project proposal of Sujan Ganga River Project for techno-economic appraisal. As per the State Government, Sujan Ganga is the inner most around the Bharatpur Fort. A proposal for repairs of the walls of the Fort, dewatering, desilting and clearing of inlet channel, etc. of Sujan Ganga is under the consideration of State Government. Water, being a State subject, planning, funding and execution of all such schemes primarily rests with the State Governments.

[English]

New Telecom Policy, 1999

5053. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of the objectives and achievements made so far in regard to new Telecom Policy, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): Availability of affordable and effective communications for the citizens is at the core of the vision and goal of the telecom policy. The key objectives and achievements made so far in regard to New Telecom Policy - 1999 are as follows:—

Objectives	Achievements
Make available telephone on demand by the year 2002 and sustain it thereafter so as to achieve a tele-density of 7 by the year 2005 and 15 by the year 2010.	Present tele-density is 3.65 and expected to reach 7.5 by 2005 and 17.8 by 2010
Encourage development of telecom in rural areas making it more affordable by suitable tariff structure.	Tariff has been reduced for rural areas.
Increase rural tele-density from the current level of 0.4 to 4 by the year 2010.	Present rural tele-density is 0.93 and expected to reach 4.93 by 2010.
Achieve telecom coverage of all villages in the country and provide reliable media to all exchanges by the year 2002	4,10,757 villages out of 6,07,491 have been provided with village panchayat telephones (VPTs) as on 30.6.2001
Provide Internet access to all district headquarters by the year 2000	Internet access provided to all District Headquarters.
Provide high speed data and multimedia capability using technologies including ISDN to all towns with a population greater than 2 lakh by the year 2002.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), so far, is planning to extend multimedia Capability through ISDN. The ISDN facility has been made available in 303 towns by 30.6.2001.
Transform in a time bound manner, the telecommunication sector to a greater competitive environment.	Cellular Telephone Mobile Services, Basic Telephone services, VSAT services, Internet services, Radio Paging services, National Long Distance Operations, Infrastructure Providers category - I & II, Public Mobile Radio Trunking Services, Global Mobile Personal Communication Services, Voice Mail Service etc. have been opened up for private sector participation, to bring in a greater competitive environment. BSNL commenced its operations w.e.f. 1st October, 2000.
Restructuring of DoT	BSNL commenced its operations w.e.f. 1st October, 2000.
Role of Regulator	TRAI was strengthened and its role clarified. Telecom Dispute settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) was set up.

Dope Testing Facilities

5054. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dope testing facilities have been

extended during the Afro-Asian Games in Delhi by the Olympic Council of Asia Medical Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to set up temporary accreditation for Dope Testing Centre at Delhi with German assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. International Olympic Committee (IOC) have agreed in principle to give temporary accreditation to dope control laboratory in Delhi.

(c) and (d) Sports Authority of India is seeking assistance from the IOC accredited German Laboratory, Kreisha to get temporary accreditation for conducting dope tests during Afro-Asian games.

Night Landing Facility at Bhavnagar Airport

5055. SHRI RAJU RANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to provide night landing facility at Bhavnagar airport (Gujarat); and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India has provided required runway lights and approach lights for covering night operations through Bhavnagar airport. However, there has been no demand for night operations through this airport. The fitting, etc. have therefore been removed and kept in safe custody to avoid pilferage. These fittings can be refixed at a short notice.

Houses for Beedi Workers

5056. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constructed a number of houses for beedi workers in 2000-2001;

(b) the break-up of such housing colonies funded by the Government;

(c) the number of houses allocated to Andhra Pradesh during 2001-2002;

(d) the number of houses which are under construction;

(e) whether a large number of applications are pending with the DGLW for a survey by the local officials in new areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Government do not construct houses for beedi workers. However, it provides subsidy @ Rs. 20,000/- each or 50% of the cost of construction, whichever is lower, under its "Integrated Housing Scheme". State-wise number of units which were provided subsidy by the Government during 2000-2001 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (f) State-wise allocations are not made. The amount of subsidy is provided as per the guidelines of the "Integrated Housing Scheme" on proposals as and when received in the office of DGLW and it is a continuous process. During the financial year 2001-2002, the Welfare Commissioner Hyderabad received a proposal for 3035 units on 6.8.2001 from the Government of Andhra Pradesh under Integrated Housing Scheme for Beedi Workers. Besides, 30 proposals of individual workers have been received after 1.4.2001. The office of Director General Labour Welfare does not conduct any survey for construction of houses.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of units provided subsidy in 2000-2001
1.	Uttar Pradesh	82
2.	Karnataka	08
3.	Kerala	137
4.	Orissa	3160
5.	West Bengal	388
6.	Assam	03
7.	Tripura	03
8.	Andhra Pradesh	753
9.	Tamil Nadu	171
10.	Madhya Pradesh	NIL
11.	Maharashtra	1404

Information with regard to the remaining States is 'NIL'.

Telephone Exchange

5057. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is no telephone exchanges in Khed, Mulsi and Ambagaon regions;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any request for opening of telephone exchanges in that regions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b)

There are 18 exchanges in Khed Tehsil, 8 in Mulsi Tehsil and 12 in Ambagaon Tehsil already working in Poona District of Maharashtra State. The details of the already working exchanges is given in the enclosed statement.

Two more requests for opening of telephone exchanges in Bhimashankar (Ambagaon Tehsil) and Kolwan (Mulsi Tehsil) have been received.

(c) The new exchanges at Bhimashankar and Kolwan will be opened during 2001-2002.

Statement

Details of the Working Exchanges in Khed, Mulsi and Ambagaon Tehsils

S.No.	Khed Tehsil	Mulsi Tehsil	Ambagaon Tehsil
1.	Chakan	Shalawadi	Awami Budruk
2.	Chaskaman	Mehre	Shadegaon
3.	Davadi	Hinjawadi	Lonidhamni
4.	Kadus	Mutha	Malagaon Padval
5.	Pait	Paud	Manchar
6.	Rajgurunagar	Pirangud	Pirgaon
7.	Shelpimpalgaon	Pirangutone	Paturi
8.	Wada	Madh	Ranjani
9.	Wafgaon		Shinali
10.	Vetali		Nirgutgar
11.	Morkel		Landwadi
12.	Koyali		Kalamb
13.	Alandi		
14.	Ambali		
15.	Kurkundi		
16.	Pali		
17.	Sangurdi		
18.	Kanhersar		

*[Translation]***Rajasthan under AIBP**

5058. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the name of States where the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) has been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was started in 1996-97. Since then, irrigation projects eligible as per AIBP norms in all the 28 States have been provided Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under AIBP.

*[English]***Tender Floated by DoT**

5059. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has floated tender for the allotment of PIJF underground cable to five firms valuing Rs. 375.85 crores during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details of the participating firms;

(c) whether the Comptroller & Auditor General (C&AG) of India has asked DoT to investigate the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the findings of the investigation; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the participating firms are as per statement enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Reply to draft audit para has already been sent to audit. However, Action Taken Note is under preparation and will be submitted to the Audit shortly.

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

Statement

S.No.	Name of Bidder
1.	ARM Ltd., Hyderabad
2.	BEOL Ltd., Rewa
3.	BML Ltd., Hyderabad
4.	CMI Ltd., New Delhi.
5.	Continental Ltd., New Delhi.
6.	DELTON Cables Ltd., New Delhi.
7.	FINOLEX Cables Ltd., Pune.
8.	GOCL Ltd., Ahmedabad.
9.	G.R. Cables Ltd., Hyderabad.
10.	GMTL, Ahmedabad.
11.	GTCL, Ahmedabad.
12.	HCL, Calcutta.
13.	HTL, Rohtak.
14.	INCAB Industries Ltd.
15.	MP Telelins Ltd., Gwalior
16.	Nicco Corporation Ltd.
17.	Optel Telecommunications Ltd., Bhopal.
18.	Paramount, Communications Ltd.
19.	RPG Cables Ltd., Mysore.
20.	SURANA Telecom Ltd., Hyderabad.
21.	Sterlite Industries India Ltd.
22.	Telephone Cables Ltd., Chandigarh.
23.	Tamil Nadu Telecommunications Ltd., Chennai.
24.	Traco Cable Company Ltd.
25.	Usha Beltron Ltd., Ranchi.
26.	Uniflex Cables Ltd., Mumbai.
27.	Vindhiya Telelinks Ltd., Rewa.

Sardar Sarovar Project

5060. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal have directed the participant States to pay their shares on the Sardar Sarovar Project in the ratio of benefits accruing to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the State Governments to follow the said decision of the Tribunal and to pay the shares by the participating States;

(d) whether the Government of Gujarat has presented any memorandum to this Ministry on the issue; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal have directed the participant States to pay their shares on the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) in the ratio of benefits accruing to them. The share of cost of different components of SSP by the party States, as per Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award, are given below:

Units	Particulars		State-wise Distribution of costs (%)			
			Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	Gujarat	Rajasthan
Unit-I	Irrigation	(43.9%)	—	—	41.58	2.31
Dam & Appurtenant Works	Power	(56.1%)	31.977	15.147	8.976	—
	Sub Total	(100%)	31.977	15.147	50.566	2.31
Unit-II Main Canal	Irrigation	(100%)	—	—	88.977	11.023
Unit-III Hydropower Works	Power	(100%)	57.00	27.00	16.00	—
Group-IV Branches & Distributaries	Irrigation	(100%)	—	—	100.00	—

(c) The party States namely Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan are paying their due shares to Gujarat as per the decision of the Tribunal except on some of the disputed items such as resettlement and rehabilitation, interest on market borrowings etc. Owing to paucity of funds, the party States are unable to provide funds and keep pace with the actual expenditure on the project.

(d) and (e) The Government of Gujarat has presented a memorandum to the Ministry of Water Resources on 26th October, 1999 wherein a request was made to the Union Minister of Water Resources to influence and persuade the participating States for reimbursing their outstanding dues expeditiously. The Union Government has been impressing upon the three party States to make payment of their outstanding dues towards Sardar Sarovar Project to Government of Gujarat both at the Ministerial as well as official levels, from time to time. In the 8th & 9th meetings of the Review Committee of Narmada Control Authority under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources held on 10th January, 2001 and

18th August, 2001 respectively also, the States have been impressed upon to clear their outstanding dues and measures have also been suggested to the State Governments to enable them to cover their resource gap.

Water Catchment Capacity

5061. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to deepen the rivers, lakes and ponds in the country to improve the water catchment capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of water catchment capacity and water storage capacity at present, State-wise; and

(d) the average utility of water in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Water, being a state subject, water resources development projects are planned, executed and financed by the State Governments in accordance with their own priorities. As such, the State Governments have been taking up schemes to deepen irrigation tanks as per their requirement and from their plan funds or through external financial assistance.

(c) and (d) The water catchment capacity of a catchment (basin or sub-basin) can be considered as the total run-off in term of volume, resulting from the rainfall in the catchment. The water resources are assessed basinwise. As per the latest assessment made by the

Central Water Commission, the average annual flow in the river systems of the country is about 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). A total live storage capacity of 177 BCM has been created up to 1995 with the construction of major and medium dams. A live storage capacity of 75 BCM is likely to be created on completion of the dams, which are under various stages of construction. Proposals to take up additional dams to create a live storage capacity of 132 BCM are also under formulation/consideration. Average utilisable surface water in the country is 690 BCM. Details of the basin-wise average annual flow, the live storage capacity of reservoirs and utilisable surface water in the country, are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Basinwise Water Availability and Storages in India

Sl.No.	Name of the River Basin	Catchment Area (million hectares)	Average Annual Flow (billion cubic metre)	Live Storage Capacity (billion cubic metre)				
				Completed Projects	Projects under Construction	Total	Projects under Consideration	Utilisable Surface Water
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A. Major River Basins								
1.	Indus	32.13	73.31	13.83	2.45	16.29	0.27	46
2.	(A) Ganga	86.15	525.02	36.84	17.12	53.96	29.56	250
	(b) Brahmaputra & Barak	23.61	585.60	1.09	2.40	3.49	63.35	24
3.	Brahmani & Baitarni	5.18	28.48	4.76	0.24	5.00	8.72	18.3
4.	Mahanadi	14.16	66.88	8.49	5.39	13.88	9.99	50
5.	Godavari	31.28	110.54	19.51	10.65	30.16	8.28	76.3
6.	Krishna	25.89	78.12	34.48	7.78	42.25	0.13	58
7.	Pennar	5.52	6.32	0.38	2.13	2.51	—	6.9
8.	Cauvery	8.12	21.36	7.43	0.39	7.82	0.34	19
9.	Tapi	6.51	14.88	8.53	1.01	9.54	1.99	14.5
10.	Narmada	9.88	45.64	6.60	16.72	23.32	0.47	14.5
11.	Mahi	3.48	11.02	4.75	0.36	5.11	0.02	3.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12.	Sabarmati	2.17	3.81	1.35	0.12	1.47	0.09	1.9
B. Composite River Basins								
1.	Subernarekha	2.92	12.37	0.66	1.65	2.31	1.59	6.8
2.	West Flowing Rivers of Kutchh, Saurashtra including Luni	32.19	15.10	4.31	0.58	4.89	3.15	15
3.	West Flowing Rivers from Tadri to Kanyakumari	5.62	113.53	10.24	2.31	12.55	1.70	24.3
4.	West Flowing Rivers from Tapi to Tadri	5.29	87.41	7.10	2.66	9.76	0.84	11.9
5.	East Flowing Rivers between Mahanadi & Pennar		22.52	1.63	1.45	3.08	0.86	13.1
6.	East Flowing Rivers between Pennar & Kanyakumari	10.01	16.46	1.42	0.02	1.44	—	16.5
7.	Area of inland drainage in Rajasthan	6.00	Neg.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Minor river basins draining into Bangladesh & Myanmar	3.63	31.00	0.31	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00
Total		328.40	1869.35	173.73	75.42	249.15	132.32	690

Note:

1. Projects having a live storage capacity of 10 million cubic metre and above only are included.
2. An additional live storage capacity of 3 billion cubic metre (approx). has been created through Medium Projects each having a capacity of less than 10 million cubic metre thus making a total live storage capacity of 177 billion cubic metre in completed projects.
3. Totals may not tally due to rounding off.

Involvement of Airlines Officials in Illegal Immigration

5062. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints about involvement of Airlines officials in the racket of illegal immigration;

(b) if so, the details of such involvement during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to wean away the officials from such criminal activities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) 12 Indian Airlines Officials and 3 Air India Officials were found involved in facilitation of illegal immigration during the last three years. The details in this regard are given in the enclosed statement. The cases of all the 12 Indian Airlines officials have/are either being investigated by Police or the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The Vigilance Department of Air India

has completed the vigilance enquiries against all its 3 delinquent employees. Among the three, one employee is proposed to be removed from service. In the cases of the other two employees departmental action has been initiated.

(c) Indian Airlines is keeping close surveillance by its Vigilance Department on employees suspected of being involved in the racket of illegal immigration. Air India, too, have taken deterrent steps to wean away the officials from such criminal activity.

Statement

S.No.	Name of Employee	Gist of the Incident
1	2	3

Indian Airlines:

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Shri Anil Kumar Jayant,
Deputy Manager | On 25.10.1998 at Terminal II of IGI Airport, New Delhi Shri Jayant attempted to travel to Montreal on Air Canada Flight AC-987 alongwith a lady and boy posing as his wife Anjali Jayant and Son Dhruv on passports issued in the name of his wife and son. |
| 2. | Shri D.V. Sheth,
Traffic Supdt., Ahmedabad | Shri Sheth was involved in facilitation of illegal immigration to USA on 6.8.1998 |
| 3. | Shri M.U. Chhatwani,
Traffic Asstt, Ahmedabad | Shri Chhatwani was involved in facilitation of illegal immigration to USA ex-Ahmedabad on 13.5.1999. |
| 4. | Shri B.P. Patnakar
Traffic Asstt, Ahmedabad | Shri Patnakar was involved in facilitation of illegal immigration of passengers to USA ex-Ahmedabad on 10.6.1997. |
| 5. | Shri S.K. Tiwari,
Traffic Asstt, Ahmedabad | Shri Tiwari was involved in facilitation of illegal immigration of passengers to USA ex-Ahmedabad on 27.2.1997. |
| 6. | Shri R.V. Khade,
Sr. Driver, Mumbai;
Shri S.R. Hussain,
Sr. Helper (Engg.), Mumbai;
Smt. Nazma K. Khan,
Head Helper (Engg.), Mumbai;
Shri S.C. Barve,
Sr. Safaiwala, Mumbai;
Shri K.S. Padavi,
Chair Re-caner, Mumbai. | On 13.2.2000, These personnel were involved in selling passports with Japanese visas for facilitating illegal immigration. |
| 7. | Shri B.S. Pardeshi,
Operator (Ground Support),
Mumbai | On 25.5.2001 at Ahmedabad airport Shri Pardeshi was involved in facilitating illegal immigration to Toronto, Canada. Deported from Kuwait. |
| 8. | Shri Rajinder Singh Lather,
Transport Supdt., | On 14.6.2001 at IGI Airport, Terminal II, New Delhi, Shri Lather attempted to travel to Canada on Air France flight alongwith Smt. Paramjit Kaur and her two children posing as his wife Yogita Lather, son Mayank Lather and daughter Parul Lather with passports issued in the name of his wife and children. |

1	2	3
	Air India:	
9.	Shri C.R. Bakshi, Comm. Mgr, and Shri Barat Chaturvedi, Pax Sales Mgr.	Both these officers were involved in aiding and abetting M/s. Hans Air in transporting inadmissible passengers to Paris.
10.	Shri Shoeb Shamsher Khan, Customer Service Supervisor, Mumbai Airport Cargo.	Shri Khan was involved in aiding and accompanying two inadmissible lady passengers, attempted to travel to USA with Korean air documents with forged passports and impersonating as Mrs Prabha V. Shinde and Ms. Shilpa Bhatia.

National Programme on Traditional Water Resources

5063. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government recently launched a National Programme to rejuvenate the traditional water resources;

(b) if so, whether the Government have sent a Central Team to some States to make on-the-spot study of the said programme;

(c) if so, whether the said team has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to introduce the said programme in other States; and

(f) the financial assistance proposed to be given to State Government for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Water, being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to plan, finance and execute the water resources development schemes including rejuvenation of the traditional water resources from their own resources. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States

by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) - Rural Drinking Water Component which, among others, include a sub-component to repair and rejuvenate the sources of water. Central Ground Water Board under Ministry of Water Resources has also taken up pilot studies for artificial recharge of ground water at 136 locations in different States. Under these studies, water harvesting structures like percolation tanks, check dams, gabion structures, recharge shafts, roof top rain water harvesting etc., are being constructed under the technical guidance of the Central Ground Water Board.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

Culture of Road Safety

5064. PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK:
SHRI SURESH KURUP:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Time for imbibing road safety culture" appearing in the *Hindu* dated June 23, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether involvement of professionals, voluntary organisations and public at large has become necessary besides upgradation of drivers' skill of the heavy vehicles; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item refers to Sixth Meeting of National Road Safety Council held on 21.6.2001 in which concern had been expressed about the large number of road accidents occurring due to improper maintenance of the motor vehicle or due to fault of the drivers. The news-item also mentions that the scope of National Highway Patrolling Scheme has been widened to include the NGOs also. Further, National Road Safety Award Scheme has been instituted for motivating Individuals and NGO in the field of Road Safety.

(c) and (d) The steps being taken are:

- (i) Refresher training to Heavy Vehicle Drivers is given to drivers to remove flaws.
- (ii) Annual fitness certificate of commercial vehicles is necessary as per provision of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
- (iii) Over loading is to be restricted as per the provision of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
- (iv) State Governments to provide 25% concession in composite taxes for Multi Axle Vehicles as these enable carriage of heavier loads and reduce damage to roads.
- (v) Giving grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes in order to create awareness among the public.
- (vi) Under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme, from the year 2000-2001, Voluntary organizations are also considered alongside State agencies.
- (vii) National Award has been instituted for voluntary organizations/individuals for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
- (viii) All India Essay Competition on road safety are organized for school children for creating awareness among the school children.
- (ix) Observance of Road Safety Week in the first week of every year across the country etc.

[*Translation*]

Reduction of Contents of Phosphate in Detergents

5065. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the detergents contain higher content of phosphate and are thus harmful for environment and health;

(b) if so, whether orders have been issued to reduce phosphate content in detergents;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) other steps taken by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Detergents do contain phosphate. Excess quantity of phosphate causes eutrophication in the water body and affects the aquatic life.

(b) to (d) Under the Eco-mark scheme, Ministry of Environment and Forests notified the criteria to reduce phosphate contents in detergents in 1992. The criteria also describe that the surfactants in detergents shall be at least 97% biodegradable. Detergent manufacturing industries are also required to fulfil various provisions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 before disposal of the wastewater generated in these industries.

[*English*]

Filling up of Vacant Posts of SCs/STs and OBCs

5066. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry propose to fill up all the posts reserved for SCs/STs and OBCs in the Ministry;

(b) if so, the total number of posts still lying vacant under SCs/STs and OBCs category in the Ministry; and

(c) the steps being taken to fill up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Filling up of posts reserved for SC, ST and OBC is a continuous process.

(b) At present, a total of 195 SC, 330 ST and 1781 OBC posts are lying vacant in the Ministry, including its attached/subordinate offices and Public Sector Undertakings.

(c) Efforts are on to fill up some of these posts through UPSC, SSC, Employment Exchange and Surplus Cell of the Department of Personnel and Training. Except for operational posts, there is a freeze on further recruitment in Air India, India Airlines, Airports Authority of India, Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. and Hotel Corporation of India. The action to fill up these vacancies will be taken as and when the ban is lifted.

[Translation]

Death of Tigers in National Tiger Projects

5067. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of deaths of tigers and cubs in the National Tiger Projects during the last three years as well as current year, till date along with the reasons therefor, project-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding smuggling of skins and bones of tigers from Nagpur during the said period;

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

(d) whether any officials of his Ministry/department are involved in the smuggling of tigers; and

(e) if so, the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of death of Tigers in the Tiger Project during the last three years as well as current year, till date along with the reasons for death are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Bureau of Investigation unearthed cases regarding smuggling of hides and bones of tiger in the month of March, 2000 and seized 1 tiger and 4 leopard skins along with 6 kgs. of tiger bones. CBI has filed a case to this effect.

(d) No such report has been received by Government of India.

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement

Tiger Death 1998

Sl.No.		Date	No.	Remark
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu)	22-1-98	1	Poaching
2.	Dudhwa	1-1-98	3 cub	Poisoning
3.	Treai West Forest Dev.	31-1-98	1	Natural death
4.	Sariska	10-3-98	1	Natural death
5.	Kanha Tiger Reserve	3-4-98	1	Natural death
6.	Pench Tiger Reserve	6-4-98	1	death due to electrocution
7.	Seoni	11-5-98	1	death due to electrocution
8.	Kanha Tiger Reserve	14-6-98	1	Natural death

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Shivpuri	17-7-98	1	Natural death
10.	Pench Tiger Reserve	5-11-98	1	death due to electrocution
11.	Uttar Pradesh Dudwa Tiger Reserve	14-4-98	1	Natural death
12.	Maharashtra Chancrapur Div.	18.5.98	1	Natural death
13.	Melghat Tiger Reserve	3-6-98	1	Natural death
14.	Melghat Tiger Reserve	19-6-98	1	Natural death
15.	Melghat Tiger Reserve	26-6-98	1	Natural death
16.	West Bengal Sunderban TR	29-8-98		Poaching
17.	Rajasthan Ranthambore	3.8.98	1	Natural death
18.	Sariska TR	10-3-98	1	Natural death
19.	Nagarjun Sagar TR	31-7-98	1	Natural death
20.	Karnataka Gundelpet	26-4-98	1	Natural death
Total			22	

Tiger Death 1999

1.	Melghat TR	9-1-99	1	Natural death
2.	Corbett TR	15-2-99	1	Natural death
3.	Kanha TR	11-2-99	2	Natural death
4.	Pench TR (M.P.)	13-2-99	1	Accidental death
5.	Pench (M.P.)	16-3-99	1	Accidental death
6.	Madhya Pradesh (Kanha TR)	15-4-99	1	Natural death
7.	Madhya Pradesh (Kanha TR)	18-4-99	1	Natural death
8.	Uttar Pradesh (Corbett TR)	25-5-99	1	Natural death
9.	Rajasthan (Ranthambore TR)	26-6-99	1	Natural death
10.	Shivpuri	25-6-99	1	Seizure
11.	Uttar Pradesh (Corbett TR)	1-7-99	1	Natural death
12.	Madhya Pradesh (Kanha)	18-7-99	2	Natural death
13.	Madhya Pradesh (Kanha)	18-8-99	1	Natural death
14.	Maharashtra (Tadoba Andheri)	9-9-99	1	Poaching
15.	Uttar Pradesh (Corbett)	23-10-99	1	Natural death

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Uttar Pradesh (Corbett)	24-10-99	1	Natural death
17.	Uttar Pradesh (Corbett)	2-12-99	1	Natural death
18.	Madhya Pradesh (Pench)	22-12-99	1	Natural death
Total			19	

Tiger Death 2000

1.	Gosaba (W.B.) 24, Paragana	22-2-2000	1	Seizure
2.	Periyar (Kerala)	February, 2000	1	Natural death
3.	Rajasthan (Sariska)	14-3-2000	1	Natural death
4.	Madhya Pradesh (Bhandhagarh)	4-3-2000	1	Natural death
5.	Sunderban (WB)	1-6-2000	1	Seizure
6.	Bandhavagarh (M.P.)	5-5-2000	1	Natural death
7.	Sariska (Rajasthan)	26-6-2000	1	Natural death
8.	Kanha (M.P.)	12-5-2000	1	Natural death
9.	Dudhwa (U.P.)	29.6.2000	1	Natural death
10.	Tadoba Andheri (Maharashtra)	21.5.2000	1	Natural death
11.	Kanathalaberia S. Basanti (W.B.)	1-4-2000	1	Seizure
12.	Mayadwip (W.B.) Block under NP (W) Range	8-5-2000	1	Seizure
13.	Gosaba (W.B.)	9-5-2000	1	Seizure
14.	Choragazikhali (W.B.)	16-6-2000	1	Seizure
15.	Indravati (M.P.)	12-7-2000	1 skin	Seizure
16.	Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh)	25-7-2000	1	Natural death
17.	Sariska (Rajasthan)	25-6-2000	1	Natural death
18.	Bandhavgarh (M.P.)	29-9-2000	1	Natural death
19.	Kanha (M.P.)	7-10-2000	1	Natural death
20.	Dudhwa (Kixtipur)	30-12-2000	1	Natural death
21.	Namdapha	-12-2000	1	Natural death
Total			21	

Tiger Death 2001

1.	Dudhwa	4-2-2001	1	Poaching
2.	Nallamala (Andhra Pradesh)	6-2-2001	1	Seizure

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Katni village (M.P.)	8-2-2001	1	Poaching
4.	Dudhwa	23-2-3001	1	Natural death
5.	Kheri (STF, Uttar Pradesh)	25-2-2001	1 skin 7 skulls	Seizure
6.	Kanha	25-2-2001	1	Natural death
7.	Corbett	5-3-2001	1	Death due to infighting
8.	Corbett	6-3-2001	1	Death due to infighting
9.	Amaravati (Maharashtra)	19-3-2001	1	Infighting
10.	Corbett	11-4-2001	1	Infighting
11.	Mundumalai WLS range	7-5-2001	1	Others
12.	Ranthambore	10-5-2001	1	Poaching
13.	Bandhavgarh	21-5-2001	1	Poaching
14.	Sunderban (W. Bengal)	30-7-2001	1	Poaching
Total			21	

[English]

Tickets to Sports Federation by Air India

5068. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount by way of cash or airline tickets has been provided by Air India to various Sports Federations/Associations during the last three years;

(b) the amount by way of cash or airline tickets has been provided to the Badminton Association of India during the same period;

(c) whether any complaints regarding irregularities in sanctioning of cash/airline tickets to the Badminton Association of India have received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Air India's Sports Control Board has, from its annual budget, distributed Rs. 16.10 lakhs, Rs. 9.50 lakhs and Rs. 8.18 lakhs during the years 1998-

1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively to various Sports Federations/Associations which includes Rs. 3.50 lakhs each year to the Badminton Association of India. All transportation/service contracts with the Badminton Association of India have been signed, duly approved by the Air India Management as per the existing rules.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A complaint regarding sanction of amount to the Badminton Association of India. in Transportation Service Contracts without securing commensurate value of Air India has been received. Vigilance Department of Air India is seized of the matter.

Indira Gandhi Nahar Project

5069. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are providing funds to the Government of Rajasthan for Indira Gandhi Nahar Project under the "Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)" in the ratio of 2:1;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representation from the Government of Rajasthan to provide more funds under AIBP; and

(c) if so, the time by which grant under AIBP is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Union Government has provided from 1997-98 to date Central Loan Assistance (CLA) in the ratio of 2:1 (Centre: State) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) amount to Rs. 232.89 crores to Indira Gandhi Nagar Project Stage-II.

(b) No, Sir. However, Government of Rajasthan had requested the Ministry of Water Resources during January, 2001 for increasing the Centre's share of CLA and the terms and conditions for repayment of the loan. There is no proposal to relax norms of AIBP as required by the Government of Rajasthan.

(c) The allocations under AIBP are made on year to year basis for those ongoing irrigation projects which satisfy the AIBP criteria and are proposed by the State, subject to availability of funds and the budget outlays provided by the State for these projects in their respective annual plans and keeping in view State ceiling of CLA prescribed by the Planning Commission for the year.

[Translation]

National Water Management Programme

5070. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes which are under consideration of the National Water Management Programme, State-wise;

(b) the details of command areas likely to be brought under these schemes during the Ninth Plan;

(c) the amount spent so far;

(d) the financial assistance received from the World Bank for the implementation of these schemes during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the details of Central assistance provided to each State during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA

CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The first phase of National Water Management Project (NWMP) was implemented during June 1987 to March 1995 with the World Bank assistance.

The second phase of the NWMP could not be implemented, as the World Bank did not agree to fund the same.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Cancellation of Flights

5071. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some scheduled flights to Bhubaneswar have been withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to operate Airbus service to Bhubaneswar via Varanasi with a view to promote tourism in the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The four days a week B-737 service (CD7261-7262) operated by Alliance Air on Kolkata-Bhubaneswar-Kolkata route has been temporarily withdrawn from 6th July to 31st August 2001 due to poor load. Alliance Air will recommence operation of this flight with effect from 1st September, 2001.

(c) Due to commitment of A320 aircraft and low passenger demand between Varanasi and Bhubaneswar, Indian Airlines has no plans at present to operate airbus service from Delhi to Bhubaneswar via Varanasi.

[Translation]

Jindal Steel and Power Ltd., Raigarh

5072. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jindal Steel and Power Limited, Raigarh, Chhattisgarh is abiding by all the terms and conditions relating to environment in setting up of its new power plant and rolling mills plant;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) 110 MW Captive Power Plant at Patrapalli, Raigarh District, Chhattisgarh of M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Limited has been accorded environmental clearance on 17th August, 2001 as per the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of January, 1994 and its amendments. While approving the project, necessary environmental mitigation measures have been stipulated and their implementation would be regularly monitored.

Rolling Mills do not require environmental clearance under the EIA Notification.

Provision of Surplus Water of Ganga to Rajasthan

5073. SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the study group of the Central Water Commission set up to consider providing of surplus water of the Ganga river to the drought affected areas of Rajasthan has submitted its report to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Water Development Authority has completed the water balance studies and has submitted its recommendations in regard to surplus water to the Ganga Flood Control Board; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Rajasthan submitted a proposal in 1984 for diverting 1133 cumec of Ganga water ex-Hardwar and 566 cumec of Ganga water ex-Bijnor for 100 days during Monsoon. The study conducted by Central Water Commission (CWC) to explore the possibilities to divert flood waters of Ganga for use in Rajasthan revealed that sufficient water was not available in Ganga near these two places for more than 20-30 days in a year for diversion to Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) As part of carrying out studies of National Perspective Plan, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has completed the prefeasibility studies of Sarda-Yamuna Rajasthan link. As per the prefeasibility report prepared by NWDA, Yamuna-Rajasthan link envisages 2.44 lakh hectare of irrigation benefit to Rajasthan. Survey and investigation for preparation of detailed project report of the link have been taken up by NWDA and is programmed for completion by 2007.

[English]

Survey on Bonded Labour

5074. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provided 100 per cent grants to the State Government for conducting district-wise survey on bonded labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof and amount provided to States during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of bonded labour identified and rehabilitated during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the further steps being taken by the Government in consultation with State Governments for speedy rehabilitation of bonded labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Under the modified Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers effective from May 2000, an amount of Rs. 2.00 lakh per district may be provided to State Governments for conducting survey for identification of bonded labour. During year 2000-2001 Central assistance has been provided for conducting surveys in 25 districts to the following States Governments:

State	Central Assistance (Rs. in lakhs)
Haryana	16.00
Punjab	10.00
Rajasthan	18.00
Tamil Nadu	6.00

(c) The number of bonded labourers identified and rehabilitated during the last three years, State-wise are given below:

	Bonded labourers identified	Bonded labourers rehabilitated
Bihar	98	98
Orissa	35	35
Tamil Nadu	15854	15854
Uttar Pradesh	328	328
Arunachal Pradesh	2992	2992
Rajasthan	104	104
Haryana	171	7*

*Rest of the identified bonded labourers were given release certificate and repatriated to their native States for rehabilitation.

(d) The State Governments have been advised to integrate/dovetail the ongoing poverty alleviating programmes namely, Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub Plan etc., with the Centrally sponsored scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labourers.

[Translation]

Constitution of Committee of Ministers of Water Resources

5075. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee of the Ministers of Water Resources of various States was constituted in the last meeting of National Water Resources Council;

(b) if so, the details of the participating States;

(c) whether the Committee is likely to complete its work within a prescribed time limit; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the committee is likely to complete its work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last (4th) meeting of National Water Resources Council held on 7th July, 2000 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, a Working Group of Irrigation/ Water Resources Ministers of all the States/Union Territories under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources was constituted for examining and achieving greater convergence and agreement on the areas where differences existed on the draft updated National Water Policy.

(c) and (d) The completion of the work by the Working Group depends on the States/Union Territories to adopt a pragmatic view and arrive at a consensus on the areas where differences exist on the provisions of the draft updated National Water Policy. As such, no time frame can be prescribed for the completion of the work of the Working Group.

Revenue received from Private Airlines

5076. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue received by the Government from the private airlines during the last year, airlines-wise;

(b) whether the private airlines are thriving day by day and earning good profits;

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

(d) whether any new airlines is proposed to be introduced; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) and (c) Since Jet Airways is a private Limited Company registered under the Company Act, 1956, Section 220 read with Section 610 of the Act, restricts accessibility of its profit and loss account to a person other than its members. As regards, Sahara Airlines, a Public Limited Company, as per available information, it has incurred a loss of Rs. 17.6 crores in the year ended 31.3.2001.

(d) and (e) Consideration of proposal to commence airline operations is an ongoing process. At present, the applications of M/s. Ahmedabad Aviation & Aeronautics and M/s. Southern Air for scheduled operations and M/s. Thomas Cook Ltd., M/s. Futura Travels Ltd. and M/s. SRC Aviation Pvt. Ltd. for non-scheduled air transport services are under scrutiny.

Telephone Exchanges in U.P.

5077. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be opened in each district of Uttar Pradesh during 2001-2002 and next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): 283 Telephone exchanges are proposed to be opened in Uttar Pradesh during 2001-2002. (District wise details are given in the enclosed statement). Regarding the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be opened during next two years, the targets are decided on year to year basis.

Statement

No. of Telephone Exchanges (District-wise) proposed to be opened during 2001-2002

Sl. No.	District	Total No. of Exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	4
2.	Ambedkar Nagar	3
3.	Auraiya	4
4.	Azamgarh	6
5.	Bharaich	6
6.	Balia	7
7.	Balrampur	4
8.	Banda	3
9.	Barabanki	6
10.	Basti	3
11.	Bhadohi	3
12.	Chandauli	2

1	2	3
13.	Chitrakoot	3
14.	Deoria	5
15.	Etawah	4
16.	Faizabad	3
17.	Farrukhabad	4
18.	Fatehpur	8
19.	Ghazipur	4
20.	Gonda	7
21.	Gorakhpur	9
22.	Hamirpur	4
23.	Hardoi	8
24.	Jalaun	8
25.	Jaunpur	10
26.	Jhansi	2
27.	Kannauj	3
28.	Kanpur	4
29.	Kanpur Dehat	7
30.	Kaushambi	2
31.	Lakhimpur	7
32.	Lalitpur	0
33.	Lucknow	12
34.	Mahoba	2
35.	Maharajganj	4
36.	Mainpuri	7
37.	Mau	4
38.	Mirzapur	4
39.	Padrauna (Kushi Nagar)	5
40.	Pratapgarh	8
41.	Raebareli	6

1	2	3
42.	Sant Kabir Nagar	2
43.	Shajahanpur	7
44.	Shrawasti	4
45.	Siddharth Nagar	2
46.	Sitapur	8
47.	Sonebhadra	3
48.	Sultanpur	10
49.	Unnao	10
50.	Varanasi	7
51.	Agra	2
52.	Aligarh	2
53.	Bareilly	2
54.	Bijnore	2
55.	Badaun	1
56.	Etah	2
57.	Ghaziabad	2
58.	Meerut	2
59.	Mathura	2
60.	Moradabad	1
61.	Muzaffarnagar	1

1	2	3
62.	Bulandshahar	2
63.	Rampur	2
64.	Saharanpur	2
Total		283

Expansion of Telephone Lines

5078. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the target fixed and achievements made for the expansion of number of telephone lines in each State during the last three years and till date;

(b) whether the telephone routes have become more busy by extending the radius of local call recently up to 200 Km; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by the Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The details of the target fixed/achievement made for the expansion of Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) in each State during the last three years and till date is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) After introduction of concessional tariff within 200 Kms, there was congestion on some routes initially due to spurt in traffic. To tackle this situation more number of circuits are being provided on these routes.

Statement

Details of Target fixed/achievement made during the last three years and till date

S.No.	Name of States	Target fixed for 1998-99	DELs provided during 1998-99	Target fixed for 1999-00	DELs provided during 1999-00	Target fixed for 2000-01	DELs provided during 2000-01	Target for 2001-02	DELs provided upto 31.7.01
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	6000	7501	7000	8690	7000	5613	10000	815
2.	Andhra Pradesh	250000	404980	350000	655088	575000	610931	530000	-27803

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Assam	50000	50375	60000	61162	55000	65207	100000	27406
4.	Bihar	131000	103128	163000	125179	260000	264396	200000	20839
5.	Chhatisgarh *	0	0	0	0	0	0	40000	3263
6.	Gujarat	250000	255388	250000	374022	330000	476841	650000	70723
7.	Haryana	95000	96170	117000	117436	150000	152193	245500	35973
8.	Himachal Pradesh	59000	43217	59000	60027	60000	61761	90000	18147
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	30000	18501	40000	22158	50000	43512	80000	10937
10.	Jharkhand *	0	0	0	0	0	0	82000	12676
11.	Karnataka	200000	237002	300000	364715	425000	427155	500000	51884
12.	Kerala	325000	271065	400000	350055	450000	456444	663000	54155
13.	Madhya Pradesh	110000	140352	141000	154816	150000	167166	155000	15703
14.	Maharashtra	530000	502129	645000	657868	770000	778307	950000	83080
15.	Meghalaya	6000	6314	8000	8202	8000	8137	10100	1517
16.	Tripura	8000	9017	9000	10315	14000	14011	12900	835
17.	Mizoram	4000	4615	6000	6003	7000	7103	9000	1052
Total North East-1		18000	19946	23000	24520	29000	29251	32000	3404
18.	Nagaland	5000	5502	5500	5960	7000	7008	5700	1103
19.	Manipur	2000	2533	4500	4628	5500	4503	8600	116
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	7000	7135	7000	8691	8500	8512	7200	1520
Total North East-2		14000	15170	17000	19279	21000	20023	21500	2739
21.	Orissa	60000	68175	87000	89036	100000	103107	135000	20729
22.	Punjab	190000	193469	240000	208288	250000	251197	460000	64808
23.	Rajasthan	163000	171445	180000	182395	210000	216886	300000	33857
24.	Tamil Nadu	280000	357609	350000	403552	550000	550399	396000	44769
	Chennai	115000	122629	140000	142618	150000	151788	200000	31856
Total for Tamil Nadu		395000	480238	490000	546170	700000	702187	596000	76625

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
25.	Uttaranchal *	0	0	0	0	0	0	100000	8420
	Uttar Pradesh East	133000	186685	207000	233677	300000	301684	325000	18000
26.	Uttar Pradesh West	139000	154917	193000	184540	190000	226245	300000	36191
	Total for U.P.	272000	341602	400000	418217	490000	527929	625000	54191
	West Bengal	120000	101425	231000	125280	260000	201774	300000	26504
27.	Kolkatta	112000	180320	110000	176523	178000	200516	165000	18653
	Total for West Bengal	232000	281745	341000	301803	438000	402290	465000	45157
28.	Delhi	125000	90392	120000	176733	160000	161620	200000	10533

Note:— Chhhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal are the Newly created circles
Tamil Nadu includes Pondicherry
Maharashtra includes Goa
West Bengal includes Sikkim.

Investment by MTNL

[English]

5079. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has decided to invest the capital in foreign countries to expand its business activities during the current year; and

(b) if so, the amount to be invested and areas identified for the purpose, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) MTNL in a Joint Venture (JV) with Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL), Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) and Nepal Ventures Private Limited (NVPL) has obtained a licence for providing Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) based services in Nepal.

(b) As per Joint Venture agreement, the subscribed capital is to be Nepali Rs. 10 crores. Out of which Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) will hold 26.68%. The amount to be invested in this project will depend on the business plan.

Cellular Telephone Services

5080. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided not to extend cellular telephone services in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country due to security reasons;

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

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Defence Ministry has also raised objections for starting cellular services in Jammu and Kashmir; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (e) Expansion of fresh start of Cellular Mobile Telephone

Service is not permitted at present in Jammu & Kashmir, North East and Assam Telecom Circles on security considerations. This decision has been taken by the Government after consulting all concerned Ministries including Ministry of Defence.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections

5081. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide 15 crore telephone connections in the country during the next decade;

(b) if so, the number of telephone connections proposed to be provided during next two years State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the telephone call rate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of telephone connections proposed to be provided during next two years is 172.5 Lac. However, State-wise Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) targets are fixed on year to year basis at the stage of formation of annual plan.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at present.

[*English*]

ILO Grants for elimination of Child Labour

5082. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Trade Unions in the State of Andhra Pradesh formed as a federation for implementation of child labour elimination project in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has granted Rs. 15 crore to the federation in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have also agreed to provide help and assistance; and

(e) the extent to which the project is likely to help in eliminating the child labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) As per the information received from ILO, Five Central Trade Unions i.e. Hind Mazdoor Sabha, Indian National Trade Union Congress, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, All India Trade Union Congress and a State Trade Union The Telugu Nadu Trade Union Congress have formed a federation known as the Andhra Pradesh Federation of Trade Unions for the Elimination of Child Labour. An amount of Rs. 1.5 crore has been earmarked to the federation in this regard.

(d) and (e) The Government of India has been implementing two schemes for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work, namely the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and the Scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. So far, 22 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned in the State of Andhra Pradesh for coverage of 61050 children withdrawn from work through 982 special schools/centres.

Visit by German delegation over Pollution Control

5083. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a German delegation has visited New Delhi recently and held discussions on various pollution related issues;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to sought technological assistance from Germany to curb various pollution related issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Hepatitis 'B' Vaccination by ESI Hospitals

5084. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hepatitis 'B' vaccinations are provided/ supplied in Hospitals and Dispensaries;

(b) whether ESI Corporation has finalized some rate contract of Hepatitis 'B' supply;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(d) whether ESI Corporation propose to make awareness among labour class patients regarding Hepatitis 'B' disease; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Hepatitis 'B' Vaccinations are being provided in ESI hospitals.

(b) to (e) During the period 1998-99 and 1999-2000, the Hepatitis 'B' vaccine was approved for purchase at a cost of Rs. 2843.40 and Rs. 1150 respectively per 10 ml. vial (20 child doses). At present, the Hepatitis 'B' vaccine has been approved in the current ESI Rate Contract valid till 31.3.2002 for procurement at the rate of Rs. 500 per 10 ml. vial (20 child doses). The ESI Corporation is conducting health awareness programmes including health talks and health camps, where the patient are made aware of the dangers of the Hepatitis 'B' disease and the measures for prevention.

Coverage under ESI Scheme

5085. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons covered under the ESI Scheme as on date and the percentage of increase in the number of persons during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of hospitals and dispensaries run by the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) as on date, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to open more hospitals and dispensaries in the next year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the criteria fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) As on 31.3.2000, 78,62,050 workers were covered under the ESI Scheme. A statement I showing the percentage increase is enclosed.

(b) As on 31.3.2000, there were 138 ESI Hospitals and 1443 ESI Dispensaries in the country. A Statement II showing State-wise details is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The ESI Corporation has laid down norms of construction/starting of new hospital/dispensaries. As and when any proposal is received from the State Government, the same is examined and sanctioned by the ESIC on the basis of these norms.

