

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol XXXVIII, Fourteenth Session, 2003/1925 (Saka)]

No. 15, Monday, December 22, 2003/Pausa 01, 1925 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 282—285	10-33
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 281, 286—300	33-59
Unstarred Question Nos. 2847—3040	59-269
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	270-281
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA	282
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS	
Fifty-eighth Report and Minutes	282
COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES	
Twenty-eighth Report and Minutes	283
COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN	
(i) Seventeenth Report	383
(ii) Action Taken Statements	383-384
STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	
Fifty-fourth to Sixty-fourth Reports and First Study Tour Report	384-385
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE	
Fifty-fifth Report	386
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE	
Thirty-eighth Report	386
STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY	
One hundred-thirtieth to One hundred-thirty seventh Reports	386-387
SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS	
(i) Re: Need to fix the minimum support price for Sugarcane	2-9, 306-307

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

(ii) Re: Order issued to all Central Schools to observe Christmas holidays in the month of January	309-311
(iii) Re: Need to regularise unauthorised colonies in Delhi and to allow Members of Parliament to utilize the MPLAD funds for development of such colonies.....	318-319

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported: Need for speedy implementation of various ongoing Railway Projects in the State of Kerala	292-306
Shri Ramesh Chennithala	292, 295
Shri Nitish Kumar.....	293, 302-306
Shri E. Ahamed	297-298
Shri A.C. Jos	298-300
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.....	300-301
Shri Kodikunnil Suresh	301
Prof. A.K. Premajam	301
Shri K. Muraleedharan	301

BILLS INTRODUCED

Central Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill	311-312
Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill	377
Patents (Amendment) Bill	377
SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL	312-316
Motion to Consider	312
Shrimati Sushma Swaraj	312, 314
Clauses 2 to 9 and 1	316
Motion to Pass	316

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Fifteenth Report	322
------------------------	-----

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to look into the demands of Santhali Bhasa Morcha and JDP for the welfare of Adivasis	
Shri Salkhan Murmu.....	322-323
(ii) Need to re-open Regional Centre of National Savings Organisation, Ahmedabad	
Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar	323
(iii) Need to lay a new railway line connecting Ujjain-Agar-Jhalawar	
Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot.....	323
(iv) Need to provide halts at Bharuch and Ankaleshwar railway stations in Gujarat for trains coming from the North	
Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava	323-324

(v)	Need to release funds for building High Power T.V. transmission centre at Radhanpur in Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat	
	Shri Haribhai Chaudhary	324
(vi)	Need to set up a new Regional Rural Bank at Kottarakkara in Quilon district under State Bank of Travancore	
	Shri Kodikunnil Suresh	324-325
(vii)	Need to take suitable measures to check circulation of counterfeit currency and other Government documents	
	Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury	325
(viii)	Need to approve the proposal of the Government of Karnataka for providing regional reservation in the State by amending Article 371 of the Constitution	
	Shri G.S. Basavaraj	325-326
(ix)	Need to introduce cellular/mobile phone service in Tripura	
	Shri Khagen Das	326
(x)	Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for restorative work in the cyclone affected areas of the State	
	Shri K. Yerrannaidu	326-327
(xi)	Need for gauge conversion on Bareilly-Lakhimpur-Sitapur-Lucknow metre gauge railway line	
	Shri Ravi Prakash Verma	327
(xii)	Need to construct high dams on rivers causing floods and erosion in Khagaria, Bihar	
	Shrimati Renu Kumari	327-328
(xiii)	Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Orissa to restore creek irrigation in Kendrapara and areas close to Bay of Bengal coast	
	Shri Prabhat Samantray	328
(xiv)	Need provide monthly allowance to registered unemployed youths in Maharashtra and other parts of the country	
	Shri Ramdas Athawale	328-329
(xv)	Need to bring the working of CBI and other intelligence agencies within the purview of a Parliamentary Committee	
	Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann	329
THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS (AMENDMENT BILL		
(Amendment Made by Rajya Sabha)		330-338
	Shri Digvijay Singh	330, 335
	Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	332-333, 334-335
	Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	333-334
	Clauses 2 and 3	337
	Motion to Agree	338

CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL	339-347
Motion to Consider	339
Shri L.K. Advani	339, 345-346
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	339-342
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	343-344
Shri P.H. Pandian	344-345
Clauses 2 to 19 and 1	346
Motion to Pass	347
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF INDIAN TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE AND INDIAN TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL	347-376
Motion to Consider	348
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	347, 348-349 /
Shri Arun Shourie	348-349, 371-374
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	354-359
Prof. A.K. Premajam	359-361
Shri Maheshwar Singh	361-364
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	364-368
Shri Adhir Chowdhary	368-369
Shri Madhusudan Mistry	369
Kunwar Akhilesh Singh	369-370
Shri Kodikunnil Suresh	370
Shri Anant Gudhe	370
Clauses 2 to 6 and 1	375
Motion to Pass	376
ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER	
RE: DISCUSSION ON ATR	
OF REPORT OF JPC ON STOCK MARKET SCAM	378
CONSTITUTION (ONE-HUNDREDTH AMENDMENT) BILL (Amendment of Eighth Schedule)	378-428
Motion to Consider	379
Shri L.K. Advani	378-380, 391-392
Shri P.R. Kyndiah	380-381
Shri Anadi Sahu	381

Shri Baju Ban Riyan	381-383
Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary	383-384
Dr. Girija Vyas	384
Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar	384
Shri Kirti Jha Azad	384-385
Shri Salkhan Murmu	385-386
Shri K. Yerrannaidu	386
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	386-387
Shri Rupchand Murmu	387
Shri S.S. Palanimanickam	387
Shri Prabhunath Singh	387-388
Dr. Bikram Sarkar	388
Shri Rashid Alvi	388
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	388-389
Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi	389
Shri Chandrakant Khaire	389
Shri P.H. Pandian	389-390
Shri Ramji Lal Suman	390
Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann	390
Shri Bishnu Pada Ray	390
Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta	390-391
Shri Ramdas Athawale	391
Shri G.M. Banatwalla	391
Clauses 2 and 1	404
Motion to Pass	417

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Action Taken Report on the Report of Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam and Matters Relating Thereto	429-504
Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar	429-447
Shri Kirit Somaiya	447-462
Shri Rupchand Pal	462-468
Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi	468-475
Kunwar Akhilesh Singh	476-481
Shri P.H. Pandian	481-482
Shri Arun Kumar	483-485
Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal	485-494
Shri Kharabela Swain	498-504

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 22, 2003/Pausa 1, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister had made an announcement about support price of sugarcane in this House itself. ...(Interruptions) The Minister of Agriculture is present here. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice about suspension of Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please all of you sit down. I am giving one minute to each of you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister had given an assurance in this very House that a decision would be taken about Haj pilgrims on that day itself. Now, there are only three days left. The first ship is to leave on the 24th, but the Haj pilgrims do not know even today about the fate of the schedule of their journey. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister had said in the House that he would enquire about it in the Cabinet meeting. I would talk about it during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please direct the hon. Minister to make a statement about it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister will come here during Zero Hour and he will inform the House about the outcome of the cabinet meeting.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh Ji, now you speak please. Other Members please sit down. Kunwarji, you have to conclude in one minute.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I had told the hon. Minister to come here during Zero Hour and to clear the doubts on the issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: What will happen if there is no Zero Hour?

MR. SPEAKER: How can you ask such a hypothetical question? I have directed the hon. Minister to be present at that time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: I am asking for a clarification because their first ship is proceeding on the 24th. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have given the directions and the hon. Minister has also heard me.

...(Interruptions)

11.03 hrs.

(I) **Re: Need to fix the minimum support price for sugarcane**

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): The Agriculture Minister and The Minister of Food and Civil Supplies had stated in this House regarding Adjournment Motion that Agriculture Prices Commission had decided to fix the Minimum Support Price of sugarcane at Rs. 73.50. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait for a while. The Minister of Food and Civil Supplies will give an answer about it. I have sent a message to the Minister.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The time given to me is only one minute, which is a very short span of time. Please listen to what I have to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please express your point of view during Zero Hour only. Why do you insist on speaking when the hon. Minister is not present?