Statement I

Workers Covered Under ESI Schemes (Last 3 year)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	As on 31.3.97	As on 31.8.98	As on 31.3.99	As on 31.3.2000	% increase in coverage during the last 3 years
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3,92,350	4,53,800	4,74,100	5,12,350	30.58%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Assam	41,850	40,850	38,000	41,600	(-) 0.6%
3.	Bihar	1,48,150	1,64,100	1,70,850	1,43,700	(-) 3%
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	34,156	29,750	26,350	34,200	0.15%
5.	Delhi	4,48,500	5,53,400	5,43,250	5,32,950	18.83%
6.	Goa	55,850	64,550	70,800	65,000	16.38%
7.	Gujarat	6,31,650	6,36,050	5,48,100	5,05,600	(-) 19.95%
8.	Haryana	3,28,900	3,63,650	3,56,300	3,70,850	12.75%
9.	Himachal Pradesh	29,450	32,900	48,600	47,200	60.27%
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	11,900	13,700	17,450	13,450	13.02%
11.	Karnataka	6,58,450	6,48,550	6,27,400	6,44,050	(-) 2.19%
12.	Kerala	3,86,400	4,13,600	3,78,950	3,66,500	(-) 5.15%
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2,18,400	2,36,000	2,36,000	2,29,700	5.17%
14.	Maharashtra	12,25,350	15,30,300	13,81,200	12,90,000	5.28%
15.	Orissa	1,39,400	1,39,400	1,29,050	1,13,050	(-) 18.9%
16.	Pondicherry	23,650	34,450	39,750	37,150	44.83%
17.	Punjab	4,10,600	4,20,850	4,00,200	3,74,100	(-) 8.89%
18.	Rajasthan	2,78,400	2,97,650	2,92,250	2,90,300	4.3%
19.	Tamil Nadu	9,75,000	10,20,850	10,52,850	11,04,400	13.27%
20.	Uttar Pradesh	4,63,650	4,54,550	5,14,750	5,10,250	10.05%
21.	West Bengal	8,27,600	8,04,950	7,37,000	6,35,650	(-) 23.19%
Total		77,31,650	83,61,900	80,85,200	78,62,050	1.69%

Statement II*No of E.S.I. Dispensaries/Hospitals in the Country*

Sl.No.	State	No. of ESI Dispensaries	No. of ESI Hospitals
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	139	11
2.	Assam	26	1
3.	Bihar	51	6

1	2	3	4
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	2	Nil
5.	Delhi	46	4
6.	Goa	7	1
7.	Gujarat	124	11
8.	Haryana	69	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	7	1

1	2	3	4
10.	Karnataka	151	10
11.	Kerala	136	13
12.	Madhya Pradesh	64	7
13.	Maharashtra		
(a)	Mumbai	20	13
(b)	Nagpur	22	
(c)	Pune	34	
14.	Meghalaya	1	Nil
15.	Orissa	52	5
16.	Pondicherry	13	1
17.	Punjab	70	7
18.	Rajasthan	66	5
19.	Tamil Nadu	165	7
20.	Uttar Pradesh	132	16
21.	West Bengal	38	14
22.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	Nil
Total		1443	138

Cells to Deal with Telecom Frauds

5086. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has set up exclusive cells in the four metros to deal with telecom related frauds;

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

(c) the number of cases pertaining to routing of illegal incoming international call detected by the Government during the last three months in the country; and

(d) the persons arrested and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) With a view to check unauthorised diversion of telephones and other telecom related frauds, four special cells of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), each under the charge of a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), assisted by 3 Inspectors of Police were set up in the four metro cities with effect from 1.10.1994.

(c) and (d) 11 such cases have been detected during the last three months *i.e.* May to July 2001, in the country. 13 private persons have been arrested by the CBI/Police in these cases. CBI/Police have registered regular cases in this regard.

Post Offices in Private Shops

5087. SHRI A. NAREDNRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the prescribed norms under which private shops are operating as Post Offices;

(b) whether number of shops in Uttaranchal and Andhra Pradesh are operating as post offices and violating the norms;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

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

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No private shop is authorised to operate as a post office. However in rural and semi urban areas Gramin Dak Seva Branch Post Office and Gramin Dak Seva Sub Post Office (formerly called Extra Departmental Branch Post Office and Extra Departmental Sub Post Office respectively) may function from the premises of a shop, if such a space is offered as a condition of employment by a person selected as Gramin Dak Sevak Sub Postmaster or Gramin Dak Sevak Branch Postmaster (formerly called Extra Departmental Sub Postmaster/Extra Departmental Branch Postmaster) to operate the post office.

(b) Question of shops operating as post offices in violation of norms does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (f) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

[*Translation*]

Erosion by Mahanadi River

5088. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to erosion by Mahanadi river in Purnia district of Bihar, the village Nurganj Pokharia (Navabganj) has been totally submerged;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been formulated by the Government to protect it from erosion; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) As per the daily flood report up to 20-8-2001 received from Relief & Rehabilitation Department, Government of Bihar, Purnia district has not been affected by flood during the current monsoon season.

(b) and (c) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control schemes are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. The Central Government renders assistance that is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. The comprehensive plan prepared by Ganga Flood Control Commission for Mahananda sub-river system includes measures to prevent

river erosion in vulnerable reaches. The plan was sent to the respective State Governments including the Government of Bihar for implementation.

Production of Fuel, Atomic Minerals, Metallic Industrial Minerals

5089. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the productions of various minerals during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000, State-wise;

(b) the details of the profit earned and loss suffered by the Government on this account during the said period State-wise;

(c) the details of the productions of the above minerals undertaken by various public sector undertakings since the years 1998 till April, 2001, year-wise; and

(d) the target of production set by the above undertakings for the said period and the production actually achieved as against the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (d) The details of the production of minerals, state-wise, during the years 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 as per information maintained by Indian Bureau of Mines, a Subordinate office of Ministry of Mines, is given in the enclosed statement. The Government does not directly undertake mining and therefore the details of the profit earned and loss on account of production of minerals are not maintained. The targets of production and the achievement thereof in respect of Central Public Sector Undertakings in the mining sector are contained in the Annual Reports which are regularly tabled in Parliament by the respective Administrative Ministries.

Statement

State	Value of Mineral Production in Rs. '000							
	Fuel Minerals		MCDR Minerals*		Minor Minerals**		All Minerals***	
	1998-1999	1999-2000 (P)	1998-1999	1999-2000 (P)	1998-1999	1999-2000 (P)	1998-1999	1999-2000 (P)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
All India	3723821659	42671654	50507133	53317786	31359735	37560500	454249057	517639940
Andhra Pradesh	26707994	30765193	2857897	2397578	2821495	4450965	32387386	3761376
Arunachal Pradesh	131822	203799	-	-	1523	1523	133345	205322

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Assam	20853469	27022903	103715	93991	6382	6382	20963566	27123276
Bihar	-	-	4517679	159751	2262587	2028426	6780266	2188177
Delhi	-	-	-	-	161	161	161	161
Chhattisgarh	NAS	NAS	NAS	6012563	NAS	NAS	NAS	6012563
Goa	-	-	3979395	3807849	31854	49494	4011249	3857343
Gujarat	29502635	36224536	1152683	1616857	1375410	1537755	32030728	39379148
Haryana	-	-	39296	49901	1487215	1487215	1526511	1537116
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	525524	603056	109768	171905	635292	774961
Jammu & Kashmir	7070	19800	28681	37835	249026	249026	284777	306661
Jharkhand	45786710	43279500	NAS	4043425	NAS	NAS	45786710	47322925
Karnataka	-	-	7712838	8132996	989924	568898	8702762	8701894
Kerala	-	-	668465	729898	717893	717893	1386358	1447791
Madhya Pradesh	55124770	59695000	9360535	4315435	612440	704780	65097745	64715215
Maharashtra	18659760	19443000	1214888	1320693	1878433	2023672	21753081	22787365
Manipur	-	-	-	-	2432	2432	2432	2432
Meghalaya	4443840	4267300	26805	46327	332	332	4470977	4303959
Mizoram	-	-	-	-	2553	3551	2553	3551
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	359	261	359	261
Orissa	15996290	15226300	7436395	8233880	361384	361384	23794069	23820564
Punjab	-	-	-	-	62418	62325	62418	62325
Rajasthan	530430	579388	9170728	10014195	10069907	11936059	19771065	22529642
Sikkim	-	-	13285	14139	-	-	13285	14139
Tamil Nadu	10037207	10387532	1591316	1600137	236864	236864	11865387	12224533
Tripura	416261	574672	-	-	908	1974	417167	576646
Uttar Pradesh	9647120	10193000	61784	13304	7889497	10783670	17598401	20989974
Uttaranchal	-	-	NAS	35430	NAS	NAS	NAS	35430

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
West Bengal	14640300	18344000	45224	38546	164051	148570	14849575	18531118
Andaman & Nicobar Island	-	-	-	-	24683	24683	24683	24683
Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	76	138	76	138
Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	162	162	162	162
Off-Shore	119896511	150546731	-	-	-	-	119896511	150546731

P) Provisional, subject to revision

IAS Not Available Separately

Minerals for which statutory returns are filed under Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 1988

* Earlier year's figures have been repeated as estimates, wherever necessary, due to non-receipt of data.

** All minerals excluding Atomic Minerals.

English]

Sharing of Cauvery Water

5090. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any complaint from the Government of Kerala in respect of sharing of Cauvery water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Union Government have taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Domestic Passenger Traffic

5091. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic passenger traffic has increased during the current year as compared to last year;

(b) if so, the percentage thereof; and

(c) the total number of passengers travelled through domestic airports during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir. There has been a marginal decline in the domestic passenger traffic during the period April-June, 2001 in the current year, as compared to the corresponding period last year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total number of passengers travelled through domestic airports during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are 62.84 lakhs and 68.13 lakhs, respectively.

[English]

Roads Under "Shadow Toll" System

5092. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has established new roads under schemes like BOT and "Shadow toll" System;

(b) if so, the details of the "Shadow Toll" system;

(c) the details of schemes implemented in the country so far; and

(d) the advantages of this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) National Highways Authority of India has already implemented two schemes on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis and another two schemes are under implementation. No scheme has been taken up under shadow toll system.

(b) Under shadow toll system, the entrepreneur invests in creating facility and maintain it. Entrepreneur is paid by Government on the basis of usage of the facility. The concessionaire is not authorised to charge any toll in this system.

(c) No scheme has been implemented under shadow toll system.

(d) The advantage of the system is that it has potential to attract private sector investment by reducing some of its risks. The entrepreneur does not have the burden of toll collection and bears no risks of non-payment of toll by users.

Firing of A Missile on Air India Flight

5093. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a missile was fired at the Air India aircraft in somalian airspace while on flight from Nairobi to Mumbai on 23 July, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the loss suffered as a result thereof;

(d) whether the matter has been taken up with the Government of Somalia;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government of Somalia thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Commander of Air India flight AI-200 of 23.7.2001 had reported that while flying from Nairobi to Mumbai a flare exploding was observed at about 30 miles on the left side of the aircraft track. Kenya Airways flight No-310 on sector Nairobi to Dubai also observed the same and confirmed to the crew of Air India flight.

(c) No loss was suffered by Air India.

(d) to (f) DGCA has taken up the matter with the Somalian Civil Aviation Authority, whose response is awaited.

[Translation]

Public Utility Service by MTNL

5094. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have taken various measures to improve public utility service in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints regarding non-functioning of Telephone received by the MTNL, Delhi since May, 2001 till date particularly in Bapa Nagar area in Karol Bagh Exchange, exchange-wise;

(d) whether all the complaints have been rectified with in the stipulated period;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the factor responsible for delay in rectifying the complaints with the stipulated time alongwith the action taken against the employees who found responsible therefor;

(g) whether MTNL is charging the rent for non-functioning period from the consumers;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor and the criteria laid down therefor;

(i) whether new telephone connections for which wire and instrument have been provided by said exchange for the last two months have been started functioning;

(j) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(k) the time by which the new connections are made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has initiated the following steps to improve the service:

- (i) Opening of more number of switching nodes viz. Remote Switching Units (RSUs) and Digital Line Carriers (DLCs).
- (ii) Deployment of Wireless in local Loop (WLL).
- (iii) Replacement of paper core under ground cable in a time bound manner.
- (iv) Rehabilitation of external plant network.
- (v) Replacement of Telephone Instruments older than five years.
- (vi) Introduction of call centres.

(c) 2682 complaints were booked in Bapa Nagar area in Karol Bagh since May, 2001. Exchange-wise complaints received in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MNTL) Delhi since May, 2001 is indicated in the enclosed statement.

(d) to (f) Efforts have been made to rectify the faults within the stipulated time. Only some faults were delayed due to multiple damage of underground cables/theft of cables.

(g) and (h) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is granting rebate in rentals to all those customers whose telephones remain faulty for seven days or more. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MNTL) also provides free call facility at its Customer Call Centres to its subscribers whose telephones are faulty.

(i) Yes, Sir.

(j) and (k) Does not arise in view of (i) above.

Statement

Exch. wise Complaints Received in MTNL-Delhi for the Period 1st May to 20th Aug. 2001

Sl.No.	Exh.	Total Faults
1	2	3
1.	Janpath	24742
2.	Kidwai Bhawan	48660
3.	Rajpath	11561

1	2	3
4.	Sena Bhawan	12902
5.	Jor Bagh	52874
6.	CGO	23228
7.	Delhi Gate	60856
8.	Idgah	131150
9.	Minto Road	22029
10.	Tis Hazari	82937
11.	Lothian Road	8963
12.	Shahdara	199484
13.	Laxmi Nagar	72622
14.	Mayur Vihar-1	12289
15.	Mayur Vihar-2	33676
16.	Mayur Vihar-1A	12745
17.	Yamuna Vihar	38378
18.	Karkardooma	64221
19.	East Loni Road	61851
20.	Mayur Vihar-3	8889
21.	Zafraabad	7189
22.	Rohini-1	38823
23.	Saraswati Vihar	25249
24.	Rohini-3	24229
25.	Rohini-2	22643
26.	Pitam Pura	6865
27.	Alipur	10217
28.	Narela	8602
29.	Badli	20947
30.	Bawana	4405
31.	Shakti Nagar	180996
32.	Keshav Puram	41616

1	2	3
33.	Chanakya Puri	48026
34.	Hauz Khas	120431
35.	Chhatarpur	17941
36.	Vasant Kunj	13926
37.	Mahipalpur	6031
38.	Bhikaji Cama Palace	61491
39.	Vasant Vihar	17961
40.	Ghittorni	4272
41.	Nehru Place	141100
42.	Okhla	91419
43.	Tehkhand	15426
44.	Tuglakabad	54415
45.	Sarita Vihar	28186
46.	Asiad Village	8575
47.	Sadiq Nagar	12267
48.	Janak Puri	78480
49.	Dwarika	49837
50.	Pankha Road	40126
51.	Najaf Garh	28423
52.	Karol Bagh	76052
53.	Delhi Cantt	25293
54.	Shadipur	35862
55.	Indira Gandhi Airport	2937

1	2	3
56.	Rajouri Garden	153959
57.	Paschim Vihar	51411
58.	Hari Nagar	45127
59.	Nangloi	65366
60.	Kanjhwala	4855
Grand		2675033

[English]

Workers in Mining

5095. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of workers engaged in the Mining Industry on loading, unloading and transporting in different mines and pithead in Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj district in Orissa; and

(b) the details of welfare schemes introduced for them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The information in respect of names of workers engaged in the Mining Industry on loading, unloading and transporting in different mines and pithead are not collected and maintained separately by the Directorate General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad. However under Metalliferous Mines Regulations 1961, information on employment of Foreman and Mining Mate, Face Workers/Mines and Loaders and others for below ground and opencast mines during the year 1999 for Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj District is as under:

District	Average daily employment					
	Below ground			Opencast		
	Foreman & Mining Mate	Face Workers & Loaders	Others	Foreman & Mining Mate	Mines & Loaders	Others
Keonjhar	62	493	59	325	8935	1341
Mayurbhanj	0	0	0	16	320	29

(b) The Welfare schemes for the workers working in the mines do not come with-in the purview of Directorate General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad. However there are welfare provisions regarding Health and Sanitation and First Aid Medical appliance for persons employed in the mines under Mines Rules, 1955.

[Translation]

Release of Commemorative Postal Stamps

5096. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to release commemorative Postal Stamps in honour of Shri Karamvir Dadasaheb Gaikwad on his birth centenary; and

(b) if so, the time by which the postal stamp is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The date of release of the stamp is yet to be finalised.

[English]

Dam on Mahanadi River

5097. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a second dam on Mahanadi river in Orissa;

(b) if so, the site selected for the purpose;

(c) the number of people likely to be displaced as a result thereof;

(d) the estimated cost of the dam;

(e) whether any external agency is likely to provide funds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Central Water Commission has not received any Detailed Project Report from Government of Orissa for techno-economic appraisal for setting up a second dam on Mahanadi.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Bilateral Agreements for New Flights

5098. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently negotiated a number of new bilateral agreements and granted new/ additional rights to several foreign airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) In the current year bilateral air services consultations have so far been held with Russia, Hongkong, Yugoslavia, Germany, three Scandinavian countries, Austria, Dubai and Oman. During these discussions capacity entitlement between India and these countries taken together have been enhanced by about 6550 seats per week for each side in each direction. Besides, the designated airlines of Germany has also been permitted to operate 7 frequencies out of the unused Indian entitlement subject to a commercial agreement with the designated Indian Carrier. Hyderabad and Cochin have been granted as an additional point of call to Emirates and Oman Air respectively whereas both Lufthansa (Germany) and Cathay Pacific (Hongkong) have been granted access to Bangalore.

Diversion of Netravati River water

5099. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to divert water from Netravati river to districts that are facing water shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought a sum of Rs. 1000/- crores World Bank assistance for Netravati Diversion Scheme; and

(d) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Central Water Commission (CWC) has not received any such proposal from Government of Karnataka for techno-economic appraisal.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Telephone Facility in Villages

5100. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY:
SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages having/yet not having telephone facility in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Chhattisgarh at present, separately, district-wise;

(b) the number of villages where said facility is proposed to be provided in the said Island and State during 2001-2002, district-wise;

(c) whether in 158 tribal villages of the Southern group of Islands no telephone connections have been provided;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to set up Multi Access Rural Radio (MARR) system in those areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which this facility is likely to be provided in the remaining villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Non-Availability of Standard Software

5101. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether accurate billing is not being done by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) due to non-availability of standard software;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the BSNL to provide accurate bills to the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Accuracy of billing depends upon a number of factors, of which, a standard software is just one. BSNL is using standard package, which has been standardized after thorough evaluation and testing. It is working in majority of the Secondary Switching areas (SSAs). The advance integrated customer care and billing package has also been standardized.

Other steps taken by the BSNL to provide accurate bills to the subscribers include integration of commercial and billing package, introduction of standardized billing and accounting software in remaining SSAs, tightening of norms relating to billing complaints, monitoring of complaint cases and improvement in the existing software.

[English]

Emergency Service Number

5102. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the emergency service number are providing wrong information by stating that "this number is not available" or "this number is temporarily out of order" as reported in the Dainik Jagran dated November 12, 2000; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by MTNL to tone up its working and to provide better and satisfactory service to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The news appeared in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated November 12, 2000 pertains to Noida which is under Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL). Presently three emergency services are working in Noida as follows:

Code	Service
100	Police
101	Fire
102	Hospital

These numbers were tested and no such announcement as, "This number is not available" or "This number is temporarily out of order" has been observed.

Other emergency services as mentioned in MTNL Directory are:

Code	Services
1097	AIDS Information
1098	Child Care
1099	Accident & Trauma

These codes are not opened in Noida because concerned agencies like hospitals, Non Government organisations etc. have not approached for the same. If any subscribers from NOIDA dials these codes, he will get the announcement "This number is not available".

Emergency services are being monitored by testing regularly.

Expansion of Railway Mail Service

5103. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the expansion of Railway Mail Service RMS);

(b) if so, the proposal mooted in this regard during the last three years and the achievement made thereon; and

(c) the new Mail offices opened to receive and despatch letters through RMS during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Expansion of Railway Mail service is an on-going process, New RMS offices and Transit Sections are opened from time to time wherever necessary, depending on operational requirement and financial viability.

(b) and (c) Proposals for introduction of the following new transit sections and mail offices were mooted and have been opened by the Department during the last three years:—

Transit Sections Introduced:

- (i) Howrah-Ahmedabad-Howrah in Howrah-Ahmedabad Express
- (ii) Kurla-Kochi-Kurla in Netravati Express
- (iii) Hazrat Nizamuddin-Puri-Hazrat Nizamuddin in Kalinga Utkal Express
- (iv) Sealdah-Delhi-Sealdah in Lalquilla Express
- (v) Hazrat Nizamuddin-Vasco-Hazrat Nizamuddin in Goa Express
- (vi) Patna-Darbhanga-Patna in Kamla Ganga Inter-City Fast Passenger
- (vii) Rourkela-Bhubaneswar-Rourkela in Tapaswini Express
- (viii) Extension of the beat of U-39 Transit Section from Dhanbad to Ranchi in Maurya Express.

Mail Offices opened:

- (i) Hajipur RMS (Bihar)
- (ii) Madgaon Sorting Office (Goa)
- (iii) Kudal Sorting Office (Maharashtra)
- (iv) Kumta Sorting Office (Karnataka)

Air Safety Agreement with Russia

5104. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed an air safety agreement with Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other countries with whom India have such agreements;

(d) the details of all such agreements;

(e) whether the agreement with Russia is likely to have impact on agreement with other countries in this respect; and

(f) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) An agreement for promotion of aviation safety has been signed between India and the Russian Federation on 14th February, 2001.

(b) The agreement provides for reciprocal acceptance of certification and approval of civil aeronautical products including aircraft, maintenance facilities and training establishments subject to the standards and systems being sufficiently equivalent and compatible.

(c) and (d) No such agreement has been signed with any other country.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

WLL Network

5105. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the Telecommunications Consultants of India Limited (TCIL) propose to set up Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network in Nepal as reported in the Hindustan Times dated July 7, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said network is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the news item is reported in this paper dated July 11, 2001.

(b) and (c) Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) and Nepalese Ventures Private Limited (NVPL) has formed a consortium and has been awarded the Letter of Indent (LOI) for setting up of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network in Nepal. NVPL's equity stake is 20% as per the minimum requirement of Nepalese Government, MTNL, TCIL and VSNL decided to share the balance 80% equity

equally. The Joint Venture Company is under registration in the name of "United Telecom Limited". The service is to commence within nine months from the date of signing of Licence.

Silting in Rivers

5106. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the increased rate of silting by many rivers and its tributaries are affecting the agriculture in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute a high level Scientific Committee to study the problem of silting in rivers;

(d) if so, the details thereof and time by which such committee is likely to be constituted;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there is any group of experts under his Ministry to give recommendations to stop silting; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no information in this regard.

(c) to (e) The matter regarding setting up a Committee to study the problem of silting in rivers & related aspects is under consideration.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Optical Fibre

5107. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) propose to procure additional quantum of optical fibre;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited proposes to procure 1,26,000 Route kilometers of optical fibre cable (OFC) for the year 2001-2002.

(b) Details are given hereunder:

6F OFC	34,000 Rkms
12F OFC	80,000 Rkms
24F OFC	12,000 Rkms

(c) Total expenditure to be incurred is approximately Rs. 856.30 crores.

(d) Tender has been invited for procurement of 60,000 kms of 12F OFC and 12,000 kms of 24F OFC. Balance cable has been decentralized and is being procured by circles.

[Translation]

Gold Reserves

5108. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of areas having gold reserves in the country and extent of gold reserves estimated therein, State-wise;

(b) whether the cost incurred on extracting gold works out to be more as compared to the price of gold in the market;

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

(d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for proper exploitation of the gold reserves and reducing the cost incurred on extraction of gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) As per the information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines

(IBM), a subordinate organisation under the Ministry of Mines, the recoverable reserves of gold ore in the country are placed at 17.79 million tonnes containing about 67.9 tonnes of gold metal. The State-wise details of estimated gold reserves by Geological Survey of India (GSI), Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The cost of gold mining by private sector is not maintained by the Government of India. Presently only the Hutti Gold Mines Co. Ltd., a public sector undertaking of State Government of Karnataka is mining Gold. The cost of production of Gold by BGML, a public sector undertaking under Ministry of Mines which was engaged in production of Gold from its captive mines was Rs. 19,729/- for 10 grams, during the year 1999-2000.

(d) The National Mineral Policy, 1993 and its subsequent amendments by the Government are aimed at speedy and systematic exploitation of the mineral resources by the State. Any Indian National or a Company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting mining lease in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereafter. The cost of extraction depends upon the use of the technology.

Statement

State-wise details of estimated Gold reserves by Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL)

Andhra Pradesh: Consequent to the exploration by GSI a resources of 5.91 million tonnes of gold ore was estimated with 1.15 g/t of gold in Dona-east area of Kurnool district. Similarly in the Boksampalle North block area, Anantpur district, investigations indicated promising mineralisation with gold value upto 1.4 g/t. and in Pedapari-Kunta block of Chittoor district indicated gold values from 1 to 5.5 g/t.

Bihar: The exploration resulted in locating gold bearing rocks in Sursi-Kharswan sector of Sonapet Valley and sample assayed maximum 1.10 g/t in stream sediments in Kulchallinala and quartz vein samples analysed upto 1.6 g/t of gold. Further, in Morchagora Bhilardari area, the volcano sedimentary pile of rock traversed by quartz vein and bed-rock samples in the area yielded 0.06 g/t to 3.75 g/t.

Karnataka: Under the GSI-BRGM (France) collaborative programme, the geo-chemical prospecting have resulted in gold value maximum at 1.4 g/t in South of Kakkol and Ranebennur areas, Dharwar district.

Kerala: In Kottathara block in Palakad district, the exploration resulted in estimation of additional reserve of 24,000 tonnes of gold ore with an average grade of 13.36 g/t of gold, thus totalling 0.6 million tonnes of ore estimated in this area.

Rajasthan: In Bhukia (East) Central Block of Banswara district, a recalculation of reserve for gold ore increased at 90,000 tonnes of gold ore with a grade 2 g/t to 2.96 g/t.

Uttar Pradesh: In Gurharpahar block, Sidhi district, a probable ore reserve of 5.37 million tonnes of gold ore with 1.04 g/t gold has been estimated of which 2.1 million tonnes are with grade 1.28 g/t.

Besides above, GSI has carried out exploration work in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat, Orissa etc.

A total of 17.12 million tonnes of gold ore reserves in small to medium size of deposits were established by MECL at Chittur and Annantpur in Andhra Pradesh, Singhbhum in Bihar, Raichur, Dharwad, Hassan, Kolar and Haveri in Karnataka and Malappuram in Kerala.

Telecom Facilities

5109. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications on the waiting list for telephone connections in Machhlishahar and Pratapgarh districts of Uttar Pradesh, exchanges-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list;

(c) whether the Government propose to convert the telephone exchanges of the above districts into electronic ones;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said work is likely to be completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of applicants on the waiting list exchange wise is enclosed as statements I and II respectively.

(b) (i) Extensive Cable laying is planned to clear the waiting list in non feasible area.

(ii) Capacity of exchanges are augmented wherever it is needed.

(iii) Rural Wireless in the Local Loop (WLL) systems are also planned to clear remote and scattered connections.

(c) All the exchanges are already electronic.

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

Statement I

Exchange-wise waiting list of Machhlishahar

Sl.No.	Name of Exchange	Waiting list
1.	Bandhwa Bazar	37
2.	Baraipar	90
3.	Gariyaon	30
4.	Machhlishahar	102
5.	Meerganj	86
6.	Mungarbad Shahpur	54
7.	Sataharaiya	38
8.	Saraibeeka	39
9.	Sujanganj	117
Total		593

Statement II

Exchange wise waiting list of Pratapgarh district

Sl.No.	Name of Exchange	Waiting list
1	2	3
1.	Aaspur	91
2.	Antoo	68
3.	Atheha	33

1	2	3
4.	Babuganj	46
5.	Barikala	38
6.	Bhagwatganj	43
7.	Bihar	50
8.	Bisahiya	0
9.	Darapur	32
10.	Deewanganj	98
11.	Delhupur	29
12.	Derwa	67
13.	Dhakwa	55
14.	Dhingwas	46
15.	Dilippur	56
16.	Fatanpur	132
17.	Garhimanikpur	56
18.	Garwara	190
19.	Goteni	14
20.	Hathgawan	88
21.	Heeraganj	0
22.	Jagesarganj	15
23.	Jalsarganj	55
24.	Jamtali	118
25.	K. Hanumanganj	63
26.	Kalakankar A	34
27.	Kalakankar B	0
28.	Katra Mehndiganj	76
29.	Katra Gulab Singh	23
30.	Kithawar Bazar	39
31.	Kohdoar	66
32.	Kunda	37

1	2	3
33.	Laiganj	136
34.	Laxmiganj	37
35.	Mandhata	235
36.	Mangraura	82
37.	Mohanganj	136
38.	Narangpur	19
39.	Nawabganj	27
40.	Patti	82
41.	Pratapgarh	235
42.	Prithviganj	0
43.	Prithviganj Bazar	51
44.	Puredhanau	17
45.	Rampur Khas	26
46.	Raniganj	206
47.	Raniganj Kathola	28
48.	Rasulaha	14
49.	Sahebganj	78
50.	Saifabad	66
51.	Samserganj	55
52.	Sangilpur	136
53.	Sangramgarh	0
54.	Vishwanath Ganj	102
Total		3526

Fully Equipped Telephone Exchanges

5110. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Gram Panchayats of Maharashtra have been connected with fully equipped telephone exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which said facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) In Maharashtra, 22,732 Gram Panchayats out of 24,752 have been provided with telecom facilities. Remaining 2020 Gram Panchayats are to be connected with telecom facility by Private Basic Service Operator by 2002.

[English]

Bonded Child Labour in Allahabad

5111. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 33 bonded child labours working for loom holders in Allahabad district were recently rescued from their clutches; and

(b) if so, the action taken against the alleged offenders?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Service Scheme for Students

5112. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of students have shown interest in the National Service Scheme;

(b) if so, the number of students volunteers in the various Universities, State-wise;

(c) whether the scheme is operating only in 15 regional centres;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to expand the scheme by having more such centres; and

(e) if so, the places where the new centres are proposed to be stated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the number of students volunteers in various Universities, State-wise is annexed.

(c) National Service Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme and is being implemented throughout the country. 15 regional centres have been set up in various parts of the country to maintain liaison with the State Governments and other agencies for implementing this scheme.

(d) There is no proposal at present to open any new regional centre.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

The number of Students Volunteers in Various Universities, State-wise

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	Enrolled during 2000-2001
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,31,865
2.	Assam	19,000
3.	Bihar	43,300
4.	Delhi	8,600
5.	Gujarat	11,000
6.	Goa	31,700
7.	Himachal Pradesh	7,100
8.	Haryana	67,000
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	64,000
10.	Karnataka	1,32,000
11.	Kerala	90,000
12.	Maharashtra	8,000
13.	Madhya Pradesh	17,000
14.	Manipur	8,000
15.	Mizoram	3,000
16.	Meghalaya	65,500
17.	Nagaland	32,000

1	2	3
18.	Orissa	2,500
19.	Punjab	9,000
20.	Pondicherry	3,300
21.	Rajasthan	1,17,000
22.	Sikkim	12,000
23.	Tamil Nadu	1,17,000
24.	Tripura	12,000
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1,61,400
26.	West Bengal	37,000
27.	Chandigarh	4,500
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,300
Total		11,33,065

[*Translation*]

ISO 9002 Certificate to Sangner Airport

5113. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sangner Airport of Jaipur has been awarded ISO 9002 certificate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the airports of the country awarded the said certificate so far; and

(d) the details of facilities required to be provided and quality maintained for getting ISO 9002 certificate?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. Jaipur airport has been awarded International Standards Organisation (ISO) 9002-1994 version by Standardization Testing and Quality Certification Directorate (STC), New Delhi after following the required procedures in May, 2001.

(c) Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Chennai (passenger and cargo operation) are the only airports in India so far which has been awarded the said certification.

(d) For getting ISO 9002 Certification the Organisation has to document in detail the facilities, their standards and the procedures by which these facilities will be maintained at the prescribed standards to ensure continuous quality assurance.

Closure of Mines in Rajasthan

5114. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mines closed down in Rajasthan in compliance with the orders of the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(b) whether the Government are making efforts to restart mining activities in the closed mines;

(c) whether the Government are formulating any scheme for development of marble quarriers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the State Government of Rajasthan, 2346 mines were closed in Rajasthan in compliance with the orders of Ministry of Environment and Forests. However, in most of the cases mining activities have been restarted after diversification of forest land with the approval of Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(c) and (d) Marble is a minor mineral defined under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. State Governments are empowered to frame their own Minor Mineral Concession Rules for regulating the grant/renewal of minor minerals including marble. The Central Government has constituted a Group on Marble Development on 22nd September, 1999, whose terms of reference, *inter-alia*, includes; to assess and review periodically the status of marble quarriers and recommend measures for speedy development of the mineral.

[*English*]

Regional Labour Institutes

5115. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Labour Institutes functioning in the country at present;

(b) the number of children benefited from these institutes;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the number of institutes in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) There are three Regional Labour Institutes at Kanpur, Chennai and Kolkata functioning under the Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes, Mumbai. The Regional Labor Institutes at Faridabad is not yet fully established and activities of this Institute are being undertaken by two officers posted from Central Labour Institutes, Mumbai.

(b) These Institutes are conducting studies, organizing training programmes and rendering technical advice in the field of occupational safety and health for the industries located in their respective regions. The participants of the training programmes are the employees including Managers, Executives, workers, trade union leaders, etc. working in the factories. As such, no training programmes are organized for children in these Institutes.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal to further increase the number of Regional Labour Institutes under Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes, as it is felt that the requirements of the industries located in the different parts of the country in relation to the safety and health of the workers employed therein will be adequately met through the existing Labour Institutes.

Coaching Facilities for Indian Players

5116. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coaching facilities are available to raise standard of Indian players and to bring them to the standard of international competitions;

(b) if so, the improvements are required in this regard;

(c) whether any review has been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the new arrangements have been made for coaching to different players; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (f) The Government provides assistance for organizing National Coaching Camps through Sports Authority of India. In these coaching camps intensive training and requisite technical and scientific back up is provided to sports persons by Indian and foreign coaches/experts. For attending these coaching camps, assistance is extended towards travel cost from place of residence to the coaching camp and back, boarding and lodging, training kits, medical coverage and insurance etc. as per the provisions of the "Guidelines for Assistance to National Sports Federations". The scales of assistance such as scale of ration etc. are reviewed from time to time keeping in view the requirement of trainees. Under this scheme, coaching is provided to National teams and not to individual players.

[Translation]

Increase in Irrigation Capacity in Rajasthan

5117. SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of schemes for increasing the irrigation capacity in Rajasthan lying pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) the time by which the schemes are likely to be cleared; and

(c) the funds proposed to be allocated to Rajasthan Government under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The appraisal status of 8 schemes for increasing the irrigation capacity in Rajasthan is as follows:-

S.No.	Name of the Project	Major/ Medium	Status
1	2	3	4
(i)	Pipalda Lift Irrigation	Major	A
(ii)	Utilization of Yamuna water in Bharatpur District	Major	A

1	2	3	4
(iii)	Utilization of Yamuna water in Jhunjhunu	Major	A
(iv)	Indira Gandhi Nahar Stage-I (ERM)	Major	B
(v)	Rajasthan water Sector Restructuring Project (ERM)	Major	B
(vi)	Piplad Irrigation	Medium	A
(vii)	Chakan Irrigation	Medium	B
(Viii)	Garada Irrigation	Medium	B

A - Projects under appraisal

B - Accepted by the Advisory Committee subject to observations

(b) Clearance of the schemes depends upon the time that the State Government would take in complying with the observations of various Central appraising agencies; and

(c) The allocations under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) are made on year to year basis for those ongoing irrigation projects which satisfy the AIBP criteria and are proposed by the State, subject to availability of funds and the budget outlays provided by the State for these projects in their respective annual plans and keeping in view State ceiling of Central Loan Assistance prescribed by Planning Commission for the year.

Installation of Telephone

5118. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in the number of telephone subscribers in the country during the last three years;

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

(c) the details of target fixed and achievement made for installation of telephones in rural and urban areas during the said period, State-wise;

(d) whether there is any difference in the achievements made in both the areas;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to remove the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise and year-wise details for the last three years are given in the enclosed statement I.

(c) The details of Target fixed and achievement made in Rural and Urban areas during the said period is given in the enclosed statement II.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The reasons for the difference in achievements are as follows:

(i) Demand is scattered in Rural areas which required laying of cables for long distances causing delay in providing telephones.

(ii) Approach roads to many villages are not in good condition or not there.

(iii) Non-availability of Power Supply or un-reliable power supply in many villages.

(f) The following steps are being taken to remove the disparity:

(i) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephone systems are being installed in Rural areas on large scale basis.

(ii) Capacity of existing exchanges is being enhanced and new exchanges are being opened wherever demand is more than 50 lines.

(iii) Cables are being laid to wipe out the waiting list.

(iv) Cellular Mobile System are also planned to be deployed during this year.

(v) Solar Power Supply is being used in Rural areas to overcome the problem of un-reliable power supplies.

Statement I*State-wise number of subscribers during the last three years*

S.No.	Name of States	Total Working DELs as on 31.3.1999	Total Working DELs as on 31.3.2000	Total Working DELs as on 31.3.2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	15773	24463	30076
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1572399	2227487	2838418
3.	Assam	211906	273068	338328
4.	Bihar	502221	627400	891796
5.	Chhattisgarh *	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	1547828	1921850	2398691
7.	Haryana	524565	642001	794194
8.	Himachal Pradesh	225103	285130	346891
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	107863	130021	173533
10.	Jharkhand *	0	0	0
11.	Karnataka	1464685	1829400	2256555
12.	Kerala	1355084	1705139	2161583
13.	Madhya Pradesh	941136	1095952	1263118
14.	Mumbai	2012410	2213388	2347302
	Maharashtra	1874903	2331793	2976906
Total for Maharashtra		3887313	4545181	5324208
15.	Meghalaya	29944	38146	46283
16.	Tripura	34519	44834	58845
17.	Mizoram	24610	30615	37718
Total North East-1		89073	113595	142846
18.	Nagaland	20084	26044	33052
19.	Manipur	20372	25000	29503
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	22066	30757	39269
Total North East-2		62522	81801	101824

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Orissa	334273	423309	526416
22.	Punjab	1083964	1292252	1543449
23.	Rajasthan	927005	1109400	1326286
24.	Tamil Nadu	1523415	1926967	2477366
	Chennai	625245	767863	919651
	Total for Tamil Nadu	2148660	2694830	3397017
25.	Uttaranchal *	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh East	872897	1106574	1408258
	Uttar Pradesh West	809464	994004	1220249
	Total for U.P.	1682361	2100578	2628507
27.	West Bengal	415851	541131	742905
	Kolkatta	852598	1029121	1229637
	Total for West Bengal	1268449	1570252	1972542
28.	Delhi	1641503	1818236	1979856
	Total BSNL	21593686	26511345	32436134

Note:—*Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Uttaranchal are the newly created circles.

Statement II

Details of the Target fixed/Achievement made in Urban and Rural areas during the last three years

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
6	Gujarat	250000	222771	32617	255388	250000	312686	61336	374022	330000	346255	130586	476841
7.	Haryana	95000	74785	21385	96170	117000	77411	40025	117436	150000	81587	70606	152193
8.	Himachal Pradesh	59000	14029	29188	43217	59000	24606	35421	60027	60000	17262	44499	61761
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	30000	25891	-7390	18501	40000	20756	1402	22158	50000	41447	2065	43512
10	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Karnataka	200000	171344	65658	237002	300000	264900	99815	364715	425000	242117	185038	427155
12.	Kerala	325000	107730	163335	271065	400000	121411	228644	350055	450000	171294	285150	456444
13.	Madhya Pradesh	110000	118508	21844	140352	141000	131959	22857	154816	150000	180120	-12954	167166
14.	Maharashtra	300000	289319	56029	345348	395000	334789	122101	456890	600000	430280	214833	645113
	Mumbai	230000	156781	0	156781	225000	200978	0	200978	240000	133914	0	133914
Total for Maharashtra		530000	446100	56029	502129	620000	535767	122101	657868	840000	564194	214833	779027
15.	Meghalaya	6000	5167	1147	6314	8000	5566	2636	8202	8000	5316	2821	8137
16	Tripura	8000	6944	2073	9017	9000	8532	1783	10315	14000	10062	3949	14011
17.	Mizoram	4000	3838	777	4615	6000	5315	688	6003	7000	4836	2267	7103
Total North East-1		18000	15949	3997	19946	23000	19413	5107	24520	29000	20214	9037	29251
18.	Nagaland	5000	5009	493	5502	5500	5051	909	5960	7000	5560	1448	7008
19.	Manipur	2000	1947	586	2533	4500	3854	776	4630	5500	3490	1013	4503
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	7000	3986	3149	7135	7000	4654	4037	8691	8500	3373	5139	8512
Total North East-2		14000	10942	4228	15170	17000	13559	5722	19281	21000	12423	7600	20023
21.	Orissa	60000	51288	16887	68175	87000	59573	29463	89036	100000	61937	41170	103107
22.	Punjab	190000	115643	77826	193469	240000	102857	105431	208288	250000	119414	131783	251197
23.	Rajasthan	163000	154689	16756	171445	180000	124031	58364	182395	210000	122907	93979	216886
24.	Tamil Nadu	280000	355212	2397	357609	350000	399945	3607	403552	550000	556676	-6277	550399
	Chennai	115000	122629	0	122629	140000	142618	0	142618	150000	151788	0	151788
Total for Tamil Nadu		395000	477841	2397	480238	490000	542563	3607	546170	700000	708464	-6277	702187

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25.	Uttaranchal *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh East	133000	191570	-4885	186685	207000	177086	56591	233677	300000	180933	120751	301684
	Uttar Pradesh West	139000	138360	16557	154917	193000	163670	20870	184540	190000	162820	63425	226245
Total for U.P.		272000	329930	11672	341602	400000	340756	77461	418217	490000	343753	184176	527929
27.	West Bengal	120000	61765	39660	101425	231000	85682	39598	125280	260000	103836	97938	201774
	Kolkata	112000	180320	0	180320	110000	176523	0	176523	178000	200516	0	200516
Total for West Bengal		232000	242085	39660	281745	341000	262205	39598	301803	438000	304352	97938	402290
28.	Delhi	220000	90392	0	90392	200000	176733	0	176733	200000	161620	0	161620
Total BSNL		3600000	3129706	662284	3791990	4485000	3729294	1188365	4917659	5790000	4070961	1853828	5924789

Note:—*Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Uttaranchal are the newly created circles.

[English]

Labour Institutes

5119. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh about changing the existing labour laws in accordance with the changing work-pattern in this ever-expanding information technology scenario;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have accepted the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps beings considered to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Certain amendment proposals to the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947 and Trade Unions Act, 1926 have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. These proposals have been formulated by the state Government to improve the investment climate and boost exports from the State. Various amendments to the I.D. Act, 1947 are proposed based on the requirements of the social partners and in consonance

with economic reforms. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requested to await enactment of the amendments to this Act by the Parliament. As the amendment proposals to the Trade Unions Act, 1926 are under consideration of the Parliament, the proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh could await the passage of the Bill and its enactment by the Parliament.

[Translation]

Pending Irrigation Projects

5120. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects undertaken in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan alongwith budget provision made for each project, State-wise;

(b) the number of projects out of them completed so far;

(c) the target fixed and achievement made in regard to creation of irrigation capacity during the Ninth Plan; and

(d) the percentage of irrigation capacity actually utilized during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) 171 major and 259 medium irrigation projects started during earlier five year plans have spilled over into IX Plan. The details of these projects are given in the enclosed Statement I & II. Out

of these projects 10 major and 13 medium projects have been reported to be completed.

(c) and (d) During IX Five Year Plan the target for creation of irrigation potential was kept as 17.05 m.ha., against which provisional achievement upto March, 2000 is 5.17 m.ha. Potential utilization during this period is 3.94 m.ha. which is about 76% of the potential created.

Statement I

Major Projects

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	No. of Projects	L.E.C.	IX Plan outlay
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	11154.13	3197.12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3.	Assam	4	433.38	85.1
4.	Bihar	8	2600.38	840.50
5.	Jharkhand	7	4990.98	323.00
6.	Goa	1	473.63	232.27
7.	Gujarat	9	23300.92	14060.09
8.	Haryana	5	1032.81	187.75
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	150.78	24.25
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	113.97	12.8
11.	Karnataka	14	10363.13	2517
12.	Kerala	7	2282.00	480
13.	Madhya Pradesh	19	8847.98	1396.01
14.	Chhattisgarh	5	2221.58	579.00
15.	Maharashtra	44	20078.36	7150.07
16.	Manipur	2	540.29	325.63
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Orissa	6	5504.67	1631.22
21.	Punjab	—	3379.53	18
22.	Rajasthan	6	4692.81	1709.64
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
25.	Tripura	0	0	0
26.	Uttaranchal	2	1011.4	205.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	15	7791.24	2004.54
28.	West Bengal	3	2111	724.03
Total:		171	113074.97	37703.02

L.E.C. — Latest Estimated cost

Statement II**Medium Projects**

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	No. of Projects	L.E.C.	IX Plan outlay
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	505.18	308.18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3.	Assam	5	137.47	58.66
4.	Bihar	8	297.18	36.00
5.	Jharkhand	21	758.00	187.50
6.	Goa	1	40.00	0.30
7.	Gujarat	13	517.25	153.43
8.	Haryana	0	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2	23.44	0.95
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	178.09	36.35
11.	Karnataka	15	1037.10	183.35
12.	Kerala	5	759.14	50

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Madhya Pradesh	22	770.61	63.84
14.	Chhattisgarh	9	351.95	44.50
15.	Maharashtra	85	3213.62	1518.72
16.	Manipur	2	102.00	50.32
17.	Meghalaya	1	30.00	13.5
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	12	1065.63	189.5
21.	Punjab	1	85.49	77
22.	Rajasthan	6	240.24	88.25
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	2	66.06	82.22
25.	Tripura	3	154.00	60.66
26.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2	72.33	13.06
28.	West Bengal	17	90.42	31.96
Total:		259	10505.20	3248.25

L.E.C. — Latest Estimated cost

[English]

Family Pension Scheme

5121. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the erstwhile Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) was granted exemption from the provision of Family Pension Scheme 1971 of Employees provident Fund and MP Act 1952 with effect from November 1988 to September 30, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any proposal from erstwhile RSEB for grant of exemption from the provision of Employees Pension Scheme 1952;

(c) if so, whether the Central Provident Fund Commissioner has suggested to seek exclusion under section 16(1)9c of the Act rather than pursuing for exemption;

(d) if so, whether the Government have received fresh proposal from State owned companies (who had taken over from RSEB) for granting exclusion in favour of transferee; and

(e) if so, the status of the proposals and the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) was granted exemption under erstwhile, Employees Family Pension Scheme, 1971. The exemption came to an end with effect from 15.11.1995 with the introduction of Employees Pension Scheme, 1995.

(b) M/s. RSEB has submitted an Exemption Application under employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 for grant of Exemption. Since the Scheme of the establishment is not at par with the benefit parameters of Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, the same has been returned to the establishment for modifying the application and to make good the deficiency in the scheme.

(c) to (e) Rajasthan State Electricity Board had applied for exclusion u/s 16 (1) (c) of the Act. This was processed and certain clarifications in the matter were sought from RSEB. In the mean-time, RSEB is stated to have filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court and the case is now subjudice.

[Translation]

Establishment of Sports Academy

5122. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEYA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish Sports Academy in each State;

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

(c) the time by which establishment of Academy is likely to be started alongwith the amount likely to be incurred on each Academy;

(d) whether the Government also propose to establish Sports Academy in Jharkhand and Bihar in the initial phase; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) There is no such Scheme in existence at present.