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: This is a very serious issue. The farmers are facing injustice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, I have also given notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not admitting the notice given by any hon. Member. So, please sit down.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The minimum support price of sugarcane has not been fixed so far. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have directed the hon. Food Minister to come here. At that time, you can say what you wish to say. The time of the House will be wasted if one speaks at this time.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: This is a serious problem being faced by the entire farming community.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, I have just mentioned the summoning of the hon. Minister for that very specific purpose. The hon. Minister will come in the House at that time if he has no other engagement, otherwise, he will answer all related issues tomorrow.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: This is an act of cheating with sugarcane growers and the Government is favouring the sugar mill owners. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice. So, please sit down.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: It has been categorically stated by the Minister of Agriculture that recommendation had been made for minimum support price of sugarcane. The Minister of Food and Civil

Supplies had stated so in this very House. This is an issue affecting crores of farmers of this country and it is not confined to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra only. This is the 22nd day of this month and the Government has not made any announcement about the minimum support price of sugarcane, although, the hon. Minister had given a categorical assurance about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. At present, the hon. Minister has stood up and please listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government of India is also worried about the problems of sugarcane growers. Last week Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution had stated that final decision in this regard will be taken within two or three days. Ministry of Food had presented its proposal before the Cabinet, wherein it was revealed that many representations of the states have also been received by Ministry of Food which need consideration. So the Cabinet decided that Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution should take his final decision in this regard immediately so that Statutory Minimum Price of Sugarcane can be announced early. I hope that it will be announced very soon probably within this week only. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No discussion on this subject right now. You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not force me to be very strict with you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not shout like that, otherwise, I will take very strict decisions. What is there in it that you shout like this?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the rule that I will permit every Hon'ble Member to speak. Once I think that subject is very serious and Minister must give reply then only I ask Minister to give reply.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I have given the notice of an Adjournment Motion.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I know that we are talking about Adjournment Motion only.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): I have given the notice for suspension of the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If you start discussion right now on every subject then what will happen to those who have given notices two to three weeks in advance?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now you please sit down. I shall give you permission to speak later on.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what will happen to me?. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Prime Minister says that Hindi is being promoted and I am being sacked here for speaking in Hindi.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the Winter Session of the House will be coming to an end tomorrow, I take this opportunity to call for the Government's intervention and its commitment to the House on a very urgent matter.

Aligarh Muslim University came into existence because of the commitment of not merely Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, but also of the entire Parliament and the nation. The Act, which has been amended by the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi in 1981, makes the University's distinct minority character abundantly clear and, therefore, the supremacy of the Academic Council to issue

ordinances to regulate admissions and everything should be honoured.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently, the Supreme Court gave a judgement in the matter of Karnataka Government versus Shri C.M. Pai. ...*(Interruptions)* What is this? This is not the way. Is this the way you treat us? I do not understand as to why the Member is doing like this. Sir, you gave me the permission to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Question Hour should start, Question Hour is being interrupted. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too support this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, I too support this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Sir, I too support this ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please start Question Hour ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to start Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court made it clear that all the unaided institutions, and not the aided institutions, should go by the Common Entrance Examination. However, misinterpreting the judgement, the Human Resources Ministry, through UGC and AICTE, is deliberately issuing circulars to the Vice-Chancellor and the Academic Council to follow the path of the Common Entrance Examination. ...*(Interruptions)* What are you talking?

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): What is this?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is not the way. They are not allowing me to complete the sentence. should I not complete my sentence? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, all of you please sit down. I have permitted Dasmunsiji to put only

one point, not to deliver a speech, you just put up one point.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I request all Hon'ble Members to sit down please.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir kindly control the saffron Member who wants to saffronise everything. We can tolerate that. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sheesh Ramji, if you want Question Hour. Then please sit down. I want to start Question Hour now. He will complete his sentence within one minute.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is simple. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What you are saying is going on record. Others please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I have digested everything. Everyday they encroach upon our rights. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not speak on your point, I will go straight to the Question Hour. I have permitted you. You can complete your sentence.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You have to protect me also.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I have protected you fully.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I only desire that the Minister of Human Resource Development should come to the House and make it clear that interference of UGC in the affairs of Aligarh Muslim University will be stopped and that the said circular will be withdrawn forthwith. Otherwise, the entire Parliament will condemn the Government for deliberately interfering in the affairs of the Council of Aligarh Muslim University.

MR. SPEAKER: I go to the Question Hour now. Please sit down. I have permitted him to speak. I will be going to the Question Hour now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the House. I will ask the Minister to come to the House and make a brief statement, either today or tomorrow. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I want to say that I have not admitted any adjournment motion.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour begins now.

Question No. 281 — Shri Haribhai Chaudhary
-Not present.

— Shri Mansingh Patel
-Not present.

Question No. 282 — Shri Ravi Prakash Verma.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall not permit to speak on all notices. This is not a practice. Right now, I am not speaking anything on this subject.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record except Shri Ravi Prakash Verma's question.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I understand that the Minister will come during 'Zero Hour' and make a statement in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I will have to see his schedule also. I will be either today or tomorrow. This issue is important. I am going to call the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): This is such an important issue that Question Hour can be suspended to have a discussion on this. ...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

Sir, it is more important than Question Hour. We have already given notices on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You can not decide that this is important than the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have said that when the Minister comes, then you may speak. I shall permit you then. Nothing that Hon'ble Members say will go on record. Only the question of Shri Ravi Prakash Verma will go on record. You please ask the question.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): I have uttered the Question No. Alvijee, please have pity on us, it is very serious matter. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, tomorrow is the last day of this Session.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: A lot of undue advantage is being taken here, which I won't tolerate.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: This question should be answered.

[English]

The Minister should be asked to come today itself.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This can't be done. Once hon'ble Minister is here. I will permit you to speak. But I can not say the time of arrival of the Minister. I can not make a promise in the House. You are aware of the procedure of this August House.

[English]

It will be either today or tomorrow. The message will go to him. He can come tomorrow also. Please sit down.

[Translation]

When I am cooperating in such a manner, then you also please cooperate. Sometime you may also become a Minister. You just try to understand.

...(Interruptions)

11.13 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Inter-State Water Disputes

*282. ⁺SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of inter-State water sharing disputes among some States;

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

(c) the details of effective steps taken/proposed to be taken to resolve such disputes till the inter-linking of rivers is completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The details of the inter-State water sharing disputes referred to the Union Government under Inter-State Water Disputes Act 1956 are as follows:

S.No. River/Rivers	States concerned
1. Ravi & Beas	Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan
2. Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry
3. Madei/Mandovi/Mahadayi	Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra
4. Krishna	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

(c) The Union Government makes all efforts to resolve the water disputes among the States amicably through negotiations and mutual discussion, failing which the disputes are referred to a Tribunal for adjudication under the provisions of Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. The said Act has been amended in the year 2002, whereby the adjudication of the water dispute by a Tribunal has been made time bound.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, inter-State water sharing dispute is a major dispute in India. But the Government is not very serious about this yet. I would like to ask the hon. Minister through the House that whether the Government consider to nationalise all the rivers of the country to resolve this dispute?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: There is no proposal to nationalise all the rivers of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Today, the most important problem is inter-State water sharing dispute. It is creating tension in the country. I am talking about the rivers of the country or outside the country we are concerned with. Specially, I would like to speak about the rivers originating in Nepal. Earlier also I had apprised the House that Nepal Government had recently changed the course of their rivers. They had made drastic changes there. As a result, the Indian regions lying in the course of rivers originating in Nepal are suffering from devastating effects of the rivers. These regions are witnessing floods to such an extent that most important establishments like Sharada Barrage are in danger. Many sugar mills are in danger. Have the Government raised any objection in this regard so far?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, the Question is: "Whether the Government is aware of inter-State water sharing disputes among some States." It is relating to water disputes inside the country, and here he is referring about Nepal.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this problem is a very big problem of India. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: As per the rule of the House, the question you want to ask should be related to the main issue. Mr. Minister is saying that your question is not related to the main issue. If the question is important, you can raise it here through some other device.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussions have already taken place in this regard earlier also. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Minister has also replied to that but. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Minister has replied to part (c) of my question that if all efforts to resolve the issue amicably through negotiations and mutual discussion do not succeed, the disputes are referred to a Tribunal for adjudication under the provisions of Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. After that these water disputes had been made time-bound in the year 2002. I would like to ask the Minister whether these disputes have been resolved in the time-schedule after making them time-bound? If not, what efforts are being made in this regard?

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, the Act was amended in the year 2002. In between, no decision has been taken or no issue has come before the Government to arrive at a decision. However, the Government is very keen to see that these inter-State rivers water sharing disputes are solved in an amicable manner, in a very cordial manner. We want that all these disputes should be resolved in a cordial and amicable manner. The Government of India is very much there to act as a facilitator to solve the problem.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, out of the four pending disputes referred to the Tribunal referred to by the hon. Minister in his answer, in three disputes, the State of Karnataka is a party. In three major disputes concerning Cauvery, Krishna and Madei/Mandoi/Mahadayi, Karnataka is a party.