(b) to (e) In view of the reply to (a), do not arise.

[English]

Impact of Economic Reforms

5123. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether some trade unions are against recently introduced 'Second Generation' economic reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Trade Unions have from time to time observed strikes/bandhs and launched protests and demonstrations against the initiatives proposed to be taken by the Government to usher a 'Second Generation' of economic reforms as well as implementation of the existing policy of dis-investment and privatisation. Some of the recent protests in this regard include Nation-wide two hour tool down strike on 16.4.2001, Maharashtra Bandh on 25.4.2001, Nation-wide strike by the Confederation of Central Government Employees and workers and All India State Government Employees Federation on 25.7.2001 and demonstration of the Joint Action Committee on nine Central Trade Unions and Federation/Association of Delhi State on 24.7.2001.

(c) and (d) The Government is of the view that the gains from economic reforms initiated in the early nineties need to be carried forward and re-informed through new policy initiatives. The Government is also fully conscious of the need to protect the interest of workers during the reforms process. the steps taken by the Government recently to protect the interest of workers include raising of the wage ceiling unit under EPF and M.P. Act, expansion of the ESI scheme in new areas, enhancement of the minimum amount of compensation payable under the Workmen Compensation Act, etc. A new schemes entitled "Ashraya Bima Yojana" has been announced for extending security cover to organised labour force affected by the on-going reforms. In addition to these measures, the Second National Labour Commission has been constituted to suggest rationalisation of labour laws in the organised sector and an umbrella legislation for the unorganised sector.

Financial Assistance to Advanced Training Institutes

5124. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to increase the financial assistance for the developmental activities of the Advanced Training Institute (ATI) at Guindy, Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the funds allocated for the Institute during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the details of the performance of the Institute in the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) To meet the demand of skill training

for industrial workers in the region, about Rs. 57.00 Lakh has been earmarked in the current financial year for Advanced Training Institute at Guindy, Chennai to procure equipment in modern high technology areas. This is a part of the on-going plan schemes for the Institute.

(c) and (d) The details of the funds allocated to the Institute and its performance year-wise during the last three years is given the enclosed statement.

Statement

Year-wise details of the funds allocated and the performance of Advanced Training Institute, Guindy, Chennai during the last three years

Sl. No.	Year	Financial Performance (Rupees in Lakh)			Physical Performance (Number of participants)	
		Funds Allocated	Funds Utilized	Revenue Generated	Target	Trained
1.	1998-99	478.44	135.80	18.46	1539	1124
2.	1999-2000	179.44	156.78	16.90	1497	1363
3.	2000-2001	189.78	153.59	24.27	1683	1802

Note: In addition to above, 505 participants were also trained in the special tailor-made courses during the last three years.

Investigation Regarding Irregularities of Express Way

5125. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Vigilance Officer of Surface Transport, has pointed out various irregularities carried out in the execution of the Express way;

(b) if so, the details of irregularities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) Central Vigilance Commission has forwarded a news item alleging certain irregularities in award of contracts for Ahmedabad Vadodra Expressway Phase-II. The matter is under examination and the details cannot be given at this stage.

Operation of Air Service by Lankan Airlines

5126. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sri Lanka Airlines propose to operate more air services in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the strategy of the Air India to face the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) During last round of air services consultation between India and Sri Lanka held in New Delhi on 17-18th February, 2000, the designated airline of Sri Lanka has been allowed to utilize additional 745 seats per week out of the unused entitlement of the Indian side subject to a Code Share/Block Space arrangement with the designated Indian Carrier. The designated airline of Sri Lanka has also been granted access to Kolkata and Varanasi. Actual operations are however left to their commercial judgement.

Programmes for Poor People Living in Game Sanctuary Areas

5127. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any sub-programmes which focus on poor people living in Game Sanctuary areas, where means of livelihood is extremely limited;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes and programmes thereof;

(c) whether the Government have earlier made available finances for people in similar situations in the Gulf of Manner, a recognised Bio-sphere reserve;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate similar scheme for the people living in some Game Sanctuary areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has a programme called Eco development around National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves which focus on poor people living in and around National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves. The detailed guideline is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Eco development is a sanctioned component of the Scheme "Bio-sphere reserves". The details of funds released under Bio-sphere reserve scheme to Gulf of Manner in the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)		
1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
8.05	20.40	12.00

Statement

Subject: Guidelines for Implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme: Eco-Development Around National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves

To ameliorate the hardship faced by the villagers living in and around National Parks and Sanctuaries due to curtailment of their access for grazing and collection of fuelwood, bamboo, fodder, mfp, etc., due to the setting up of these protected areas, a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme: Eco development around National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves is being launched during the current year (1991-92). The package of programmes designed to meeting requirements of different areas to be implemented under the scheme, will

demonstrate the concern of the protected area managers for the socio-economic development of the fringe or buffer zone villages and will result into greater cooperation of the residents of the villages in conservation and management of wildlife. As this scheme will involve substantial innovation and departure from conventional wildlife. As this scheme will involve substantial innovation and departure from conventional wildlife management with a clear aim of preserving biodiversity, careful planning and a benchmark survey of the conservation related problems of the target villages will be required for putting the scheme on ground. The following guidelines are therefore issued to facilitate the planning and implementation of the Eco development scheme.

1. The Selection of Target Areas:

Considering the wide-ranging problems the scheme is designed to address, Eco development will 'a priori' be necessary for all villages and settlements located inside and on the fringes of each protected area. However, considering the extent of availability of funds and the currently limited capacity of the wildlife managers to operate the scheme, the targets presently have to be limited to only those protected areas where the man-animal conflicts and the confrontation between the villagers and the protection staff has reached an alarming stage and immediate action is required to remedy the situation. Some of the conditions for deciding the extent of an urgency could be:

- (i) Protected area from where extremist engineered disturbances have been reported.
- (ii) Areas subject to chronic draughts, floods, fires and other natural calamities.
- (iii) Areas where the buffer zones are either non-existent or are in a badly degraded State and are unable even to partly support the demand of the local villagers for fuelwood, fodder, etc.
- (iv) Villages shifted out of national parks and resettled particularly outside the core area of a Tiger Reserve.

A question has arisen whether eco development should be extended to villages inside national parks, keeping in views our policy to resettle them outside to obviate man-animal conflict. There is apprehension that extending the development benefits to these villages would provide a disincentive against shifting. While such villages, as a general principle, should not be covered under the scheme, exceptions must be made in those cases where

practical problems in shifting a village exist, while the need for harmonizing the relations of the villagers with the Park Staff needs to be given a high priority. This can be decided on the basis of prevailing conditions, including the constraints of enforcing the legal requirements of translocation.

2. Activities and Programmes Under Eco Development

Keeping in view the primary objectives of satisfying the basic needs of the local villagers and improving the productivity of the buffer zones of protected areas, there is considerable scope for innovation for designing programmes of ecodevelopment tailored to the needs of specific areas. A survey to ascertain the present socio-economic status of villages or clusters of villages around each protected area, including basic needs, the nature and extent of the conflicts with their wildlife management, etc., will need to be carried out for designing the programmes for ecodevelopment. The NWDB publication "Microplanning: A Tool for social Forestry Implementation" is a useful reference for this purpose. However, certain activities and programmes of generic nature which will be the basic components of ecodevelopment, can be taken up rightway while the survey is being conducted. These programmes can be substantially supplemented and fine-tuned after the results of the survey are known. Thus the ecodevelopment programmes would be carried out in two phases as follows:

Phase I Activities

These are basic ecodevelopment programmes and will comprise:

- (i) Survey and preparation of management plans.
- (ii) Silvipastoral development.
- (iii) Raising of close-spaced fuelwood and fodder plantains of fast growing indigenous species.
- (iv) Setting of livestock veterinary centres.
- (v) Setting of fixed/mobile dispensaries including vaccination/family planning clinics.
- (vi) Providing safe drinking water.
- (vii) Fixing of electrical/solar Street lights.
- (viii) Supply of improved Chullas, solar cookers and gobargas plants.

- (ix) Erection of physical barriers, including electric fencing to protect crops, etc. From animal depredation.
- (x) Soil conservation measures like gully plugging terracing of cultivated fields, etc.
- (xi) Setting up of small irrigation dams/anicut.
- (xii) Training of Staff, volunteers and village-level workers in ecodevelopment and related activities/techniques.
- (xiii) Purchase of vehicles and equipment directly concerning the above activities and construction of buildings.

B. Phase II Activities

- (i) Insurance of life, crops and property against animal depredation.
- (ii) Improved dryland farming techniques.
- (iii) Improvement soil productivity through measuring, soil conservation, crop rotation, etc.
- (iv) Horticulture suited to local conditions including cultivation of medicinal plants and other mfps.
- (v) Farming of domestic animals like pigs and poultry.
- (vi) Apiculture, sericulture and pisciculture.
- (vii) Setting up of cottage industries based on appropriate technology.
- (viii) Providing facilities for marketing of various produce.
- (ix) Education and recreation facilities aimed at explaining the role of the protected areas and wildlife management in general in maintaining land productivity, soil regime, etc. Study of the culture and traditions of the local communities to establish the link between their lifestyles and maintenance of ecological equilibrium.

Additional innovation activities, e.g. as an outcome of the socio-economic survey, can also be taken up with the prior approval of the Director of Wildlife Preservation, Government of India.

3. Implementation Agency

The scheme will be implemented by the Wildlife Wings of the state Forest Departments through the officers-in-charge of the protected areas where ecodevelopment will be carried out. Because of the wide range of activities involved, it will be very essential to take help of different rural development departments the wildlife managers will have to rely on for this purpose are animal husbandry and dairy development, horticulture primary health, agriculture extension soil conservation fishery, tribal welfare, small industries, etc. while in selected areas experts from these departments may be required to be taken on deputation for, planning/ implementing the ecodevelopment programmes, it will be very important to ensure that these departments are actively associated with the scheme. It will therefore be necessary to for a district level coordination committee under the District Collector/Magistrate, with the director of the Sanctuary/national Park as the member secretary. The Committee should include representatives of the cooperating departments, the NGOs involved and the concerned *Gram Panchayat* leaders. The Committee should meet at least one in two months and the minutes of the meetings should be included in the proposals for central assistance under the scheme. The State Government may consider payment of a modest honorarium to the committee members for attending the Committee meetings and the expenditure on this account can be charged to the scheme.

Since the ecodevelopment scheme is aimed primarily at the welfare of the forest-side communities, it will be necessary to involve NGOs with proven track records in rural development programmes in the scheme, as also in monitoring the programmes under the scheme. Socio-economic surveys, popularising smokeless *Chullas* or running of education centres can be directly entrusted to team after an agreement about terms and conditions of such collaboration have been worked out. I would be advisable to have the names of participating NGOs approved by the State Governments.

4. Planning for Ecodevelopment

As ecodevelopment is integral part of development of a Sanctuary or a national park, it is necessary that activities under the scheme, like other activities for wildlife management are planned adequately both on a perspective (5-10 years) and on an annual basis. It may be difficult to formulate perspective ecodevelopment plan at this stage because of the innovative nature of the

plan at this stage because of the innovative nature of the work and lack of adequate information. The wildlife Institute of India will be shortly launching special training programmes in ecodevelopment, concurrent with the setting up of state level planning cells under a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme being initiated for this purpose. It is expected that the State Governments will be taking maximum advantage of these new initiatives. For the present it may be useful to add a chapter on ecodevelopment in the management plan of the sanctuary/national park/tiger reserve. The following could be the contents of this chapter.

Eco-Development

I. *Basic Information:*

- (i) Names of villages, with populations and live stock population, proximity to protected areas.
 - (ii) Economic status of the residents, their main sources of livelihood.
 - (iii) General conditions of the buffer areas, e.g. extent of degradation and capacity to meet the resources demands of the local communities.
2. An analysis of the demand of the local communities for fuelwood, fodder, bamboos, mfp, etc. and the local availability of these resources. This will also cover the extent of reduction in availability of these resources due to establishment of the national park/sanctuary.
 3. The extent and nature of conflicts between the wildlife management and the villagers. There could be a different account for each villages. If there have been incidence of serious damage to life and property due to animal depredation, they should be listed.
 4. Past attempts at ecodevelopment with analysis of their success.
 5. List of activities/programmes proposed for each village or cluster of villages, with budget estimated, yearwise.
 6. Development agencies involved in implementing the programmes and the mechanisms to be set up to ensure involvement and coordination of these agencies.
 7. NGOs associated with the programmes and nature of collaboration with them. A list of such NGOs should be appended as also a copy of the agreement to be entered into by the NGOs. A list of such for specific activities.

8. Method/mechanism for the monitoring of the ecodevelopment programmes.

5. *Recurring Expenditure*

Central assistance will be made available for meeting 50% cost on account of maintenance of buildings, vehicles and other equipment purchased under the scheme and salary etc. of additional/incremental staff appointed for running the scheme.

[Translation]

Polluting Units in Delhi

5128. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of polluting units in National Capital Delhi which come under 'H' and other categories as per the Master Plan.

(b) the steps taken by the Government to control pollution emitted by these units during the last three years;

(c) whether the problem of pollution has been serious in National Capital Delhi;

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

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make the National Capital Delhi Pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As per the information provided by Central Pollution Control Board, 1328 units under 'H' category and 5100 units under 'F' category in NCT of Delhi, have been closed down.

(c) to (e) The problem of pollution in NCT of Delhi is on account of inadequate sewage treatment, vehicular pollution and industrial activities. Various steps taken by the Government to reduce pollution in NCT of Delhi include the following:

- (i) Water polluting industrial units operating in NCT of Delhi, have been directed to install Effluent Treatment Plants.
- (ii) 15 CETPs are being set-up to treat industrial effluent generated from 21 industrial areas of NCT of Delhi.

(iii) In pursuance of the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court in CWP No. 725/94, a number of water polluting industrial units operating in nonconforming areas in NCT of Delhi, have been identified and directed to close down.

(iv) In compliance of the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court in CWP No. 4677/85, under the supervision of Nodal Agency, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, MCD and DDA have been directed to close all the polluting units functioning in non-conforming/residential areas or zones.

(v) Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) have been augmented to ensure proper treatment of domestic sewage.

(vi) For control of pollution from automobiles, stricter emission standards and Fuel quality standards have been notified. Use of unleaded petrol, low sulphur diesel and petrol and use of cleaner fuels have been introduced.

(vii) Thrust has been given on use of clean coal technologies in Thermal Power Plants and other industries.

Irregularities in Purchase of Equipment

5129. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of corruption and irregularities in the purchase of necessary telephone equipment, cable, wire, machinery etc. in various States reported to his Ministry during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Report on Flood Situation

5130. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report has been submitted to the Union Government in regard to storage of water and to deal with the flood situation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control schemes are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their priorities. The assistance of Central Government in this regard is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. The Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) in its report submitted in 1980 made detailed study on the causes of the floods in the country and suggested various measures on strategy and plan of action for flood management in the country. The RBA *inter-alia* recommended that flood space should be provided in reservoirs after examining the need and feasibility. The recommendations of RBA were forwarded to the State Governments for implementation. The government of India has set up Ganga Flood Control Commission in 1972, who prepared the comprehensive plans for flood management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga basin. The Brahmaputra Board set up by the Government of India in 1982 under an Act of Parliament has prepared Master Plans for main Brahmaputra & Barak valleys *inter-alia* to control floods in North eastern region. These plans have been forwarded to respective State Governments for their consideration and implementation.

[English]

Medara Community

5131. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken to bring the Medara Community of Andhra Pradesh under the unorganised sector;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the total number of Medara community has been identified;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

(f) whether any special schemes have been worked out for them by Governments skilled workers; and

(g) the full details of steps proposed by the Government for their welfare?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Performance of Indian Teams in Asian and World Games

5132. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Sports teams have been giving poor performance in the Asian and World games;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the preparatory arrangements of athletes for the forthcoming Afro-Asian games to improve their performance; and

(c) if so, the prospects for India's medals in the above games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) India is not yet a world level sporting country but our performance at Asian level is reasonably good.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) India is likely to win about 16 medals. However, India's performance would only be counted in the performance of the Asian Continent contingent.

Reduction in Price of Tickets of I.A. due to Reduction on Price of ATF

5133. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average price of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) has come down by about Rs. 3 a litre from April 1, 2000;

(b) if so, the impact of the same on the price of tickets of Indian Airlines;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines have made any plans to reduce the price of tickets in view of decrease in prices of fuel;

(d) if so, the sectors where air travel will be cheaper; and

(e) the details of the plans of the Indian Airlines to effect rationalisation of price of Air tickets?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) On deregulation of domestic ATF price, effective from 1.4.2001, the ATF price on an average came down by Rs. 3 per litre. With the deregulation of ATF, the price of ATF can go up or come down in line with the fluctuations in its price in the international market. For instance, the deregulated price of ATF has gone up by about Rs. 1 per litre from May, 2001 onwards.

(b) to (e) The increase in ATF price prior to the deregulation put additional burden by about Rs. 291 crores on the cost of operations of Indian Airlines including Alliance Air, its subsidiary, for the year 2000-01 which equals to Rs. 327 crores on an annualized basis. The deregulation on ATF prices is expected to bring a reduction of about Rs. 95 crores in the annualized expenditure at the present price level. There will, therefore, be a net additional burden of about Rs. 232 crores, which Indian Airlines and Alliance Air will have to bear.

As the savings estimated due to deregulation of ATF price are much lower than the increase in ATF cost prior to deregulation, there is no possibility for decrease in fares.

Budgetary Allocation to NYKS

5134. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budgetary allocation made under NYKS schemes to various States particularly to

Maharashtra and Karnataka during the last three years and current year;

(b) whether the Government have received some complaints regarding misutilisation of funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in each case, State-wise;

(d) the details of the other source of funds mobilisation of Nehru Yuva Kendras to run their activities smoothly;

(e) whether any foreign assistance has been received by the Government to implement the schemes under NYKS; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Govt. of India release lump sum grant in aid to Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan who in turn make Kendra-wise allocations. A Statement I showing budgetary allocation made by NYKS in various States including Maharashtra and Karnataka during the last 3 years and the current year is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement II is enclosed.

(d) A statement III showing the details of such sources of funds is enclosed.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Assistance has been received by NYKS from the agencies of United Nations as per statement IV enclosed.

Statement I

*Detail of fund released to Various States
1998-99 to 2000-2001*

S.No.	State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	Till 23/8/2001
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11699320	12831174	13454480	7634220
2.	Assam	12748040	14308020	14766880	7316295
3.	Bihar	24877400	25951512	26648000	16535025
4.	Gujarat	8755740	9224419	10180440	5557485
5.	Haryana	7826398	8624943	8686160	5237715

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Himachal Pradesh	6136060	6348410	6492720	3609705
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	6943739	7616774	7569840	4162185
8.	Karnataka	10158600	11000662	11675200	6865575
9.	Kerala	8060060	9331618	9316640	4475910
10.	Madhya Pradesh	23808020	24428691	26078480	16033170
11.	Maharashtra	14771200	15123362	18112800	8907568
12.	Manipur	5077420	5799224	5592040	2775285
13.	Meghalaya	2361100	2897901	3257800	1641825
14.	Nagaland	3103360	3810844	3754920	2211705
15.	Orissa	7937040	10779317	7951400	6349815
16.	Punjab	6656960	7409171	7426640	4187385
17.	Rajasthan	14223765	14683413	16052800	9322200
18.	Sikkim	1838220	1977680	2204240	1365285
19.	Tamil Nadu	15301060	15824373	16588040	10344405
20.	Tripura	1576140	2000779	1650680	1122345
21.	Uttar Pradesh	34683377	37197868	34253840	21716445
22.	West Bengal	11501920	12599557	11974720	6430380
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	2257100	2246001	2134240	1625025
24.	A & N Island	2695780	2748330	3201360	1619340
25.	Chandigarh	431640	480353	524760	274440
26.	Delhi	1325420	1378806	1634280	819120
27.	Goa Daman & Diu	2203300	2001026	1600680	1351200
28.	Lakshadweep	423980	84614	533560	270240
29.	Pondicherry	2237900	1587650	2199040	1089360
30.	Mizoram	1394640	1645268	1600680	1076145
31.	D & N Haveli	480740	300753	563360	282840

Statement II*Details of Action against Delinquent employees of NYKS*

Sl. No.	Name of the Employee/ Designation and Place of Posting	State/Zone	Present Status/Action Taken Report	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Sh. D.K. Sahoo District Youth Coordinator NYK-Balangir	Orissa	D.A. imposed Major Penalty of reduction to a lower stage in time scale of pay for 3 years with cummulative effect 2. Recovery from salary	
2.	Sh. C.K. Radhakrishnan District Youth Coordinator, NYK- Iduki	Tamil Nadu	D.A. imposed Major penalty of reduction to a lower stage in time scale of pay with cummulative effect	
3.	Sh. L.E.G. Sampat Kumar, DYC, NYK- Cuddalore and NYK Trichurappali	Tamil Nadu	D.A. imposed Major Penalty of Compulsory retirement	
4.	Sh. R.D. Pataliraman DYC, NYK-Tiruvamali	Tamil Nadu	D.A. imposed Minor Penalty withholding the increment	
5.	Sh. S. Santa Kumar DYC, NYK Madras (Rural)	Tamil Nadu	D.A. imposed Minor Penalty of Censure	
6.	Sh. V Velmurgan DYC, NYK-Villupuram	Tamil Nadu	De Novo Inquiry is being Conducted	Pending
7.	Sh. Aziz Hussain, District Youth Coordinator NYK, Ladakh (J&K)	J&K	D.A. imposed Major Penalty of reduction to the minimum of the commulative effect 2. Recovery from salary	
8.	Ms. Ismat Ara Chaudhary DYC, NYK, Berpetta	Assam	D.A. imposed Major Penalty of reduction to the minimum of the time scale of pay with cummulative effect. 2. Recovery of the misappropriated fund vide order No. NYKS/Vig/Order/ 2001-02-243	

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Sh. Ajay Kumar Gupta DYC, NYL-Garo Hills William Nagar	Assam	Inquiry conducted and report thereof awaited	Pending
10.	Sh. K. Harilal, YC, NYK-Ermakulam	Kerala	D.A. imposed Minor Penalty withholding the increment	
11.	Sh. Ramesh Vaghela DYC, NYK-Bhavnagar	Gujarat	D.A. imposed Minor penalty of Censure	
12.	Sh. Ramesh Vaghela YC, NYK-Surrendranagar	Gujarat	Inquiry Report awaited	Pending
13.	Sh. Baldwin Raju Regional Coordinator RC (Rtd.) NYKS Chittoor	AP	De-Novo Inquiry was conducted and Inquiry Report received on 10.07.01. The case is being examined for orders.	Pending
14.	Smt. B.T. Kumuda Naik YC, NYK Raichur	Karnataka	Inquiry Report received on 7th July 01. The case is being examined for orders	Pending
15.	Sh. Govind Bhatt District Youth Coordinator NYK-, Madekari	Karnataka	D.A. imposed Minor Penalty withholding increments	
16.	Sh. Rajesh Mishra DYC, NYK Raisen	MP	I.O. & P.O. are being appointed	Pending
17.	Sh. D.K. Sahoo YC, NYK Champa	MP	Inquiry Report awaited	Pending
18.	Sh. Tanveer Ahmed YC, NYK-Fatehgarh	UP	Inquiry Report received on 28th January 2001. The case is being examined for orders	Pending
19.	Sh. C.S. Singh RC, NYKS, Allahabad	UP	Inquiry Report awaited	Pending

D.A.=Disciplinary Authority

Statement III

*The Details of Collaboration and Extent of Fund Mobilization by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan
Year 2000-2001*

Sl.	Name of the Collaborating Agencies	Name of the Project	Extent of Fund Mobilization
1	2	3	4
1.	Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India	North East Cultural Exchange Programme	65,24,381.00

1	2	3	4
2.	Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India	Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna Project	14,19,00,000.00
3.	NACO	Observance of world Health Day	1,04,372.00
4.	Ministry of social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India	Old Age Day Care Centre Project	27,00,000.00
5.	UNICEF	Orientation Training	14,22,706.00
6.	Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India	Orientation Training to the Representatives of Panchati Raj	3,80,000.00
7.	Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India	Gantantra Gaurvav	20,56,801.00
8.	UNESCO	Orientation Training	4,60,140.00
9.	W.H.O.	Seate Flame	20,23,461.00
10.	Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India	Rural Youth Exchange Programme for the Youth of Jammu and Kashmir	7,90,000.00
11.	W.H.O.	Tobacco Cessation	9,40,000.00
Grand Total			15,93,01,861.00

Statement IV

The details of Funds Mobilization by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan in collaboration with International Agencies

Year 2000-2001

Sl.No.	Name of the Collaborating Agencies	Name of the Project	Extent of Fund Mobilization (In Rs.)
5.	UNICEF	Oreitnation Training	14,22,706.00
8.	UNESCO	Orientation Training	4,60,140.00
9.	W.H.O.	SEATE FLAME	20,23,461.00
11.	W.H.O.	Tobacco Cessation	9,40,000.00
Grand Total			48,46,307.00

Consumer Price Index

5135. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the annual percentage variation of Consumer Price Index for industrial workers and agricultural labour during the period 1990-91 and 2000-2001, separately;

(b) the annual percentage variation of wages of industrial workers and agricultural labourers for the same period, separately;

(c) whether any discrepancy in relation to wage increase and price indexes of Industrial workers (IW) and Agricultural Labour (AL) and minimum wages for unorganized workers exists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The average annual increase in Consumer Price Index (CPI) for industrial workers between the period 1990-91 and 2000-01 has been 13.0% and that of agricultural workers 12.4%.

(b) The average annual increase in the wages (at current prices) of industrial workers based on the statistics contained in the Annual Survey of Industries, works out to 10.08% between the period 1990-91 and 1998-99.

As per the Economic Survey 2000-01, the average annual increase in real wages (i.e. wages at current prices deflated by CPI for agricultural labour) for unskilled agricultural labour works out to 2.72% during the period 1992-93 through 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) The average annual increase in the minimum wages (at current prices) for unskilled agricultural labour in the central sphere works out to 65.34% and that for non-agricultural works 17.66% between the period 1988 and 1998. The increase in the minimum wages is thus higher than the percentage increase in actual wages as well consumer price indices both for industrial and agricultural workers.

Improvement of Andaman Trunk Road

5136. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal regarding improvement of 330 kms. Andaman Trunk Road in Andaman & Nicobar Islands is being formulated by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration;

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

(c) whether the Government would provide funds under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for improvement of Andaman Trunk Road in Andaman & Nicobar Islands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. Andaman Trunk Road is not a National Highway and no proposal for its improvement has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Funding for the project under Centrally Sponsored Scheme can be considered only after receipt of the proposal subject to its inter-se priority and availability of funds.

[*Translation*]

Operation of Flights by Foreign Airlines

5137. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received proposals from State Governments to allow foreign airlines to operate their flights; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Requests have been received recently from various State Governments including the Government of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to allow foreign airlines to operate to airports in their respective States. Operation of international flights from different airports is reviewed from time to time depending upon traffic demand as part of ongoing process. Since their upgradation as international airports, Bangalore has been granted as a point of call to the designated airline of Hongkong, Germany, Malaysia and four Gulf Air owning States, Hyderabad to Malaysia and UAE (Dubai); Amritsar and Ahmedabad to Turkmenistan and Cochin to Turkmenistan and Oman.

[English]

Wasteful Expenditure to Obsolete Technology

5138. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether C-DOT had acquired a technology spending Rs. 3.71 crore which had become obsolete even before it was adopted for implementation as appeared in the Hindustan Times of September 6, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government have enquired into the matter and taken any action against the authorities responsible for squandering public money; and

(c) the other points brought out in the news item and action taken on them as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Sir, the news item of the Hindustan Times dated 6th September, 2000 referred to in part (a) of the question related to Satellite Based Rural Telegraph Network (SBRTN) technology. C-DOT did not acquire this technology. The SBRTN equipment was designed and developed indigenously by erstwhile Telecom Research Centre (TRC) and Space Application Centre (SAC) between 1986-89 and productionized by the Indian Telephone Industry (ITI). TRC merged with C-DOT in 1989.

The project was for the development of a product for a specific service, namely Rural Telegraphy via satellite. The system was designed, developed, tested, its components procured and production cleared by 1989. It was not possible to enhance its scope to incorporate

voice as preferred by the user later, as it would have meant a completely new design in terms of time and money. The product developed was not obsolete, as it was custom designed for the purpose for which it was mooted. The original objective was achieved. The procurement and proposed installation of the 50 terminals was only the pilot phase of the project as in the complete project there was a provision of 1000 terminals to be deployed at a later stage. In this sense, the project remained only at a developmental stage and did not enter the commercial or large scale deployment.

Therefore, it cannot be concluded that C-DOT developed a technology, which was obsolete even before deployment in the network and incurred wasteful expenditure on obsolete technology. It was a development project and the product was designed for a specific purpose. It is but natural that in the field of Research & Development, all development products do not necessarily culminate in large-scale commercial deployment. In view of these, the question of taking action against any authority does not arise.

Profits and Losses of Airports

5139. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of airports of the country which are running into profits during last three years;

(b) the names of airports of the country which are running into losses during the said period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Names of the profit making airports during the last three years are Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, Goa, Bangalore, Juhu, Bhuj and Pune. Besides, during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, Calicut and during 2000-2001, Hyderabad were profit making airports.

(b) Names of the loss making airports in the country during last three years are as under:— Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Trivandrum, Guwahati, Agartala, Aizwal (Lengpui), Debrugarh, Dimapur, Imphal, Lilabari, Shillong, Passighat, Cooch Behar, Kailashahar, Khawai, Kamalpur, Rupsi, Shella, Bagdogra, Jorhat, Silchar, Tezu, Zero, Tezpur, Along, Daparizo, Agra, Chandigarh, Jammu,

Jodhpur, Leh, Gwalior, Srinagar, Kanpur (Chakeri), Allahabad, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Gorakhpur, Dehradun, Gaggal Jaipur, Khajuraho, Kota, Kullu (Bhunter), Lucknow, Ludhiana, Pantnagar, Safdarjung, Shimla, Udaipur, Varanasi, Lalitpur, Satna, Jhasni, Aurangabad, Baroda, Belgaum, Bhavnagar, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Kandla, Keshod, Nagpur, Porbander, Raipur, Rajkot, Indore, Sholapur, Kolhapur, Bilaspur, Deesa, Khandwa, Akola, Panna Hadapsar, Jamnagar, Port Blair, Bhubaneshwar, Gaya, Patna, Ranchi, Behala, Belurghat, Jharsuguda, Malda, Jogbani, Muzzafarpur, Raxaul, Chakulia, Asansol, Vishakhapatnam, Agatti, Hubli, Madurai, Mangalore, Pondicherry, Rajmundry, Salem, Tirupati, Trichy, Vijaywada, Tuticorin, Vellore, Coimbatore, Donakonda, Cuddapah, Mysore, Warrangal, Hassan and Nadirgul. Besides, during 1998-1999, Calicut and during 1998-1999 and 1999-2000, Hyderabad were loss making airports.

(c) There are inherent limitation in making low-traffic airports profitable. However, ten loss making airports have been identified to make them profitable by increasing non-aeronautical revenue and controlling costs at these airports.

Guidelines to NALCO

5140. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Scale Industries (SSI) of Orissa State engaged in downstream aluminum Projects have been suffering on account Policy of NALCO; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to save the SSI of Orissa State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) The aluminium sector is decontrolled and aluminium is in the Open General Licence category for Import/Export. Thus, the aluminium and its products are freely tradable.

Bamboo Development Cell

5141. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for formation of Bamboo Development Cell;

(b) if so, the details indicating the main objective thereof;

(c) the nation-wide efforts made by the Government to formulate Bamboo Development Cell and for increasing Bamboo cultivation;

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

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the funds allocated for the development of Bamboo during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Bamboo Cell had been constituted in the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1999 to draw up a detailed Action Plan for development of bamboo resources in the country.

(c) The Government have identified development of bamboo resources as one of the thrust areas in the 9th Plan and sanctioned Rs. 2085.32 crore for raising of 30163 ha. of bamboo plantations in 21 States.

(d) and (e) Forest Survey of India has conducted survey of bamboo resources in the country. Details of distribution and availability of important bamboo species are given in the enclosed Statement I.

(f) The Government have been providing assistance to the States for raising plantations of bamboo under a centrally sponsored scheme since 1999. The details of funds allocated to the States during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are given in the enclosed statement II.

Statement I

Availability of Bamboos in India

Sl.No.	State/Region	Area %	Growing Stock %
1.	North eastern Region	28	66
2.	Madhya Pradesh	20.30	12
3.	Maharashtra	9.9	5
4.	Orissa	8.7	7
5.	Andhra Pradesh	7.4	2
6.	Karnataka	5.5	3
7.	Others	20.2	5

Distribution of Some Important Bamboo Species in India

Species	Availability % Growing Stock	States
D. Strictus	45	Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa
M. Baccifera	20	Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura
B. Arundinacia	13	Nagaland, Kamataka, Orissa
D. Hamiltonii	7	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland
B. Tulda	5	Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura
B. Pallida	4	Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura
Rest	6	

Statement II

State-wise details of Bamboo Plantation projects under Centrally Sponsored Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme

(Rs. in lakhs & Target in Ha.)

Sl. No.	State	9th Plan Sanctioned	Target	1999-2000*		2000-2001		2001-02	
				sanctioned	Released	Sanctioned	Released	Sanctioned	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	258.40	4000	-	-	169.00	60.00	89.40	150.00
2.	Assam	72.90	1126	-	-	44.00	30.00	28.90	20.00
3.	Bihar	102.63	1500	-	-	51.13	30.00	51.50	-
4.	Goa	16.84	240	-	-	7.83	7.83	9.01	4.00
5.	Gujarat	119.70	1500	-	-	72.00	50.00	47.70	45.00
6.	Haryana	34.85	325	-	-	10.14	10.14	24.71	-
7.	Himachal Pradesh	17.85	262	-	-	8.85	8.85	9.00	-
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	96.35	1400	-	-	62.00	15.00	34.35	-
9.	Kerala	100.50	750	-	-	51.20	30.00	49.30	40.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	240.00	3000	-	-	140.00	70.00	100.00	50.00
11.	Maharashtra	103.70	1600	-	-	64.25	30.00	39.45	14.00
12.	Manipur	104.30	1800	-	-	73.37	73.37	30.93	-
13.	Meghalaya	24.75	400	-	-	15.75	10.00	9.00	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Mizoram	123.45	1500	13.50	10.00	55.65	32.00	54.30	27.00
15.	Nagaland	148.20	2400	-	-	83.30	40.00	64.90	-
16.	Orissa	170.40	3000	19.50	9.02	73.00	30.00	77.90	-
17.	Rajasthan	82.50	1000	-	-	40.50	39.00	42.00	30.00
18.	Sikkim	90.10	1300	23.30	15.00	40.15	48.45	26.65	18.00
19.	Tripura	47.80	900	11.50	8.00	21.25	10.00	15.05	-
20.	Uttar Pradesh	90.50	1600	-	-	52.30	20.00	38.20	-
21.	West Bengal	39.60	560	-	-	20.30	15.00	19.30	-
Total		2085.32	30163	67.80	42.02	1155.97	659.64	861.55	398.00

* During the first year of the Scheme funds were released to only three States.

Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana

5142. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana undertaken to overcome the problem of non-availability of manpower has been functioning satisfactorily;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have enhanced the remunerations of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras agents recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve the target of Ninth plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the first four years of the Ninth Five Year Plan 2716 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras were opened. Circle-wise breakup is given in the enclosed statement I.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The remuneration of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra agent was enhanced from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 600/- per month with effect from 1.3.2001.

(e) Plan Year 2001-2002, being the last year of the Ninth Five-Year Plan, a target of opening 2000 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras in the country has been fixed. Circle-wise breakup of targets for opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras is given in the enclosed statement II. Heads of Circles have been directed to seek the co-operation of the State Governments in this regard.

Statement I

Circle-wise number of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras opened during the years 1997-98 to 2000-2001

S.No.	Circles	Number of PSSKs			
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	31	30	60

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	5	21
3.	Bihar	Nil	17	40	464
4.	Chhattisgarh	Not applicable			106
5.	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	Nil	20	38	68
7.	Haryana	Nil	Nil	10	69
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	10	50
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil	12
10.	Jharkhand	Not applicable			106
11.	Karnataka	Nil	10	14	20
12.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	55	80	221
14.	Maharashtra	Nil	10	62	150
15.	North East	Nil	Nil	5	47
16.	Orissa	1	29	30	76
17.	Punjab	Nil	5	20	44
18.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	35	77
19.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	12	30	80
20.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	30	67	284
21.	Uttaranchal	Not applicable			44
22.	West Bengal	Nil	5	10	6
Total:		1	224	486	2005

Statement II

*Targets for opening of PSSKs
for the Plan Year 2001-2002*

Sl.No.	Circle	Opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30

1	2	3
2.	Assam	135
3.	Bihar	470
4.	Chhattisgarh	75
5.	Delhi	—
6.	Gujarat	90
7.	Haryana	70

1	2	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	50
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	12
10.	Jharkhand	85
11.	Karnataka	35
12.	Kerala	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	155
14.	Maharashtra	200
15.	North East	100
16.	Orissa	35
17.	Punjab	65
18.	Rajasthan	75
19.	Tamil Nadu	80
20.	Uttar Pradesh	170
21.	Uttaranchal	43
22.	West Bengal	25
Total:		2000

Training to Unemployed

5143. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for imparting training to unemployed with the help of private sector/non-governmental organisations in the rural and urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the private/NGOs imparting training in these areas;

(c) the funds allocated to these private/NGOs for the last three years;

(d) the name of States and places where these training is being conducted; and

(e) the types of training and number of persons benefited so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Such Training Schemes are being run by various Ministries and Departments and could also be

run by individual State Governments. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of SSI, Agro & Rural Industries, Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, and Ministry of Rural Development are running major programmes. Gist of their programmes pertaining to such training is given in the enclosed statement. Number of participating NGOs/Private Organisations could vary from time to time. A comprehensive list of all NGOs/Private Organisations providing training is not centrally maintained.

Statement

A number of Government Ministries/Departments are engaged for the training of unemployed. Ministry/Department-wise information in this respect is given below:

1. *Ministry of Rural Development*: The Ministry is not implementing any scheme exclusively for imparting training to the unemployed. However, as part of Self-Employment under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), training for skill development is one of the components of the scheme which is done through NGOs and private sector, industrial units, if required, in identified activities.

2. *Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation*: Under the Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) component of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) training is given to the urban unemployed people living below poverty line. Private Sector/NGOs are also allowed to impart training to the potential beneficiaries under the SJSRY. The scheme is implemented through States/UTs and that no direct funding is provided by the Centre.

Training Institutions such as ITIs/Polytechnics/Shramik Vidyapeeth/Engineering colleges and other suitable training institutions run by Government, private or voluntary organizations are utilized and provided appropriate support for this purpose. In addition, the building centers existing within the State are also being utilized. The name and place of these institutions and the funds allocated to them by the State/UT Governments are not maintained in the Ministry.

Training to the urban poor is in a variety of services and manufacturing trades as well as in local skills and local crafts so that they can set up self-employment ventures or secure salaried employment with enhanced remuneration. These training programmes being conducted in different States of the country. The number of persons benefited under Training Sub-Component of USEP components of SJSRY from 1.12.1997 to 31.7.2001 is 24,807 (under going training) and 2,26,479 (trained).

3. *Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment:* There are three schemes in the Ministry for imparting training to unemployment with the help of non-Governmental organisations. These schemes are as under:

- (i) Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations working for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Total number of beneficiaries during the last 3 years — about 10,880.
- (ii) Scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs). Total number of beneficiaries during the last 3 years - 48,000 (approx).
- (iii) Scheme of Grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence. During the year 2000-01, number of beneficiaries were 30.

4. *Ministry of SSI and Agro & Rural Industries:* A Scheme of providing financial assistance for strengthening of Training Infrastructure of existing and new Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) was launched in the year 1992-93 to provide financial assistance to State level existing the proposed training institutes meant for supporting the Entrepreneurial development efforts all over the country.

As per the scheme, financial assistance is provided for the specific needs of each EDI for improvements in areas like building, training aids/equipment and other support services on matching basis say 50% of the cost restricted to Rs. 50.00 lakh in each case.

Training in different areas by the EDI in the State of Andhra Pradesh is imparted. The number of persons trained is 1698 in 26 training programmes conducted during March, 2000 to July, 2001.

Utilization of Water Resources

5144. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of studies undertaken by National Water Development Agency (NWDA) under Himalayan Component and Peninsular Component so far and cases out of which feasibility report in respect of water links has been prepared;

(b) whether his Ministry has taken any steps to implement those links for which feasibility reports have been prepared; and

(c) if so, the time by which these water links are likely to be executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has undertaken various kinds of technical studies such as water balance studies of basins/sub-basins topsheet studies for preparation of prefeasibility reports of 17 water transfer links under Peninsular Component and 14 water transfer links under Himalayan Component. After field surveys and investigations, NWDA has further prepared feasibility reports for five of these links under Peninsular Component.

(b) and (c) Implementation of the links proposal would depend on various factors like consensus among the States, preparation of detailed project reports and availability of funds etc.

Post Offices in Orissa

5145. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of post offices opened in all the districts of Orissa during the last five years, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): The number of post offices opened in the districts of Orissa during the last five years are given location-wise in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Number of Post Offices Opened in the Districts of Orissa During The last Five Years, Location-wise

District	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5	6
Angul				1 Sanatribida	
Balasore		1. Kalama	1. Asuria 2. Mituani 3. Ratina	1. Jmatkula	

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bargarh					
Boudh		1. Ranaputuli			
Bhadrak		1. Naami		1. Dhamara	
Bolangir		1. Kultapada		1. Badbahal	1. Khalipali
Cuttack	1. Fakirpada	1. Durgapur		1. Badabhuin	1. Saradhapur
		2. A. Bidanasi			2. Mugagahir
					3. Nakhara
Deogarh		1. Dantaribahal		1. Kartaga	
Dhenkanal				1. B. Kateni	1. Baunsapal
Gajapati					
Ganjam	1. Morabai	1. Dhumuchai			
Jagatsingpur	1. Khalgaon				
	2. Pulapada				
Jajpur	1. Chungudipal	1. Sahupada		1. Andhari	
		2. Khurunti			
Jharsuguda					
Kalahandi	1. Malgunda	1. Gopinathpur		1. Kathakura	1. Patharia
		2. Alatara			
		3. Baladiamal			
Kendrapara					
Keonjhar	1. Baignipal	1. Sirispal	1. Katarbeda		
Khurda		1. Sailesrivihar	1. Siula		1. Khandagiri
		2. Aerodrome	2. S.E. Rly. Pro		2. KIIT SO
Korapur	1. Bilamal	1. Attanda	1. Haladikund		1. Pulimtela
		2. Ranipur			
		3. Mumja			
Malkangiri					
Mayurbhanj		1. Dardara	1. Asana	1. Mirigothana	
			2. Saria		
Nowrangpur					
Nayagarh			1. Champagarh	1. Bhagbanpur	1. Gambhari-Dih
			2. Barasahi	2. Bantapur	
Naupara	1. Jayabahal				1. Ranimunda
Phulbani	1. Mundipanka	1. Sripada		1. Bargochha	
Puri			1. Srivihar	1. Berhampur	
				2. Gopinathpur	
Rayagada		1. Naktiguda			
Sambalpur	1. Kuleigarh	1. Uttargaon			
		2. Kindira			
Subampur					
Sundargarh	1. Tulasikani			1. Basundhara	1. Gaikanpalli
Total	12	24	12	16	12

Charter of Demand

5146. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers of the Ferrochrome Plant at Jaipur Road in Orissa had submitted a charter of demand to the plant authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to fulfil their demands?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The workmen of M/s. Ferrochrome Plant, Jaipur Road, Orissa represented by the General Secretary, Ferrochrome Workers Union had submitted a 66 point demand charter. The management of Ferrochrome Plant and their workmen represented by their General Secretary, Ferrochrome Workers Union arrived at a memorandum of settlement dated 1st January, 2000 during the course of conciliation proceedings. The said settlement remains in force for a period of 4 years *w.e.f.* 1st April, 1998.

Cauvery River Authority

5147. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings organised by Cauvery River Authority during the last three years, till date; and

(b) the details of discussions on each meeting held and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Cauvery River Authority (CRA) has held two meetings on 28th October, 1998 and 14th July, 2000 since its constitution on 11th August, 1998.

(b) CRA in its first meeting approved the Rules and Regulations for Conduct of Business of Cauvery Monitoring Committee, discussed the proceedings of first meeting of Monitoring Committee, Rules and Regulations for Conduct of Business of CRA and norms for measurement of inflow into Mettur reservoir besides reviewing total inflow and storages in October, 1998 in major reservoir of Cauvery basin. CRA in its 2nd meeting, approved the Rules and Regulations for Conduct Business of CRA and considered the issue raised by Government of Tamil Nadu about failure in implementation interim order by the Government of Karnataka besides confirming minutes of its first meeting.

[Translation]

Negligence of Certain Sports Activities

5148. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sports like wrestling, football, hockey, kabaddi, volleyball and track events are being neglected in the country in comparison to cricket and other western sports;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the promotion of said sports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government is providing assistance to various National Sports Federations for promotion of the respective sports disciplines as per the provisions of the scheme for Assistance to National Sports Federations. The assistance is provided, as per Long Term Development Plan of the concerned NSFs, for training and participation in tournaments abroad, organizing International Tournaments in India, holding National Championships for senior, junior and sub-juniors, coaching/training by Indian and Foreign coaches/experts, procurement of equipment etc.

[English]

Erosion Due to Rivers

5149. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been severe erosion by several major rivers in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to avoid further erosion by rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In rivers like Brahmaputra both banks are under stress and subjected to acute erosion activity. The rivers with problem of severe erosion are as under:

North-East region	:	Brahmaputra, Bank, & their tributaries.
Bihar		Ganga, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Bagmati, Adhwara Group of Rivers, Kamla, Kosi & Mahananda.
Uttar Pradesh		Ganga, Yamuna, Ghaghra, Gomti & Gandak
West Bengal	:	Ganga - Padma

(c) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control schemes including anti river erosion works are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. Central Government renders assistances that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. The Master Plans have been prepared for Flood Management in Ganga and Brahmaputra Basins by Ganga Flood Control Commission and Brahmaputra Board respectively. Suggestions have been made in the Master Plans to prevent river erosion in specific areas. These Master Plans have been sent to concerned States for implementation.

Poshir Dam Project

5150. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal in regard to clearance of Poshir Dam Project in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been cleared; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The Detailed Project Report

of Poshir Dam has not been received in the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal.