As the House is aware, and Sir, you are also very well aware, ours is a deficit State. We do not get sufficient rains. Unfortunately, for the last three years, we are facing the worst kind of a drought in Karnataka. In his reply, the hon. Minister has stated that the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act has been amended in the year 2002, whereby the adjudication of the water dispute by a Tribunal has been made time bound.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister: what are the steps that are being taken by the Government of India in expediting solution of the pending disputes, especially insofar as the State of Karnataka is concerned.

Sir, as you are also well aware, in every Session there will be a lot of heated exchange of arguments between the Members representing Karnataka and the

Members representing Tamil Nadu on the one side, and so far as the Krishna water is concerned, there are always heated exchanges between the Members representing Kamataka and the Members representing Andhra Pradesh on the other side.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the State from which you come is Maharashtra, and if you show some concern. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

If Maharashtra given more water only then we can survive a bit.

[*English*]

My question is: What are the steps taken by the Government of India in expediting solution of the disputes pending before the Tribunal and conclusively conclude the decision of the Tribunal within a specific time? It should be solved once and for all.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Sir, there is another part. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please finish your question shortly.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Sir, there is another part relating to linking of the rivers. ...(*Interruptions*) About the linking of the rivers, the hon. Minister has not given any reply.

I would like to know, what are the steps initiated by the Government of India for inter-linking the rivers so that Kamataka can get sufficient water.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: The second part of the hon. Member's question is not related to the main Question.

So far as expediting the disputes that are there in different Tribunals are concerned, the Government is very serious in resolving them. That is why, the amendment had been brought forward; and we have now made it a time-bound one so that within a specific time period, the disputes are adjudicated by the Tribunal established by the Government.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: What is the time limit within which the Tribunal is supposed to give its Award?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has said that it is as early as possible.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, it is within six years.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: In the Act, when we make a provision, it should be made clear.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, in the Act, it has been provided that within five years, it should be adjudicated by the Tribunal. If it is not possible to do it within five years, another one year is given as grace period.

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: What justice we can get after seven years. It is already too late. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, let me confine to the Cauvery River Water Dispute which is a long pending one; it has become almost a perennial one. The hon. Minister is clever enough to give as brief a reply as possible. He is dealing with 4-5 disputes, but he has answered in only 4-5 lines. He is very clever in giving a very brief reply.

He said that the Union Government makes 'all efforts' to resolve the disputes. I would like to know whether the Union Government has taken all efforts. I also want to know whether the Union Government is capable of taking 'all out' efforts. There is a difference between 'all efforts' and 'all out' efforts. May I know whether he has taken 'all out' efforts? This is my first question.

Secondly, this dispute has been going on for long; it has reached a stalemate. Whatever our friends from Kamataka may say, I need not explain the amount of pain and anguish that we are undergoing in Tamil Nadu.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: The trouble has already been made and the trouble-makers are the Kamataka people. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Sir, I also could have provoked my colleague from Tamil Nadu. But I did not do it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: May I know when is the Central Government going to be a trouble-shooter? ...*(Interruptions)* I want them to do it within a time-frame so that they are resolved early. There is no use in saying that they are negotiating, they are conciliating and they are doing their best. All these words are empty words and they are not going to be useful. If they really want to do something concrete, let them take 'all out' efforts, and that too, within a time-frame.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, I would like to amend my answer given to my friend, Shri Dhananjaya Kumar pertaining to the earlier question. ...*(Interruptions)* I am giving just a clarification. I will certainly answer the question asked by Shri Malaisamy also. Now, I want to give a clarification to my hon. friend, Shri Dhananjaya Kumar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How can a Governor come to this House!

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: In the Inter-State River Water Dispute Act, it has been provided that disputes are to be resolved within a three-year period first; if it is not able to do it within that period, then another two-years are given to them; and thereafter, another one year is given. So, they get six years in all.