Report of TERI on Air Pollution

5151. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have claimed success in curbing air pollution in the Capital and other metropolitan cities;

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

(c) whether the Tata Energy and Research Institute (TERI) recently disclosed that the air quality had in fact deteriorated further after April, 2000 despite ban on old vehicles and the subsequent directives for the conversion of commercial vehicles to the CNG fuel;

(d) if so, whether the Central Pollution Control Board has also received the said report from the TERI; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) According to the Central Pollution Control Board, analysis of ambient air quality in Delhi has indicated decrease in the levels of Sulphur dioxide, Nitrogen dioxide and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter during the year 2000 when compared to the levels measured during the year 1999. For other metropolitan cities, the rate of unabated increase in air pollution has been checked due to various measures taken by the Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The observations of the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) are based on short term air quality monitoring and no conclusive inference can be drawn.

Use of Poor Quality Material for Runway at Gaya Airport

5152. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the use of poor quality material in the construction of runway and other surroundings at Gaya airport in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter to ensure the use of good quality material at the airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Material of proper quality which meets the contract specifications is being used for construction of runway at Gaya airport. The materials found not suitable for the work were rejected by the Airports Authority of India and got removed from the site of work. The materials meeting the quality as specified for the work were only allowed to be used for the work.

[Translation]

Pension Scheme for Workers

5153. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on pension schemes organised by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry was held recently as reported in Dainik Jagaran dated July 4, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held, suggestions made and decisions arrived at therein;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government on the suggestion given during the seminar by the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) (a) to (d) A seminar was organised on 3rd July, 2001 by FICCI-INC Foundation of Research, Training and Education. The objective of the seminar was to elicit the views of the industry and its various constituents for providing inputs to define a road map for pension sector reforms being drawn up by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority.

Handing Over of Mines to Private Sector

5154 SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several mines in the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many public sector mines are running in loss;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to hand over some more mines to private sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (d) As per information maintained by the Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office of the Ministry of Mines, out of the 3012 mines which were reported to have worked during 2000-2001, 853 were in the public sector, and the rest in the private sector. However, mine-wise information on financial performance is not centrally maintained, hence separate information on the specific public sector mines running in loss is not available.

(e) and (f) Disinvestment of Central Public Sector Undertakings including those engaged, *inter-alia*, in mining sector is being done as per the policy of privatizing non-strategic Public Sector Undertakings through gradual disinvestment or strategic sale. Disinvestment is a continuous process and the Government has completed the disinvestment of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) through strategic sale and has initiated the process of disinvestment in respect of Hindustan Copper Limited and Hindustan Zinc Limited.

[English]

Advertisement and Interview by Nehru Yuva Kendra

5155. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times Nehru Yuva Kendra have given the advertisement and conducted interviews for the temporary appointment of district project officers under the N.R.C. scheme; and

(b) the details of amount utilized for the said activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan has given the advertisement three times and interviews were conducted by them twice.

(b) Rs. 79,43,000-00 were utilized for the said activities.

*[Translation]***Non Deposit of PF of Contract Labour**

5156. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount deducted as provident fund from the wages of the contract labourers engaged in the private sector particularly in Noida and Gurgaon is not being deposited in the office of Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check such exploitation;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

Persons Registered with Employment Exchanges

5157. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for considering a person as unemployed;

(b) the total number of youths (educated and uneducated) registered with each employment exchange during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, State-wise;

(c) the number of youths who have registered their names by the end of March every year during the above period; and

(d) the percentage out of the total number of youths registered and given employment during each of the above years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) As per definition adopted in National Sample Survey Organisation, persons, who owing to lack of work, had not worked but either sought work through employment exchanges, intermediaries, friends or relatives or by making applications to prospective employers or expressed their willingness or availability for work under the prevailing conditions of work and remuneration, were considered as those who were 'seeking or available for work' (or unemployed).

(b) and (c) State-wise, number of job seekers (most of these being youths), all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with the employment exchanges in the country during 1998, 1999 and 2000 was as given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The percentage of placement to registration during the year 1998, 1999 and 2000 were 3.99%, 3.71% and 2.94% respectively.

Statement

S.No.	States/UTs	No. of job-seekers registered during (in thousands)		
		1998	1999	2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	346.9	392.1	365.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.1	3.1	7.4
3.	Assam	148.4	137.1	137.2
4.	Bihar	411.3	241.3	509.6
5.	Goa	19.7	10.8	11.4
6.	Gujarat	218.3	220.8	371.1

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Haryana	263.7	254.7	230.8
8.	Himachal Pradesh	170.0	148.1	132.1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	22.6	26.3	33.2
10.	Karnataka	326.5	391.5	380.9
11.	Kerala	417.3	481.0	619.6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	547.2	509.4	398.2
13.	Maharashtra	684.6	823.8	748.4
14.	Manipur	20.9	38.9	10.5
15.	Meghalaya	7.1	10.8	11.8
16.	Mizoram	11.5	23.3	15.2
17.	Nagaland	10.2	13.0	9.4
18.	Orissa	176.9	209.0	161.6
19.	Punjab	136.6	114.8	111.8
20.	Rajasthan	148.2	167.0	107.6
21.	Sikkim*	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	562.5	582.0	603.9
23.	Tripura	13.7	22.3	23.8
24.	Uttar Pradesh	578.4	461.4	407.8
25.	West Bengal	413.1	518.3	481.6
26.	A & Nicobar Islands	2.9	3.7	3.9
27.	Chandigarh	21.0	27.5	12.6
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.5	0.6	0.6
29.	Delhi	152.2	116.8	115.6
30.	Daman & Diu	1.4	1.5	1.7
31.	Lakshadweep	1.7	0.9	0.9
32.	Pondicherry	11.7	14.3	15.9
All India		5851.8	5966.0	6041.9

Note: *No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State. Total may not tally due to rounding off.

*[English]***Project on Elephant Conservation**

5158. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Worldwide Fund for Future India (WWF-India) has embarked on a project on elephant conservation on the North Bank of Brahmaputra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps so far taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Jala Samvardhana Programme

5159. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had asked the Governments of Karnataka not to take up Jala Samvardhan Programme to desilt tanks in the Cauvery basins areas;

(b) if so, the reasons for prohibiting Karnataka Govt. to take up the said programme;

(c) whether the Government have noticed that the Tribunal had gone on record saying that desilting would have no impact on the basin area; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The Government of Karnataka have submitted a proposal for rehabilitation of about 6000 tanks in the State for World Bank assistance, including tanks in the Cauvery basin. The project intends to benefit 1.80 lakh ha. additional area. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) in its Interim Order dated 25th June, 1991 has *inter alia* directed the Government of Karnataka that they shall not increase its area under irrigation by the waters of the river Cauvery beyond existing 11.2 lakh acres. As per details furnished by Government of Karnataka to

the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, this area includes 2.93 lakh acres under minor irrigation. The Government of Tamil Nadu has therefore objected to this project. The Government of Karnataka has hence advised to delete the tanks in Cauvery basin from the project proposal which Government of Karnataka has accepted. In the alternative, the Government of Karnataka has also been advised to obtain the consent of co-basin States or specific approval of the Tribunal for the proposal of desiltation of old tanks in Cauvery basin in the State.

*[Translation]***Delay in Payment of Contribution**

5160. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the details of interest and penalty charged by the Government in last two years on compulsory basis at the rate prescribed in the concerned schemes in matters of delay in the payment of EPF-ESI contribution, State-wise;

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): The amount of interest and penal damages recovered on account of delay in payment of EPF/ESI Contributions during the last two financial years is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Interest	Damages
1999-2000	526.36	3550.62
2000-2001	4127.94	8001.59

EPFO:

ESIC:

1999-2000	207.91	235.80
2000-2001	281.91	314.17

State-wise details in respect of EPFO & ESIC are given in the enclosed statements I & II respectively.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of Region	Interest charged U/s 7Q		Damages Levied U/s 14B	
		As on 31.3.2000	As on 31.3.2001	As on 31.3.2000	As on 31.3.2001
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31.87	563.21	372.89	441.85
2.	Bihar	58.24	508.97	63.63	151.44
3.	Delhi	0.00	5.44	63.50	163.71
4.	Gujarat	0.00	200.45	169.10	235.97
5.	Haryana	0.00	16.01	313.30	2,678.20
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4.47	0.71	20.28	3.82
7.	Karnataka	2.28	284.28	105.93	221.41
8.	Kerala	0.00	356.95	225.99	962.43
9.	Maharashtra	25.23	279.90	273.30	333.99
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2.81	176.63	142.22	185.89
11.	North Eastern Region	1.01	270.90	389.39	55.82
12.	Orissa	0.00	116.04	189.17	318.32
13.	Punjab	19.59	96.38	94.80	371.09
14.	Rajasthan	353.03	230.37	47.77	32.35
15.	Tamil Nadu	4.91	419.43	528.20	1,064.28
16.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	85.62	216.39	171.03
17.	West Bengal	22.65	516.65	334.76	609.99

Statement II

State-wise Details of Interest Recovered During Last Two Years for Delay in Payment of ESI Contributions

State	1999-2000 Amount Rs. in Lacs	2000-2001 Amount Rs. in Lacs
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1.52	3.29
Assam	0.39	0.45
Meghalaya	0.03	

1	2	3
Bihar*		
Delhi	6.32	8.40
Gujarat	20.72	55.07
Haryana	1.65	6.46
Karnataka	54.56	49.56
Kerala	14.66	22.84
Madhya Pradesh	1.83	0.52

1	2	3
Maharashtra		
(a) Mumbai	17.03	7.94
(b) Nagpur	2.90	2.81
(c) Pune	1.76	3.93
Goa*	*	0.03
Orissa*		
Punjab	0.56	0.91
Himachal Pradesh	0.14	0.71
J&K	0.01	0.17
Chandigarh	0.05	0.78
Rajasthan	1.46	0.69
Tamil Nadu		
(a) Chennai	11.20	21.95
(b) Coimbatore	3.04	6.91
(c) Madurai	16.16	18.02
Pondicherry	0.20	0.16
Uttar Pradesh*		
West Bengal	51.72	70.31
Total	207.91	281.91

Note: In respect of Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh the amount of interest recovered during the last two years and in respect of Goa during 1999-2000 has not been booked separately and the same has been included with contributions & booked accordingly.

[English]

Drinking Water and Digging of Wells

5161. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to some seismological or some other phenomena earth caving and drinking water well disappearing has become a daily occurrence in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the Government have deputed a committee of scientists to enquire the incidents and find out the way of precaution and necessary measures to take while digging well in future;

(c) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to compensate the victims who had lost property and well and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Open-well collapses have occurred in several localities across the State of Kerala recently. Teams of Scientists from different organizations have conducted investigations in various parts of the State and have submitted a report providing a detailed account of their findings related to geological, microseismic and other aspects of the problem.

(e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Distribution of Gifts by MTNL

5162. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:
DR. BALIRAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the corporate officers of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has distributed gifts worth crores of rupees on the occasion of Diwali and New Year festivals of 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to investigate the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) On Diwali, Corporate gifts were distributed as per normal practice at a total cost of Rs. 1,08,476/-.

No gifts were distributed on New Year.

(c) to (e) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is empowered to take decision on such matters. The expenditure does not appear to be excessive to warrant investigations.

[English]

**Bhavishya Nidhi Abhiyojan (Prosecution)
Samadhan Yojana, 2001**

5163. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Research wing of the National Academy for Training the Research in Social Security (NATRSS) has submitted its report on Bhavishya Nidhi Abhiyojan (Prosecution) Samadhan Yojana, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring about any changes in the system of submission of Provident Fund Returns;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the changes are likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The research wing of NATRESS has carried out a study on the status of prosecution cases filed by the EPF Organisation against defaulting establishments and has suggested certain solutions towards liquidating the pendency.

(c) to (e) As part of the modernisation programme initiatives have been taken up by the Employees Provident Fund organisation. One of the objectives stipulate reduction in the number of returns submitted by the employers and also for creating facilities for filing of electronic returns.

First phase of the modernisation programme involves setting up of pilot centres in six locations covering all four zones to be made operational in a time span of 24 months

After stabilisation of six pilot centres, the redesigned system is proposed to be replicated all over the country in a phased manner.

World Wildlife Fund for Tiger Conservation

5164. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Wildlife Fund—international has put its tiger conservation programme in India on hold and frozen all its tiger conservation related funds to India chapter WWF-India

(b) if so, the reasons for holding back funds; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to get the funds released at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) World Wildlife Fund (WWF) — International does not provide any assistance for Tiger conservation either to Union or State Government in India. WWF — International was supporting the tiger conservation programme run by WWF — India under which financial assistance was provided to State Govt. for supplementing national tiger conservation efforts. WWF—International made a request to Government of India that they would like to have a Regional Office at New Delhi to support Tiger Conservation efforts in India and neighbouring countries. The Ministry of Environment and Forests being satisfied with the profile of the then Director, Tiger Conservation programme and WWF — International issued a no objection certificate to this project. The no objection certificate had to be withdrawn later on account of some inaccuracies about geographical boundaries of India in several publications made by WWF — International and allied institutions. These inaccuracies were brought to the notice of the Ministry of Environment and Forests by the then Secretary General, WWF-India. The WWF — International was upset by these steps. There has been a definite decline in the activities of WWF India — Tiger Conservation Programme after October, 1999. Involvement of the representatives of Government of India in programme formulation has also ceased after October, 1999.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Road-Cum-Rail Bridge on River Ganga

5165. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to provide cost of survey out of funds earmarked under the road of inter-state and economic importance scheme for construction of a road-cum-rail bridge on river Ganga in Munahar district of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railways have intimated share of Road Authorities as Rs. 56.70 lakhs, which is proposed to be met out of funds earmarked for schemes of economic importance.

Security Persons in MTNL

5166. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of security personnel presently employed in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) whether the homeguards and private security agencies are being engaged by the Department instead of deploying its own security personnel;

(c) if so, whether security personnel of MTNL, home guards, private security agencies and Jawans of CISF simultaneously posted for security purpose at various places;

(d) if so, the justification of this extravagance; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for utilising the services of departmental security staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Number of security personnel in MTNL:

Delhi Unit : 1031 Mumbai Unit : 924 Corporate Office : 10%

(b) In Delhi, home guards and security personnel sponsored by Director General of Rehabilitation (DGR) are being engaged in addition to the departmental security personnel of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

In Mumbai, guards from Security Guards Board of Greater Mumbai are being engaged in addition to the departmental security personnel of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

(c) Security personnel of MTNL, Home Guards and guards from Security Guards Board of Greater Mumbai are being deployed by MTNL at different places, CISF Jawans are not being engaged.

(d) The security personnel are deployed as per security need.

(e) The services of the departmental security staff is being utilized on the basis of their availability within MTNL.

[*English*]

Multicolour Rain

5167. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Multicolour rain" appearing in The Hindu dated July 29, 2001;

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

(c) whether any high level central team has been deputed to study this strange phenomena;

(d) if so, the details alongwith its findings thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on the findings of the study conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Reports of occurrence of rains of different shades of red in Kerala have come to the notice of the Government. The Centre for Earth Science Studies, an autonomous institution of the Government of Kerala, has undertaken investigations on coloured rain occurrence and has opined that the red colour in rain was probably due to meteoric dust and

the chemical analysis of the samples collected showed that the material is largely biological and has been identified as fungal spores. The Centre for Earth Science Studies has taken up detailed investigations in the matter.

[Translation]

Effect of Acid Rain on Historical Monuments

5168. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been reports of acid rains in the country due to pollution;

(b) if so, whether some historical monuments like Taj Mahal, Bibi-Ka-Makbra, are turning Yellow as result thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As per the data generated by India Meteorological Department no conclusive evidence of significant acid rain has been reported in the Country.

(c) The various steps taken by the Government to control gaseous emissions from major emission sources, to check air pollution, include the following:

- A network of 280 ambient air quality monitoring stations have been set up throughout the Country. Regular monitoring of gaseous emissions from sources and monitoring of ambient air quality is undertaken.
- Emission and effluent standards have been notified for almost all categories of polluting industries. Ambient air quality standards have also been notified.
- Environmental auditing in the form of Environmental statement has been made mandatory for all the polluting industries, specifying reduction in energy consumption so as to achieve greater energy efficiency.
- For control of pollution from automobiles, stricter emission standards and fuel quality standards have been notified. Use of unleaded petrol, low

sulphur diesel and petrol and use of cleaner fuels have been introduced.

- Thrust has been given on use of clean coal technologies in Thermal Power Plants and other industries.
- An Authority, namely, the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) Pollution (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Authority has been constituted by the Ministry for monitoring the implementation of various projects undertaken under Taj Protection Mission Scheme.

[English]

Classification of Agricultural Labours

5169. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural labours are classified as skilled and semi-skilled labours;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor indicating the definition of skilled semi-skilled and un-skilled labour;

(c) whether any study has ever been conducted/proposed to be conducted on the nature of work and skill of the agricultural labour;

(d) if not, whether the Government would soon conduct a study and survey of the skill, condition and nature of work of agricultural labour; and

(e) the number of agricultural labour State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) Under the Census, the skill levels of agricultural labourers have not been defined. However, the employees employed in agriculture have been categorised and defined among others as unskilled, semi skilled and skilled under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

As per the Act, 'unskilled work' means work which involves simple operations requiring little or no skill or experience on the job. "Semi-skilled" work means work which involves some degree of skill or competence acquired through experience on the job and which is capable of being performed under supervision or guidance of a skilled employee, and includes unskilled supervisory work. 'Skilled work' means work which involves skill or competence acquired through experience on the job or through training as an apprentice in a technical or vocational institute and performance of which calls for initiative and judgement. The exhaustive list of occupations in each category has been notified in the Official Gazette No. S.O. 1085 (E) dated 11.11.99.

(e) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	States/U.Ts.	No. of Landless Agricultural Labourers (As per 1991 Census)
1	2	3
1.	India (excluding J&K)	74,597,744
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11,625,159
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20,054
3.	Assam	844,964
4.	Bihar (including Jharkhand)	9,512,892
5.	Gujarat	3,230,547
6.	Haryana	896,782
7.	Himachal Pradesh	58,668
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	-
9.	Karnataka	4,999,959
10.	Kerala	2,120,452
11.	Madhya Pradesh (including Chattisgarh)	5,863,029
12.	Maharashtra	8,313,223
13.	Manipur	47,350
14.	Meghalaya	89,492
15.	Nagaland	7,233
16.	Orissa	2,976,750
17.	Punjab	1,452,828
18.	Rajasthan	1,391,670
19.	Sikkim	12,851
20.	Tamil Nadu	7,896,295

1	2	3
21.	Tripura	187,538
22.	Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal)	7,833,258
23.	West Bengal	5,055,478
24.	A & N Island	4,989
25.	Chandigarh	1,642
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6,233
27.	Delhi	25,195
28.	Goa	35,284
29.	Daman & Diu	1,199
30.	Lakshadweep	-
31.	Mizoram	9,527
32.	Pondicherry	77,203

Census of Wildlife

5170. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently conducted census of wildlife, including tigers, at Ranthambore National Park and Sariska Tiger Reserve;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps are being taken to maintain their strength?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Census for Tigers in Ranthambore and Sariska Tiger Reserves was due in 2001, but the same could not be done due to early rains. The census figures for both the reserves during 1995 and 1997 are as follows.

S.No.	Major Wildlife species	Ranthambore Tiger Reserve		Sariska Tiger Reserve	
		1995	1997	1995	1997
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Tiger	38	32	25	24
2.	Leopard	63	79	46	49
3.	Sambar	3419	2939	4800	5600

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Chital	4849	4496	2900	2900
5.	Nilgai	2648	1946	4300	4780
6.	Wild Boar	1825	1936	2600	2900

Studies and observation suggest that there is no declining trend in the population of wild animals including tigers in these reserves. The management and development works are being carried out regularly for the betterment of the parks.

Construction of By-Pass Road on NH-4

5171. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) takes into account people's needs while charting routes of its Highway project;

(b) if so, whether views of local representatives were disregarded while finalizing route for a by-pass in National Highway-4 in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure NHAI's decision is more balanced in National economic prospective in other projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal for a by-pass on National Highway-4 in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Manpower Data

5172. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether updated data about the various categories of scientific, technical and professional personnel are maintained by the Government;

(b) if so, the available manpower in the above categories as on date;

(c) the number of scientific, technical and professional personnel who have migrated from the country during each of the last three years; and

(d) the level of technical skill of these migrants?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

(a) and (b) Estimated stock of manpower in various categories were as follows:

(1)	Estimated stock of graduate in medicine, dentistry, agriculture and veterinary science at the beginning of 1999	6.6 lakhs
(2)	Estimated stock of post-graduate in Art, Science and Commerce at the beginning of 1999.	50.41 lakhs
(3)	Estimated stock of Engineers (Degree and Diploma holders) in working age group at the beginning of 2000.	22.64 lakhs
(4)	Estimated stock of nursing personnel at the beginning of 1999	5.10 lakhs

(c) and (d) Comprehensive data on emigration of Scientific, Technical and Professional personnel are not maintained since these categories of persons do not require emigration clearance.

• Source: Manpower Profile-India/Year Book-2002-published by Institute of Applied manpower Research, New Delhi.

Committee for Child Labour

5173. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to review the plight of child labour has submitted its report;

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

(c) the follow-up action taken on the report;

(d) whether the Committee have recommended that the areas where large number of child labour are working/ residing, be marked and priority should be given to their systemic development; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Free Telephone to Retired Employees

5174. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the free telephones have been provided to the retired employees of P and T department;

(b) if so, whether these telephones are also free from registration fees;

(c) the number of free calls allowed from these telephones; and

(d) the number of employees benefited thereby during the last three years and till date, stated-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Concessional telephones have been provided to the retired employees of Department of Telecom.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The free calls allowed from these telephones are as under:—

Category	Free bimonthly concession
Group A	1000 calls
Group B	500 calls
Group C	300 calls
Group D	200 calls

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

Reservation of Women in Public Sector Undertaking

5175. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide special reservation for women in public sector undertakings in view of increasing number of working women in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to provide compulsory efficiency training to workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration to provide reservation for women in Public Sector Undertakings.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Compulsory efficiency training is not feasible in a democratic set up and the process of opting for training and skill upgradation is a decision taken by individuals. However, there are limitations due to availability of infrastructure and costs of training.

[*English*]

Use of Polymer Modified Bitumen at Airports

5176. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that considerable economy can be achieved in the work of runways and taxi tracks by the use of polymer modified bitumen;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the use of this modern technique;

(c) whether the Government are aware about the findings of seven year field study carried out by CRRI; and

(d) if so, whether any work has been taken up by his Ministry with the use of SBS modified bitumen?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Tentative guidelines given in Indian Road Congress Specifications IRC: SP 53 1999, deal with the use of polymer and rubber modified bitumen in road construction. Suitability of the product for the Airfield works has not been established so far. Hence, no work has been taken up by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) with the use of SBS modified bitumen.

[Translation]

Policy on Exploitation of Minerals

5177. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any new policy for mineral exploitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the provisions made for getting a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(c) the details of scheme regarding mining of Iron Ore from Gua-Chiriyā and Kiriluru — Meghatuburu Iron Ore mines in Singhbhum (Jharkhand) region; and

(d) the details of efforts made for getting NOC from the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the mining of Mangnese, Bauxite, Granite, Kynite, Quarz, Copper and Gold Ore available in west Simone district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and

(b) The Government of India, Ministry of Mines had laid down the National Mineral Policy, 1993, which, *inter-alia*, had the objectives of developing mineral resources taking into account the national and strategic considerations to ensure their adequate supply and best use, keeping in view, the present needs and future requirements and to minimise adverse effects of mineral developments on the forest, environment and ecology through appropriate protective measures. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, lays down that no "non forest-activity" including mining can take place in forest areas. In case "forest areas" are required for mining purposes a detailed procedure for diversion of forest land has been laid down by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is administered by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(c) Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines, have reported that the mining plan/scheme of mining of Kirburu-Meghatuburu, Chiriyā-Manoharpur and Gua Iron ore mines have been approved by them. The potential of mining of iron ore in Kirburu, Meghatuburu and Gua is around 5 million tonnes per annum each, while the potential in Chiriyā-Manoharpur is around 550 thousand tonnes per annum.

(d) Under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and the Rules framed thereunder, the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoE&F) have prescribed a detailed procedure for diversion of forest land. As per this, individual applicants who apply for grant of mining lease need to obtain the No Objection Certificate (NOC) in individual cases from MoE&F. Hence, the Ministry of Mines is not enjoined to obtain any NOC in this regard.

Amount Spent on Beautification of Corporate Offices of MTNL

5178. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crores of rupees had been spent on the corporate offices of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the expenditure incurred during each of the last three years, year-wise and office-wise;

(c) whether the said amounts are being spent on the rented buildings; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to hold inquiry into the matter and issue guidelines to MTNL to check such extravagance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Corporate office of MTNL is located in Delhi only. No amount has been spent specifically on beautification. However, the Corporate Office in Delhi is existing in a rented building and the rent paid during each of the last three years is as follows:

1998-1999	Rs. 2,53,08,914.25
1999-2000	Rs. 2,88,43,005.54
2000-2001	Rs. 4,17,51,589.50

(d) The MTNL is empowered to take these decisions and holding of inquiry does not appear to be necessary. The standard guidelines for taking accommodation on rent are already existing.

[English]

Inclusion of Cities under National River Action Plan

5179. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various States have requested the Union Government to include some cities/towns of their respective State in National River Action Plan in the next Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the cities/towns recommended by them; State-wise

(c) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard along with the fund allocation, if any; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Various States have requested Government to include some additional cities/towns under National River Conservation Plan. The list of such towns is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) It has been decided to prioritise the works relating to additional cities/towns depending on the status of pollution levels generated therein and the availability of funds in the Tenth Plan.

Statement

Requests for inclusion of additional towns under National River Conservation Plan

S.No.	State	Town
1	2	3
1.	Karnataka	Mudhol Gokak Ramdurga Bailhongal Khanapur Saundatti Hubli Dharwar Bangalore Bidar Gulbarga Ajjalpur Bijapur T. Narasipur Sakaleshpur Holenarasipur Tumkur Dharmastala Dhandeli Gadag
2.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram Kochi Alappuzha
3.	U.P.	Bulandshahar Bulandshahar Meerut
4.	Maharashtra	Wai

1	2	3
		Kolhapur Nagpur Pandharpur
5. Bihar		Sonepur
6. Punjab		Amritsar
7. Andhra Pradesh		Hyderabad
8. Haryana		Kalka Pinjore Ambala Naraingarh Sadhaura Barara Pehowa Cheeka Guhla Shahbad Kaithal Kalayat Narwana Tohana Jakhai Ratia Fatehabad Sirsa Kania Ellenabad Panchkula Rohtak Jhajjar Bahadurgarh Hodal Hassanpur Kundli Bahalgarh Rai Khewra Murthal Samalkha Nilokheri Tarori Gannaur Jathlana

1	2	3
9. Himachal Pradesh		Manali Kulu Bhunter Manikaran Mandi Sundemagar Jogindamagar Sujanpur Nadaun Kangra Nurpur-Jassur Dehra
10. Orissa		Bhubneshwar Puri
11. Jammu & Kashmir		Srinagar Anantnag Sopore Baramulla

Training to Pilots for Safe Landing under Poor Visibility Conditions

5180. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pilots flying on domestic sector have been trained for safe landing of aircraft in poor visibility conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, sir. Special training is imparted to pilots for safe landing in Instrument Landing System-Category-II and Category-III weather conditions.

(b) So far, Air India, Indian Airlines and Jet Airways have trained 171, 129 and 32 pilots respectively to operate under Category-II conditions involving landing with minimum runway visual range of 400 meters.

(c) Does not arise.

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1163 DATED
30.7.2001 RE: TAKING OF 50 SEATER
AIRCRAFT ON LEASE BY INDIAN
AIRLINES**

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): In reply to Parts (a) and (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1163 answered on 30.7.2001 regarding taking of 50 seater aircraft on lease by Indian Airlines, it was stated:

"Alliance Air, a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines, have issued a global tender on 1st July, 2001 for dry lease-in of six ATR 42-500 aircraft."

2. On scrutiny later, it was found that there was an inadvertent error in the reply to the question regarding date of issuance of global tender of six ATR 42-500 aircraft. The date of issuance of global tender of ATR 42-500 aircraft given as 1st July, 2001 may kindly be read as 2nd July, 2001.

The error is deeply regretted.

The action has been taken immediately to lay the statement correcting the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1163 answered on 30.7.2001 as soon as the error has been noticed. However, it took some time to ascertain the correct facts and therefore the statement could not be laid in a week's time.

The delay in laying the statement is deeply regretted.

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1117 DATED
30.7.2001 RE: PURCHASING OF SMALL
AIRCRAFT FOR INDIAN AIRLINES**

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): In reply to Parts (a), (b) and (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1163 answered on 30.7.2001 regarding purchasing of Small Aircraft for Indian Airlines, it was stated:

"Alliance Air, a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines, have issued a global tender on 1st July, 2001 for dry lease-in of six ATR 42-500 aircraft."

2. On scrutiny later, it was found that there was an inadvertent error in the reply to the question regarding date of issuance of global tender of six ATR 42-500 aircraft. The date of issuance of global tender of ATR 42-500 aircraft given as 1st July, 2001 may kindly be read as 2nd July, 2001.

The error is deeply regretted.

The action has been taken immediately to lay the statement correcting the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1117 answered on 30.7.2001 as soon as the error has been noticed. However, it took some time to ascertain the correct facts and therefore the statement could not be laid in a week's time.

The delay in laying the statement is deeply regretted.

[English]

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 583(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2001 constituting an authority to be known as "Water Quality Assessment Authority" consisting of 12 members for a period of three years issued under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-4059/2001]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Commission of Railway Safety for the year 1999-2000 under section 10 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-4060/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—
 - (i) S.O. 650 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 2001 omitting National Highway Nos. 24A, 56A and 56B specified

against serial Number 59, 45A and 45AA of the Schedule and declaration of the above mentioned National Highways with new alignments.

- (ii) S.O. 651 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 2001 declaring three highways mentioned therein to be a National Highway.
- (iii) S.O. 688 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2001 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 387 (E) dated the 17th April, 2000.
- (iv) S.O. 693 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th July, 2001 regarding land acquisition for widening of National Highway No. 2 in the stretch (Panagarh Palsit-section) in the State of West Bengal.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-4061/2001]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 747(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2001 authorising Chief Engineer (National Highways), Public Works Department, Bhopal or his authorised representative to collect and retain fees on mechanical vehicles for the use of permanent bridge across Kshipra river on Dewas-Indore Section of National Highway No. 3 including 4 lane section of Dewas Section in Madhya Pradesh, issued under section 7 of the National Highway Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-4062/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Employees State Insurance (Central) (Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 210 (In English versions) and Notification No. G.S.R. 129 (in Hindi version) in Gazette of India dated the 7th April, 2001 under sub-section (4) of Section 95 of the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 together with a corrigendum thereto in Hindi version only published in Notification No. G.S.R. 389 dated the 21st July, 2001 correcting G.S.R. No. 129 as G.S.R. No. 210.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-4063/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (Salary, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of the Officers and Employees)

Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 575 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2001 under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-4064/2001]

[Translation]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Sixteenth Report and Minutes

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (Khunti): Sir I beg to present a copy of the Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT)—Examination of Orders Relating to Reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in services including Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

[English]

12.03 1/2 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE

Fourteenth Report

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (Nominated): Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Fourteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on 'the Cine Workers Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2000.'

12.04 hrs.

MOTION RE: TWENTY-SIXTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 24th August, 2001."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 24th August, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

12.04-1/2 hrs.

RE: REPORTED STATEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER ON AYODHYA ISSUE

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up Zero Hour. Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a quite serious issue...(Interruptions) this issue has been raised to achieve certain political ends. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: One by one please. Shri Jaipal Reddy.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, the Prime Minister made an extraordinary statement yesterday at Lucknow. We take strong objection to the statement on several grounds.

Firstly, he made the statement outside the House on an issue, which is both sensitive and explosive. It is unfortunate, the Prime Minister has made a habit, of late, to make such statements outside the House.

Secondly, the statement has the potential of communalising the situation in the country, more particularly, in UP, in view of the forthcoming polls.

Thirdly, the statement is highly objectionable because the statement is untrue and it is false. All the authentic pro-Babri Masjid Committees have denounced the

statement. It has not only been improper but has been a false statement.

I, therefore, suggest that the Prime Minister should come to the House....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad): What is the objection if some problem is being resolved...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. The hon. Minister is there and he can reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The Prime Minister should come to the House and clarify it. He should take the House into confidence...(Interruptions) The Prime Minister should tell us and take the House into confidence as to the organisations with which he conducted the talks. I am saying, Sir, with full sense of responsibility that the Prime Minister has spoken to none. He has made a misleading statement. Nobody is opposed to talks on Babri Masjid issue but there is no possibility of talks being successful. How can the Prime Minister express a false hope on the basis of a false premise?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what Shri Vajpayee has stated in Lucknow yesterday is a matter of serious concern. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has declared that it will start construction of the temple in Ayodhya from March 12. The Prime Minister has stated that negotiations are going on in this regard and several rounds of talks have been completed. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad functionaries have stated that they do not see any point in negotiations and they would start construction of temple on the scheduled date. The Babri Masjid Action Committee has stated that they are not involved in any kind of talks. This is a very serious issue. The BJP is well aware of its strength in U.P. ...(Interruptions) They are intentionally trying to engineer riots in U.P. and vitiate the atmosphere in the entire country. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Since the case is before the Court, you cannot discuss the merits of the case. This is also a sub judice matter.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Their alliance partners are quite annoyed on the issue of saffronization of education. Nobody is with them except the R.S.S. ...*(Interruptions)* A mosque was razed to the ground in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan...*(Interruptions)*. What is the cause of concern is that the views expressed by the V.H.P., Bajrang Dal and the R.S.S. should be deemed as those of the BJP because these outfits act at the behest of the BJP. When the session of Parliament was on then, he should have made this statement in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* The Prime Minister should reprimand these organisations because unless this Government declare that this issue could be resolved either through court's verdict or through dialogue and whosoever tries to vitiate the atmosphere will be dealt sternly or it will be deemed that the V.H.P. is expressing the views of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, two members of the opposition have spoken. One member from the ruling party should also be allowed to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is none of your business. This is not your business. This is too much.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)* We never get any opportunity from the chair to speak on any issue. ...*(Interruptions)*. We should also be allowed to express our views...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Katiyarji, I shall call you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Katiyarji, please sit down. You shall also be called.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with what Shri Jaipal Reddy has said. It is a very sensitive matter. Everybody knows about it. This is not a routine visit to look after the problems of his constituency. He makes a very

significant statement obviously related to the March date by which time the election in Uttar Pradesh is to be held. Obviously, it is intended to create some influence there.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are asking us to follow certain norms inside the House on how to conduct the business of the House and we should not cross the *Lakshman Rekha*.

But it seems that does not apply to the hon. Prime Minister. He makes important statements outside the House. He is the Leader of the House. He is the Prime Minister. When Parliament is sitting, statements on such important issues are being made outside the Parliament. He has been good enough to come to attend the House today although it is a Monday. Since he is here, I request him to make a statement on this, take the House into confidence and through this House tell the country what is the real position because this should not be treated as a mere routine matter or a mere matter of BJP and RSS. That is the most important thing. Therefore, he should make a statement on this issue.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are accused of demolition of Babri Mosque. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Vinay Katiyar.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, by raising the same issue by the opposition parties repeatedly...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Vinay Katiyar.

...(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister earlier, all members of opposition parties had said with one voice that to solve this problem...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Vinay Katiyar.

...(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You, please sit down.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that time also the discussion on this issue was held.
...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. What are you doing?

[*English*]

You are not allowing the other Member. What is this? You please take your seat. Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Vinay Katiyar.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this issue was discussed in the House, all from treasury benches to opposition had said with one voice that this should be solved through negotiations. Hon. Prime Minister is sitting here, he would like to say something.
...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, what are you doing? You are not allowing the other Member to speak. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You are not allowing the other Member. You are speaking without the permission of the Chair. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we understand that this is a sensitive issue. When the hon. Chandra Shekhar ji was Prime Minister, he is sitting there now, a process also started at that time, I don't know about it but I am sure that process of negotiations started that time. We all know it. This issue has been raised in the House from time to time. All the members have said with one voice ...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: We are not discussing the merits of the case. They have only raised whatever the hon. Prime Minister has mentioned yesterday.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. What are you doing? I called his name. Shri Rashid Alvi, you are a senior Member. I called his name. How can I ask him to sit down?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I called him. Shri Rashid Alvi, you are also a senior Member. Please understand I called his Name. How can I stop him?

[*Translation*]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever statement the Prime Minister has given in Lucknow is about the negotiation which is going on to find a solution to this problem through it and we welcome his statement and we hope.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Vinay Katiyar.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vinay Katiyar, please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: All parties should try to find out a solution to this problem through talks and all should cooperate in this matter. We had initiated talks on this issue previously and these talks were held in Lucknow. The workers of the Samajwadi Party often try to incite riots in the State in the name of the Ram Janam Bhoomi and the Babri Mosque and they are doing so today also...*(Interruptions)* Be it Kanpur, Azamgarh or elsewhere. The list of riots is very long. They have also realised now that they are not going to be benefited from these riots...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Sir, I am sorry since I am a bit late in arriving the House. I was busy in a N.D.A. meeting. I am happy to note that the hon. Members have evinced their interest on the Ayodhya issue. I would like that they should continue to do so and be helpful in solving this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Sir, we are not interested rather we are aggrieved...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not good.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was in Lucknow yesterday. A press conference was held there. Sir, if there is a provision that when the House is in session, one should not address the press, there should be no announcement of any sort, there should be no policy announcement, I am agreed to it and the House is also agreed to it. But if somebody asks me question about Ayodhya, should I say that the Parliament is in session, I, therefore, have kept my mouth shut. I cannot do so and this House would also not like me to do so.

The type of prohibition being imposed on us will also be imposed on you. The opposition cannot shy away from this responsibility. Yesterday I said something about the Ayodhya issue in response to a question asked to me. The question was what is my reaction to the ultimatum given by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad to resolve the Ayodhya tangle by March. I said that I want the Ayodhya issue to be resolved before March. The talks in this regard are on...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: With whom the talk is going on?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am just telling you as to what reply I gave there. It should not be in the public interest to divulge the details as to with whom the talks are being held...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I do not interrupt the hon. Prime Minister. How can the hon. Prime Minister hold discussions with anonymous groups? How can the House be kept in dark? How can that be in the national interest...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday several delegations met we which was comprised of representatives different seeks. I am ready to lay all the lists on the table of the House. However, if you all are interested in resolving the serious issue of Ayodhya, you will definitely appreciate the initiatives on the Government and would realise that it is not proper to make announcements about the talks in their midcourse. When we would be reaching to some definite conclusion we shall definitely apprise the House about the developments and at that stage we will welcome all your criticism.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The other Members have also given notices. I have called Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The back-benchers have also given notices.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have to call other Members also. I have called Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: His name is first in the list.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Would you call names exclusively from the list? ...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not given notice. ...(Interruptions) It is something very important to which I would like to draw attention...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak after him.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Dada Saheb Gaekwad, known as the right hand of Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Ambedkar and Karmveer Bhaurao Krishnarao Gaekwad was elected from a general seat in 1957 and was member of the Rajya Sabha also. he launched a Satyagrah for drinking water at Mahar alongwith Baba Saheb. In Nasik Satyagrah was launched for entry in Ram Temple. The Government of Maharashtra want to celebrate his centenary till 15th October. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to request the hon'ble Minister of Communication through you that he was an eminent person and very famous. Therefore, a commemorative postal stamp should be released before 15th October in his memory. This is my request.

[English]

12.22 hrs.

RE: AUTHENTICITY OF A DOCUMENT QUOTED DURING THE DEBATE ON DISINVESTMENT IN PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, with great humility, through you, I would like to inform the House that there was a late night debate on disinvestment the other day on 23rd August. What I spoke and what the Minister spoke is part of the proceedings. There is no question of denial from my side or the side of the Government. Sir, I did say in the debate that if my document was proved to be wrong, I was prepared to apologise and if it was proved to be correct, the Minister should apologise. I further said that you could refer it to CBI. Later I also said that I had just checked up the Practice and Procedure of Parliament and possibly, it was the property of the House, to be referred to the Speaker. I am not worried, I am not bothered about what

happens, but to discharge my parliamentary obligation in the House, I would submit that immediately after that debate, by outside utterances, the responsible Minister accused the distinguished Members, including me and others, as ass, as clown. These are the things. This is shocking not to me individually but to the very dignity of the House and the Members.

Sir, therefore, I strongly feel and plead before you. Mr. Speaker Sir, though I stand by my view, what I said in the House and I do not like to deviate from that, you are to decide in what manner it should be found out, but this is not the way to drag Members and their dignity outside in such a manner by the distinguished Minister, who possibly is a late entry into politics.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I regret that I was not present in the House on the day when Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi had made his submission and our friend Shri Arun Shourie had reacted on it. But there are few fundamental questions on which I feel it is necessary to draw the attention of the House as well as of yours. It will be for the first time that a matter related to the proceedings of the House is being referred to the CBI and that too by the hon'ble Minister. The proceedings of the House is property of the House and no Minister has a right to refer it to an external agency without the permission of the Chair.

Secondly, on the letter which has been written or is said to be written the word "secret" is mentioned on that. As per my knowledge no Minister now so important or popular he may be has the right to ask about the action of the Government on the confidential letter written by the Cabinet Secretary to the Principal Secretary. If the letter is confidential he will only say that he has not written the same. he cannot reply anything else. If the Cabinet Secretary has written the letter to the Principal Secretary or to the Prime Minister, no Minister has the right to question him directly about that letter. I am not aware about this new practice of the Government.

Another point is that if the Minister felt so bad about it and meanwhile Dasmunsi raised another issue that there is a FERA case against some particular industrialist, why when he kept mum? I would like to know if the permission to refer this case to the CBI was taken from you. Is it like a child's game that any Minister is free to refer any case to the CBI at his own will? What will be the sanctity of this House and the Chair of the Speaker? I want to know if the CBI Director can question the Cabinet Secretary. I am talking of the Director and not of

[Shri Chandra Shekhar]

an investigation officer. I think the director has no such right and even if he has that he would not like to exercise that right. Normally, such things should not take place in the House. I am saying this because I myself had this experience once. There was a Prime Minister and when a question was raised in this House he forthwith said that he was referring the case to the CBI. I said at that very moment that the act of the Prime Minister was childish. I said that I was not the one to give any statement before the CBI and I did not do so. The CBI officer returned. Later on he fabricated a statement and filed it. He didn't know that the said file would ever come to me. Wheel of Parliamentary democracy keeps on rotating and one day that file was put up to me to see my comments. It included the so called three-page statement of mine. I called the Cabinet Secretary and questioned him and some SHO or a 'daroga' or some Joint Secretary of the CBI had to reap the consequences.

I do not want to go into details of it. That matter was referred to the Committee on Privileges and Shri Somnath Chatterjee was its Chairman. If you think that this is a serious matter, send it to the Committee on Privileges. And the Committee will call the Hon. Minister, Dasmunsi and the Cabinet Secretary as well. I do not want to mention the names of the responsible officials of the Prime Minister's office who told me about it indirectly. And I again reiterate that they have said that this letter is genuine and there is nothing wrong on it. I also do not consider it wrong if the Cabinet Secretary has told that the letter is not written by him. The Cabinet Secretary cannot disclose a confidential letter to any minister or any other person but our friend the Disinvestment Minister the right to sell the property of the country and to level charges against anyone. He has said that the kind of letter is written that a Cabinet Secretary cannot write. I do not know English. I, therefore, speak in Hindi lest I make a mistake since more English knowing persons have started coming in the House but I do not know what sort of mistake is in that letter? A little knowledge of English which I have, I do not see any mistake in the letter. But if that has been misused by virtue of any sentence or a word to which he has objected, the similar word has been written by our Prime Minister addressed to a hon. Member. I do not know...(Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): So, do you read my letter too?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I am forced to read. I do not read anybody's letter but if forced to read, I have

to read that. Today, your hon. Minister is teaching us English but a person who does not know English has also a right to speak his mind be a minister, a member or a person of bureaucracy. I think that our several officers point out our mistakes if we commit any. But doing so does not tantamount to their mistake nor does it tantamount to contempt of any minister. But if it goes on like this, that is not good. Several times quotations are referred and it is said that this and that are his remarks about Committee. Quotations are also referred in the Committee reports in regard to documents of foreign capitalists. If I say to the Prime Minister that several quotations are referred in support of Government policies which are parts of the documents of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, should presume that this Government is a slave to them? It cannot be so. There is nothing wrong in quoting the English of a person well versed in English language and which aptly expresses my feelings. Such objections are raised.

Now there will be an objection on the word 'drama'. It is all drama. A member speaks something, the hon. Minister rises from his seat, he comes out and talks something to an officer. It seems that some drama is being enacted.

Could he not remain silent? It seems that Shri Dasmunsi has committed some major crime. Suppose that letter was a fake one...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): He has committed a crime.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I say that it was not a bigger crime than this.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I have committed no crime.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there can be bigger crime than the fact that an hon. Member violates the dignity of the House. His comments about an hon. Member of the House and about the Committees amount to committing a major crime. What he has said on TV is that not a crime simply because he is a Minister? Becoming a Minister does not mean becoming great. I have seen many Ministers come and go. I have

also been in some extent in contact with them. I do not see even the Prime Minister in that agitated state of mind as is seen in the hon. Minister of Disinvestment. The Prime Minister should tell him as to how he should behave and now politely he should speak.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, with your kind permission and Shri Chandra Shekharji's permission, may I speak in English? I would like to speak in Hindi but the House is so important that I do not want to practice my *tooti-phooti* Hindi here. I am ashamed of it; I am not proud of it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter is of extreme importance. Atalji, the Prime Minister, is fully acquainted, I am sure much more than I, with the traditions in the House. Should a Member be sort of indicated almost as having committed a crime and should the matter be referred to CBI forthwith for investigation into the conduct of that Member, that too his conduct inside the House? We have been zealously guarding our rights. That is why the Privilege Committee had been constituted, and now we have got the Ethics Committee also. I am sure nobody can compel our hon. friend here to reply to CBI on what he had said inside the House. He is answerable to you, Sir, and through you to the Members of the House. What sort of tradition are we going to set now?

On that evening itself I said to some of our friends in the Press that this was a matter which ought to be taken up in the Privileges Committee because it had happened inside the House. I am not going into the merits of this. My distinguished and hon. friend, Chandra Shekharji has personal experience of how things happen. You have found out how reporting is done. Therefore, I very sincerely request all the hon. Members here not to try to score debating points, or try to put some hon. Member in trouble by treating him as a criminal so that CBI, or some other investigating agency, should have to be set after a Member and he has to explain that he has not committed any crime. This is a very serious matter. It affects the traditions of the House. It interferes with the proper functioning of the Members of the House. I request you, Sir, to kindly direct the Government to see that this matter is not investigated into until at least the Privileges Committee, or you, take a decision on as to whether CBI has to go into it or not.

Sir, what is very serious is that the next day papers quoting CBI sources said that it is a forged document. What is the object of this? In which matter CBI has come to a decision within ten hours of taking up a case?

If at all there is something to report, it should have been reported to you first through the Minister. Now, an hon. Member has to say that the CBI is wrong and come in confrontation with the CBI! This is not the way to conduct ourselves in this House. Happily, the Prime Minister is here. I am sure he will understand and appreciate the feelings of the Members of the House. I do not know anything about the truth or otherwise of the matter. How can I, as an ordinary Member?

We have developed a system. We have got the rules. We have got the procedures. Let the conduct of a Member be decided here. So, I am requesting you, Sir, to kindly give the direction not to continue with that, and refer it to the Privileges Committee...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Chandrashekhar ji and Shri Somnath Chatterjee have raised a question. It is true that you settle all the matters relating to privilege of the House. You are the right person to decide them, but what is being said here is that the said letter was not authenticated while being produced here and at that time Shri P.R. Dasmunshi himself said here that there should be a CBI inquiring into that matter. Several other members spoke in unison that there should be a CBI inquiry into the case. Now he is trying to wriggle out. I myself watched Shri Dasmunshi on the TV yesterday saying that the said letter was genuine and that there was nothing wrong in it. The point is who will conduct the enquiry when there is no such letter in the House. The letter is not authenticated and it did not come to you. What will you sent to the privilege committee? He handed over the letter directly to the Minister. Is it then not proper for the Minister to find out whether the letter is fake or genuine? Should the matter not be investigated by the CBI or by some other agencies? He himself made a demand.

[English]

He should not have got up and said.

[Translation]

Let there be a CBI inquiry.

[English]

When he asked for a CBI inquiry and the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: That letter is a part of the proceedings. You are misleading the House. I quoted the full letter. I read out that letter...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Whenever any paper is laid on the table of the House at that time it is asked from the chair whether the same is being authenticated or not. Shri P.R. Dasmunsiji said that he was not authenticating. Earlier he said that he was authenticating but later on he withdrew.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I have not withdrawn. You are again misleading the House. I said that 'I am prepared to authenticate. Let me quote it.' Then I quoted it. Thereafter when the Minister came to me...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): When he asked you to authenticate it, you said that you authenticate it...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I said, "I am prepared to authenticate it.".....(Interruptions) Nobody asked me to authenticate - neither from their side nor from the chair. I quoted it and I said, "I am quoting the whole thing." The Minister came to my seat, took the copy and gave it to the officer sitting in the official gallery...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: If there is no such letter then what is being asked by you to be looked into by the hon'ble Minister.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Chandra Shekhar ji, you can make fun of me. You have every right to do so, you can laugh at me and ask others to do. I respect you a lot, but there is a letter he himself has given this letter to the hon'ble Minister and has said that this is the letter and the Minister has found the letter a forged one then who else would enquire into it? When it is not an issue of the House, Congressmen are appearing on TV and claiming this letter to be genuine. If a letter by a Cabinet Secretary written to the Principal Private Secretary of the Prime Minister is a forged one and it is being given to the Minister in the House and it is being mentioned on TV then who would hold the enquiry and why are you afraid of the enquiry...(Interruptions)

Why should they go against it?...(Interruptions) Why should they wriggle out of it? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What I did was under my rights...(Interruptions) What I believed to be genuine I produced ...(Interruptions) You cannot say like this?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a question of dignity of the House. ...(Interruptions) It amounts to breach of privilege...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You should not disturb the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You are disturbing the House.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. Whether he is in favour of disinvestment or against it, it is his prerogative. You can say thousand things against it but a forged letter of Cabinet Secretary is written to the Principal Secretary of the Prime Minister and thereafter it is placed before the House and whole nation is told and the same is justified on TV then who will hold the enquiry, which body will look into the matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The House will conduct an enquiry.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You have not placed it, you have not given here...(Interruptions) Tomorrow if I say anything...(Interruptions) Today you are saying this. Chandrashekharji is also saying this. The hon'ble Member himself has asked for a CBI enquiry.

* Not recorded.

[English]

He has asked for it and it is on the records.

[Translation]

You people many hon'ble Members have demanded an enquiry into it. People from CPM were also in favour of a CBI enquiry.

[English]

If he has said like that, then why should we wriggle it out now?

[Translation]

Instead of expressing their regret or shame that something wrong has been Committed the congress party is justifying it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Today we have a very lengthy business. Shri Shivraj Patil.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today we have a very lengthy legislative business. Please understand that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Shivraj Patil says. Shri Shivraj Patil Ji, please be very very brief.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, this is a very important matter and I am thankful to you for giving me the floor. I will seek your indulgence for making a little more lengthy statement because the matter is important. I would like to submit that I am a member of the Privileges Committee and if this matter is referred to the Privileges Committee, I will not work in the Privileges Committee and I will withdraw from it.

What has actually happened? The hon. Member comes to this House and he submits three documents. One of the documents was objected to. It is said that that document was a forged one. Then the Member got up and said that he had received the documents and

that he had given the documents to the House. he further said that if it was proved that any of those documents or the document which was alleged to be a forged document is actually forged, then he would withdraw his allegation, withdraw his complaint and apologise. Is there any intention to mislead the House?...*(Interruptions)* There is no intention to mislead the House. On the contrary, before the decision is given, the Member offered to apologise. What has actually happened? The Minister got up and said that that kind of forged document was being submitted and let those who are reporting on this matter, take this matter also into account. He was appealing to the members of the Media to highlight that. Then he went outside the Parliament and spoke to the Media. He used intemperate language and I am not repeating the words which he used. He used intemperate language against his own colleagues in this House.

Sir, we were discussing the issue of disinvestment and while discussing the issue of disinvestment, if a member was taking a strong stand, the Minister said that he would refer that issue to the CBI. He cannot do it. If the matter is presented to this House, if it has become a matter of record, if the entire letter is read out and if it is allowed to be a part of the record, then it is for the hon. Speaker and the House to decide as to what is to be done.

Here under Article 105, a Member is given the privilege to make his statement or quote in any manner he likes. But as a member of the Executive, he was trying to terrify the hon. Member by saying that that matter would be referred to the CBI; the CBI would investigate into it; the CBI would question him and so, he should be careful in making the statement. Is this not like committing a breach of privilege of the Members to speak freely and without fear on the floor of the House? This is the biggest issue. I am making a very humble submission.

...(Interruptions)

Sir, this matter is pertinent not only to the Member sitting on this side of the House, but this is a matter pertinent to all the hon. Members sitting in the House. This matter should be decided either by the Presiding Officer or by the Committee or by the entire House as such. If this is done, the Members would find it very difficult; there may be strong Members who will not care for anything; but there will be weak Members who would not like to get themselves into trouble and would not like to submit themselves to the investigation or inquiry by the CBI or the police officer. In this fashion, their right to make statements on the floor of the House without fear or favour will be breached.

* Not recorded.

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

That is why I am making a very humble suggestion that this matter should be properly looked into in order to see that this House discharges its Parliamentary duty in a proper fashion.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Speaker, Sir hon'ble Member Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi himself has asked for a CBI enquiry...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are making an effort to sort out the issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had made a very humble submission that whether the Members of this House want that all the letters reaching us should be placed before the House or given to the Newspapers?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have sent many letters to you and I have told you also the purpose of these letters. I have never given these to any newspaper keeping in view the dignity of country, Parliament and the Government. It is said that we are being afraid of the CBI. How that been so then I would have sent these papers to the House prior to sending them to the hon'ble Mr. Speaker and the President.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know as to why every one is afraid of these people, everyone is afraid of CBI, everyone is afraid of the Government. What they really want to make this country? If such type of language is used then we will tell them that we are not at all coward.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this inquiry is not against an individual.

[English]

The inquiry is only to find out the genuineness of the letter. It is not against an individual...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Who is he to answer it? Let the Government answer it...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this letter written by Cabinet Secretary is forged one or not, is a very important matter, but when it has been raised in the House, hon. Speaker will have to take an initiative to intervene in this matter particularly in regard to giving his final decision. It is really a matter of concern that Cabinet Minister is directly sending a letter to C.B.I. We will have to ponder over it seriously. Bahujan Samaj Party is of the opinion that this matter should be sent to Privilege Committee and let the Privilege Committee decide, who will look into it. In my opinion it would be better. If every Cabinet Minister handover the case to C.B.I. directly in such a way. I think it would not be a right practice and this would neither lower the dignity of the House. My request to you is that you please intervene in this matter and give your decision so that this matter could be settled.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, when a matter is discussed in the Parliament, naturally the Members have the right to evaluate the matter according to their wisdom and sense. While going this we may receive any letter or document, and naturally we will do our level best but the Members do not have much facility to reach at any conclusion even after examining it thoroughly. After completing this enquiry the Member may quote that letter/document in the House or lay it on the Table of House only after authenticating it. Although, I think that quoting and laying anything on the Table after authenticating it is one of the same thing because if you have read the text of the letter, you will get to know it.

[English]

It is as good as authenticated because you believe in it.

[Translation]

But when this letter is discussed and found wrong and if we too understand that it was wrong, then it should be examined by a Committee, Privilege Committee of the House or by Speaker or any other such Committee. There is no need to get it examined by an out sick agency as this may be a parliamentary document or speech delivered inside the Parliament. So far as the yesterday's incident in the Parliament is concerned. I would just say that if the House is of the opinion that it is a controversial letter. But Shri Priya Ranjanji still holds the same view

that it is not a forged letter, whereas the Government's view is just opposite to it and this is how the said letter becomes controversial. So it is naturally a controversial letter, therefore it should be referred to the Privileges Committee as that letter has become a property of the House. I don't want to indulge in any controversy as I was not there for the full time. So far as C.B.I. is concerned, Shri Chandrashekharji has already said in clear words that CBI should not be used as a toy. The demand for this toy has always been made in or outside the House. Every Member wants to play with it. Whenever he feels it suitable he asks for the CBI inquiry. Very few people have the right to refer their matter to it, but the demand for this toy can come from several segments. This situation has come up as the demand for referring it to CBI is being raised by every one. Now it is for the hon. Speaker to take a decision in this regard and whatever decision may be taken, the Government is bound to it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: After a long period you spoke the truth.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Dada you say it daily, I say occasionally.

[*English*]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, the hon. Speaker has the right to refer the matter to the Privileges Committee without consulting any authority or even the House. The hon. Speaker can take a decision. the hon. Speaker is competent enough to refer the matter to the Privilege Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I will have a meeting in my chamber, then I will decide the matter.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a matter regarding crop insurance. All the farmers in Maharashtra particularly in Marathwada are victim of drought and for the last two years. They are facing famine like situation there continuously for the the last two to three years. When farmer's crop is damaged they are provided Crop insurance by the Union Government. But crop insurance is not being distributed properly. Small farmers and artisans are not getting this crop insurance properly. When crop insurance is distributed by the State Government, all the corporative banks of the State Government do not give full amount to the farmers and the crop insurance

given to them is insufficient. It is required to be increased and Government should make arrangement to ensure that amount of crop insurance should be given to farmers directly. When farmers crop is destroyed when farmers are passing through the difficult phase of their life, when he has nothing, when farmers are facing drought and famine situation, then I urge upon the Government through you that Union Government should implement this crop insurance policy in proper way and all the amount should go to the farmers directly. I conclude by requesting to this much.

12.56 hrs.

[*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair*]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Himachal Pradesh is a hilly, backward and frontier State. Employment opportunities within the State are less, only few industries are there and as a result thereof youths of the State feel pride in joining our armed forces so as to serve the country but the Government decided few days ago that recruitment in the army will be made on the basis of the population and this has affected Himachal Pradesh badly. History itself is witness to the fact that whenever we fought wars in the past, youths of Himachal Pradesh contributed a lot in these wars. In the Kargil also more than 52 youth of Himachal Pradesh lost their lives and has thus registered their names in the list of martyr's who fought for the country.

I would also like to mention the fact that youth of this State top in the tally of 'Chakra' recipients in wars. In Himachal Pradesh soldiers have received four Param Vir Chakra, one Ashok Chakra, 15 Mahavir Chakras, 14 Kirti Chakras and 67 Vir Chakras. The decision of the Government to have representation in the army in proportion to population has hurt the feelings of the youths of Himachal Pradesh who feel proud in rendering their services in the army. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Minister of Defence to give second thought to this decision so that maximum number of youth can be recruited in the army.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I wish to draw your attention to the article published in the Washington Post.

[*English*]

"China flexes muscles at ethnic separatists."

[Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav]

[Translation]

This news is linked to the Muslim dominated State of Xenyang in China. For some years, China has been justifying the atrocities being committed by terrorists in order to bring to an end the freedom of religion in this region. Visit of Muslim students to mosques has been banned in China. China administration in "karghar" has seized tea kettles (Badna) from Muslim students in university for the kettle was used for 'vazu' before Namaj. Infact, China has seriously hurt religious sentiments and human rights of Muslims. Despite such an incident, Pakistan is busy developing friendship with China. Former Member of Parliament Shri J. K. Jain has written to the Prime Minister that this is a serious matter and India should interfere in this. Interference should be for the reason that on the one hand China is committing atrocities on muslims and on the other Pakistan is making friendship with China and posing in the world community to be faithful to the muslims in the Kashmir context. Atrocities committed on muslims in China have no similar example in the world. Would the Government of India expose the dual face of Pakistan - one for India and the other for China? Pakistan wants to destroy the secular image of India among muslims, sikhs or Christians of India by speeding rumours.

13.00 hrs.

Is the Government of India capable of exposing Pakistan's dual policy and will the Prime Minister reply this issue? Will the Government of India provide scientific education through Madarsas on the lines Pakistan is talking of, so that great persons like APJ Abul Kalam are made. Besides, where madarsas are alleged to be ISI camps imparting Jehadi education this too will be stopped. If the Government of India is serious on the issue, it should introduce technical education in Madarsas. This way, allegations on madarsas of being ISI camps or imparting jehadi education shall automatically come to an end. At the same time, the Government of India should seriously think to expose the dual face of Pakistan. Pakistan should behave itself, on one hand it is showing its pseudo love to muslim and on the other, it is a mute spectator of atrocities being committed on muslims in China. This is one of the most serious issues and the Government too should give a reply after seriously thinking over it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister and this House to the problems faced by LIC agents all over this country. These agents are the backbone of LIC and through them only crores of rupees are being mobilised by LIC in its various policies. The Club Rule enacted in 1972 had brought dignity and professionalism into the cadre. But the Club Rule, 2001, an amendment to the original rule made as a part of IRDA, goes totally against the interests of the LIC agents. It is learnt that the lapsation clause in the new Club Rule makes the agents lose their membership if there is a lapse of more than 15% of policies. This is unjustified.

Hence I urge upon the Minister of withdraw the Club Rule 2001 and to protect the interests of the LIC agents.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am raising a very important issue of national importance. India has got a coastal area of 7,560 kilometres. Almost all the States, like Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa etc., and some Islands like yours, have coastal areas. ...(Interruptions) I am on my legs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pappu Yadav, you have already made your point.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pappu Yadav, please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS: If he continues like this, how can anybody speak? How can he interrupt other Members like this?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Govindan, you had your say. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

** English translation of the speech Originally delivered in Malayalam.

SHRI A.C. JOS: The Ministry of Environment and Forests, by a Notification issued on 19.2.1991, enforced severe restrictions on land use in the coastal areas regulation zone along with the entire coastal line as well as the estuaries and backwaters. These restrictions have severely affected the economic development of the country, especially that of the coastal areas. The coastal area as also the demography of each State is different from the other in this country.

Sir, you know, that Kerala is a very densely-populated area. Tamil Nadu has also got enough coastal area. Andhra Pradesh has got a lot of fishing areas along the coastal line. The point is that the Notification is uniformly applicable to everybody with the result that all the activities in the coastal area of this country have come to a grinding halt. Finally, the Government appointed a Committee. The Committee reported something. But the Committee has not taken any opinion from experts or anything. That report is also not properly looked into. Many State Governments have conveyed their reservations about the report of that Committee and about all these things. But this Government is not at all moving. The erstwhile Minister, Shri Suresh Prabhu, called a meeting of all the Members of Parliament of the coastal areas. He discussed it. But he was shifted to some other Ministry. So, I would request the present hon. Minister of Environment and Forests to call a meeting of the Ministers of the State concerned, where coastal area is there, to discuss it and take a final decision about it. *...(Interruptions)* The hon. Deputy Speaker also should be invited to attend the meeting. A final decision has to be taken...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, we all support it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may associate with it.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, religious places like temples and gurdwaras etc. in Delhi are being served notices by DDA advising them to demolish on their own otherwise these will be demolished by the DDA. This has caused panic among these religious places as well as the public...*(Interruptions)* This is a kind of filthy notice. These religious places exist for 50 or 100 years and public of Delhi is panicky about it. Through you, Sir, I urge upon the Government to withdraw this notice so that a message is sent to the public that this Government cares for all religious places and these will be safeguarded.

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh): I want to draw the personal attention of the hon. Prime Minister to an important issue concerning the people of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. After continuous demand from the people, the then Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Devegowda laid the foundation stone of a bridge over the river Brahmaputra at Bogbeel in 1996. During the last five years, not a single brick was laid at the work site. The Government had announced in the special package that they would be providing Rs. 1000 crore for the bridge. The construction work was given to the Railways. But no work has started as yet. Again, another movement is starting in that region of the country.

When they have promised it, when the hon. Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the bridge, they have to start the construction of that bridge. This is a great insult to the people of the North Eastern region.

Sir, through you, I urge upon the Government that they should not play with the people of the North-Eastern region like this. When they have decided, they should start the work. That work should not take more than five years. It is already more than five years since the foundation stone was laid. Nothing is going on there.

So, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to personally look into this and take appropriate steps in this regard. Thank you.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I rise to raise a very important issue concerning my State. Day before yesterday, a mild tremor was experienced in two districts of Kerala — Trichur and Palakkad. The people are fearing that an earthquake may erupt. Some property was also lost.

It was only of a mild nature. But we have to take into consideration certain factors. Recently, we had multi-coloured rains during the rainy season. Where there is no water, tube wells are getting dried up. People see that water in tube wells is getting bubbled. All these circumstances have created panic among the people of those districts. Geologists have also gone there and they are studying the situation. Nobody is sure as to what would happen in the immediate future. We have come across tragedies in Gujarat and other States.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please mention in short.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: In that context, I would request the Union Government to send an expert team to assess the situation and advise the people to take necessary precautions to prevent further loss of life and property. This is a very important issue. It is of no use if the Government sends a team after the tragedy has struck. We should take immediate precautionary steps if there is any imminent threat in Kerala.

I, once again, request the Central Government to take immediate steps by sending an expert team to assess the situation.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are incidents of human rights' violation in Uttar Pradesh. These atrocities are more than those during the British raj. Recently, just four days back, a meeting was going on quite peacefully at Bagpat, it was a public panchayat, police was already prepared and opened fire on the farmers. Woman president of District Panchayat, who is from our party, was a victim of firing and four persons were killed. Hundreds were arrested who have been lodged in the jails. Injured are not being given medicines. They are being tortured. In Machhlishahar, the defaulter farmers were tortured to death for a petty amount of Rs. 2000/-. I want to say that this is being done at the behest of the Minister who is losing ground in U.P. this incident is more atrocious than that of Jalianwala Bagh. Bharatiya Janata Party is assassinating the democracy in U.P. There are serious atrocities. We want your protection and wish to say through you, Sir, that farmers are completely disturbed. The capitalist regime is bent upon to destroy them. I demand the dismissal of U.P. Government and in Bagpat. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot raise two issues simultaneously.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH: The incident should be enquired into and the guilty officers should be punished.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some time back when some muslim women in Jammu and Kashmir were going on streets, some miscreants threw acid on them. This was the handiwork of muslim terrorist outfits be it Lashkar-e-toiba or jabbar. They have given threats that no muslim woman can go

out without a veil in J&K and men shall have to grow heard and wear salwar kameez. This is similar to the taliban dictate in Afghanistan directing Hindus to tie a yellow piece of cloth and muslim women cannot do jobs, they will have to wear a veil, it is similar to that. The whole House should censure this unanimously what muslim terrorist outfits are doing in J&K. Muslism and followers of other religions are scared in J&K. They have developed hatred against terrorists. This way, people are compelled to obey this dress-code of wearing burqa. They are being threatened. The Government should take immediate action in this regard. All the organisations in J&K, whether these are hindu or muslim organisations, should collectively censure this...*(Interruptions)* I hope, all of you will stand up to support this...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR (Thiruvananthapuram): Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter regarding the construction of new international terminal at Trivandrum Airport.

It has been decided to construct a new international terminal with international standard at Chakkai, Thiruvananthapuram - in my constituency - with an area of 20,000 sq. ft. for the development of Thiruvananthapuram International Airport. This proposal, in fact, was mooted by the Airport Authority of India in the context of severe space constraints at the existing terminal building and to meet future traffic requirements.

The foundation stone for the project was laid by the hon. Minister at Thiruvananthapuram as early as July, 2000, but the project for the construction of the new terminal has been pending with the Ministry for clearance for the past five years. So, I would request the Government to issue immediate directions for the clearance of this project.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, I would like to say that the Chhattisgarh State Highway should be declared as National Highway. Here transportation facilities are totally blocked. There are holes on the roads. With the creation of new State of Chhattisgarh more transport facilities are needed. But due to bad condition of the roads general public are not able to reach their

* Not recorded.

destinations on time and with the result of their work suffers. They are not able to dispose of their work in time. State Government are unable to make the roads. Therefore there is an urgent need to declare highway between Bilaspur district and capital Raipur as National highway.

Hence, the following roads should be declared as National highway : Bilaspur-Mungeli Pandaria Road, Mungeli to Lormi, Bilaspur Kota Kewach, Pendra Marwahi (Amarkantak) Road, Mungeli to capital Raipur road.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me this opportunity. After having days of adjournment and interruptions, only today I got an opportunity to raise an important matter pertaining to my constituency.

Sir, Calicut Airport is now the hub of flight operating to Gulf countries. There are about 28 weekly flights of Indian Airlines and Air India to Gulf countries like United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman etc., from Calicut but the number of flights is quite insufficient. When there are large number of passengers, Indian Airlines and Air India are not in a position to lift these people to their destinations. There is weekly only one flight operating between Calicut and Jeddah and it is quite insufficient. As a result of this, people are now somehow reaching Mumbai and going by other international airlines from there. So, it is high time for the Government of India to open Calicut Airport for the operation of foreign airlines. Why is the Government shying about getting foreign airlines into our country? Either the Government of India has to make sufficient arrangements for Indian Airlines and Air India to lift these passengers and help them or if Indian Airlines and Air India cannot provide sufficient number of aircraft, then the Government must allow other international airlines to operate from Calicut.

Calicut Airport, after having runway of 9,000 feet, is now fit for operation of even bigger aircraft, but the Government is very much shy in allowing foreign airlines to operate from there. Are we not for helping our people reach their destinations speedily? But the Government is not doing anything in this matter. It is really disgraceful for the Government of India. I would also like to mention here that many people from my area are not able to join duty in time due to non-availability of aircraft when they want to fly to Gulf countries.

Sir, the Finance Minister is sitting here. He is tomorrowing that the Government is going in for reforms. What sort of reform is he talking about when the Government is not even allowing international airlines to operate from Calicut Airport?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed, your time is over. Please conclude.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, Haj is fast approaching and Calicut has been declared as a Haj Embarkation Centre now. So, unless the Government makes arrangements for operating sufficient number of flights of Indian Airlines and Air India to lift the Hajis, I warn the Government that it is going to be a very big problem for the Government. Therefore, it is high time for the Government to act and allow other international flights to operate from Calicut.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue concerning Tamil Nadu. The Integral Coach Factory set up at Perambur in Tamil Nadu is one among the 'Temples of Modern India' to ensure industrial growth and provide job opportunities.

The ICF attained a capacity to produce 1,500 coaches per year. The Kapurthala unit of the ICF was set up in 1992. It is being patronised by the Railways. But the ICF, Chennai gets a step-motherly treatment. As a result of this, many of the production activities have been reduced. A number of posts have now been surrendered. Technical excellence and skilled labour force are being wasted.

The way in which ICF, Chennai has been made sick, this Government may sell off this unit to the private sector.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to revive the ICF, Chennai. The metre-gauge lines in South India have been converted into broad-gauge. Considering the future demands of broad-gauge coaches, the ICF, Chennai— with better skilled technical labour force — must be given a boost.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you know in the event of any cyclone or natural calamity. Women are the sufferer, whether they belong to dalit community or middle class

[Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma]

or backward class, ultimately they have to bear the agony of rape and other atrocities. Because in such a price rise situation. Women of these classes are compelled to choose several other ways unwillingly to earn their livelihood. Therefore, to ensure that Dalit, middle and backward class women could live a respectable life the Government of India should formulate a special package for them, so that these women are provided proper help through NGOs and Government of India and they could live with full respect. Today most of the atrocities which are in Bihar are generally against children and women. Women are unsafe there. Hence I request the Government through you that they should be provided employment for a respectful living and by constituting committees, we should help them and protect their interest.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House that in spite of massive deployment of Army, the insurgent activities in the Kashmir Valley are continuing unabated. Despite the commendable performance by our security forces, the militants can still strike at their own will.

Now, the Taliban elements are going to enforce their own code of conduct. Exchange of fire has been reported from Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch and Baramula sectors. Sensing the situation as convenient, the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir has already raked up the autonomy issue. The State Autonomy Committee has recommended that the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, as adopted by the Jammu and Kashmir State Constituent Assembly, be restored. The Assembly has passed a resolution thereby adopting all the recommendations made by the Jammu and Kashmir State Autonomy Committee.

May I ask the Government whether the State of Jammu and Kashmir would be reverted to pre-1953 status because the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir had already claimed that the NDA Government was contemplating over the autonomy issue seriously and sincerely.

I would like to know whether the *Sadr-e-Riyasat* would be restored in the Jammu and Kashmir Valley or not.

This Government is still keeping us in the dark. Therefore, I would like to know from this Government

about the present situation in Kashmir as far as autonomy is concerned. Is the Government contemplating over this issue as has been claimed by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir?

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to raise a very important question and there is no way out except Central Government interference. It was already decided that after the bifurcation of Madhya Pradesh the officials are likely to be divided between Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. State Government have decided and formulated rules but due to non-compliance of these rules the Central Government had constituted Lahani Committee. As per the decision of Lahani Committee the officials of State Legislative Assembly and High Court should not be touched as in their case decision of the Central Government will prevail. Widows have been sent to Chhattisgarh State. In some cases one of the spouse was sent to Chhattisgarh and other to Madhya Pradesh. The important thing is that the future of officials of High Court and State Legislative Assembly is to be decided by Central Government. Now a statement has come up from Chhattisgarh State that the employees of Narmada valley does not fall under their jurisdiction. Thus husbands-wife have been divided after such statements and widows have been sent to Chhattisgarh. The Government of Chhattisgarh says that the criterion laid down by the Union Government is not at all followed by the Madhya Pradesh Government, therefore they are not ready to accept the decisions of Lahani Committee. The interests of such employees are not secured even after the expiry of seven months. The Union Government must interfere into this matter.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a commission was set up even before the partition of Bihar and Jharkhand keeping in view the industrial backwardness of that area. Mr. J.J. Irani, a well known expert of the industrial sector was the Chairman of this Commission. Other experts and higher officials were the members of the same. This Committee has submitted its report. It has been emphasised in the report that there is a large possibility to extend tourism in Bihar. Approximately 3 lakhs 71 thousand persons can be employed there. The Government of India should examine the report of the Commission submitted to the Government and extend full support to them. Tourism Finance Corporation of India should examine it and extend their help. The pilgrimage places related to the Lord

Budha and Lord Mahavir should be developed and all sort of help should be given in the regard to bring it on the international map. The Union Government should provide full support to the State Government for the implementation of the report of said commission.

[*English*]

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (Karur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to raise an important matter regarding recent starvation deaths in Orissa.

Sir, after these starvation deaths, the Government of India has not taken any steps so far to prevent more starvation deaths. So, the Government of India was reminded by the Supreme Court that food is a Fundamental Right and that the Government should be prepared to give it free to the people, if they need it. But the Government of India, the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues seem to be totally unconcerned about it.

Yesterday, I did read a news item in the newspaper that the hon. Minister of Food, Shri Shanta Kumar, has stated that it is the responsibility of the State Government. I want to know from the Government whose responsibility is this; whether it is the responsibility of the State Government or the Central Government.

Sir, this is a serious issue. Even after 54 years of Independence, we see such happenings of starvation deaths in the country. It is regrettable and condemnable. I want an explanation from the Government of India.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, AIIMS is one of the most important and best medical institutions in the country. But strike, demonstration etc. are going on there from last one week. Thousands of patients go there for the treatment but the doctors as well as employees are on strike, therefore is no one to look after the patients...

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, an ex-Member of Parliament also died there during this period.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of my friend told me just now.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want the Central Government to do? This matter has already been taken up earlier.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the ex-Member of Parliament died. Our hon'ble Health Minister is the Chairman of AIIMS. I urge upon the Government to call these people and talk to them and the problems should be solved at the earliest. Recently employees have beaten the director. As far as the question of discipline is concerned, suspension orders of the employees were withdrawn by the Chairman/hon'ble Minister, but the junior doctors are being harassed and the Government is not taking note of it. I request the Government that the hon'ble Health Minister may held a meeting with them and try to solve this problem.

[*English*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House — this is the last week of the Session — that the BJP Government, in the last three years, is clandestinely and sometimes openly trying to change the basic content of our foreign policy. You know, Sir, our foreign policy originated from our anti-imperialist freedom struggle and we had developed the Non-aligned Movement in that way. When the BJP Government came, one after another they are trying to tilt towards the US. We are ashamed that this Government is supporting the National Missile Defence Scheme of the Bush Government. This will create a danger of huge star war for the whole world. The US Chief of Staff, Mr. Shelton visited recently and we are going to join the Joint Military Training Programme. They will enter into our Armed Forces and they will try to influence us. Now, they are trying to dominate the whole world in this unipolar world. Our independent foreign policy is being destroyed by this Government and they are trying to take the country at the foot of the Bush Government of America.

Sir, I demand that our independent foreign policy should be revived, non-aligned policy should be revived, anti-imperialist foreign policy should be revived, and there should be a full-fledged discussion in this House on this subject before the end of this Session so that original and basic tenet of our foreign policy could be revived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at Four Minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Matters under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(i) Need to tackle Naxalite problem in Jharkhand State

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT (Lohardaga): Sir, the people of Jharkhand are frightened due to the increasing activities of Naxalities and their lives have been disturbed. Jharkhand is already a backward State and extremism have affected its development works adversely. The World Bank has implemented many schemes here for the development of this area. All these schemes have been paralysed due to extremism and naxalism. On one hand people of this area are unable to live with peace and happiness and on the other hand the Government are unable to run its schemes properly due to the said reasons.

I request through the House that the Government of Jharkhand should be provided none additional security forces and the police should be equipped with modern and advance weapons and a movement should be initiated against the extremism and naxalitim for which the Union Government of Jharkhand may coordinate with each other.

(ii) Need to Review Decision to Import Garlic

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Sir, a large quantity of garlic is produced in various districts of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Ujjain, Ratlaam, Mandsaur and Neemuch district of Madhya Pradesh also produce large quantity of garlic and several units have been set up here which prepare garlic power used for medicinal purpose as well as domestic purpose. Earlier garlic was exported from these areas. But this year a huge quantity of garlic is being imported from China due to which farmers are not getting remunerative price of their produce and they are suffering heavy losses.

At present farmers of Neemuch and Mandsaur of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are worried due to this huge import of garlic and suffering loss as their produce is not being purchased. It has also affected the export adversely.

I therefore, urge upon the Government to review its decision to import garlic in order to protect the interests of lakhs of garlic producers and remove the discontentment prevailing among them.

(iii) Need to Construct a Bye-Pass at Rewa, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): Rewa is a Commissionary Headquarter and there are various educational institutions. National Highway No. 7 passes through this busy and densely populated area due to which there are frequent traffic jams and many students as well as common citizens fall prey to accidents.

The hon. Minister of Surface Transport is, therefore, requested to get a bye-pass constructed at Rewa at the earliest. This will save the time taken by vehicles passing through this highway and provide safety to citizens from accidents.

[English]

(iv) Need to render assistance to Government of Assam for providing relief to the people affected by floods there

SHRI ABDUL HAMID (Dhubri): Both flood and erosion have become the chronological challenge to the people of lower Assam particularly the Goalpara and Dhubri districts which fall in my constituency. The entire South Bank of Dhubri and Goalpara become victim of unabated erosion by the mighty river Brahmaputra. Even after the 54 years of Independence, it brings nothing but multiple miseries to people of these two districts. The entire socio-economic position becomes jeopardised. Hundreds of people become homeless and landless. It has created enormous economic problems in the State. The State Government is completely unable to cope with the situation.

I urge the Central Government to come forward with a helping hand and adequate financial assistance to prepare a technically sound "Action Plan" for permanent protection from *Chunari to Fakirganj* during the current financial year. Otherwise it will create further havoc for the remaining areas of this locality.

(v) Need for all-round development of North Bengal

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I draw the attention of the Union Government to the extreme economic imbalances of North Bengal within the State of West Bengal and the State of Sikkim. The District of Darjeeling requires a special status of financial support in the Tenth Plan. Uttar Bango Unnayan Parishad, a non-statutory body of development at the behest of the West Bengal Government, cannot render even lip service to the serious economic imbalances of North Bengal, unless special area status to the entire North Bengal comprising Malda, Dakshin Dinajpur, Uttar Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar, is accorded by the concurrence of the Union Government and the State Government to prepare comprehensive data by the Planning Commission. Plan is a State subject, but to honour the commitment of the Prime Minister at the Red Fort, I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to take stock of North Bengal Districts in 9th Plan and consider to accord a statutory professional body status to Uttar Bango Unnayan Parishad to selectively handle infrastructural development, flood management and health care.

(vi) Need to Release remaining Funds for early Completion of Gauge Conversion work between Kanpur and Hathras in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the project of conversion of metre gauge line into broad gauge between Kanpur and Hathras was started with great fan fare. But now pace of this work is extremely slow and main reason for this is the non availability of adequate funds. In the beginning the total cost of this project was estimated at Rs. 230 crore. Out of it only Rs. 65 crore have been made available so far. I would like to mention here that if this gauge conversion work is expedited and completed, it will facilitate the journey of local people to Lucknow, Delhi and other parts of the country. I have raised this matter time and again. The then Railway Minister through a letter dated 26.2.2000 had given an assurance for allocating more funds to this project but so far the additional funds could not be allocated. I, therefore, urge upon the Minister of Railways to release adequate funds for completion of this ambitious project of people of this area of Uttar Pradesh at the earliest.

(vii) Need to declare Ayodhya, Sitamarhi, Hazipur, Vaishali, Dumariaghat Roads as National Highways

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the Rule 377, I would like to demand that the Ayodhya-Sitamarhi and Hazipur-Vaishali-Sahibganj-Dumariaghat roads should be upgraded as National highways and should be named as Ram-Janaki Road and Bhagwan Mahavir Road respectively, as both of these roads are important from historical and mythological point of view and all the more from the tourist point of view.

[English]

(viii) Need to decentralisation of Powers to strengthening federal set up in the country

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, it is time to take steps to amend India's Constitution to provide decentralisation of political and economic power to States and units below. The Centre's administration should confine to Defence, External Affairs, Finance and some other major Departments. The rest should be under the control of States. More opportunity for revenue to States should be considered. Even judicial pronouncements, except those relating to disputes between States and issues involving citizens of different States, can be concluded within the High Courts, thereby saving huge expenses and delays in administration of justice. States have diversities in geography, culture, village systems and so many aspects which should be considered in planning and economic sharing. States should be made stronger and satisfied to have a strong India. Federal system will be helpful and more practical to keep the unity of the nation. Political process in this regard has to start. Political parties should also restructure their activity in a federal way. The Government should take initiative for such a change.

(ix) Need for early completion of construction work on railway overbridge at Ghatkopar railway station, Mumbai, Maharashtra

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Railway Ministry's attention is called towards the delay in completing the construction of railway overbridge at Ghatkopar Railway Station in Mumbai. The bridge work started three years ago. The construction work has been interrupted five times. Due to this, people are suffering. I request the Union Government to take suitable measures to expedite the completion of this railway overbridge.

(x) Need to upgrade passport office at Madurai, Tamil Nadu

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, now-a-days, many youths aspire to go abroad in search of prospective employment. Similarly, businessmen have to visit different countries for furtherance of their interest.

So, the demand for the passport is on the increase. For the entire southern districts of Tamil Nadu, we have an office at Thiruchirappalli for the issuance of passport. The second one at Madurai is only a collection counter. That apart, all the important post offices in Tamil Nadu have been authorised to accept passport applications from the public and forward them to the issuing authority. In this way, the passport office at Thiruchirappalli is heavily burdened with innumerable applications. As a result, delay in the issue of passport becomes inevitable.

Therefore, to reduce the pressure of work at Thiruchirappalli and for quick issuance of passports to the public, the forwarding office at Madurai may be upgraded into a full-fledged passport office.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of External Affairs to kindly explore the possibility in this regard and initiate appropriate action.

14.17 hrs.

**SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS
OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
(AMENDMENT) BILL**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, let us take up legislative business. Item no. 11: Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Amendment Bill, 2001.

Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That Bill further to amend the salary, allowances and pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 be taken into consideration."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I am moving the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill 2001, to be discussed and passed by the House. In the beginning I would like to say something precisely. I am not at all guilty conscious while presenting the Bill for enhancing the salary, allowances and pension of Members of Parliament. I feel that it is essential and thus with full confidence I am moving this Bill in the House. We are not committing any mistake. Secondly, I would like to say that previously there was a complaint that this bill was always brought in this House at the end on the last day of Session and passed without any discussion. I feel that through this Bill we are not doing anything wrong and thus it has been moved on the first day of the week. Though the Supplementary Demands for Grants were more important but deliberately it was kept on the top so that Members could support or oppose it and it could be in haste in taking decision in this regard as we are not committing any mistake. Though all the Members know about the content of the Bill but it is my duty and as per the convention I have to apprise the House of the provisions of the Bill. Only three changes are being made under the jurisdiction of legislation and one amendment has been proposed. First the salary is being enhanced from Rs. 4000 to Rs. 12,000.

The daily allowance which is Rs. 400 at present is being revised to Rs. 500. The mileage is being increased from Rs. 6.00 per kilometre to Rs. 8.00 per km. Only that much changes are being made under the law. One more amendment will be brought in the House where in basic pension is being revised from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 3000 and annual increase from Rs. 500 to Rs. 600. Along with it, as I told for some allowances, not amendment but information is necessary. The constituency allowance has been raised from Rs. 8000 to Rs. 10,000 and office allowance from Rs. 9,500 to Rs. 14,000 and the limit of free electricity units has been raised from 25000 to 50,000.

The availability of water is also being enhanced from 2000 kilolitre to 4000 kilolitre. In respect of telephone, a small facility is being provided. The MPs whose constituencies are at a distance of more than one thousand kilometers, are being provided 20 thousand additional free local calls. Though it has no connection at all with my having charge of Ministry of Information Technology, but in addition to it, we are providing mobile phones to MPs. It has been published and discussed in

many newspapers that additional one lakh calls are being given on mobile phones. All have accepted it and debated this issue. But we have not increased the existing number of calls being provided to Members. The MPs residing within the distance of one thousand kilometre from the Parliament House are entitled for one lakh calls only. At present, these one lakh calls are divided between our houses and offices and will be now divided further on mobile phones too. Rs 25,000-30,000 have been spent but number of existing calls are not being increased. Several newspapers have published this and criticized that one lakh additional calls are being provided. Therefore, I tried to tell here that we have not made increase of one lakh new calls to MPs.

I feel that newspapers have missed one point of criticism. For the first time, the Parliament has made it obligatory not to make any further revision before the lapse of five years. It was never stated in earlier amendments. No period or date was fixed for it and this amendment was brought as and when desired by the MPs. We have made it obligatory that revision should be done only once during the tenure of Lok Sabha which means that once in five years period. For the first time, the Parliament has restricted itself to revise its allowances further in the prescribed time. This Lok Sabha will complete its tenure and thus we have made it obligatory from 1999 to 2004.

This issue is being criticized widely and that is also right to some extent. People are making complaints that how Members of Parliament revise their salaries and allowances themselves. The criticism that how a person can revise his salary himself is correct but several people do not know the fact that it is constitutional provision and not the arrangement made by any Government. While framing the Constitution, Article 106 was provided which says that Parliament will take decision regarding the salaries and allowances of Members of Parliament at times. Parliament is a sovereign body and MPs represent this sovereign body and perhaps the framers of the Constitution felt that it would not be appropriate if any other body or institution was given power to decide the salaries and allowances of MPs. So, if we want to change this system, we will have to make amendment to article 106 of the constitution. For the first time, a whole article is required to be removed for changing a system. Amendments have been made in the Constitution and I am not an expert in the field. There is no need to remove a complete article. The Government have no objection, if

any other system is introduced for it. We have five years time and if any other system is introduced by consensus, the Government has no objection to that one. Then we can adopt another system for this purpose, so there is no need to feel ashamed of it that why we are revising our salaries ourselves. This provision has been made by framers of the constitution. It has been done in this Parliament for 24 times and now it will be for the 25th time. If all the political parties want to change this system and have consensus on this issue, a Constitution amendment can be brought by 2/3 majority. Then, we are ready to bring change in the present system.

But I feel that it is not wrong anyway. As per this legal provision, a parliamentary committee; consisting of Members of all the political parties, is there to provide assistance in this regard. This time my friend Shri K.P. Singh Deo is Chairman of this Committee and this Committee has prepared this report which was discussed in the meeting of the Sub-Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Pranab Mukherjee. This Committee has given recommendation unanimously. I would not like to politicize the matter. One may change his mind here in the House. But members of all the political parties were in the Committee. I apologize if I am wrong but as per my information, no member from any party raised any objection in the meeting and this report was prepared unanimously.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to discuss two-three more points. Newspapers have published several times that salary has been revised to Rs. 12,000. As I told earlier that now for the first time it has been made obligatory not to revise it further for next five years. Besides, for the first time, MPs have been brought under the income tax net. If we or K.P. Singh Deoji wanted that MPs should be excluded from income tax net, then we would have adopted the old method of revising only allowances and not the salary and then MPs were not required to pay income tax on a salary of Rs. 4000. We felt that it was not necessary. So many people pay income tax and there is no objection to it if now MPs will also pay income tax. For the first time, now all the MPs will also pay income tax if this Bill is passed in both the Houses. Earlier, some MPs may be paying income tax. In the context of the revision of salary from Rs. 4000 to Rs. 12,000, I would like to say that it is not a big amount. There is one more complaint that we revise our salaries but do not work accordingly. Now Monsoon session is going on. Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now you have taken a

[Shri Pramod Mahajan]

decision that no member will go in the well of the House and initiated to put Lakshman Rekha which creates trouble. It is Lakshman Rekha or Balyogi Rekha will be decided later on but I would like to say that it is a good decision. My opinion is that even a single minute of the House should not be wasted. Lot of time of this House has been wasted in Adjournment. I am sorry and I would like to tell that 27-28 hours of the House have been wasted due to Adjournment. This is the reason why public criticize revision of our salaries. But public and journalists are not aware of the fact that we have compensated these 28 hours by having late sittings after 6 O'clock for about 27 hours. But no one has paid any attention towards that I do not support any Adjournment and Adjournment motion should not be moved. We should sit late. I would like to say that 27 hours have been wasted due to Adjournment and in proportion to that we have worked up to 10 O'clock to compensate this.

Secondly, I would like to say that criticism of MP's duties by journalists is not appropriate. Members of Parliament are not supposed to listen only speeches of other Members. We are not school children who should come here at 11 A.M. and leave the House at 6 P.M. we have to perform other duties also. Our colleague Shri Akhilesh Singh come here at 10 O'clock in the morning and give notices. It means that he has to rise early in the morning and read newspapers for preparing the necessary documents. His duty begins much before 11 a.m.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Then he must be clearing his throat early in the morning.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Yes that is also correct that he must be clearing his throat early in the morning. MPs have to work before 11 a.m. and even after 6 p.m. our duty does not mean only coming here and listening to the speeches of the Members. The member meets the people here and in his constituency. We get salary for this. It will be injustice to MPs if this is not taken into consideration. I will not take much time. Every minute is valuable here.

Therefore, I would not like to increase expenditure at the time of revision of salary. I would like to analyse how the salary has been revised from Rs. 4000 to Rs. 12,000. How many times our salary has been revised. While going through this bill I read that on 1st June 1954, when for the first time salary of MPs was fixed, it was Rs. 400 per month with allowances of Rs. 21 when I asked about the value of rupee at that time, one of the officers told that at that time when salary was fixed at

Rs. 400 the cost of sovereign gold was Rs. 80. I asked what this sovereign gold is? He told that eight gram of gold is called sovereign gold. Today that much gold costs Rs. 3600. Persons who were Members of Lok Sabha in 1954 cannot be alleged of leading luxurious life. Whereas today journalists criticize us for leading luxurious life. all the MPs in 1954 were freedom Fighters when salary was fixed at Rs. 400. How it has now been increased to Rs. 12000. I congratulate the committee headed by Shri K.P. Singh Deo for it because earlier no rules were followed for revision of salary. After 10 years the salary was revised to Rs. 500 and then after 7-8 years it was revised to Rs. 750 then after 4 years it was revised to Rs. 1000, then to Rs. 1500 and how it was revised from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 4000, no specific rule has been followed in this regard. Everything was done as it appeared appropriate to the authorities. For the first time the Committee headed by Shri K.P. Singh Deo and Shri Pranab Mukherjee linked it with Price Index. They said that basic salary may be presumed Rs. 400 and if we compare the price index of 1954 with the present index now proportionately the revised salary should be Rs. 11,900. The decision was taken quite late and the amount of Rs. 900 was an odd one so in round figure salary was revised to Rs. 12,000. However, it won't be appropriate to say that the salary has become threefold. For the first time revision of salary has been linked with price index I hope that after five years the salary will be increased as per the difference in price index till then considering the present salary of Rs. 12,000 as basic salary. The amount will be revised as per the prevailing index since reasons were sought for revision of salary to Rs. 12,000 that is why its relation with price index had to be highlighted. So far the issue of other allowances and constituency allowance is concerned, I would like to say that in 1998 allowances were Rs. 400 and now after three years in 2001 making an increase of Rs. 100 is not a big amount.