So far as Shri Malaisamy's question about the Cauvery River Water dispute is concerned, it is pending with the Tribunal. The Tribunal has taken enough time, no doubt. We hope that it will be over and the final Award will be given by August, 2004.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madan Lal Khurana, a Member of the House, is here. We learn that he is being appointed as the Governor of Rajasthan. I would like to congratulate him in advance.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You had put a very long question. Normally, I do not permit long questions.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, Shri Khurana has been the Chairman of a Committee, of which I am a Member. I hope the Members of the Standing Committee on Defence will get special consideration when they go to Rajasthan.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Let me also first congratulate Shri Khurana on his being appointed as the Governor. Hearty congratulations to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Khurana ji, Members are congratulating you.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, now, any Member of Parliament visiting Rajasthan should be accommodated in the Raj Bhavan.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, in the answer at serial No. 2, with regard to Cauvery dispute, the States concerned have been mentioned as Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and the Union territory of Pondicherry. Yes, there is dispute in Cauvery. Apart from that, we have Mullai Periyar Dam, which for 99 years, as per an agreement during the British regime, was with Tamil Nadu and now Kerala has got it. This dispute is also pending. From many of our dams water is being smuggled or leaked out from Kerala to Tamil Nadu. Occasionally a tribunal is formed. My question to the hon. Minister is instead of forming the tribunal, can we have a permanent set up for this. Water disputes are arising every day, may not be major disputes but minor disputes are arising quite often. In the wake of this, can the Government consider forming a permanent water tribunal to solve water disputes between Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, along with this, the relevant issue today is, there is Pampa-Achancovil-Vypar link, which is causing concern to the State of Kerala. This link has been accepted by the Inter-state tribunal and the river linking project has been taken up. It has become a serious issue for the Government of Kerala. I would like to know from the Minister whether this Pampa-Achancovil-Vypar link project is still existing or has been dropped. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, this is a very serious issue. Entire State of Kerala is concerned with this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can reply to the questions asked by Shri Jos and Shri Chennithala.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, why don't you start replying?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to the reply of the Minister now, otherwise, I will go to the next Question and Members will miss the reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, there might be disputes between some States in the country but these disputes do not automatically come to us. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghunath Jha ji, why are you on your legs?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, under section 3 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, they are to be referred to us. Unless these disputes are referred. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can complete your reply. Only your reply will go on record. Members do not want to listen to your reply. You can complete your reply. Only your reply will go on record.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Unless these disputes are referred to us, they do not automatically get referred to the tribunal. The concerned States should request the matter to us so that we appoint the tribunal for adjudication.

[*Translation*]

Schemes to Attract Tourists

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*283. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which attracted the maximum number of foreign tourists during the last three years;

(b) the details of schemes implemented by the Union Government to attract foreign tourists;

(c) the benefits derived from the said schemes to the tourism sector; and

(d) the percentage share of tourism sector in the overall earnings of foreign revenue of the country?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The States which have attracted maximum number of foreign tourists during the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 are Delhi, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu respectively.

(b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India carries out tourism promotion activities overseas through its 13 foreign offices. The Department helps in creation of tourism infrastructure through its schemes of Integrated Development of Tourists Circuits and Products/ Infrastructure and Destination Development. Besides, the Department of Tourism also carries out human resource development activities through Institutes of Hotel Management and under the scheme of Capacity Building for service providers.

(c) With the implementation of the above schemes and also due to the other measures taken, the estimated foreign exchange earnings through tourism has increased to US\$ 3175 Million during the period January to November, 2003 from US\$ 2594 Million earned during the same period of the previous year indicating an increase of 22.4 per cent.

(d) According to figures compiled by Reserve Bank of India for the travel sector, the share of foreign exchange earnings through travel as compared to the overall industry sector during the year 2002-03 3.2%.

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Sir, in India, we not only have got a lot of foreign tourists coming in but we also have a lot of tourists as our population is over 100 crore. What are we doing to encourage local tourists, especially the local people, like farmers?

[*Translation*]

A common farmer goes on pilgrimage. He visits all holy places. If some money remains unspent with him, he likes to go to some other places in vacations. People of the country visit religious places. What efforts are being made by the Government to provide them facilities? The largest tourist market in our country is the people of our country. They visit everywhere. Though our Government is providing much facilities to our pilgrims as well as to the foreigners, but our neighbouring countries are our stiffest competitors because they are providing more facilities to tourists. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what action plan is being prepared by our Government for the next five years to encourage tourism?

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Sir, this is a very good question. In the last one or two years, we have taken a new initiative and all over the country, new hubs, with elements of culture, elements of tourism, elements of clean civic life, and elements of upgraded environment, are being synthesised. I have with me a map which indicates all the areas that we have taken over. We are not concentrating only on attracting the foreign tourists but we are also concentrating on attracting domestic tourism. The result of all this is very encouraging.