In the end I would like to refer to an issue in this House regarding the amenities provided alongwith the salary. One journalist has written that Pramod Mahajan may have to pay Rs. 2 lakh per month as rent for the house in which he resides. I would like to say why I would have come to live in this house in North Avenue if I were not elected an MP to Lok Sabha. Why I would have come to Delhi 2000 km. away from my constituency. We have not come here with our own will. One may say that we are elected to serve public and we should live on footpath or in the house of a relative but not in this house. What is the commercial rent of this house or what a company would have paid if hired this house. Do we pay that? No, we do not pay that much. Some one has said that limit of free units of electricity has been increased. Do we get the cash in hand for electricity. do

we get the cash for mileage in hand. In context of telephone someone has said that 1 lakh telephone calls means an entire telephone exchange for it. I have also tried to calculate it, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to take a little time more to clear the doubts in this regard. I come from Mumbai.

I made the calculation with regard to Mumbai. What one lakh calls mean for this distance. One call from here to Mumbai means telephone for 2 seconds only. Thus I can talk continuously for 67 hours from here to Mumbai by suing 1 lakh local calls and there are 8,756 hours in one year. This telephone facility is not even one percent providing 75,000 telephone calls does not mean cash payment to MPs for the purpose. Telephone is an amenity. It is being provided since when there was no STD or ISD facility. One may accept it or not, but the fact is that telephone facility is not used only by us. Priya Ranjan Dasji shows here telephone bill. It is different point if some other controversy is involved in it. All the members know it very well that more than 50 per cent telephone Calls are not used by us. If we deny voters from making a telephone calls, they will say that Raghunathji has asked for votes and now does not allow us to make a telephone call. When a person starts talking on telephone he generally talk for 10-15 minutes. 2 to 4 thousand telephone calls are used in this manner. It hardly takes any time to exhaust 1 lakh telephone calls if 20-25 such persons visit an MP and talk for 5 or 7 minutes on telephone. I do not know if any person saves telephone calls out of these. It hardly matters for such persons that this facility is restricted to 75000 calls or one lakh calls.

Mr. Speaker, Sir in the end, I would like to say that self praise is a folly but self reproach which leads to suicide and make guilty conscious as we have committed any sin is also condemnable. In the beginning itself I have stated that this Bill has been moved here humbly and without any guilty conscious. I have full confidence that this is the requirement of MPs and hope that it will passed here unanimously.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, on my behalf and on behalf of my party, we have gone through this Bill. We have gone through the recommendations of the Joint Committee and the time has now come to express our views regarding the Bill.

We are not opposing the Bill but I would like to tell as to why the media criticises us. For the last few years, or I should say over the years, the general perception among the people, not by a particular party, is that politicians are not honest, whether they are in power or whether we are in power. Till we cannot get rid of this stigma, whether we are sitting on this side or that side of the House, whether we increase our salary or not, we cannot be free from the overall observation of the media and the people. Therefore, Sir, while supporting the initiative of the hon. Minister, I should only request through you to the Government and, of course, to the entire House that the time has come into this new millennium to justify our commitment to the nation and our day-to-day performance. It is because the people, who are our watchdogs, are watching what we are doing for our country and constituency. I, therefore, feel that if you can raise the standard of our own living not in terms of luxury but in terms of our commitment to the people, who elect us and send us here, I think this kind of a criticism will not go long for years to come.

One fact remains to be discussed which nobody has discussed and I have not seen any editorial in any newspaper about the difference between the Members of Parliament in India and the Members of Parliament in the rest of the world. Is there any country where Members of Parliament represent an electorate of more than one million? Whether it is right or wrong, the other day, we have freezeed the increase of seats in Lok Sabha because of population and many other issues. I can give you my example. I cannot interfere with other constituencies. The radius of my constituency is 310 kilometres.

The distance from one point to another is 310 kilometres and it takes three and a half days to travel, and not one day. In the earlier days, there were not many telephone connections. Thanks to our late Prime Minister, Shri: Rajiv Gandhi, his C-DoT Mission and the work of DoT, now telephone is available in almost every village. These days — whether it is Chamber of Commerce or *sabzi mandi* or teaching community — they negotiate with us over the phone and they expect us to return the call, when they call us at home and we are not at home at that time. When I go back to my house, I find that thirty people rang me up to convey some problem or the other. As a responsible M.P. of the constituency, the minimum that I should do is that I should talk to them and tell them what I have done for them. If I calculate that, I find that these one lakh calls are just nothing. Yet, if we increase it, people will question us. I will give you a few other examples. We people come from places which are one thousand kilometres away from Delhi. This is true for Members coming from Bihar,

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

Kerala, etc. People from our constituencies come to Delhi even without intimating us. They send the patients without intimating us. They tell us, 'We have sent the patient, please make necessary arrangements'. They come with the patients in the midnight or in the early morning. They want us to provide them train fare also. Which clause is allowing you to do that? The M.Ps, in their own capacity and through their contacts, somehow manage these situations. In Indian democracy, you cannot wish away these problems and say, 'No, no. Nobody should come so long as I am in Parliament. Do not come to Delhi'. We cannot say that. While touring my constituency, I found that before the jeep, people start crying, saying 'Day before yesterday our village was burned down and please make some arrangements'. I request the nearby shops to give them rice, wheat, *atta* etc. and tell them that within two days I will give them the money. Can anybody deny that these problems do not occur for those who are representing the people in their constituencies? These hazards are never noticed. Suppose, in a particular constituency somebody is burned, whether it is *dalit* or upper caste people, the M.P. of that area cannot move, if he cannot take care of their problems for a month or so or till they are rehabilitated. If he does not do that, he cannot go to his constituency. It happens to almost all the M.Ps. An impression is created that M.Ps do not have any problems and that they are the top people of this country. This impression is gaining ground and it is a wrong one. This impression is not correct at all. The more you encourage such an impression, the more difficult it would be for us. It is not a fact.

If you desire to have a competent Personal Secretary who knows stenography and computer, even after giving advertisement in the newspaper, can you get him for less than Rs. 12,000 or Rs. 15,000 or Rs. 10,000? You cannot get it, whereas people want us to deliver goods, properly communicate and address the issue. When M.Ps go to their constituencies during the inter-Session period, to see the development in the M.P. Area Development Work, hardly any Collector provides him any vehicle to move freely. He has to go in his own vehicle or hire a vehicle and he has to spend for the fuel also to complete the work.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): We never get vehicle...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am making the same submission.

[English]

To supervise the work, we have to request our friends to give their vehicle. They will give us for a day or two, but not everyday. These problems are not noted by anybody. I will give you two more examples and conclude. There are at least 200 M.Ps whose constituencies are either drought-prone or flood-prone. There are chronically flood-prone areas and chronically drought-prone areas. The M.P. of that area cannot take his food, unless he takes care of the people of the constituency.

I have seen the situation in many areas. During the flood season, it comes to my area at least occasionally. I have seen that. The people watch us minutely what we eat in our house during the flood situation. They publish it in the newspapers. If you do not share food with them in the kitchen where gruel is prepared, it is published. It is a fact. In public life, whether we like it or not, it happens. It is the media which conveys our feelings to the people. What we speak here, the media will write about it.

Shri Pramod Mahajan said that the House should not be adjourned. I agree with him that the House should not be adjourned for uncalled for reasons. But it is also a fact that on any issue which we do not like to agitate in the House in that manner, it will become the headlines in the media. The people in our constituency will feel like this.

[Translation]

Nothing is done. You maintain silence and never raise voice for the cause of the public. What is this attitude.

[English]

Whether it is the Akhilesh model or the Pappu model or any other model, it is different. It may be a matter of dispute also.

[Translation]

Media criticize us that we do not raise voice.

[English]

Then, where do you go? We are prisoners in the constituency where people say that we do not talk and shout. We are prisoners in the hands of the media. They say that all of us have become saints and we do not speak.

[Translation]

You do not raise important issue.

[English]

You are deep and down. At the same time, if we shout, they will write that decorum is not maintained. So, all these things are there. We work in a difficult situation in the Indian democracy. Therefore, let us not be fussy about it. We must serve the people with good intention and integrity. But, at the same time, if we tell them that we get Rs. 4,000/- and take care of everything, that is all right. There are professionals like the former Law Minister, Shri Ashok Sen or like one of the leading legal luminaries, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. His one day's appearance in the Supreme Court will take care of his six months cost in the constituency. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: If he gives up his seat and appears in the court, he will take care of 150 MPs!...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If I say that I can manage with Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 6,000, then there is no problem. ...*(Interruptions)* I think he is deceiving himself. I do not know how he manages himself. The Government has brought forward this Bill after due consideration in the Joint Committee. The Committee has gone through the process in detail. There should not be any such impression that we are taking extra advantage of being Members of Parliament. It is not that. We are justified in what we are doing. If we are doing something wrong, people will not elect us again. I know about it. But to tell the people of our constituency that we can carry on with Rs. 2,000 is very difficult.

[Translation]

It is not honesty and appropriate in democracy to say that work will be done through somebody.

[English]

We feel very sincerely that the Bill which has been brought forward is correct. The Government has considered something for the pensioners also. I thank the Government for that. I think more of the ex-Members of Parliament than the sitting Members. I say this because that is our permanent seat and this is our temporary seat.

With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that I shall not be popular to my very hon. distinguished friends here. But I am not taking a holier than the attitude.

We have certain views which I wish to place before my distinguished friend here for their consideration. What the hon. Minister as well as my distinguished friend said here is that it is a very minimal thing and it is not even sufficient for the purpose of discharging our duties and functions to the people as their chosen representatives. Unfortunately, it is not shared by the people. We find a situation that we have to justify ourselves in raising our salaries. What we are doing, we are deciding for ourselves. We are trying to justify that this is right. This is precisely what I have been trying to say in my humble way for quite some time. But it has not met with anybody's approval so far. I am not really trying to cross swords with him.

He has taken some credit that he is having a full debate on this Bill here and that he has no guilty feeling, but his speech showed that he has some guilty feeling, because he said that he was putting a lid on this for five years and he referred to article 106 of the Constitution, his compulsions, etc. Then he is taking refuge under all party deliberations and decisions. He has again taken credit that we have become income tax payers now and there is a gentleman to grab it, and he has said that the salary of MPs is now based on some indexing. How many people's income is based on indexing in this country?

Sir, I remember — I have said it in this House also — the pathetic statement of a housewife in this country who wrote a letter to me in which she said: "My husband works in a Government company, he is still in his job, but he has not got salary for eight months. Tell me, how do I feed my children?" I did not know how to reply to her. I took that letter to the hon. Prime Minister and asked him what should I reply to her. Of course, he felt anguished, no doubt about it, knowing Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, as I hope I do, and he said that he would certainly look into it and see what can be done.

Therefore, I have two submissions here. As I said already, I am not saying that we are infallible and better people. Both the hon. Minister and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi have referred to media comments. I have not

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

seen one newspaper - based either in Delhi or Kolkata or Mumbai or in other places — which has not criticised us extremely harshly. Secondly, thanks to the development of Information Technology, we are having Opinion Polls daily, conducted by every newspaper in this country. In all those Opinion Polls that I have tried to notice, 85 to 90 per cent of the people have strongly criticised us. If the hon. Minister is impervious to public opinion, then it is all right. Should he be impervious to it, then why should he be referring to newspaper comments and why should he be trying to answer the media? He has very ably defended this Bill. But why should he take note of the media comments? If he does not have any response to what is appearing in the Press, then why should he read the newspapers in the morning?

Sir, how do we judge public opinion? We judge public opinion by our personal interactions, by seeing what is appearing in the Press and by seeing the Opinion Polls that are coming up through the Internet. That is how we judge public opinion and then we try to respond to that. I will be happy if I am corrected, but there is not a single newspaper or a single Opinion Poll, which has said that this raise is justified. Coupled with that, it has come at a time that the hon. Speaker had to take the initiative and put a *Lakshman Rekha*. The hon. Minister is very happy that we have almost made up the lost time, but I find from his figures that still half-an-hour is left. This Bill has come at a time when the people of this country are discussing our conduct everyday. We are also feeling anguished. I am sure most of us are showing concern about whether we are able to utilise the time which is available to us for the purpose of nation-building activity or for solving our national problems.

We have two aspects here. One is the procedure and the other is the merit of the Bill. I will very briefly deal with both of them. I believe that it is only the Ministers and Members of Parliament who fix their own salaries; no other person in any category - subject to correction, if the Minister knows anything in this regard, I would like to know - fixes his own salary.

Therefore, is it or is not proper, I am appealing to everybody...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

This is what is going to happen.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Is the House not supreme? Who will decide that.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Let him speak. He speaks just for the sake of speaking.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not proper.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, if this is the way they treat their fellow members in the House, it is all right. This is what and that is why we are coming down.

If that is so, should we not try to find out a mechanism by which we can have it done in a proper and in a objective manner? When you decide something for yourself, there is bound to be subjectivity and this is precisely what has happened. Why is it 25,000 extra calls, etc.? Why not it is 30,000 or why not 10,000 calls?

The hon. Minister has referred to the salary on the basis of 1954 index and by counting this, it shows an amazing problem that Rs. 400 has almost come to about Rs. 12,000, therefore, it is justified. But what about the people's cost of living? Is it less? Are we compensating everybody in this country adequately? Therefore, the procedure I am saying, to avoid subjectivity and embarrassment for the Members, we have been requesting all sections, and I am sure on principle nobody is against it, is this. Could we not have a machinery which will take objective factors into consideration and come to certain decisions?

The hon. Minister has referred to article 106 as if we are bound by this. Article 106 postulates a law. The Parliament can tomorrow make a law saying it will be decided in this manner and the decision of that Committee will be final. In my humble way, I have been suggesting that it may be the Presiding Officer or if he is not willing, I do not mind even Cabinet Secretary or Finance Secretary or C&AG and officers like them. Let them apply objective standards. What is the cost of living? Although ordinarily I would not like to be judged or our matters to be decided by the bureaucracy, if the Presiding Officer is not willing, some other machinery can be found out. That can be done easily upon discussion, as to what sort of body can be taken. It might be that on their objective assessment, they may come to Rs. 14,000 why only Rs. 12,000.

What I have been respectfully submitting is that if such an institutional arrangement is made, then at least nobody will say and we will not have the embarrassment of fixing our own salary.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): What about the perks that Shri Jyoti Basu is enjoying?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I know some people have allergy, but I think any country, considering his contribution in the Indian politics would have done it much more. However, but all these matters...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Shri Somnath Chatterjee's submission.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am respectfully and with all humility submitting before you that this is not the first time that we are facing this situation. I really appreciate the efforts of the hon. Minister, but because it has almost happened let us do it just before the rising of the House so that nobody takes notice of it and we go stealthily back home and do it quietly. Why have we been doing it quietly? Why have been doing it at the last hour, at the last minute? We are doing it to avoid public attention. Therefore, some sort of guilty conscience is there, Mr. Minister. I have not yet said that it is not justified at all.

15.00 hrs.

But even if it is justified, do it in a manner which would be totally transparent and do it on a totally objective basis so that nobody can point a finger at us. This is permissible under article 106.

Next is the question of whether it is appropriate time to do this. Sir, we have problems. The hon. Finance Minister himself has been saying that he is optimistic that we will get over this recession. The problem is there. Today, the country is passing through a critical time. Let us share his optimism. I hope, we shall get over this industrial recession. Even today, the country is in a situation where our godowns are full but the people do not have the purchasing power to purchase food. This is the position in this country. There is a huge number of unemployed. Everybody knows about it. I do not have to educate anybody. I do not have the presumptuousness to do that also. Is this the time when we should invite for ourselves such criticism, as is uniformly being levelled at us, that when the country is in a very difficult economic situation where people are facing tremendous hardships—there is loss of jobs; there is a crisis in agriculture; there is a crisis in industry and everywhere else—we are thinking of ourselves. Is this the time when we should think of ourselves first?

Therefore, because of these reasons, I am appealing to my friends. As I said earlier at the beginning, I am not

taking a holier than thou attitude; I am not saying that I am a better person or I am a superior Member. I am not saying that. I hope, I shall never even dream of it. But I am saying that these are the matters which are agitating the people. We are representing the people, it is not that people are representing us. If we do not articulate their views, their points of view, their problems, the hardship they are going through, who would do that? They say that we are talking of it, we are discussing about this and that, and so many things, and quietly, we are raising our own salary. Maybe, I am not saying. ...*(Interruptions)* He has rightly said. When I first came in 1971, I had a good stenographer for Rs. 300 per month. ...*(Interruptions)* He is right. I am not paying. Fortunately, the Chairman are provided with stenographers. Otherwise, I would have in problem because the Minister keeps watch over everybody, but he does not keep watch over me. I am sorry that I do not go to practise any longer for the last four or five years. Therefore, he is not. The Finance Minister is losing some money, not much. That is different.

Sir, this is the issue. We want to place it. As a political party, they do not agree with us. I know that, but please, they should not ridicule us for our holding a particular view. I know that there is always a dig 'well, you oppose but you take it.' I know that this is a very obvious comment. Out of 795 Members, 45 Members do not take it, the Finance Minister will not be any better off. It will be symbolism and everybody knows that the largest part of it goes to my party. That will be benefited. There is no doubt. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: This should not be taken as an anti-party activity because the money goes to the party and you are not allowing it to be passed.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, that is our system. They cannot think of it, but we are doing it. That is our commitment to the party. Everybody know it. This is no secret anywhere.

I know that it will be passed today by a thumping majority. I am only saying that even now, instead of the hon. Minister patting himself on the back thinking that he has put a lid for five years - he need not wait for five years - let the hon. Speaker apply his mind. I am sure that the Chairman of Rajya Sabha can apply his mind. We have got very distinguished Ministers here. Some are, of course, sleeping. ...*(Interruptions)* They are prone to sleep more than others. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, Sir, I am requesting that let us conduct in a manner that nobody can point out a finger at us.

* Not recorded.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

At the same time, the needs of the Members could be looked into objectively so that what is necessary could be given to them. This is our view and we wish to express that view.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the employees of a few public sector units have not been receiving their salaries for 25 months. *...(Interruptions)* I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister that he should see to it that they get their salaries immediately...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): I rise to give some suggestions on the Bill. Shri Pramod Mahajan has brought the MP's salary, allowance and Pension Bill. There are many MP's for whom the existing salary is not adequate to meet their demands and it is a fact. I have heard the view of Shri Dasmunsi. He has said a practical thing. This Bill brought by Shri Pramod Mahajan has not been brought on his own, instead the Government have brought this Bill after carefully considering over the recommendations made by Shri K.P. Singh Deo Committee. Shri Somnath Chatterjee has appreciated this Bill and he has not said that this Bill is not justified. He has suggested to change the procedure a little bit for the views of his party are not in consonance with others as regards the procedure. I would like to make some suggestions. There are two types of MP's in our Parliament some are whole timers who are indulged in politics alone and have no other source of income, on the other hand there are some other MP's who are engaged in other professions like teaching etc. for which they are being paid. To cite an example there are some MP's who have been working as lecturers and professors in colleges and also as legal luminaries like Shri Somnathji who earn at least ten lakhs every months...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I shall donate it to the Trinmool Congress...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: These are some MP's who are very rich. The Government provide Rs. two crores under the MPLADS, however these persons get this much amount as their salary. There are many MP's who travel in Qualies, Tata Sumo etc. however there are some MPs who have no such facility and they travel on foot. Hence, would like to suggest that MP's should be allowed to draw only one salary. This step will result in saving the funds of the Government. It is hard to assess the earnings of those who are doing business. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Then the NDA Government will fall. *...(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: You keep quite and don't provoke me to say something retaliatory. As per the convention Members of Parliament are Member of Standing Committee, Expert Committee JPC's and some Committee of the Government. If there is some difference of opinion over the method then certainly a solution can be found for that. It is true that the salaries of the CPM goes in party funds. They want that though TA, DA should be increased but not the salary because it goes to party fund. In response to what Shri Chatterjee has said in that the salary has been fixed by MP's I would like to know as to who have fixed the salary in West Bengal Assembly? I would like to say that the salaries is fixed by the Government and not by the MLA's. how can a method other than West Bengal assembly can be adopted here. The salary of MLA's has been increased in West Bengal now it has not been done by some committee from outside but MLA's themselves have hiked their salary. If it can be done there why cannot it be done here.

I would like to make one more suggestion that we can save some of the Government money on our Committee tours.

[English]

Where do we stay? We stay in Five star hotels. Instead of staying in Five Star hotels. Instead of staying in Five Star hotels.'

[Translation]

If one stays in guest house, a lot of Government money can be saved. We travel in J class.

[English]

Since 1992 I have not travelled in J class. While flying I always travel in economy class. I have saved at least 10 lakhs for the Parliament.

[Translation]

If we travel in J class we get more TA, DA while it is less in economy class. However, I have always helped in saving Government money. If we opt to travel in economy class instead of J class, a total of six thousand rupees can be saved on our average every visit. We should try to save the Government funds.

[English]

I would like to suggest that we should not be hypocrites. We should not have double standard.

[Translation]

It is also there that CPM is trying to create the impression that they are against the salary hike while many of its MP's anxiously wait for the same. However it is true that they do nothing. Everytime they work for the common public. No injection or any other facility is available in Government hospitals. Hence heart patients etc. comes to MP when neither the State Government nor the State hospitals extend their help to them. Simiarly many a people approach the MP for helping to purchase book, for giving help for the marriage of a girl and for giving help for medical treatment and some may come to seek help to rebuild his house which had been gutted by fire. If the Bill is passed then CPM members will be the first ones to demand money however they will say later on that they had opposed the Bill. I would like to make a suggestion that the Members from CPM should be asked to float a speaker welfare fund with the help of the money they will get as hiked salary and a commitment to this effect that whatever they do, will be for welfare of the poor people. Hence the Bill brought by Mahajanji has the support of all and he intends to provide more financial support to the MP. I would like to suggest further that we shall not claim the daily allowance for the day. When the proceedings in the House do not take place. You must give your assurance to this effect and you will get our full support in it.

With these words, I support this Bill.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanji, U.P.): Sir, today the Government here brought this pension and salary (amendment) Bill. The Government and the entire House should try to respond to the need of the hour. The news published in newspapers regarding this Bill have made the MP's laughing stock before the entire country. We should try to reconsider this Bill from a new and fresh perspective. Pramod Mahajanji, I would like to tell that you should try to develop a consensus in the House to remove that clause of the Constitution. So that we will not become the laughing stock in front of the people of the country. We should make arrangement for the hike in our salaries on the lines of bureaucrats. We are not in a position to afford the welcome of our guests with the meagre amount of 12 thousands we get. If we draw comparison between the salaries and allowances of the persons placed below us in the protocol list, it will become clear that we are not getting even half of the amount they are getting. Hence we should try to think

realistically instead of remaining in illusion. All the Members from Samajwadi Party have a agricultural background and belong to middle class families. Many of the MP's might not be bothered as to what they are getting as their salary, however it means a lot for us. Hence you should change the salary of the MP's keeping in view the factual position.

Now when hon. Dasmunsiji has mentioned about Akhilesh Model and Pappu Model, I would like to submit very humbly that not only us but the entire country has seen the Bofors model, Urea model, Sukhram model, Hawala model and even Tehika model. I was elected as an MLA in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1991.

Again in 1993 I got elected as Member of the Legislative Assembly for the second time I have been viewing the proceedings of the Lok Sabha since the day I got elected for the first time. As has been pointed out by hon. Member Shri Dasmunsi I would like to say that even Members sitting in the treasury benches and holding important portfolios in the Government have gone to the well of the House. The members enjoying number two status in the Government also have entered the well during the past days. One can see the records of proceedings of 13th Lok Sabha. The leader of opposition has also entered the well. These who live in glass houses should not throw stones at others. The pot is calling the kettle black. I would like to state in very clear terms that such criticism should be stopped. One should not boost oneself. I would like to state very clearly that I felt ashamed the way the members were reacting to the decision taken by the Government on the controversial documents presented in the House the day before yesterday. I have come here for the first time. I would say if rules are be followed, then senior members should follow it first. Hon'ble Mulayam Singh Yadav and Beni Prasad Verma have never entered the well of the House. If Akhilesh Model and Pappu Models are wrong, then the members who have followed them should be made accountable to the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Shri Akhileshji I beg your pardon but I have never said so.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The conduct of hon'ble Narayan Datt Tiwari is hundred times better. He is the Chairman of the P.A.C. As a senior member he has been guiding us. His guidance is worth emulating for us I humbly request the members not to level such allegations.

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

I congratulate Shri Pramod Mahajan for introducing this bill. Through this bill he has placed several issues concerning us on the Table of the House. I come to Lok Sabha at 9 O'clock and as per rules I regularly give notices to raise several issues in the House. By doing so, I try to put forth my views in the House. I would like to state that the condition of politicians is very pathetic today because we accuse one another. Politicians are becoming an issue of mockery just because of their personal hostility. Just now, it was stated that this increase would cause extra burden of Rs. 27 crore on the public exchequer. I came to know about it from newspapers. I would like to state that we can save more than Rs. 200 crore if corruption prevailing in construction and development works is checked and also if the corrupt practices by contractors and bureaucrats in implementing MPLAD schemes are checked. Thus, we can save thousands of crores of rupees every year if we check corruption prevailing in all construction works.

I would like to tell you in clear terms that as we are increasing our salaries and facilities, we should be committed to root out corruption and thereby try to compensate the extra burden on the exchequer.

While supporting this bill, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I did not mean to say so to hurt the feelings of any distinguished member. What I only tried to say was that.

[Translation]

Akhilesh ji a agitates mcst on the issues raised by opposition. I said just as a model. I withdraw my words if they hurt him.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi—please take it sportingly.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Akhileshji has decided to follow the Mulayam Singh's model and will not enter the well of the House. He will not follow the Congress model.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: We will adopt Narayan Datt Tiwari model. I beg pardon from Shri Dasmunsi ji if my words hurt his feelings. I will support his model.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on this Bill. It is a very sensitive bill. This bill is being discussed widely all over the country. All the newspapers of the country are writing columns that Members of Parliament are increasing their salaries. After reading the news we feel as if we are a part of a crime.

15.20 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

However, the responsibility lies with us. We have spoiled our image so much so that the common man do not have faith in politicians. It is a matter of sorrow and suffering. Our's is the only country where a sister ties a 'thread' on the wrist of her brother which is the symbol of love and faith between them. However, it is unfortunate that people no longer are trusting the political leaders. Increasing the salaries of members has become an issue of criticism all over the country. However, even with enhanced salary it is difficult for a poor member of Parliament to manage. A member cannot afford with this salary.

These days even the salary of a SBI peon is more than Rs. 12,000. Clerks of Foreign banks are getting much more than this. Recently ZTV conducted a survey to know people's opinion whether MPs should be given accommodation in Delhi or not. 80% people were of the opinion that they should not be provided this facility. But, if same survey is conducted in respect of a peon, 80% people would be in its favour. We ourselves have spoiled our image. The day before yesterday, Cricket Board has decided to pay @ Rs. 2 crores 1 crore 25 lakhs, and 75 lakh annually to 'A' grade 'B' grade and 'C' grade cricketers respectively. Such a huge amount is being given to them but people are raising their eye brows on the increase of salaries of MPs. I rise not only to support this bill but I would like to say that it should be reviewed and salaries should be increased to the extent that a member of Parliament could live his life comfortably. MPs of our country are getting lesser salaries than any other MP of the world. MPs are not being provided with adequate facilities. Members of Parliament of England are getting much more salaries and facilities. Same is in the case of members of Senate in United States. Our country has a population of 100 crores and one MP represents approx. 12-13 lakh people in a constituency. One constituency of Uttar Pradesh comprises of not less than 12-13 lakhs of people. I represent the population of 25 lakh people.

Shri Akhilesh Singh ji has rightly stated that with the meagre amount of Rs. 12000 as our salary, we cannot offer even a cup of tea to our guests. The telephone provided by the Government is not for the personal use of a MP. MP can not disallow his voters if they want to make a call on his telephone. MP makes calls for helping his voters, for arranging facilities for them. Therefore, I would like to request Shri Pramod Mahajan to review the situation in this regard and give better salaries and allowances to MPs so that they could perform their duties in a better way. Besides I would also like to say one more important thing that we should also think about our ex-MPs. All our Prime Minister have been ex-MPs. We all will become ex-MP one day.

Nobody raises the issues concerning ex-MPs. Once I met a very honest men, an ex-cabinet Minister on my way to Patna. His condition was pathetic and I saw him selling books on foot path. He was an ex Minister but now he was selling books on footpath.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): He must have been the Minister in 1977.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, I am concluding in two minutes. While in politics we do not want to be humiliated after retiring from politics. We want to give due regard to others. I would like to request the Government to consider the recommendations of the concerned Committee in respect of providing facilities to ex-MPs.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate Shri Pramod Mahajan. Before starting discussion on the bill, very precisely he has mentioned the problems of members of Parliament. Several hon'ble Members have taken part in this discussion. Various issues have emerged during the course of discussion. Several members have stated that the enhanced salary will not be sufficient for them. Newspapers are also giving publicity to this issue. The newspaper 'Sahara' has given the news item under the caption: "Sansad Malamal". I would like to mention two-three points in the House regarding this bill.

Sir, newspapers are publishing this issue with much fan fare that the salaries of MPs have been increased to there-fold. More facilities are being provided to them. The Committee has recommended that their salary should be increased to Rs. 12,000 from Rs. 4000. With this increase in their salary, they would have to pay 30% income tax.

30% means deduction of Rs. 4000. Then, some amount will be deducted for the furniture which is given on rent basis. That means out of Rs. 12,000 about Rs. 6000-7000 will be deducted in total and Rs. 5000 will be actually given. Even then newspapers are reporting that MPs are becoming richer.

Now, I would like to talk about other facilities. Daily allowance has been increased from Rs. 400 to Rs. 500. I do not know about Mumbai or Madras, but I am aware of the North India-Bihar and Uttar Pradesh that with the commencement of the Parliament session, several people from their areas come to their houses in Delhi. It increases their household expenses. They have to make arrangement for their lodging and boarding. I myself arrange the transportation of rice and wheat from the far away villages. Such a meagre amount may be sufficient for the people who are engaged in some other occupation but I am not ready to believe that it would be sufficient for those who have no other source of income. With this amount of salary, a member cannot play his role honestly...(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir daily allowance has been increased to Rs. 500 from Rs. 400. I am talking about Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. There may not be a single member whose daily expenses are less than Rs. 1000/- Rs. 500 are insufficient. There is no need to enhance it from time to time. You please announce the daily allowance as Rs. 1000 instead of Rs. 500. Amount of Rs. 9500 which is being given for official purpose is being increased to Rs. 14,500. Out of 9500 rupees, Rs. 6 thousand are given to our staff as salary being paid by cheque. Rs. 2500 is meant for writing pads and other items. Amount of Rs. 1000/- is given for postage stamps. If the amount of Rs. 14500/- is being fixed in addition to the salary of PA being paid by the Government, it is alright. But if the salary of the PA is included in Rs. 14500, then I submit that there is no need to fix this amount. Instead, we should be provided with Government employee who may work as our PA. We do not want the money. Office should fulfil our requirement of stationery pads and other items.

Sir, in view of the daily routine and the labour involved in their day to day work, their stationery requirements and their need to employ staff, they need sufficient amount of money. Nobody works without getting salary. Therefore, Rs. 14000 is a very nominal amount. You may please withdraw this provision. Instead you provide us official staff and stationary, stamps etc. free of cost. If you want to give all this in the form of money, then you should give us adequate amount of salaries so that we could discharge our duties appropriately. Otherwise do not give us the money...(Interruptions)

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

Sir, the Government have increased Rs. 2000 in the travelling allowance of members. In this regard, I would like to say that in view of the geographical conditions of some parliamentary constituencies, it is impossible for any member to visit various areas of his constituency on foot even within 20 days. If he uses a vehicle for this purpose, he has to pay Rs. 1500-2000 for petrol and hiring a driver. Government has raised only Rs. 2000 and getting applauses for it. A lot of publicity is being given in newspapers. Through you, I would like to invite the press persons to meet me. I would like to challenge them to meet the expenses of visiting the constituencies and other day to day expenses with the amount of salary given to us. These people are engaged in various jobs and get salaries from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000. We spend 18 hours out of 24 hours in the service of the people. In the morning we do our parliamentary works and at night we talk to the people about their grievances. We help the people in getting treatment in hospitals. We do other helpful activities also. But even then such remarks are given to us. It is not the example of Investigative Journalism as it does not present truth before the people and makes wrong comments.

Shri Pramod Mahajanji has accepted two things quite honestly that the telephone calls are made not only by the Members above or water bottles are not served to the Members only. Rather sometimes reporters also go there and they are served water bottle and for that payment is made. If the Government feel that telephone facility is not meant for personal use only and it is also used for public service then you may withdraw the increase of Rs. 2000 to 4000 and Rs. 25,000 to 50,000. You have provided free telephone facility to the Minister. They do not pay even the changes of water supply. It is not proper to treat Members as lower grade persons. You should provide them free telephone and water as per their requirement. You should not impose any restriction on it. You should also provide them free power supply.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude after elaborating two more points. Comments are passed on the workings of MPs. They are criticised for going in the well. I am victim to it and I have been punished for one hour for entering into the well. However jumping into the well in protest is not against any rule. I would like to submit that if we want to emphasize on certain issue, then we enter into the well to emphatically present the issue, it is not the insult of the House. So you please do not take these things seriously. No member would like to disrupt the proceedings of the House frequently on account of these reasons. However, there is a method of

protest and we have come here to protect the just interests of the people and not to support each and every step of the Government by way of thumping the bench. We have to enter into the well to strongly raise the just issues of public interest.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my second point is that as far the question of honesty of the Members is concerned, a Committee should be set up to investigate into the matter as to how many Members have got built their own houses in Delhi while so many people in menial jobs have got their houses built in Delhi. Since the independence and starting of Parliamentary system, how many people have been elected as the Members. You may please conduct survey as to how many people have become rich after getting elected as the Member and have got built their own houses. Today if we, the Members have to go anywhere we have to request one person to give vehicle and other one to bear the charges of fuel. What is the position of a Member once his or her tenure as the Member is over.

Shri Pramod ji is resident of Mumbai and he might not be aware of the conditions prevailing in the villages. You might not have seen the condition of the villages. I was born in a village and am well aware of the condition of the villages. Even and am well aware of the condition of the villages. Even today, we find ex-MPs and ex MLAs in the villages who do not even have proper clothings. They do not have enough to eat and have to face many difficulties in fulfilling the needs of their families. So I would like to request you that you should seriously consider to provide pension facility to the Ex. Members. The honesty of any of the Members can not be questioned. The person who questions the honesty of the Members is the most dishonest person in the world. With these words, I support the Bill and request the Government to review the proposal to increase the amount because existing amount is not sufficient.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is changing the rules of the House that those Members who enters into the well will be automatically suspended from the House for five days. I would like to request him that they should not do like this. It is responsibility of the leader of the parties to stop their Members from entering into the well of the House. However in exception if any Member enters into the well there should not be any objection to it. If the rules are changed and implemented, I will be the first person to break the law...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): How it will be possible to conduct the proceedings of the House in this Manner.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I announce to break the Law.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Sir, it is embarrassing to defend oneself. This is a Bill concerning ourselves. But this is the supreme body. We are taking decisions collectively and not individually. Once we take the decisions collectively, they are not biased or influenced. Certain research has been done by Shri K.P. Singh Deo and his team of Members. He has made certain observations which have been clarified by hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I do agree that moralities have been questioned by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. Since we are taking decisions collectively, I do not think that it should be entrusted to any other body. By way of cash, the member would be getting the salary plus daily allowance of Rs. 500/- Apart from this, Members of Parliament are not getting any other allowance for themselves by way of cash payment. Maybe hon. Deputy Speaker and others get more amenities. We will get Rs. 12,000 and Rs. 500/- if we attend the Session and sign the register. These payments are subjected to income tax also. That is known to everybody. Then, what is the net take home pay? Is it really substantial for a Member who wants to survive solely on this salary? Some Members may have other sources of income, but many Members do not have any other source of income apart from their salary. For a Member of Parliament, to live on this salary, it would be difficult. We should not be hypocrites. We should be transparent. While participating on other issues, the Members say that we should be transparent. Are we transparent in this? Please keep your hands on the chest and tell us, is this salary enough to lead an honest life? If it is so, then please do not increase it. Otherwise, see that Members lead a comfortable life. Let them not make any money out of it. We should allow them to lead a responsible and honest life. The Members should lead their life with dignity so that they need not collect money from people who are coming from their constituencies. Otherwise, Members have to ask them to bring food and tea. That should not happen. This is not the end of the story. We accept this for the time being. Let there be a periodical review. He said that let there be a review after three years. Why after three years? It should be kept opened. It should be reviewed if there is any material change in-between. Taking into consideration the market conditions, the living conditions and inflationary pressures, this should be reviewed periodically so that

hon. Members can lead an honourable living. Then only they can discharge their duties honestly and effectively. Many of us do not have any other business. I am watching in this House. I am spending every day 12 to 15 hours to attend, to prepare myself and to come. So, where is the question of my earning money from somewhere else? Kindly accept this Bill unanimously.

Dr. B.B. Ramaiah *garu* is telling that there would be income tax on allowances. Please ensure that allowances are not taxed.

When the salary was Rs. 4,000/- the car loan was Rs. 1 lakh. So, that also should be automatically increased. If an Indian car should be bought, then at least the cost of Indica should be given as loan so that Members will have a diesel Indica. the Members should also live within their means. There should be austerity. We should appear to others that we are leading an austere life so that they do not criticise us.

The other things provided are by way of amenities. This is all justified. On behalf of my Party, I support this Bill.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while introducing the Bill regarding the salary of MPs, hon'ble Minister has claimed that he is introducing the Bill as per the report of the concerned Committee. He has time and again given clarification that he doesn't have any guilty feeling regarding this, it seems that he has some guilt feeling though he is denying this. Other constitution amendment bills are also introduced and discussions are held in favour and against the bill, but he should not say like this as the Constitution makers have rightly said that the Members themselves will enhance or fix their salary. In this situation I certainly feel that since as per the provision of the Constitution we ourselves have to fix our pay, we have cautiously increased our salary even though it is justified.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whenever salary has been increased, it got negative publicity in newspapers. The salary enhancement of MPs certainly gets much publicity and criticism in print media even though increase is quite meagre of only Rs. 200 and the dearness is many times more than that. So I would like to ask the Government as to how news about the two to three times increase in the salaries of MPs has been published in newspapers while even the Bill regarding this has not been passed by the Parliament. Today discussion on the Bill has been started.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like that the President, Vice President, Chairman of Rajya Sabha and the Speaker of Lok Sabha should find out some way to increase the salaries of MPs without attracting much negative publicity of the print media. The increase in salaries of MPs should be justified or an independent body should be constituted to decide the salaries and allowance of MPs. All the Members are distressed that their salaries are not appropriate. The amount is not sufficient for the maintenance.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there might be several such Members, who have nothing to do with what they are paid as salaries, but you should not take them into account rather you should think about those Members who are fully dependent only on the salaries. Earlier a letter pad having fifty pages was available here at the price of Rs. 8 which is now available at the price of Rs. 13 each. Not only this, the price of other commodities have also increased like this. Similarly, the price of the envelope has also increased.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if there is any marriage in our Constituency and we are invited, we have to cover 300-400 km of distance by the vehicle. Earlier in 1978 it was enough to give Rs. 11 as 'Kanyadan' in the marriage of a girl but now we have to give Rs. 101 as Kanyadan. We have to bear additional expenditure on fuel and driver to cover so long distance. If you do not attend the marriage they feel bad. The Members have endless problem.

I cannot explain their pain and misery. If anyone visits us we ask him for tea while he is leaving so that he may say no thanks. Thus we want to welcome him without spending any penny. The hon'ble Minister can understand this misery. So the misery of the general Members must be sympathetically considered.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister to one more thing. The Members who were elected for the 11th Lok Sabha but could not be elected for 12th or 13th Lok Sabha did not get pension benefit. Were they not the Members of Parliament? My request is that the Members who have taken oaths must get pension benefit even if Lok Sabha does not complete its full term and is dissolved early. When the hon'ble Minister is claiming to increase the salaries of MPs on the basis of the report of the committee, then I would like to inform him that the same Committee had recommended for giving pensions to those Members. Then why that Bill is not being introduced in the House. There may be guilty feeling if we talk about giving or increasing the pension amount of ex-Members.

So, I urge upon the Government that pensions should be given to those Members. You should think over it and the bill regarding giving pension to the Ex-Members should be introduced.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rashid Alvi ji said that the salary of MPs in India is lowest in the world. He was giving examples of other countries of the world. I am talking about India. You may see the salaries of the legislators of various legislative Assemblies of various Indian States who get more salaries and allowances than the Members of Parliament. Members of Legislative Assemblies of various States. I would like to raise an issue. When I was elected as a Member in 1996 the amount of car loan was Rs. 50,000.

Why the rate of interest on it is 15 percent, while the rate of interest in Banks are 12 per cent? Can we purchase a car in Rs. 50,000? You had guilty feeling in giving loan of rupees one lakh. The amount of loan is going to be recovered. It is not going to sink nor it is going to NPA, rather it is going to be recovered. Then why this loan amount is so less? Why the rate of interest is more than that of banks. It is profiteering. There are separate laws for banks in the country, we will take loans from bank at lower interest rate. There should be some sort of justification to it. We pay Rs. 5 as fare for parliament's vehicle. What is the meaning of paying Rs. 5? Sometimes we go on foot so as to save Rs. 5 and sometimes our colleagues give us lift in their vehicles. Shrimati Phoolan Devi had lost her life on account of this. The rural people may survive even in four thousand rupees which is much less than BPL. It is fact that some people are not willing to do justified things. Somnath Dada says that our move is severely criticised by others.

I remember one story. There was a man who purchased a horse. He asked his son to ride on the horse and himself started walking on foot. When villagers saw it they started saying that what type of son he is that he himself is riding on the horse and has left his father to walk on foot. So he asked his father to sit on the horse and himself started walking on foot. They people again started to say that what type of father he is that he himself is riding on the horse and has left his son to walk on foot. There after both of them rode on the horse. When both of them sat on the horse, people started saying that they are foolish as both are riding on the horse. Both of them claimed down from the horse and lifted the horse on their shoulders. There was a bridge on the way. On the bridge the horse lost its balance and all of them fell in the river. What lesson do we get from this story.

I am telling you one more story. One sculptor sculptured a statue and kept it at a public place and asked the people to make a mark on the statue that according to them was not good. After sometime there was not any place left on the statue without marks. Thereafter he placed another statue asking people to mark on the statue that according to them was good. Again the statue was full of marks denoting that the entire statue was good. From both the examples it appears that whatever you do the people will necessarily criticise. The people need some pretext to criticize. Let us consider the reality and transparency.

Some people have considered about the conduct. Mahatma Gandhi had formulated the rules of civil disobedience to fight against the British empire. Under section 144 gathering of six people at one place is punishable with imprisonment. When the people of ruling party become despot, then we are forced to fight against them. People consciously violate the rule. It is a fact that he or she is well aware of the consequence and resultant punishment. I have several times asked the police to register FIR after breaking the glass pans of the vehicle and send me to the jail. The administration relented on it...*(Interruptions)* That is the result of our opposition.

Someone has remarked that we are allowed to speak from our seat and I am 100 per cent following the rule. It is stated in the rule to speak from the seat but nowhere it is mentioned to resume the seat after delivering the speech. How many people follow that rule? There is already a rule in this regard that action will be taken against the Members who will disobey the chair. The supreme law is that we follow the order of the Chair, however, sometimes we fight on the issue of the people. When the women of the country do not care for the "Lakshman Rekha" then why will we care for the rules? We may go to any extent for protecting the interest of the people and raising the issues of public interest. 'Mujhe ne kchhu bandhe kar laja, kinhi kaho Prabhu kar kaja'. For the shake of the people who have elected us as Member, we do not care for our prestige. We are elected for raising the issue of public interest, so we will certainly raise their issues and will solve their problem. Why is this considered a problem in the House, as the Government feel that any issue should be discussed but that will not solve the problem of the people. The responsibility of the Government is not only to deliver speech. It is the responsibility of the opposition to make speech and the responsibility of the Government is to act on it. In Tehelka two persons were arrested but FIR has not been registered against them. When it appeared on Tehelka website and was reported in newspaper. Now it is being demanded to make arrests in this regard.

When such unjustified action is being taken on the part of the Government then we adopt fighting posture and want to expose the facts before the Government. The Government forget the fact that merely a debate will not solve the problem and the House is not merely a debating Hall. This is Parliament and they are in the Government and I am in the opposition. The Government and the opposition both are essential for the functioning of the House. We have to merely speak while the Government have to speak as well as to act and when the Government do something wrong the we rise to oppose the move of the Government and sometimes cross the boundaries. Thus we act mutually. On one side are ruling parties and on the other side are opposition parties however, the opposition is very strong and both are the mirror of the society, so while the people are in distress, discipline cannot be maintained in the House. If the people are in distress, we are not going to follow the rules and maintain discipline in the House and we are ready to face the consequence. We will continue to fight for the security of the people and for the cause and problem of the people. We are ready to go to any extent to oppose the wrong move of the Government however, it is the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When will you speak on the Bill?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will support the Bill if the issue of Ex-MPs is added in the Bill. It has been done to please the MPs and garner their support, but you should also do something for Tehelka. I will support the Bill if the issue of Ex-MPs is added in the Bill otherwise, I will not support it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty will speak. Please be brief. We have already taken two hours on this Bill.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Thank you, hon. Deputy Speaker Sir.

I rise to oppose this Bill. Our honourable and jubilant Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has advanced lengthy arguments in favour of this Bill with a 'do not care' attitude towards the media as well as the people. Due to constraint of time, I am not going to contradict him. But Sir, I humbly appeal to the Members of this House to think about this Bill. We are creating a bad precedent before the nation. The Members of Parliament, who are the law-makers, are increasing their own salary, allowances, pension and other facilities. This decision is unjust, unreasonable and unethical also.

[Shri Ajoy Chakraborty]

16.00 hrs.

Sir, the poor people of our country is becoming poorer by the day. More than 70 per cent of the people of our country are living below the poverty line. Industries are closing down. Thousands and thousands of workers are losing their jobs. In this backdrop we are talking of increasing the salaries, allowances and other facilities of the Members of Parliament. It tantamounts not only to a mockery of our democracy but is also unjust, unreasonable and unethical. I, therefore, suggest that let an independent Committee be formed by the hon. Speaker and let him in his wisdom decide about the Terms of Reference of that Committee as well as the composition of that Committee.

Sir, Ms. Mamata Banerjee had cast some personal aspersions on our distinguished colleague, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. I have my sympathies for Ms. Mamata Banerjee. The people of West Bengal have given a fitting reply to her in the recently held State elections. Perhaps, in her zeal to enter the NDA Government, she has made these allegations about him. I would not like to go into the details and contradict her. I would like to remind her as well as other Members of this august House that before becoming a Member of Parliament I was a practicing lawyer in the court. But after becoming an MP I have not attended courts for a single day.

Sir, the very fact that the Members of Parliament are increasing their salaries and other allowances at this juncture is not acceptable to the people of this nation. It is unjust and unethical. I would like to request that let an independent Committee be formed for this purpose and let them review the recommendations and then submit a report to the hon. Speaker. Thereafter, things could take its own course. However, at this present juncture, I strongly oppose this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I am moving my amendment.

I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 3rd December, 2001." (3)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I rise to submit that politics is not a profession but professionals have come into politics. Criminals also have entered politics. Criminals and professionals are dominating the

scene now. That is why I am making this comparison. Politics is nothing but a service and so we would have to approach this issue from that angle.

Sir, we should remember that a man in the street is our master. He is not in favour of a hike in the salaries and allowances of a Member of Parliament and it is evident from the newspaper reports that we are coming across. The people, at large, are not in favour of raising the salaries of the Members of Parliament. We are one amongst them. The Members of Parliament are a part of the people only and the people are suffering now. There is unemployment. There is a situation where people are even being thrown out of their jobs. They are in starvation. What are we, as Members of Parliament, doing? We are obstructing the proceedings of the House. We are sometimes not even allowing the House to function properly. The people do not get what they expect from us. This House has a dignity and that dignity is at its lowest ebb now. This is the most unsuitable time for enhancement of salaries and allowances of the Members of Parliament.

We may be justified in enhancing the salary but the people at large are not with us. They feel otherwise. It is all because of our conduct. The way we behave inside the House everyday acts as an eye-opener to the common man outside. He is very much disturbed. He is very much worried about our conduct. He is very much aggrieved by our conduct. The people at large are not in favour of this enhancement. That is why I say that the matter must be circulated to elicit public opinion. We should get the opinion of the people at large. We should get to know as to where they stand on this issue of enhancement of our salaries.

I do not stand in the way of some facilities being given. There is no difficulty in that. But, when we talk of enhancement of salary, there are other things which have to be taken into consideration and those things are quite unfavourable to us. We should not forget the man in the street. He is our master. He is not very much satisfied with our working. So, we should work hard to raise the status of the House. I would request the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to see the writing on the wall that we are facing a very difficult situation. I would request him not to take up this issue of enhancement of our salary. I would request him to withdraw the Bill without any further discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): The members who are opposing this Bill should give an assurance that they will not accept increased salary. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Malaisamy.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramanand Singh, please resume your seat. You cannot speak like this.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): To give a sigh of relief to the hon. Deputy Speaker, I will hardly take two-three minutes to make my submission.

Sir, I have listened to the hon. Members from both the sides who spoke before me, right from Shri Somnath Chatterjee to Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. I could see that most of the colleagues spoke in support of the Bill. I would like to support the Bill for various reasons.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee said that it was legally and procedurally wrong. I would like to say that it is both legally as well as procedurally right. This measure has the authority of the Constitution and the Rules framed under the Constitution. Enhancement or fixation of salary for Members of Parliament has been done by this Parliament on earlier occasions also based on that authority. Depending on the situation, a Committee had been set up and the Committee had gone into the issue in-depth. After receiving several views in support of this measure the Committee submitted its report. I studied that report with utmost attention. I saw nothing wrong in the recommendations made by the Committee.

Those who are opposing the Bill are saying that the Press is criticising and the public are criticising. When I was discussing this with the people in my Constituency, after being given the whole background they feel that there is nothing wrong for Members of Parliament being paid adequate salaries so that they can sustain and discharge the task well. One need not be too comfortable in living, but one must need some basic things for decent sustenance. Following the implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission Recommendations, even an ordinary *Dafedar* or a Driver in a Government office is drawing a salary of about Rs. 7,000 to Rs. 8,000 per month. Our salary is only Rs. 4,000 a month. It is being sought to be increased to Rs. 12,000. One can say that it is three-times higher. But in quantum it is only Rs. 12,000. In the present economic scenario, this salary is like a peanut for a hungry elephant.

* Not recorded.

Our hon. colleague Shri Prabhunath Singh has rightly mentioned that 'you leave apart all the salary but give us all secretarial and infrastructure facilities.' If that be the case, it will come to about several times than what they are suggesting. What I am trying to say is that when we are fighting for others, we have to fight legitimately for ourselves also. We need not feel sorry for that because when there is nobody to fight for us, we have to take up our case, and in that way this case has been rightly taken up.

Some of our colleagues have said that it is not the appropriate time. But according to me, it is high time that we should take it up. It is already delayed. It is better delayed rather than never.

I do not like to go into the merit of the case because the merit is very much obvious. To make a trip in a single day in a part of my constituency, I have to spend about Rs. 1,000 for fuel alone leave apart other constraints and compulsions. This is the way that we have to work. As such the salary and other facilities now suggested are not at all adequate but to be enhanced further.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I on my behalf and my party's behalf support the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2001, which the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has introduced in the House.

Much discussion has already taken place over this Bill. Only the members of Communist Party and one of our colleague, Shri Radhakrishnan have opposed this Bill. I hope my friends from communist party will act on what they say once this Bill is passed. You give in writing that you won't accept increased salary and allowance. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not correct to adopt dual policy...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I went to West Bengal.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You express only your viewpoint over this Bill.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Sir, I am expressing my viewpoint only over this Bill. I visited Midnapur district in West Bengal. Everyone is concerned at the issue of poverty. Members of Parliament as well as this Government are concerned over the issue of poverty. Communist parties are not the only ones who are pained at poverty. I visited Midnapore district and found that poverty is more in Midnapur district as compared to other States of India, though more than

[Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav]

35-40 years have passed since the communist party formed the Government there. Kumari Mamata Banerjee has said that the salaries and allowances of Legislators are decided by legislative Assemblies. What I mean to say is that the power to enhance the salaries and allowances of legislators should be with us only. This issue need not be referred to anybody else. I would like to quote one instance. I am a son of a farmer and not of any financier or Dhirubhai Ambani or a broker. If we want to represent people then we will have to bring transparency in this. If we want to serve people by staying in politics then there is a need to increase the salaries and allowances...*(Interruptions)* I represent 13 lakhs of voters but there are such constituencies also where the number of voters is 20 lakhs. Sir, I have seen your constituency also.

Since you represent small constituency, your expenses are not much. I myself went there. My constituency is very big. The Thane constituency of Maharashtra has 30 lakhs voters. How can I represent such a large constituency...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You might have seen an Island. Do you know how many islands are there?

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Sir, through you, I would like to State that we must act on what we say and we should desist from politicising this issue...*(Interruptions)* The increase in salaries and allowances is not enough, it should be further raised. With these words. I conclude my speech.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have carefully heard the speech of Shri Pramod Mahajan, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I appreciate that the salaries have been raised from Rs. 4000/- to Rs. 12,000/-...*(Interruptions)* The hon'ble Minister, who is sitting here, has said that about 28 per cent people are living below poverty line but I would like to say that the percentage of people living below poverty line is 34...*(Interruptions)* It does not behove us, the Member of Parliament to enhance our own salaries and allowances ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I have been a freedom fighter and was in prison also. Mahajanji, earlier also when the issue of increasing the allowances was raised in the Lok Sabha at that time some members had said that this should be accepted...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Probably you would also be receiving pension as freedom fighter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: I do not take pension...*(Interruptions)* I don't need any certificate from you.

Sir, this issue has been raised a number of times as to what is the status of Member of Parliament, whether they are public servants. I would say that they are social workers. In his speech Mahajanji has said that allowances will be increased, we agree with that but would like to know as to how much amount will be increased if Article 106 is amended. Everyone knows that tomorrow we all have to become ex-MP,...*(Interruptions)* Here, most of the members are such, who have been MP for more than three years and suppose the Lok Sabha dissolves then we will not get any pension. Therefore, we want that a law should be enacted wherein a provision should be made that if a member remains MP even for a day...*(Interruptions)*

Mahajanji, salaries and allowances can be increased however we want that if a Member remains MP even for a day, he should be entitled for pension and allowances. This provision should be there. I am sorry to say that I cannot support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): I oppose this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank all hon'ble members for participating in this discussion which continued for about 2 hours.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Two and a half hours.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Perhaps this is the first time since 1964 that doing away with the practice and convention of passing the salaries, allowances and pension Bill without discussion, we are passing this Bill this time after having a discussion thereon. It is a good thing. Being a minister of Parliamentary Affairs I am giving reply in brief.

I personally feel unhappy over this whereas all members...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The provision of pension for ex-MP should also be changed. If they were an MP even for a single term they should be entitled for pension. The time limit of four years should not be fixed.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, barring the communist parties, all parties have supported this Bill. However no one seems happy with this Bill.

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: We oppose this Bill ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I said it in Hindi...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying this because our communist friends are unhappy because the salaries and allowances have been enhanced much more while the other colleagues are unhappy since the enhancement is not as per their expectations, as a result no one seems fully satisfied.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: This is not expectation but necessity.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Excuse me, the enhancement is not as per their expectation and it is due to this reason that the Bill has not received full support.

I would once against like to make clear only two things. It has been alleged that it was not high time since there is a recession world over and the country's economic condition is also not good. Secondly, it was also said that it is not appropriate to increase our salaries and allowances during the session when the House had to be adjourned 10-12 times. I have considered a lot over this. Since last December, I have been thinking to introduce this Bill in that session when there was no adjournment. But after seeing the fifth session, it seems to me that I cannot wait further and therefore, I have decided to introduce this Bill. Secondly, we had decided to bring forward this Bill in January itself after the Committee had submitted the report in December, last year. But unfortunately the Gujarat was rocked by the unprecedented earthquake. Hence, this Bill could come before this House after a delay of one year. I do not know how to find ideal time for moving this Bill and how to link this Bill with growth rate but sooner or later, this Bill was to be taken up. Therefore, we decided to move it now. There is no ulterior motive behind it.

We do not have time to discuss about the public image of representatives. But it is certain that the public image of representative is not that good as we are expecting.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, sometimes I feel that it is not correct because I know the instances of other countries and earlier also I had said this thing. I once again like to give an example and request that it should not be taken seriously.

[English]

There seems to be a love and hate relationship between the people and their elected representatives. They start hating them the moment they elect them.

[Translation]

The moment the candidate get elected after getting 5 lakh votes, people start complaining that he is not working properly. I feel that we should also have some discussion on improving our image. We talk about the code of conduct for all. Similar code of conduct should also be there for all of us also but we members can ponder over as to what kind of code of conduct should be there which we can follow and then from such code of conduct unitedly because this situation is not a good. We should try to change the thinking of the society about ourselves and must think about the reasons due to which deterioration is taking place in the image of public representatives. I don't admit that salary is one of the reason. If we check the reasons responsible for this then salary will not be considered more for the duties we perform.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am giving only one example. I got an opportunity to meet hon'ble Prime Minister of Singapore. When I asked him about his Ministers he said that I decide the salaries of my Ministers on the basis of average income of 10 top CEOs. When I asked the reason for this he said that since the people are so prosperous, therefore they have no interest in becoming a Minister. Here also, the salaries are not increased due to this reason. Here also, it has been said by Ministers that if salaries are not increased then they will opt for VRS and then again contest election for becoming an MP. That is why I am saying that we should unitedly try to change the thinking of the society about ourselves and form such code of conduct which we can follow. This is a different thing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, arrangements should be made to give facilities to the MPs according to their needs. I am not guilty conscious in this regard. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad has said correctly that some people does not have sense of guilt at all though they are committing number of crimes, it is their nature. Therefore, there is no need for me to feel guilty. I was talking about MPs on behalf of Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally I would only like to say that people does not like that we ourselves decide about our salary and allowances. Due to this, many misunderstandings arise. Therefore, separate arrangements should be made for this. I will not go into legal aspect

[Shri Pramod Mahajan]

only. Under section 106 of the constitution, it has been clearly stated that members of Parliament can fix their salaries and allowances themselves by enacting a law and accordingly we are putting this in practice for the last 50 years. Therefore, now I have decided that after this session, I will write letters to all the MPs, asking their views in the regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, someone has given a suggestion that the issue of salary and allowances should be left to the discretion of hon'ble Speaker. I have no objection to this but if I became a Speaker I will not take this responsibility because if this issue is left to the Speaker then the Speaker may feel pressurised though we say that we have left this on the discretion of Speaker. I feel that the post of Speaker should be of so high stature that none should raise a finger towards it otherwise in future there will be a controversy that so and so presiding authority had decided the salary and allowances of MPs. No member want that the office of Speaker should become a subject of controversy. It will not be a good thing. Therefore, I asked them to express their views before me in this regard. I received some suggestions, but so far no concrete suggestion has been received. Therefore, now I am going to write letters to all MPs.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of hon'ble Minister that the MPs should also be brought under protocol and as per that protocol when the salaries of other staff increases, the salaries of MPs should also be increased automatically.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if MPs are brought under protocol and are given the salaries equal to that of Bureaucrats, then the expenses which is being incurred today on salaries of MPs will increase 10 times more than the actual expenses. Members are raising objection on Rs. 23 crore and you are giving me the proposal of Rs. 230 crore. That is why, I have said that we will examine this also...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have given a good suggestion. You write letters to all members and then decide after receiving suggestions.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN After receiving suggestion, I will discuss this issue with Speaker and Chairman and convey the gist of it before this House. After this I will have no objection even if there is a need to change or cancel section 106, repeal Salaries Act or formulate new system. We are not happy over deciding our salaries ourselves. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad has rightly said that we faced criticism when the report of the Committee was

submitted, we faced criticism when we were thinking to bring this Bill in January and now when we are actually introducing this Bill, we are facing criticism for the third time. Some newspapers published same editorial thrice by changing the words though the salaries have been increased only once. Therefore, we ourselves don't want such situation in which people raise objection. That is why as Shri Shivraj Patil has given a suggestion we will examine that also but certainly we have to see that the salaries, which the members are getting right now should not be reduced because no one will accept that suggestion. Similarly, if members want that salaries should be increased 10-20 times, then the House may face difficulty in accepting that kind of suggestion...(Interruptions) Raghunath ji we both can do this thing. You give suggestion, I will consider those suggestions with both the presiding officers on behalf of Government. In this way atleast next time we will be free from the allegation of increasing salaries ourselves which is being levelled against the House and it is possible that we may be able to get good salary. I feel that we have tried our level best and request this House to pass this Bill unanimously.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendment moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"The the Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Pramodji, since we are partners in the Government, so please tell me what I have to do and what not to do with regard to the bill.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It is a lengthy process and we cannot pass it in one go. The union Cabinet has to bring an amendment and then hon'ble President's assent has to be obtained...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please tell whether you will move the Amendment or not.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I support the amendment relating to grant of minimum Rs. 5000 as pension to ex-Members of Parliament and stipulation relating to four years minimum period as an MP.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please tell whether you will move it or not?

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I am moving the Amendment. Sir, I beg to move:

At page 1 line 11 for the words.

"Rs. twelve thousand" words "Rs. Fifteen thousand." May be substituted.

If a pension of Rs. 3,000 is sanctioned for those ex-MPs who are not getting pension, I withdraw this amendment otherwise I am moving it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 4, moved by Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 1 to the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2001 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 1 to the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2001 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 4—Amendment of Section 8A

Amendment made:

"Page 1,—

after line 20, insert—

"4. In section 8A of the principal Act, in sub-section (A),—

- (a) for the words "two thousand and five hundred rupees", the words "three thousand rupees" shall be substituted;"
- (b) in the first proviso, for the words "five hundred rupees", the words "six hundred rupees shall be substituted." (1)

(Shri Pramod Mahajan)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the new clause 4 be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.38 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—GENERAL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up the next item — Item No. 12 regard Supplementary Demands for Grants — for discussion and voting.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, of certain further sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2002, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof, against Demand Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 20, 21, 22, 25, 34, 36, 45, 48, 50, 51, 52, 58, 59, 61, 62, 64, 65, 69, 70, 73, 76, 78, 80, 81, 83, 84,"

Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Demands for Supplementary Grants—General moved under Article 115(1) (a) of the constitution. Before I proceed to say something regarding Supplementary Grants, I would like to express my concern to the fact that unfortunately we could not discuss the main Budget, supplementary Demands to which have been moved by the hon'ble Finance Minister for consideration in the House, at length in the House. The euphoria created by the speech of the hon'ble Finance Minister, faded after exposure of UTI's US - 64 dismal performance of stock market and Tehelka episode. Today, we are discussing demands for supplementary Grants. I would like to raise a special issue-whether our budgetary procedure and provision are adequate in view of globalisation.

16.41 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

Whether new necessities have cropped up in presenting the budget, be it main or supplementary. I have a bulletin issued by the Reserve Bank of India wherein some basic question such as, whether

globalisation has made any impact on our resources, budget and our entire system as a whole, have been raised. The issues relating to poverty and unemployment are not being addressed properly in the Budget. This bulletin contains an article written by none other than Deputy Governor of RBI, Shri Reddy.

[English]

Resource-transferred to the rich is described as incentive, while income transferred to the poor is described as 'subsidy'—commonly perceived to be a derogatory term. Pro-poor-oriented growth is thus possible when intellectual community and policy makers treat markets with suspicion that they deserve and the poor with the respect that they need.

[Translation]

The situation has come to such a pass that it is spin to talk of subsidy. This question often comes before us as to how to reduce or withdraw subsidy. This issue is being debated throughout the world. Several economists of the world are of the opinion that thinking towards poverty and unemployment should change. I have with me two latest reports of the world bank one is world Development Report and the other one - Human Development Index Report, wherein it has been explained as to how much progress we have made in the field of education, health, drinking water and other subjects wherein indexing of human development can be made. Now the initiative for changing the budgeting pattern on the basis of human development indexing is being considered afresh. There is a need to adopt new approach for preparing budget.

The comptroller and Auditor General of India has recently commented about the financial position of India.

[English]

"Union finances have become less adequate, less autonomous and more vulnerable through the 1990's "

[Translation]

He has not only analysed the period under the Finance Minister, but the entire period of last ten years.

[English]

"Voted expenditure as a percentage of total disbursement, has fallen from 44.51 per cent in 1992-93 to 31.94 per cent in 1997-98"

[*Translation*]

It means the Demands for Grants put for voting before Lok Sabha and which are changed, whereon voting is not required, today have come down from 44.51 per cent to 31.94 per cent.

[*English*]

It says further:

"Therefore, there is less autonomy for applying available resources for current applications."

[*Translation*]

Consequently, our resources are on decline.

[*English*]

It says again:

"Repayment as a percentage of borrowing, has increased from 72 per cent in 1991 to 86.74 per cent in 1999".

[*Translation*]

We pay very high amount of interest on loans. The interest outgo between 1991 to 1999 has gone up from 72 per cent to 86 per cent.

[*English*]

It indicates that only about 13 per cent of current borrowing is usable for current services.

[*Translation*]

This way it is clear that the large borrowings made by the Government are mostly utilised for repayment of old loans and only thirteen per cent of it remains for new investment in developmental activities. The situation is so precarious today. Though I would not like to go into its details as these had been addressed in the General Budget. Moreover, it may not be an appropriate time to raise such issues. I just want to give a hint that an appropriate occasion should be found out when the economic scenario can be discussed at length. Recently emerging economic scenario to my mind is not suitable for poor countries. The attitude of World Bank is fast changing and there is a need for strong representation from India in world level institutions. If institutions like WTO do not change their approach then the poor countries will become much poorer and regional poverty and regional disparity will keep on increasing in poor countries. These issues have been highlighted in the World Bank reports but at present I would not like to take more time of the House and would take up these issues later on. The report indicates that the index of

interstate poverty in India differs a lot. In one State per capita income of farmers and the poors is just 1/5, though I would not like to name the States which are quite advance in this respect. Today, our total borrowings have touched Rs. 9 lakh crore. Out of this, foreign loans amount to Rs. One lakh and 86 thousand crore and domestic loans amount to Rs. 7 lakh, 14 thousand crore. The interest outgo on the loans is increasing continuously, as I have already stated.

This year, a peculiar thing took place and the deposits made under small saving schemes formed part of consolidated Fund of India. It has become a part of the consolidated fund whereas, constitutionally, it should have been a part of Public Accounts. The Constitution provides that the income other than the income of the Government itself should be deposited in Public Accounts. Approximately Rs. One lakh 80 thousand are deposited in small savings, which has been converted into a fund. The Government borrows funds from such security. Well, the Government gets 20 percent from National savings. These despots act as security for the Government. In this regard it is mentioned in the central Audit Report.

[*English*]

"The consolidated Fund of India, which until 1998-99 used to end with deficit, emerged with a surplus of Rs. 1,51,000 crore at the end of 1999 and the Public Account, which used to remain in surplus, ended with a deficit of Rs. 1,52,000 crore. It occurred because beginning 1999, the Government had begun to formally borrow small saving from the National Saving Fund by issuing securities."

[*Translation*]

Even the Parliament has not been informed as to why the funds deposited in National savings have been transferred from Public Accounts to consolidated Fund of India.

A structural change has been brought on the basis of constitution. I would like to know why it all happened? If we look at figures of expenditure incurred from Consolidated Fund of India, we find that expenditure during the year 1997-98 was Rs. 51,162 crore, it slightly came down during the year 1998-99 but it again increased to Rs. 73,284 crore during 2000-2001. Right from the formation of the Parliament and even during British era it has been the practice and even Public Accounts Committee have recommended that demand for Supplementary Grants should only be sought after thorough study of original budget. Public Accounts Committee have submitted several reports in the Parliament but unfortunately those are not taken up for discussion because of time constraint. I am sure, even

[Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari]

hon'ble Finance Minister would agree that the reports submitted by the Public Accounts Committee should be implemented. The reports of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who is the Prime Minister at present, Shri Venkatraman, Dr. Joshi etc. are with me. Time and again they have expressed same opinion as to why supplementary grants are sought when the funds provided in original budget, are not utilised. In that case what is the necessity for Supplementary Grants. Why the provisions are made without assessing actual requirement. I would like to make a mention of 147th report of P.A.C., which is very much important. Finance Ministry had accepted that report and had ordered that:

[English]

"Any re-appropriation order issued during the year which has the effect of increasing Budget provision by more than 25 per cent or Rs. 1 crore whichever is more under a sub-head should be reported to Parliament along with the last batch of Supplementary Demands. In exceptional cases, any order or re-appropriation issued by the Ministries/Departments after presentation of the last Supplementary Demands should be with the prior approval of the Secretary/Additional Secretary, Department of Expenditure."

[Translation]

Hon'ble Minister may have received current year's audit report. There are many instances when above mentioned order of Finance Ministry has not been obeyed. Departments even did not start seeking permission of Expenditure Secretary whether it means that the Finance Minister is taking the Parliament lightly. I know that hon'ble Finance Minister will not like his orders to be neglected, but this time it has happened. I have PAC's reports for the year 1999, 2000 and 2001 in my hand. In the report for the year 1999.

[English]

"In 15 cases relating to 15 grants as detailed below, although the supplementary provisions were obtained in anticipation of higher expenditure, the final expenditure was less than even the original grants. Thus the entire amount of supplementary provision aggregating to Rs. 280.95 crore proved to be unnecessary."

[Translation]

It means supplementary grants for Rs. 280 crore were sought whereas when total expenditure was examined it

was found that there was no need for supplementary grants. Though, I would not like to read out names of those particular grants since it would take much time. Similar examples of unnecessary demand for supplementary grants are aplenty in case of Ministry of Defence, Food, Home Affairs, Human Resource Development wherein unnecessary grants were sought. In 68 cases, reappropriation has been found to have been made quite inappropriately.

[English]

"In respect of remaining 96 cases, the exception was made the rule undermining the parliamentary financial control by different Ministries/Departments. In these cases, despite prior knowledge, the approval of Secretary (Expenditure) was obtained at the fag end of the financial year instead of reporting the re-appropriation to Parliament."

[Translation]

I would like to ask hon'ble Finance Minister as to how fiscal control can be ensured when neither the concerned department intimates Parliament about it nor the Ministry has any information about it and under these circumstances how can the departments make good use of money—...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tiwari ji, I am not stopping you from speaking but I would like to tell you that your party has been given 38 minutes whereas you have already taken 25 minutes. I just want to tell you.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Had you told me this thing earlier, I would have not taken so much time...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not asked you to stop your speech, you may continue. I have just reminded you that other hon'ble Members are also to speak. So you may conclude it.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I am talking about total fiscal control. When I am speaking about fiscal control, I mean total fiscal control. An article in August, 2001 issue of Monthly Review-Indian Economy state that:

[English]

"The fiscal discipline that was implemented on the expenditure of Central Government during 2000-01 appears to be slipping as can be seen from the first quarter data for the fiscal year 2001-02."

17.00 hrs.

[Translation]

The details of quarterly expenditure have been published.

[English]

According to the Controller General of Accounts, the Central Government expenditure during April-June, 2001 increased by 14 percent as against a decline of 2.7 percent during the corresponding period in 2000.

[Translation]

Last year Minister's orders were adhered to and the expenditure declined by 2.7 percent but this year in the first quarter it shot up by 14 percent. Hon'ble Minister should see as to what is going on?

[English]

The increase was more on account of non-plan expenditure rather than for Plan expenditure.

[Translation]

The increase in expenditure has been on account of non-plan spending.

[English]

The non-plan expenditure on interest payment, subsidy, defence payments, salaries etc. increased by 23 percent during April-June 2001. The interest payment surged by 23 percent as against a decline of 17.8 percent during April-June, 2000. The plan expenditure declined by 5.3 percent during first quarter of 2001-2002.

[Translation]

If expenditure on interest payment has increased so much during last quarter then we can imagine how much impact it would have on fiscal deficit.

[English]

The fall in Plan capital expenditure was more than the decline in the Plan revenue expenditure. The Plan revenue expenditure fell by 4 percent against an increase of 28 percent during the same period of 2000.

[Translation]

During the period 2001-02 expenditure fell by 5.3 percent on account of appropriation.

[English]

The fall in plan capital expenditure was more than the decline in Plan revenue expenditure. The Plan revenue expenditure fell by 4 percent against an increase of 28 percent during the period of 2000.

[Translation]

Expenditure figures with us show that there is a need for tightening-up fiscal control and there is a need for changing basic definitions. Now I would like to know provisions of supplementary budget of current-financial year. Some of its provisions—such as provision for horticulture for North-Eastern States and for micro-management. If it was the only purpose of seeking supplementary grants, then the provision made for newly declared projects in North-Eastern region is inadequate, nor it is supplementary to the original budget, which ought to have been provided for North-East. A provision of Rs. 100 crore has been made for NAFED, but will it be adequate for it? Look at the requirement of funds projected by NAFED. In view of pitiable condition of farmers, there is a need to give a serious thought to present support-price and State of affairs in NAFED. Complete details are not provided in the budget. During the previous regime, even supplementary budgets contained complete details like original budget. Provisions made for Coffee-Board, Tea-Board and Rubber Board in North-East and Spices Board in Kerala and to several other States are quite inadequate. Provisions have not been made in accordance with the declaration made recently and provisions for grants to Coffee Board and Rubber Board are also not according to their needs.

I feel, the Government will have to bring another supplementary Budget. Governments' policy for the public sector is weak and vague which is reflected clearly in the supplementary budget. Some provisions have been made for Fertilizer Corporation of India, Project Development Corporation of India and the Hindustan Fertilizer Company. I would like to ask hon'ble Finance Minister as to what steps have been taken for revival of fertilizer plants lying closed, as was declared by hon'ble Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and even a Group of Ministers was formed. It was said that Gorakhpur factory will be the first to be reopened but no mention has been made in this regard in the budget. Why

[Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari]

meetings of Group of Ministers are not held. What is Government's policy regarding revival of factories of Fertilizer Corporation of India and Hindustan Fertilizer Company? The Government declared certain public sector units as 'Navratna'. If enough funds are provided to these undertakings they would become sick and would have to resort to disinvestment. I would like to ask hon'ble Finance Minister as to what is the Government's policy with regard to rest of public sector? Financial Institutions are not extending financial aid to meet working capital requirement to public sector units such as SAIL and HMT who were provided financial aid last year. Financial institutions say that since the Government provided finance aid to these units last year, now what is need for more funds? If working capital is not provided to these units, these would again go in loss. The Government borrow entire funds from Banks and order the PSU's to borrow funds from the market, then how these undertakings will get funds from market? I am holding a copy containing hon'ble Finance Minister's orders wherein it is stated:

[English]

In July, 2001, the Minister asked all Public Sector Undertakings to pursue their investment plan of utilising their reserves in addition to raising funds from the market.

[Translation]

Similarly, efforts are being made for revival of IFCL. It is good, but I would like to know what is the plan of action for this purpose? Rs. 400 crore are being allotted to IFCL. HMT factory in Nigeria is going to be made operational again. It is a very good step. Similarly, efforts should be made to reopen our public sector units in other countries like one HMT unit in Kenya. We have good relations with every country. Rs. 500 crore are earmarked for wage and means advance to the States and what is the basis for making a provision of Rs. 500 crores for advance payment to States? What financial aid the Government are going to provide to newly created States? What financial assistance the Government are going to provide to the old States whose financial position is critical? What purpose the meagre amount of Rs. 500 crore earmarked for wage and means advance is going to solve? Uttaranchal has been given a special status but no additional funds have been allotted to it. U.P.'s condition is such that it does not have funds to pay heavy amount of central electricity charges pending since long. The situation is grave in U.P. I do not know what steps the Central Government have taken in this regard?

I welcome the newly created grant Journalists Welfare Fund, wherein a provision of Rs. One crore has been made. Though it is meant for the journalist, but it is not clear as to for what type of Journalists is the said fund and who has been consulted while creating this fund? Whether it is meant for entire media, including cable or for journalists from States also? Its objects are not clear. It has been stated that a Journalists Fund with a corpus of Rs. One crore will be created. The likely expenditure should be assessed in advance. There was a provision of Rs. 2 crore 88 lakhs for fisheries. Under this fund, there are certain provisions which should be kept in mind while preparing the budget. I have already taken much time and I am not in a habit of taking more time than the allotted one, therefore, I am sorry. Though there is a lot to speak about, but perhaps I may again get an opportunity later on. I would like to say only this much that at least the Finance Minister, who has long experience of dealing with administrative and financial matters should ponder over as to what changes in budgeting policy and procedure are envisaged in view of fastly changing global scenario and to fine tune the budget as per current fiscal needs, such as alleviation of poverty, take dynamic and timely steps for revival of industrial units which have been lying closed so as to bring down the unemployment so that the country can be taken in a new direction.

With these words, I would seek your permission to place my opposing proposal in a creative perspective.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants presented by the hon. Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha.

A very experienced hon. Member of this House, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Shri Tiwariji raised a very pertinent point. The point he raised is—'whether the new economy is beneficial for underdeveloped countries'. He concluded his speech referring to this. he made this point during the course of his speech also. My point is, in the present-day world, what else is the go? Once upon a time—when I did not know much about the economy—I was also caught in the tangle of *Swadeshi* and *Videshi*. Now, when we see the other countries in the world, especially the so-called Communist country like China queueing up before the WTO wanting to enter the comity of nations in the WTO; when we see the way they have progressed within the last ten years being also the same type of country like

ours, having the same type of problems like us, having the same type of population like us; when we find that it has far surpassed us in economic stature, and is going to be the second biggest economy in the world, aspiring to be the biggest economy by 2020, what other road do we have to take except this road?

The new economy is an opportunity for India. The new economy is not against this country, it is an opportunity for this country. It has given us an opportunity to prove in the world that India can become a superpower. India can become a superpower by not giving protection to its industry. India can prove itself to be one of the best countries in the world, quality-wise also. Then only it is possible to become a superpower.

Though hon. Tiwariji has not mentioned about the economic slow down, I am very sure the other hon. Members who would rise to speak after me will positively mention the economic slow down. They would say that the economy is slowing down in India; in 1999-2000 the GDP growth was 6.3 per cent; and it has come down to 5.2 per cent in 2000-2001. They will definitely say that. They will also apprehend that it will go down further this year. But still, I will say that economic slow down is now a worldwide phenomenon.

Sir, not only these countries, even the United States of America, and Japan the second largest economy of the world are also passing through the similar phase. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Our economic slow down is slower than that of other countries...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Excepting China, there is no other country, even in Europe also, which is having 6 per cent average growth for the last five years. Take, for example, Japan, the second biggest economy of the world. Even their growth is not 6 per cent. Take, for example, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. Just four to five years back, they were the Asian tigers. But now their GDP is not even 3.5 per cent.

But still here is our country, which, in spite of recession and Asia flue three years back, continued sustaining its development on an average of 6 per cent. Last year, due to bad monsoon and because of the slow down in agricultural economy, it went down to 0.2 per cent and attained the GDP of 5.2 per cent.

Now, with a very good monsoon predicted this year, we very much expect that there will be a turn around in September, and we will go even beyond 6.5 per cent GDP this year.

Sir, after coming to power, this Government has brought down the below poverty line percentage to 26. Previously, it was about 37 per cent...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: This figure of 26 per cent is not confirmed. The percentage of people below poverty line is much more than 26 per cent.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Anyway, I believe in the data given by the Government, and I take it as 26 per cent.

Sir, the foreign exchange reserves of our country is 43 billion dollars as against 750 million dollars in 1991. This industry is surviving in spite of import tariff falling from 135 per cent to 35 per cent over the last decade. In this span of time, the Government's investment is 28 per cent lower. That is the main reason for the slow down.

The slow down has been caused for the last five years because after the Fifth Pay Commission, so much of money was spent on salaries. So, the Government did not have much money for developmental work. Sir, 60 per cent of the entire revenue went on salary, emoluments and pensions of the Government employees. That is the basic reason for which the Government could not spend much. Because the Government could not spend much, there was an economic slow down.

Sir, the annual tax revenue this year is Rs. 2,01,000 crore. The repayment of principle amount for old loans is Rs. 2,85,000 crore. The amount of interest payment is Rs. 1,30,000 crore. It comes to a negative of Rs. 1,84,000 crore. With this negative amount, we have just started.

So, Sir, my point is that in spite of all these things, the Government is doing reasonably well, and it will also do well in future.

Sir, a point was raised by hon. shri Narayan Datt Tiwari with regard to policy on public sector undertakings especially on disinvestment. I will not go into the very many details of it because just last week, we have had a detailed discussion in this very House which went on till 10 o'clock in the night.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

It is being talked, time and again, about the revival package of the sick public sector units to revive them. In the last 10 years, Rs. 37,000 crores have been spent on the revival of different sick units. But not even a single unit could be revived. How do we just expect that if we again put money there, their condition will improve? What is the guarantee that their condition will improve after putting in money there on their revival?

Who can give guarantee? They say that jobs of the people will go. Jobs of how many people will go? Only 19 lakh people's jobs are involved. India does not belong to only 19 lakh people; India is having a population of 100 crore or 1,000 million. So, for the sake of only 19 lakh people, should 100 crore people suffer?

My point is that these should be disposed of as quickly as possible. We say that it is a crown jewel or that it is a family jewel. But hon. Minister Shri Arun Shourie was telling the other day that the conditions of so many public sector undertakings were so bad that no bidder was coming forward to buy them. So, they should be sold out as quickly as possible. When there are takers, at least, let us dispose them of because tomorrow may be too late. Let us not delay the process.

Hon. Finance Minister is present here. He knows that the Standard and Poor's, the international credit rating agency, has downgraded India's rating. What was the reason that they have downgraded us? One of the major reasons was that the disinvestment process in India was very slow.

We are scaring away all the bidders due to the criticism in this House and also due to the agitation elsewhere. One of the hon. Chief Minister of one of the States in India has himself incited the strike and more than Rs. 200 crore of BALCO was wasted in this way. He himself was the person who is now going for disinvestment of 29 State public sector undertakings.

The hon. Members from the Left Parties are always fighting. The hon. Members from the Left Parties are present here. I have with me, today's *The Hindustan Times*. I would just like to read out the heading. It says that "64 loss-making units to shut shop — CM." It is the CM of which State? He is the CM of West Bengal. I would like to quote what he said:

"A technical Committee set up to prepare a list of other sick undertakings have submitted its interim findings. We are going through them. PSUs must be financially self-sufficient. Otherwise, they have to close shop.

Asked why he had criticised the Centre for its decision to wind up these undertakings when he himself was doing so, Bhattacharya said, they are targeting profit-making PSUs. We plan to close only the units that have been running on loss year after year."

That is what he said. Who will buy these loss-making units? Nobody will just come forward to buy them. Even now, nobody is coming forward. So, merely saying that dispose of the loss-making public sector undertakings—as if the buyers are queuing up—is not correct. The units that are profit-making today would be no more profit-making tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, the first speaker spoke for nearly 35 minutes. I have taken only about 10 minutes. From the NDA, I am the first speaker; so, you may give me some more time, at least 5-10 minutes more. I know that I am a junior Member and I cannot compare myself with him. But kindly show me some sympathy and consideration.

My point is this. We have sold two units already — the Modern Food and the BALCO. They are success stories. The Modern Food has enhanced its production twice, after it has been privatised. It has also been able to increase the salaries of its employees by Rs. 1,600 per worker. The workers are thus happy. So, I will appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that he should be strong enough in his attitude; he should not listen to any criticism; he should be very firm in disposing of those units because they are drain on national exchequer.

Another point is regarding the labour laws. Just two or three days back we passed the Trade Union Bill. When we talk about the labour laws, a number of hon. Members feel that the workers should be protected. I do agree that the workers should be protected. I do not deny it. But my point is, we already have the Industrial Disputes Act, the Factories Act, the Minimum Wages Act, the Provident Fund Act, the ESI Act, the Bonus and Payment of Gratuity Act, etc. Are they not for protection of the labour? When we are having these many Acts, how many more do we require? In this country, the trade unions have become professional. They are anti-labour and they have become superfluous or rather counter-productive. They have become the main reason for closure of the industry. This perhaps is one of the reasons behind the foreign direct investment not coming to India. While China is getting about 47 billion dollars every year as foreign direct investment, we are getting hardly 3.8 billion.

I had been to China a month back. We met the hon. Prime Minister of China. We also met the trade union leaders. I asked a question to the hon. Prime Minister, "since you are allowing so much of foreign direct investment into China, do you not feel afraid that the foreigners will dominate the economy of China". The hon. Prime Minister said, "why should we be afraid of it. We are having a number of joint ventures and we are exporting 52% of total production out of these joint ventures." He also said that ten years back when any Chinese used to go to the United States of America he was coming back with goods made in USA but now any Chinese who is going to America is coming back with goods made in China. He has said that he is benefiting. China is allowing direct foreign investment even in the retail sector. The departmental stores, small shops are being run by the Taiwanese, Japanese, Germans and people from Hong Kong and USA.

In the infrastructure, agricultural and industrial sectors also, the foreign direct investment should be allowed. I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to put more emphasis on the infrastructure sector, particularly the housing sector.

We have seen that Chinese are now going in for the multi-storey buildings. Previously, it was said that China is a communist country and everybody there should live in a double-storey building. But now they are demolishing all the double-storey buildings and in their places constructing 50 to 70 storey buildings. When I asked the necessity of it, I was told, should they not provide the international standard of living to their people. He asked me, do I expect them to stay in the double-storey building for all the time. According to them, by constructing these big buildings, they are vibrating the economy. They say, it is not the responsibility of the Government to provide Government jobs to everybody but it is the responsibility of the Government to create an economic environment where everybody will be self-employed or will get a job on his own. That is the model which we should follow.

I would say that the foreign direct investment is not coming to India because of our bureaucratic procedure. It is so because of corruption or delay at the bureaucratic level. So, I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to look into the matter. China has also done the same thing.

They had identified 300 major industries all over the world just about ten years back. They invited them to start production in China and they gave them all the facilities. They provided the facility of reduced rates of tax to them and there was no bureaucratic hassle for them. There is no red tapism. That is why, the foreign direct investment is coming to China at such a high level.

17.30 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

Sir, in all the developed countries, the rate of power for the one unit is just Rs. 2. In our country it is Rs. 5. You will be surprised to know that in India the per unit cost of electricity for an industrial house is just two and a half times of the per unit cost for the residential house but in other countries, it is just the reverse. There the residential house owners have to pay just double than that of the industrial house. So, I would appeal that the Electricity Bill should be brought in this House and passed immediately.

As regards project implementation, we are lagging behind other countries. It should also be given a very serious thought.

Finally, with regard to infrastructure building, he has mentioned that Rs. 2,500 crore has been given to the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana. It is a Centrally-sponsored programme. I would appeal the hon. Minister to ensure that, at least, this project is properly implemented since it being an infrastructure building project. If you provide Rs. 2,500 every year, I think the economy will become vibrant and there will be no economic slow down.

Lastly, I would like to make an appeal to the hon. Minister in regard to loans sanctioned to the States. In Orissa, 95 per cent of the revenue earned is spent on salary, allowances, and interest payment. So, I will appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that as the loan is too much, he should give a five-year moratorium on loan payment to Orissa so that after five years, Orissa does not come to the Central Government with a begging bowl.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Half-an-hour discussion will be taken up.

17.53 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

RE: Losses suffered by Super Bazaar

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to take part in Half an Hour discussion regarding messy State of Affairs in Super Bazaar.

A question was asked by Shri Naresh Pugliaji in this regard on 3rd ultime but reply given by the Government could neither satisfy the Member nor the House. Consequently, the chair directed to hold half an hour discussion on this issue. Super Bazaar was set up in 1976. Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister at that time. Government's intention behind its establishment was to set up cooperative wherein partly the Government will invest and partly the public. It was aimed at providing facilities to the common man. accordingly Super Bazaar has about 112 branches in Delhi and Noida. In addition it has 16 mobile vans also.

Government of India has large chunk of equity shares in it. As per my knowledge, once Government of India provided Rs. 157.5 lakh grant in aid and a loan of Rs. 153.31 lakh was also granted. A subsidy of Rs. One crore was also given and this cooperative outfit was earning sufficient profit. Sale of stationery items was permitted in Super Bazaar from 1989 onwards. As per my knowledge during the year 1990-91 it earned a profit of Rs. 21.84 lakhs, in 1991-92 it earned a profit of Rs. 9.33 lakhs, in 1992-93 it earned a profit of Rs. 10.83 lakhs and during the year 1995-96 it earned a profit of Rs. 27.61 lakhs but in subsequent years it suddenly went in red and incurred a loss of Rs. 67.65 lakhs in 1996-97, the loss was increased to Rs. 321.33 lakhs in the year 1997-98 and to Rs. 706.80 lakhs in 1998-99 and the loss further surged to Rs. 1643.50 lakhs in the year 1999-2000. In view of this huge loss hon'ble Finance Minister made a statement and gave an interview on TV and press stating that selling of flour and sugar is not the duty of the Government. It certainly means that the Government contemplate to sell flour and sugar also.

But under what circumstances, a cooperative store, which was earning handsome profits, suddenly went in red? I want to inform you that one Mr. Dhuri was appointed Chairman at the behest of a Minister in NDA Government though I would refrain from telling his name so as to avoid untoward fuss in the House. In fact, he was appointed Chairman overlooking all rules and regulations and he was provided a residence at a monthly

rent of Rs. 18,600. Consequently, Super Bazaar had to pay a sum of Rs. 9 lakh as rent for the accomodation hired for said Chairman. On the one hand the super bazaar was incurring huge losses on the other hand Rs. 9 lakh has been doled out as payment of rent. In this situation, how can we expect profit? Earlier, goods were purchased through competitive tender process thereby ensuring supply of quality product for the customers and that too at cheaper rates. But during the tenure of this Chairman, order for supply of spices etc. was given to a person without inviting tenders for three months. It is an open secret as to how the rates were fixed even hon'ble Minister know everything about it. I have learnt that Super Bazaar suffered a loss of Rs. 3.90 lakhs during these three months. When such irregularities came to notice the Government should have taken prompt action but it remained silent. Similarly, 6 parties made an offer to supply cereals in November, 1998. Earlier tender notices used to be published in the newspapers. During that period rates of cereals were fluctuating daily but he finalised the rate with 6 parties. Bazaar started receiving supply without inviting tenders. 485 bags of cereals were ceased and a case was filed. Several persons were arrested. Bazaar suffered a loss of Rs. 4 lakhs on this account. If we look item-wise, Super Bazaar went on incurring losses continuously, but the Government kept silence. The Government took no action and the losses kept on mounting.

Sir, tomatoes, onions and potatoes were purchased from Punjab. Five tonnes onions were ordered @ Rs. 10 per kg., 4.03 tonnes of tomatoes @ Rs. 25 per kg., and 100 tonnes of potatoes @ Rs. 8 per kg. All these items got spoilt in storage.

The prices in the open market were lower at that time hence no customer was ready to buy it. Items purchased from outside got destroyed. On this account, Super Bazaar suffered a loss of Rs. 5 lakhs and 29 thousand. The situation became so worse that even safai karamcharis started applying for tenders. If the Government had taken timely action, Super Bazaar would not have suffered such huge losses. Similarly, without proper approval of Board of Directors Swaraj Trucks were purchased for Rs. 73 lakh and 94 thousand. Those trucks could not be utilised and are lying idle.

Besides this, interest on borrowings is also piling up. In such a scenario how can you expect profit. I want to know why the Government took no action on time in such a situation, why it remained indifferent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, that will be an injustice to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is half an hour discussion. Since you have moved the motion, I am giving you ten minutes.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, you are in the Chair and you can give me some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go by the rules.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: We both go according to the rules.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The rules should be followed.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, Legislative Assembly elections were being held from 18.11.99 to 26.11.99 rates were lowered to derive political benefits which caused a loss of Rs. 1.60 crore. I want to tell you that a branch of Super Bazaar was to be opened in Sangrur, Punjab for which a building was taken on rent and employees were recruited but the Super Bazaar did not start functioning. It caused a loss of Rs. 43000. the matter was investigated by a Joint Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and on that basis, charges were framed and on 25 January, 2001 the persons involved were asked to provide clarifications. they were asked to show cause why the loss should not be recovered from them. Apart from Mr. Bhuri, five other are involved in it. From Mr. Bhuri, Rs. 7.59 crore is to be recovered. Rs. 4.05 crore to be recovered from Shri Surendra Gandhi, the then deputy Chairman, Rs. 2.47 crore from Mr. S.S. Jose; Rs. 2.47 crore from Shri Ram Maheshwari; Rs. 0.89 crore each from Shri Ajit Singh and Shri Vijay Kumar. The sum total comes to about Rs. 18 crore. An investigation by CBI has been conducted and a few persons have been arrested. The name of an IAS was also mentioned. Small fish were arrested but big fish were left untouched. Why it is so? I want to know from the hon. Minister that if low level workers can be arrested, why two IAS officers against, whom allegations are proved, could not be arrested? Further whether notice for recovery was issued to those whom I had identified? If that has been done, why no recovery has been done till date? Whether political interference is being made or political pressure is being exerted to stall recovery. A conspiracy is on to ruin super Bazaar.

Sir, the sales have drastically come down. Sales used to be around Rs. 1.40 crore per month. Besides Super Bazaar also has taken huge loans from the market as the goods have already been delivered. Total amount is estimated at Rs. 35 crore. Irregularities were committed

in the Biscuits supplied for school children in 1993-94. It was procured from a person who had no factory. It was of low quality. Everything came to light only after a raid of central excise. Irregularities of such a magnitude were committed and the Government is indifferent. With Raghunath ji, I had asked a question in this regard to which the hon. Minister had furnished a written answer. In reply he had assured for an audit. The Government had agreed for the audit of accounts of Super Bazaar of Delhi for five years from 1995-96. While the Super Bazaar, Delhi had suggested five year audit from 1994-95. Why it was not done even after an agreement was reached? What is the reason behind it? Whether Government's intention is to deliberately cause damage to Super Bazaar. If not, why the Government took no action?

Sir, the Board of Super Bazaar should be immediately disbanded. it should be run through an administrator. Facts will come out once the auditing is done by the CAG. It is the people's money that is at stake, not that of Government alone. Therefore I want that both the points should be kept in view and a way of improvement should be found out. It should be done not only for Super Bazaar, but for other organisations such as Kendriya Bhandar as well. I have written several letters in this regard. We also had *tete-a-tete*. Though the issue is not being discussed, yet I would say that irregularities are also being committed in other organisations. Please keep an eye on it. Please take action to ensure that they are smoothly run and losses are made good. With these words, I conclude.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total capital invested in the largest undertaking of the country in the cooperative sector *viz.* the Super Bazaar. I would also like to know about the administrative action taken against some officials and workers and major and minor penalties contemplated against some of them? I would also like to know how much dues have been recovered from them? Whether 'Rashtriya Sahakari Bhandar' has expressed its desire to take over Super Bazaar from Delhi Government? If so, what is the reaction of the Government about the suggestion of the Planning Commission to form a sub-committee for improving the condition of Super Bazaar and its revival by providing a loan amounting to Rs. 20 crore?

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to know two things. First is, whether it has been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister that Super Bazaar is constantly running in loss and in the seven cases which were referred to the CBI against

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

which official action has been taken. Second, whether an organisation of the name of 'Rashtriya Sahakari Bhandar' has proposed to the hon. Minister regarding its take over? if it has done so, what is name of officials of this body and its fund position, and whether they have any managerial skills to run Super Bazaar or they just want to swindle all the capital of Super Bazaar by forming a body. As has happened earlier and as Shri Prabhunath Singh ji stated that cars have been purchased illegally, illegal appointments have been made and procurement of potato and onions have been done at higher prices.

Pulses were sold at a low rate citing the excuse that elections are near. Who is responsible for all these losses? All this was inquired into by the Registrar of societies who also issued a notice. I want to know what action has been taken by the Government for the money drawn in the name of Shri S.S. Dhuri, Shri Surendra Gandhi, Shri S.S. Hose, Shri Ram Maheshwari, Shri Amarjit Singh Chatwal and Shri Vijay Kumar? Whether responsibility has been fixed? Whether Shri S.S. Dhuri has resigned voluntarily or is he being forced to do so? whether he is holding on to his post even after resigning and whether this will improve the condition of Super Bazaar. The hon. Minister should clarify the matter.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister.

Sir, there have been Press reports about storage of foodgrains in the godowns of Food Corporation of India and it has been stated that the godowns are overflowing. It has also come out in the Press that foodgrains are being sold at a throw-away price. At the same time, it has been reported that there were several cases of starvation death in four or five States in India and the Government did not take any action in this regard. The matter went up to the Supreme Court through a Public Interest Litigation. The Supreme Court heard the matter and they ordered that the Public Distribution System should be strengthened to avoid starvation deaths in the country. They ordered like this not once, but twice. So, the Government was given a direction in this respect by the Supreme Court. Then, the matter came up again before the hon. Supreme Court. It took a serious view on the subsequent occasion and gave a direction to the Government to take immediate steps to strengthen the Public Distribution System. It is an irony of fate that after 54 years of Independence, the Supreme Court had to give a direction like this. So, I request the Government that the Public Distribution System must be strengthened, by all means, throughout the country.

I now come to the aspect regarding losses suffered by Super Bazaar. These losses could have been prevented if the Government was cautious enough to take preventive measures in time. The losses were due to callous negligence on the part of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. If they had taken necessary steps by way of abundant caution, the losses could have been prevented. So, I would request the hon. Minister to explain sufficiently as to what has transpired in this case, because of which the Super Bazaar has suffered these losses.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the concern of the hon. Member regarding Super Bazaar is genuine. What he said is more or less true. He said that till 1995-96, Super Bazaar was earning profit and from then onwards, it is continuously in loss. It is true. The reasons for the loss are mismanagement, lack of professional outlook, having more employees than requirement, spending more than earnings and increase in the salary of its employees. Baweja Committee gave its award in 1996-97. The employees were given D.A., bonus and interim relief. The salary bill of the employees increased by Rs. 1.25 crore. In 1997-98 the recommendations of fifth Pay Commission were implemented without keeping in view its earnings and losses. It led to an increase in the expenditure by Rs. Eight crore. In total, an additional burden of Rs. 9.25 crore had to be borne. Whatever he said about corruption is true. Due to lack of an effective monitoring system, the mismanagement and corruption in Super Bazaar went on increasing. One Chairman, whose name was mentioned here, committed a number of actions in gross violation of all rules. I admit that the Board failed to take timely action. I was asked about the action taken. After taking the charge of the Ministry, the first file I had to dispose related to this. The first thing I did was the dissolution of the Board under the Chairmanship of Shri Dhuri. Thus the demand to dissolve the board was fulfilled. Board was given a whole new look. No previous members are in it. Central RCS was asked to inquire into the whole matter. The inquiry was conducted under section 69 and 73. Among the wrong doings, purchase of spices and purchase of onions were identified. It has caused a lot of damage to this institution. On that basis, we have issued notices for recovery of about Rs. 18 crore. Action, as per law, is being taken. The total liability of this institution is Rs. 69.6 crore. The first step of the Government was to dissolve the earlier board.

18.00 hrs.

Thereafter all the cases of wrongdoing have been handed over to CBI. The report of RCS has been submitted and action is being taken on that basis. The land of Longowal towers with crores of rupees has been

recovered. Besides, the direction of High Court with regard to SRGB have also been implemented. The problem was that in 1997 consultations were held with Delhi Government it was ready to take over Super Bazaar. Government of India agreed to withdraw from its management if Delhi Government takes the responsibility of Super Bazaar. Since, SRGB was not complete in 1997, High Court had given stay order and then the action was not followed up. Later on, upon the completion of all the formalities, Delhi Government gave in writing that they wanted to take over Super Bazaar. At that time, during consultations, Government of India had offered to share some part of the liabilities of Super Bazaar. Now, after a long wait, Delhi Government has replied that it is not interested in taking over Super Bazaar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now the problem before the Government is what to do with it. It was the decision of the cabinet to hand over Super Bazaar to Delhi Government which is now not interested in it. Perhaps BJP was in power in Delhi in 1997 and thus it was willing to take it over but the present Government is not. I have talked personally to the Chief Minister of Delhi and told her that the Delhi Government had commitment to it but she said that they are not keen in the changed circumstances. I am now going to the cabinet with all the suggestions and alternatives suggested by the hon. Members to decide our future course of action.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Biscuit scam was mentioned here. CBI said that there is no case against two IAS officers but when the case was referred to CVC, it said there is case against the two officials. We also agreed that there is case against the two IAS officers. Action is now being taken against them, Which is now at an advanced stage. Seven cases have been referred to CBI. Preliminary investigation has been completed by them. Under section 69 and 73 inquiry report has been submitted. That report has been handed over to CBI so that the CBI takes notice of the criminal offence. The vigilance department of Super Bazaar is also taking action. They have filed charge sheets against 43, 16 persons have been suspended, administrative inquiry has been conducted against 13. proceedings for major penalty is going on against 24 persons and action is being taken for minor penalty against 243 persons. We have done all that was possible but now the matter to be considered is the future of this institution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is quite true that Government of India has been operating such institutions. There are 40,000 Members in the institution and 76 members of General body of the institution. In my opinion, there should

be cooperative body to take care and manage such institutions. Since Government are involved in it. They have to operate the institution. In the recent years, its condition was that it was not able to pay salary to its own employees. Government of India have provided Rs. 14 crore which was used for giving salary to the employees.

Mr Chairman, Sir, auditing was mentioned here. Since, the High Court had not given clear cut stay order with regard to the General Body, there has been delay. But accounts of two years have been audited and the rest would be done soon.

It was also mentioned that a cooperative society sent us a proposal. We received the proposal but we took no action on it. Government can take no action. One reason is that cabinet have already decided to hand it over to Delhi Government. As long as Cabinet does not reverse its decision, no other decision can be taken in this regard. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a cooperative body.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur): You had recommended that.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: We have not done that.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: You have recommended that it should be handed over to National Cooperative stores wherein your MPs are involved. You have made this recommendations...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: This allegation is totally false. There is not on iota of truth in it. I have received proposal on it. We said that the department should first seriously consider it. When they did so, I said that first we cannot take any decision. Secondly, Government can also take no decision since it is a cooperative body. We have taken no decision, nor we are competent to do so. The decision can be taken only by the body of 76 members elected by 40000 members. Government is not empowered to take a decision. I want to convey that I am also concerned in this regard. It was opened in Delhi with high hopes but its condition worsened due to regular mistakes...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Whether sub-committee of the standing committee has suggested any measure for its revival?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: So far the issue of its revival is concerned it is possible only when someone comes forward to invest an amount equal to liabilities worth Rs.

[Shri Shanta Kumar]

69 crore. It is not appropriate on the part of Government to invest such a huge amount on this type of institutions. The cooperative society which has 40,000 members on its roll should be run by the members only. The Government have interfered in the working of these institutions and this is one of the reasons that these institutions were not able to work properly. Now it will be taken up in the cabinet meeting as all the options are before us. At present we are not in a position to say as to what could be done in this regard. Action is being taken in all the cases of corruption. Recovery has been made and the board has been dissolved. Legal action is being taken. Now its future is under the consideration of the Government. We will be able to take a decision only after that...*(Interruptions)* There is no question of resignation of Mr. Suri. We have dissolved the board. Now he is nowhere.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: The board has been dissolved. Some Prof. Mishra from Himachal cadre was appointed in it and this mismanagement took place during last two years since he took over. The hon. Minister is concealing this point. There is a proposal to hand over the cooperative store, with a property of Rs. 200 crore to a national cooperative store which has a share capital of Rs. one lakh only. It has assured that it will not be given. We trust his words but...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You were not present in the House at the right time. I have called your name.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: But, it is an important issue. This is the pioneer institution of the country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: We have not recommended anyone. We cannot do so. We will not do so. This is a wrong allegation.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: This institution used to pay income tax up to 1997. Why this institution became bankrupt in three years...*(Interruptions)*

18.09 hrs.

[English]

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—GENERAL—Contd.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am the only speaker from my Party. I may be given a little more time. Of course, I shall try to be as brief as possible.

Sir, I would like to avail of this opportunity to make a few observations about the overall economic situation in the country. As is well noted by all sections of this House, ruinous policies of this Government have started to take its toll. After ten years of economic reforms, there have been attempts to take stock of the progress or whatever you may call, the negative growth or failures by many organisations.

We can have a look at the mid-term appraisal, the RBI's report, the CMIE's report, the national survey of the National Council of Applied Economics and Research and all these things. In all the reports, one thing is common, that is there is sinking business, dipping investment, falling incomes and crashing stock market. The most strange spectacle is that the Government is totally clueless as to how to salvage the situation. One of the strange spectacles being noted is that the private sector people who were considered to be the main operators in the centre stage of economic reforms are requesting the Government to invest more. This is the strange sort of a spectacle.

While some speakers of the ruling side are waxing eloquence about the reforms, the Government, I believe, is seriously thinking of 'pump priming' the economy. That is the Keynesian formula in such a situation. If that be the situation, the Government will have to go in for a large-scale investment, particularly, in the infrastructure sectors like road, power and all these things. If they have to do that, they have to throw to the winds the recommendations about fiscal deficit. On the one hand they are speaking about how sacred the Fiscal Responsibility Bill is and how it should be expedited, on the other hand they have no option but to respond to the call of the CII, FICCI and others that the Government should come in a big way and invest in the infrastructure sector. It may be in the road. There is already a National Highway project worth Rs. 10,000 crore.

Regarding power, you know what has happened in Enron. Now, not only they have decided to withdraw but they are threatening that if you do not come to terms as they have proposed, more sanctions are waiting for you.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): They have denied that.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes, they may have denied that but there was a threat and subsequently, it was diluted a little bit to re-strengthen, the sanction threat, on a subsequent date. But everywhere in the industrial sector, there is a slow down. The downward trend in the growth

rate of industrial production continued in the second month of the first quarter. The growth was meagre 1.9 per cent. If you compare this with the last year, there is a steep decline, particularly, in the manufacturing sector markets, capital goods like steel, cement, and paper. Wherever you look at, it has come to such a pass. Last year, even after such a good off-take by the corporate sector from the banking system, it was only Rs. 18,000 crore and the growth rate was 5.2 per cent. Now it has come down to Rs. 1,900 crore or something. We can well imagine what is going to be the situation in the future. When the Prime Minister is always speaking about nine or 10 per cent growth, if this situation continues, even five per cent will be a matter of dream only. This will remain a dream. In such a situation, how does the Government propose to salvage the situation? Of course, one way is more investment by the Government. But how a judicious mixture it could be because we are already in a serious domestic debt.

We have already crossed the borrowing target by this time. It requires some creative imagination as to how best to do it without going further into the debt trap but still augmenting the Government investments, particularly in the infrastructure sector. Of course, in the social sector whatever maybe the claim about the decline in poverty situation, this is one way of calculation that can reach you to that level of 26 per cent from 36 per cent. You look at the exercise that has been done by an eminent economist. It says that this decline in poverty has not taken place at all; rather during the last ten years the gap between the rich and the poor has widened. If anyone has benefited, it is one section of the upper class who has been immensely benefited as a result of the liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation.

Someone was speaking about China. Every time we listen from the Government side, from the business houses, CII, etc. of taking MPs to China. We have a little bit of idea about China. You have been telling me that we are agents of China. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I doubt whether you know enough of China.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes. We can claim it. We have been following it. As for me, I can tell you that from the age of 16, I am trying to follow it...(*Interruptions*) I am coming to that. They should know that in the case of China, it is the non-resident Chinese who are bringing

the investments, a substantial part of it. In our case, it is only five per cent of NRI investments. Do you know that more than 110 billion dollars of Indian money is deposited in the tax havens in different parts of the world and in Swiss banks and other places? Our annual financial exercise is of 65 billion dollars and 110 billion dollars of Indian money is there.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: China does not have the bureaucracy. ...(*Interruptions*) It is not Indian bureaucracy...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You are speaking about it. We are not saying that you do whatever China has done. You should have your Indian model. How is it that the Swadeshi Jagran Manch says one thing and the BMS says one thing else and the Shiv Sena trade unions come to us and demonstrate against liberalisation and the reckless privatisation? here they say another thing. We have noticed it. What happened in Maharashtra on the 23rd and 24th of July? The BMS unions, the Shiv Sena unions, the DMK and the AIADMK unions, every one of the trade unions was there. Can you find one single trade union which has been happy with the liberalisation process?

They are telling about the trade unions. Ten lakh people in the public sector have lost their jobs. They say that what a nice thing to be in the private sector! I am reading from a Government report. It is the IDBI's report on Development Banking in India. It is said: "As at end of March, 2000, private sector accounted for 82.6 per cent of total number of sick companies followed by public sector at 10.4 per cent and the joint sector at 7 per cent". Still they say that the public sector is not performing. I am again coming to this. It is not only about the number of sick companies. It is from the IDBI's report. They say that the creation of non-performing assets was the maximum in the private sector.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): What is the diagnosis for it?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am coming to that. This is Government's report. The representative of the Government here is speaking in a different voice. In terms of the outstanding loans, the private sector accounted for the maximum. What is the maximum figure? It is 89.1 per cent. But still the villain of the piece is the public sector undertakings. China has not done it. China has a direction. China has knowledge of passing, sequencing as to what is to be done and what is not to be done.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

There, once a decision is taken, it is taken on consensus and they follow it and do it. We cannot do it.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: China has closed more than a thousand units of chemicals.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I will come to that. Please do not try to derail me from what I want to say...(Interruptions) Please do not try to derail me because this side or that side, they have committed the same sort of sin. As per the available report, it so happened once that the CII had taken a decision to recommend closure of the United Commercial Bank—a weak bank. The next morning the employees had come out with the list of defaulters saying, 'Mr. so and so, you are sitting in the CII and taking the decision to close this Bank. There is your name as you have not paid the money to the bank.' They had then withdrawn their decision.

Sir, many a time West Bengal is referred to...(Interruptions) At the end of March, Maharashtra accounted for the largest number of companies on the sick bed followed by Andhra Pradesh. ...(Interruptions) I am reading from the IDBI Report. Andhra Pradesh has 12.8 per cent such units. ...(Interruptions) Then comes Gujarat—and not West Bengal—where they have their own Government...(Interruptions) West Bengal's position is far below these States in this regard.

Not only industry, agriculture is also affected. It is the main driving force behind demand for industrial goods. You have to do anything to encourage export. But you cannot depend on export. Not only due to American slow down, near-recession or recession in Japan or all these things, but during the last 10 years, our export growth has not been noticeable. Moreover there is dumping. Liberalisation of imports has caused such a situation that agriculturists are suffering. They are not getting remunerative price. On the other hand, because of the stagnant situation and negative growth in agriculture, there is lesser and lesser demand of industrial goods and also the consumer goods.

The most horrifying thing is that our population growth is 1.8 per cent and the agricultural growth, particularly foodgrains, is 1.5 per cent. We are fast leading to a situation of famine because our yield is less. In China, agricultural yield is several times more than that of our country, be it foodgrains or anything like that.

Then, I come to IT sector. IT alone cannot do magic. IT is a tool which, if applied to agricultural sector, manufacturing sector and service sector, can expedite the growth...(Interruptions) It can do fine-tuning. Moreover, we do have very many bottlenecks in the infrastructure—telecom, power and many other areas. We cannot grow IT should be ignored, but IT should be put in a more proper perspective. Hardware sector should be developed and also these IT coolies—this is someone else's expression—because IT is an area where the creativity will give you the result, not working for some other country or some other nation, going there, staying there, and earning money. In the case of non-resident Chinese, they are traders, but in our case, they are doctors, engineers, professionals etc.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Like that, India will also get some benefit. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I do not know why he is trying to add to my views.

Revenue collection is fast deteriorating. I am just giving a figure of the last quarter.

Sir, the tax collection in the first quarter of April to June has shown a sharp decline of 13 per cent over the same period of last year. It was Rs. 32,419 crore while the target was for Rs. 37,217 crore. This is particularly the case in regard to Customs and Excise duty. Another case in point is the consumption of diesel. The industrial situation in the country could somewhat be assessed from it. Diesel consumption has gone down by three and a half per cent. So, the situation is the same everywhere, be it with regard to agriculture, be it with regard to industry or be it with regard to the service sector.

Sir, let us now turn our attention to the financial institutions. The total NPA of the three financial institutions, namely, IDBI, IFCI and one other institution is more than Rs. 18,000 crore. I don't know as to what will happen to them. The RBI yesterday only had taken a very serious note in regard to provisioning of the balance sheets of the financial institutions. It is to the tune of Rs. 400 crore.

Sir, let us look at the core sector. I do not know as to what the Government proposes to do in the power sector. After what has happened with Enron, no foreign country, no foreign company is interested in the

development of our infrastructure. Development of the infrastructure was a part of the 1944 Plan, known as the Tata Plan. It was suggested that certain areas should be identified where the Government should invest for its development because at that time the private sector was not in a position to do that. So, gradually, our first Prime Minister, late Pandit Nehru and others worked out a plan and identified certain areas that needed to be developed by the Government. Of course, there had been divisions in it. But I agree that hotels should not be an area where the Government should invest. I had been to Mongolia and I have noted there that very small and insignificant areas were taken up by the State Sector as a result of which they had to suffer.

Sir, the Government should re-consider its reckless disinvestment policy. It is because there have been manipulations of the shares of the public sector undertakings. If there is a full-fledged discussion on the stock market — because disinvestment is discussed in a different light and in a different perspective—I can probably give enough proof to show that there have been manipulations in the share prices of some of the important public sector undertakings even before they were put for bidding. This has happened. Now, the Government proposes to bring it down. There are no bidders. The classic case in point is that of the Modern Foods Limited. The Government might not agree to it. The observation of the C&AG about Modern Foods Limited is about the process of its valuation.

Sir, let us take the case of BALCO. The employees of BALCO have submitted a memorandum to the CVC and the CVC has written to the employees seeking more documents. He said that he had gone through the documents and that there was a *prima facie* case and he has sought more proof on that. Now, there are profit-making undertakings. There are potentially good undertakings with large assets. I can give one example. Take the case of IISCO — Indian Iron and Steel Company. This organisation has more than 20,000 skilled workers. It is one of the oldest and one of the most prestigious institutions in the country. It has its own captive mine; it has its own good plant and it has its own good township. It is one of the best steel plants in the country. It has two units, one at Bumpur and the other is at Kulti and the Government had taken it over. Now, it is in the BIFR. The Government now proposes to release an amount of Rs. 500 crore, in two instalments, for this organisation. The first instalment is worth Rs. 150 crore.

The amount of money that they have to pay on account of VRS to its employees is to the tune of Rs. 450 crore. We have written to both the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister. They have said that they are looking into the matter. So, this is about the public sector.

Sir, I would like to give an example in the private sector. Every time we have a discussion in the House, the Government says that with 26 per cent share, the Government would be able to have full control.

There the Government's stake can be brought down to 26 per cent. Okay. This is not the occasion to dispute it. There is a company in India called Dunlop India Limited in which the Government has a stake of 34 per cent. That company produced the best quality aero-tyres for the Indian Air Force. That company produced the best quality aero-tyres for the Indian Air Force. That company produced one of the best conveyor belts, a product which has a very good export market. It produced steel cord of international quality. Yet, the owner of the company siphoned off the money and went abroad. For fear of being arrested, he does not come to India at all. The Minister knows all these things. Several times we had approached the Defence Minister, the Prime Minister and also the Finance Minister. We once again request him to apply his mind. Instead of going in for disinvestment in a big way to salvage the situation, he should go in for it very judiciously.

Not only Dunlop India Limited, there is the infrastructure sector, the national highway development programme. There is no problem because the banks are flush with money. They do not want to take risk of lending money. Moreover, there is less off take. I have spoken about power, I have spoken about infrastructure, I have spoken about IISCO, and I have spoken about Dunlop. In respect of ONGC, Mcinsey has already prepared a good report. As early as possible the Government should apply its mind to it. The Government should apply its mind to the problems of the people who have lost their jobs. By this time about one crore people have lost their jobs in different ways. The Government should seriously think as to how to provide employment to them in order to save them.

There are 75 public sector undertakings in BIFR. The dues on account of wages of employees as on 28th August, 2001, as given in the reply, are Rs. 1,278 crore. Early arrangement should be made to make these

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

payments. Ten years of economic reforms have led us into a blind alley. the Government finds itself in a clueless State. The Government should consult all the political parties. NDA meeting is going to take place on 1st September. The Government should hear the views and experiences of the NDA partners also on how best to go about it.

However, I do not think the Government is in a position to do that. They have a closed mind. Their partners are pulling in different directions. They are merely doing things without any philosophy or principle. They are indulging in corruption and they should go as early as possible.

Sir, I oppose the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Mr. Chairman, sir, I would like to make a few points on the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

My first point relates to agriculture, the most important sector of the economy. More than 60 per cent of the country's population lives in the rural areas. In spite of the many difficulties that they have to face in their day-to-day lives, they work hard to be able to produce more foodgrains. Rice, Wheat, sugar and so many other food items are in surplus now because of their effort. This is what is helping the country's economy stay under control now. On the industry side there is some recession. There is economic slow down because of that. Still, agriculture is really saving the country. We need to give more support for agricultural sector. I would like to make a mention of the natural calamities. I have suggested this earlier also. Cyclones and droughts are affecting the agricultural sector very badly. The Government should take initiatives to help these people to increase their capacity to produce. Exports are very important for a country's economy. We are trying to export our produce to different countries. A number of countries are doing exports because WTO does not prevent subsidy for exports.

In view of that, I believe that the hon. Finance Minister will take into consideration as to how to improve the agricultural side. It is very much required. During the last few months, we have had a very bitter problem. The Food Corporation of India is not able to procure these products and the farmers are unable to store their products with them. The warehouse is not adequate to store them. So, the farmers are forced to sell their products at very nominal prices due to which they suffer heavily.

My request is that if the Government can come out with some proposals for construction of warehouses and if there are some incentives for construction of warehouses, it will be of great help. If we are able to increase the capacity of the warehouses, more procurement may be made. But that is not the end of it. In addition, export of these things is also essential. Ultimately we will have to see that the surplus production should go out of the country and we will also have to keep enough amount of requirement for the country's resources.

Sir, in the Godavary basin, we had three times heavy floods during the last one month. About 70 per cent of the water is going to the sea whereas on the other side of the Krishna river, there is no water. Due to this, the whole agriculture had suffered badly. So, what I feel is that if we could take up the construction of Polavaram project, it will help the inter-connection of all these things. It will also help prevention of the flood damage and enable us maximum utilisation of water for agricultural purposes, for industrial purposes and for drinking purposes. For all purposes, water is very important. So, I think, this is one of the items on which the Government of India should take the initiative. The State Government which does not have enough resources, can become a partner here.

The hon. Finance Minister already knows about the State Government's difficult financial resources and economic position.

Sir, I may also mention that this year Andhra Pradesh has suffered a lot due to drought. More than 350 *mandals* had very little rains and about 500 *mandals* had meagre rains. The condition is very serious there. In this regard, our State Government had already sent a proposal to the Government of India. A team of experts had also visited there. But in spite of all this, they have not been able to finalise the support that is required. In fact, our State Government has given a very detailed analyses with all the data and figures. We had asked that we needed Rs. 849 crore as support. They may not give the entire amount but they must, at least, release a substantial amount of support so that we are able to recover from our problems. For the water supply in the rural areas as well as urban areas, we have demanded Rs. 356. Similarly, for social security, animal husbandry, agricultural sector, we have asked for some help. Item by item, we have mentioned about the amount needed. I am sure that the Government will take all possible steps and timely help our State so that the people are able to recover from their problems and expand their activities.

Sir, another point which I want to cover is about the banking sector. We are talking about the banking systems and the various scams that have occurred there. We all know what happened in the case of UTI's US-64 scheme. We are also aware of the things happening in IDBI, IFCI and other such institutions. They are facing a lot of difficulties due to financial irregularities. So, they all require a proper control of the Government from the beginning.

In all the Banks and the financial institutions, the representatives of the Finance Ministry are there. They should watch the activities there. They should notice immediately as to where the things are going wrong. If they do not observe all these things and if there are no such provisions, the situation will not improve. We all know what happened in the Harshad Mehta's Security Scam where the people had given a huge amount of money as loans without any security. That is why I suggest that it is part of the Government's responsibilities. The Finance Ministry should guide and instruct their representatives properly to take stern and proper action if any wrong is happening there. Otherwise, if everything goes out of their control, it will be very difficult.

Sir, today, they are thinking of providing Rs. 1,000 crore on revival of IFCI. Similarly, IDBI also needs more support. I am sure that the banking sector will be taken care of.

Sir, this has also happened in Andhra Pradesh. We know what happened in the case of *Krishak Urban Bank*. It was supposed to be under the control of the Reserve Bank of India. Earlier, we had seen the non-banking financial institutions where a tremendous amount of money had been invested by the people and they were exploited. They used to give a high rate of interest without anything. Then we thought of bringing them under the control of the RBI by putting the Non-Banking Financial Corporations (Regulations) Act.

Similarly, in regard to all these financial institutions and Banks, the RBI has to have control and have a minimum equity and all such things. All of them require proper scrutiny. Had all these measures been adopted and followed, these sorts of things would not have happened.

Today what is happening is that the savings of so many thousands of small investors worth about Rs. 30-40 crore are lost. This is where the Government should

help them. They should help them even by punishing those people who do mischief. I am sure the Reserve Bank of India has to give additional support, additional strength and additional control which they require. They should monitor these things. Otherwise, the financial institutions and others would make a lot of difficulties. The stock markets depend upon how these things are working. If stock market goes down, it has an impact. Earlier, some people were thinking that they have to invest only in gold. But now, we have developed the habit of bringing in industrial investment. Once it was discouraged, again they started going back to non-productive investments. We have to bring those people back to do industrial investments. The savings culture has come and the savings of small investors started growing. Suddenly, some difficulties are coming in and exposures are causing a lot of problems. I am sure there should be some regulation and the system should be improved.

Coming to industrial production, it has now slowed down. We have to find out the reasons for such a slow down; we have also to see how we can give more help to them. I believe that WTO, globalisation, etc. has nothing to do with that. For everything, there is a control; there is a mechanism by which we can control them. Some people have talked about how palm oil prices affected them. They have gone up to 300 per cent duty. We have to cautiously see our internal market. If you have heavy duty, there would be problems. The hon. Finance Minister also discussed it with us. Due to the increased duty, the prices have shot up and thus, the common man is affected.

We have leverage with us; the operation is controlled within our own country, and it is not that WTO is affecting us. Even some of these things require constant and frequent monitoring. We have got the mechanism of anti-dumping and the Anti-Dumping Department has started functioning now. It has got to be very active. Just like what is happening in the case of Foreign Investment Board, every week, they should review the decision and bring it to the notice of the Ministry; and they should take action as early as possible instead of taking a delayed decision. We have to take more interest on these items and this is what I feel.

Coming to the public sector undertakings, we have already invested about Rs. 2,50,000 crore on it, but the return is very low; and even such a return is on account of administered prices. It is also due to oil sector and

[Dr. B.B. Ramaiah]

ONGC, etc. which are able to do something. But the losses are growing. There are three categories of industries. First is those industries which cannot survive and we have to close them down. For this, the hon. Minister has already brought in VRS, etc. It is really helping them. The second is those industries which can survive, but which need enough support. The third is those industries which are neither on this side nor on that side, which we can privatise. So, these are the three types of systems.

We are also reviewing some of these public sector undertakings. Initially we have given purchase preference for 2-3 years. But the other public sector undertakings are not trying to help them. We find that they are not at all supporting them, defeating the main purpose for which we have given purchase preference; and it is not properly utilised. Some very capable and quality industries are suffering because other public sector undertakings are not helping them. That is why we are trying to see how we can monitor these things. In this context, people are meeting Secretaries also and asking them what exactly is happening, what is the wrong with some of these units, like BHPV, etc. They will be able to produce quality goods than anybody else in the market, but still they say some how or other, they try to avoid them and give it to somebody else.

In the case of taxation, we have mentioned earlier that only 2-3 per cent of the people of this country is paying taxes. It is a broad-based one and we should cover more people in this country in the tax net. They may pay small amounts, but it will help. If taxes are heavy, then negative return starts. Instead of that, we have to distribute it widely and see that more people are brought into the tax net, by different methods. In fact, they started it in urban areas and increasing it in urban areas. It requires much more consideration. So, they have to see how taxation method can be improved.
...(Interruptions)

On the agricultural side, we have to help them with crop insurance. Some proposals are going on in this respect. Crop insurance schemes should come up as early as possible so that agriculturists who are really suffering are given support. There are places where crop insurance is not properly implemented. Of course they are having different methods by which they will be able to do it.

The most important sector is the infrastructure. Infrastructure is the basic thing we need today in the case of road, power and various other things. In the case of roads, we are now trying to get the road cess. By that we are able to build up something. A part of it, about Rs. 2,500 crore, is used for rural roads. With regard to the Prime Minister Rural Sarak Scheme, we made a request. I have prepared a proposal and sent to the Government. The proposal is, at least Rs. 2 crore should be reserved for each Member of Parliament exclusively for his recommendation. MPs have got a very little say in their areas. The hon. Finance Minister also knows about his own State. Every MLA is getting from Rs. 75 lakh to Rs. 1 crore. Several MLAs are equal to one MP. An MP is given only Rs. 2 crore which was not properly utilised earlier but now we are utilising it properly. This year we have more than Rs. 12 crore utilisation. We now have Supplementary Demands also. We would like the provision to be made to Rs. 4 crore so that the MPs could also go to their constituencies and say that they also have some hand in the development of their constituencies. As part of the Sarak scheme, at least Rs. 2 crore - for each MP area it comes to about Rs. 5 crore - the Government should be able to reserve exclusively for MP's recommendation and the rest of it can be left for the MLA's recommendation so that MPs are also effective.

Old Age retirement benefit is one of the items which is pending and I am sure we will be able to pass it as early as possible. We should work out some mechanism on that and do something.

In the case of rural areas, rural development requires more support. In the Supplementary Demands we see very little is being provided on that score. Tourism is also an important area which requires support from the Government. We have not thought about it earlier. I am sure we should be able to give more help to it so that we get more benefit out of it. We will gain more foreign exchange out of this.

In the case of NAFED also, only Rs. 100 crore has been given. It has to do a lot of purchase for these agricultural products. Along with the Food Corporation, they should come forward. For the export purposes, we need to give more support because export is one of the items which is able to save the country's economy. We need a good packing system also. Packing Institute in Hyderabad has offered something and the Government should give recognition and support to it. With their help, we would be able to gain.

One more item, which was started earlier, is called the brand equity. A number of good products are being manufactured by good companies but their products are not properly advertised outside. The brand name makes a lot of difference. I have seen in the case of a particular variety of pepper, when it was put in a known brand name bottle, it was sold at 3 dollars per bottle. People think that the particular brand is very good. So, I am sure the Finance Minister will be able to give more support to the brand equity, which was started earlier. A number of quality industries do not have enough resources to go to the brand name. If the Government gives them support, they will be able to come out of it.

Like that, we have to give support to aqua culture. It has started picking up. Last year we exported products worth about Rs. 6,000 crore. Fishermen from Vizag came here. They asked for the support of diesel so that a substantial amount of aqua culture could be developed. Some States have given help in the form of excise and customs duty. In other States also, where they have not, we should see that they should be given some help so that they will be able to develop aqua culture. This will bring a lot of resources for our country. A part of the items have been mentioned and a number of other items are required to be taken by the Finance Minister in order to increase the economy and productivity.

Employment potential for youth is also an important item. Under DWAKRA Programme in Andhra Pradesh, ladies, who never used to come out, are doing a wonderful job. They need some support from the Government. A number of companies are coming forward to market their products. If the Government could give some support to them they would be able to convert tremendous amount of their energy into useful products. I am sure the Government will give a lot of support to these items.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is indeed a matter of regret that this year's budget was passed without any discussion. Perhaps this is the first budget which has been passed without discussion. Whose fault is this? People blame the opposition for it. I say that the Government are responsible for it. The Government should not have rejected the opposition demand for JPC. It is due to that the budget was passed without any discussion. We would have made several suggestions had debate been held on the budget, it was upto the Government whether or not to accept

those suggestions. I would like to make some good suggestions to the hon'ble Minister of finance, it is upto him whether he accepts or rejects those suggestions. Our country got freedom 54 years ago. The hon'ble Minister of Finance should visit the villages and he must have seen how people are living in villages without availing any benefit of development that took place during this period. Even today villages lack facility of proper housing, roads, drinking water and electricity. They lack proper clothing. Millions of people in Uttar Pradesh light fire to warm themselves in chilly weather. Even 10 per cent of such a big budget does not reach the villages. The whole money is embezzled at the upper start. The congress party was in power for 40-45 years and this is perhaps the fourth budget of the hon'ble Minister of Finance. The party which presented 40 budget has rained the country. Nothing has been done for the poor. The hon'ble Minister of Finance is pursuing the path they tread upon. Nothing but the label of bottle has changed. Earlier it was done by the congress party and now the BJP is doing that. The utilisation of grant given by Union Government should be checked. The projects being run in the villages are in a bad condition. Today workers of Samajvadi party are anguished over the problems of poor in Uttar Pradesh, BJP and other parties are in pain in Bihar, the other parties are anguished over the situation prevailing in Madhya Pradesh and BJP is concerned for problems in Rajasthan. Here districts receive allocations direct. MPs do not know anything about that and their opinion is not sought for spending the funds. There is an assured Employment Scheme for which funds have been sent to blocks direct. One crore rupees were sent from here. I have seen the work undertaken in my parliamentary constituency where except cleaning of a drain no developmental work was undertaken. Crores of rupees have been spent on papers. Spending even Rs. 10 lakh is considered more than sufficient. Today villages and crops are inundated by flood waters and money is spent on papers. When this thing is reported to the Minister of Rural Development he calls for report from the Irrigation Department. Executive engineers and Chief Engineers submit an ambiguous report as they already have accepted bribe for it. The same process is being repeated. It should be checked whether funds are utilised properly. Funds allocated for Prime Minister Gram Sarak Yojana are being spent on giving salaries. MLAs are asked to furnish list of proposal of projects to be undertaken and their opinion is sought, but opinion of MPs is not sought. You can ask this from MPs of your party from Uttar Pradesh whether their opinion is considered for spending funds under Assured Employment

[Shri C.N. Singh]

Scheme. MPs of Poorvanchal were given funds under MPLADS upto 1998 in Uttar Pradesh which has since been stopped. A list of five villages was sought from each MP for electrification. List of five villages from each assembly segment and a total of 25 villages for the entire parliamentary constituency being taken from MPs. But later this task has been given to MLAs. The whole House will be unanimous on this issue because the Union Government allocates funds to States for electrification. I request the hon'ble Minister of Finance that opinion of MPs should be taken. We have no right to provide an electricity pole in a village or give our opinion regarding the projects to be undertaken under AES or give name for road to be constructed under Prime Minister Sarak Yojana. The funds allocated to NGOs for handicapped persons are not utilised for their benefit. The entire money reaches the houses of people running fake institution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, not even 100 persons of my Parliamentary constituency are being benefitted by the total literacy Mission. The Primary schools are in a dilapidated condition. In some areas funds have been provided for construction of Government school buildings but there are no students and in other areas where there are students they are forced to study in the open in summer, winter and rainy seasons. No one pays attention towards their problems.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with help of NABARD or World Bank the Union Government provide funds for construction of roads. In my Parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh where three layers of soil is required to spread for construction of road, only one layer is being spread. If money is utilised properly, it should be given. Then only we can meet the aspirations of the people. I had gone to Denmark where I saw a road that was constructed in 1897. Even after 100 years it was intact and not a single paisa has been spent on its repairs. Mr. Minister, I would like to know as to what action is being taken against the corrupt officers. I do not know whether hon'ble Minister has asked for conducting inquiry against any officer in his capacity as the Finance Minister. A hue and cry was raised throughout the country when salary of MPs was raised. Sons and daughters of big officers and engineers are studying abroad. Will you try to recover blackmoney from them. Mafia groups are plundering country's wealth. In Uttar Pradesh rich people have gathered assets worth Rs. 100 crore. Will the Government do something new in this regard. I feel that hon'ble Minister of Finance has done nothing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, smuggled goods are being brought to the country from countries like China and excise and custom duty is being evaded. They are not paying any tax and these smuggled goods are being sold at cheaper rates. The Government are suffering heavy losses on account of this. The Government intend to raise money by these supplementary Demands for Grants. I oppose this. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Finance whether he has tried to find out as to where this money is going to? India would have made a lot of progress had appropriate schemes been implemented properly during the last 50 years. China has made a lot of progress and people of our country are still starving. We would not have been in this pitiable condition had our education policy been right and funds given through NGOs which is being wasted now had not been wasted with that our children would have got proper education.

Today a dual policy is being adopted. The loan given to farmers is recovered strictly whereas which people draw loans and enjoy life without making repayment. In this way they are looting the country. They are getting stay orders from High Courts and Supreme Court against the orders of loan recovery for evading punishment. If a farmer takes a loan of Rs. 10,000 he repays it gradually. In this context, I would like to cite an example of my constituency. Lalan Bindu had taken a loan of Rs. 10,000 for agricultural work and repaid Rs. 8000 out of it. He was beaten brutally for not paying the remaining amount of just Rs. 2000. Firinging was ordered when farmers agitated over it. He was put behind the bars for 14 days for not paying just Rs. 2000. Whereas no action is taken against rich people who meet Ministers or officials and manage. Why this dual law has been enacted. The poor person is put behind the bars while rich people are looting the country ever after drawing loan. This policy should be changed.

19.00 hrs.

In Uttar Pradesh a person is kept in lock-up in a very bad manner in just a cell of 4-6 feet. One has to keep on standing and compelled to urinate and defecate in that small cell itself. A Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, leader of farmers — Mulayam Singhji waived off loan of farmers upto Rs. 10,000. He said that when his party forms Government farmers of Uttar Pradesh would prosper and rich people will be in lock up. When our party formed the Government in Uttar Pradesh, the scheme for providing pension to farmers was introduced but now

farmers are not getting any pension. We had a proposal to provide Housing units under Indira Awas Yojana to the needy. But at present rich people who have double storey houses, scooters, cars and mafias are taking the advantage of Indira Awas Yojana, for which the Government of India are providing funds. Poor people are still living in jhuggis and they are not at all benefited by Indira Awas Yojana. The hon'ble Minister of Finance should pay attention towards it. I would like to make a suggestion that a meeting of 10-15 MPs should be held to get information about the implementation of work in their respective areas for which funds have been allocated. I feel that you are not considering my point and what the officers say. Corruption should be checked if the Government really want to improve the condition of the country, bring revolution, provide food, roads, drinking water, electricity to poor people. It is really unfortunate for the country that the Government are encouraging corruption. Scams had been taking place during the Congress Government and now in their tenure also. The United Front Government worked well. We cannot expect that this Government would formulate any policy for the poor, farmers and people who are on the verge of starvation. The Government should formulate schemes for farmers and the poor if they really want to show kindness towards them.

In the end I would like to say that corruption which is increasing day by day should be checked. Corruption has increased during the tenure of this Government. If the hon'ble Minister of Finance succeeds in checking corruption our country will make progress.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants concerning various Ministers.

it is true that there has been a lot of improvement in the economic condition of this country due to financial Management by the NDA Government. Our credentials in foreign countries have gone up. While on the one hand the per capita income has increased in the country the foreign exchange reserve has also risen on the other hand. In such a situation I can say that the country has made a lot of economic progress and proceeding further in that direction. Measures have been taken to cut unnecessary expenditure in various fields and various ministries have taken a decision to reduce their staff strength. It will curtail extravagant expenditure and union budget may help in nation building and development of the country. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a few points. I do not want to quote

excerpts from Economic Review or give figures, some hon'ble members have presented their viewpoints and without repeating them. I would like to present my viewpoint precisely.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, some points have been raised here about NAFED. It is true that the work of NAFED is very broadbased. It has to take up a lot of work within and outside the country. A fall in the working of NAFED has been noticed for some time now which is a cause of concern. There is a need to rectify its functioning. The support price which is given to farmers through NAFED for any crops be it soyabeans, wheat or other crops, goes to State Government through NAFED and on the basis of this State Government arrange purchase. At many places Union Government make arrangements for procurement but it has been noticed in recent past that farmers were compelled to sell their produce at low prices than the support price announced by the Government or through NAFED. State Governments were not able to take a timely decision to make arrangements for procurement centres. As a result of this farmers did not get support prices.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, various monetary benefits which should be provided to farmers through Kisan Credit Cards are not reaching them. The hon'ble Minister of Finance is present in the House. I would like to draw his attention towards this. Issues like crop insurance and Kisan Credit cards have been raised here. The banks which have been selected to provide Kisan Credit cards to farmers could not do so. Farmers have to pay a number of visits to banks for this purpose. Even eligible farmers are not getting Kisan Credit cards timely, so attention should be paid towards it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, farmers are also not getting benefit of Crop Insurance Scheme. Union Government and State Government come under the purview of Crop Insurance Scheme. Figures relating to damage to crops and loss suffered are made available by State Governments. Thereafter funds are provided by the Union Government. But funds required to be paid by State Government for general insurance are not given by them money towards insurance premium is collected from farmers. Funds are deposited in bank. Central Government's money is also deposited but share of State Government is not received, so the farmers do not get benefit of crop insurance scheme to the desired extent. I can cite several examples in respect of Madhya Pradesh. The hon'ble Minister of Finance knows about it. I wish that pace of work in General Insurance Corporation should be expedited for efficient implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme so that farmers could get full benefit under the Crop Insurance Scheme.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, under the Supplementary Demands for Grants funds have been demanded for Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojana, so I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister of Finance towards this scheme. A few days ago various States submitted their schemes under this scheme which are not appropriate. Opinion of MPs has not been sought for this purpose. I was surprised to know that in Madhya Pradesh a proposal has been made to construct a road which has already been constructed and coaltar has been spread on fifty percent portion of this road. Now a provision has been made to spend Rs. 70 lakh for this purpose. I raised an objection to it and if they want to construct the remaining 50 per cent of the road. ...*(Interruptions)* This should be reviewed.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no quorum in the House, It is a point of order.

Sir, debate on Supplementary demands for Grants is being held but there is no quorum in the House. It is not proper. It is the duty of the Government which should see that there is quorum in the House. You are a responsible person. Please do not say so.

Mr. Chairman, sir, I am raising the issue of quorum. Please ensure quorum in the House I find daily that after 6 o'clock there is no quorum in the House and business of House is continuing. This is my humble submission. I am pressing my point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since you have taken your seat. Now may I consider that you are not pressing the issue of quorum and you are yielding.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not yielding. I am strict to my point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you pressing for quorum.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Yes, I am pressing for quorum.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, I am pressing quorum bell.

19.11 hrs.

(Quorum bell is being rung)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House lacks quorum, so the House stands adjourned till Eleven of the clock on August 28, 2001.

19.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 28, 2001/Bhadra 6, 1923 (Saka).

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