In one year of 2003, there has been an increase of three crore domestic tourists. This is a phenomenal increase. I will give you the example of the pilgrimage tourism. I have got a few pamphlets on Kurukshetra, Ajanta, Red Fort, etc. and I will send them to all the Members. They can see all the maps and hubs that are being developed and some of them have actually been completed. Everywhere the domestic tourism is flourishing like anything. This has resulted in an increase of three crore tourists. This is a record achievement.

Secondly, so far as foreign tourists are concerned, they have also increased by about 14 to 15 per cent in one year. Then, our foreign exchange earning through foreign tourists has gone up by 23 per cent. This has brought the country about Rs. 15000 crore in foreign exchange. So, I hope this is something which we need to be proud of. I will distribute the copies of pamphlet to all the Members of Parliament. It gives what has been done. It gives the details of the policy and the details regarding action taken. It is because it is not the policy alone that matters. It is the focussed implementation and it is the governance that matters. In my opinion, it is a great example of cooperative federalism where all the Central, State and local, agencies have combined together to produce the best results.

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: We are very happy to hear the Minister's response that we have over 20 per cent growth in our tourism and also a growth of three crore tourists in the domestic sector.

I feel, tourism has a big potential for growth of the economy. It is because economies of many of our neighbouring countries have developed only on tourism. Apart from industrial growth, tourism has been the biggest factor for extreme financial success of those countries. I feel, we should lay more emphasis on this sector, specially our State Governments should take more interest in it. A State like Uttar Pradesh has tremendous potential for tourism, but it has not been exploited to the full. So, we

would like something special to be done for the State of Uttar Pradesh. Most of the religious centres are located in the State, but those are not being encouraged to be developed as tourist centres.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: I entirely agree with you. This is a very important sector both from the point of view of development of the general economy and for creating more employment opportunities and keeping the population where there is scope for work and also at the same time for advancing the cause of our culture. We are selecting those areas that reflect the power and profundity of the Indian mind. For example, why have we given preference to Ajanta? It is because it has production of paintings and cave technologies and great many other things that is reflective of the powerful Indian mind.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to Submit to the hon. Minister that the birth place and Nirvan place of Lord Buddha in Lumbini and Kushinagar respectively fall in Gorakhpur district and its adjoining areas. Samath is also near Gorakhpur. Besides, Maghar, the Nirvan Place of Sant Kabir is 15 Kilometer away from Gorakhpur. Lord Mahavir's Nirvan place is 50 Kilometer away in Pahwa. Lakhs of domestic and foreign tourists Visit these tourists places as well as pilgrimage every year. When late Vir Bahadur Singh was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, at that time some schemes had been launched to attract domestic and foreign tourists in these area but after his sudden death all those schemes are lying pending. Whenever the issue regarding the tourists places is raised hon. Minister only gives assurance but nothing has been done so far. The hon. Minister has not made mention of Buddh, Jain and other important tourists places of Gorakhpur and its adjoining areas as yet. Hon. Minister had given assurance earlier also in this House, I would like to know as to when the hon. Minister is going to Gorakhpur and what is his scheme for the development of Hindu, Jain, Buddh or other important tourists places?

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the number of tourist places is so large that we cannot take-over all of them, but I would like to tell you that. ...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: The birth-place and Nirvan-Place of loard Buddha is only one in the whole world. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAG MOHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Buddhist circuit has been sanctioned. From the point of view of Buddhist Circuit a lot of works are being done in Gaya, Kushinagar and Samath. It is wrong to say that Buddhist places

were not promoted. But the fact remains that Buddhist Circuit was greatly promoted. I would like to say that work is being done everywhere and we are going to organize an international gathering in February for Buddhist Circuit.

[*English*]

It will be done in the month of February which will put the Buddhist circuit on the world map.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Sir, while I congratulate the hon. Minister on the phenomenal increase in the foreign exchange owing to tourism, I would like to ask him a question. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Sometimes I will also have to allow decent Members to raise questions.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: How much foreign exchange has been spent. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Sometimes I must allow more decent Members to raise questions.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Sir, through you, I would like to know as to how much foreign exchange has been spent on earning this much of foreign exchange through tourism and its percentage to the total earnings.

SHRI JAG MOHAN: We are getting around Rs. 14,000 crore per year. But this year there has been an increase of about 23 per cent. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: How much foreign exchange has been spent on attracting the tourists in terms of tourism promotion abroad?

SHRI JAG MOHAN: We are not spending so much on that. We spend Rs. 60 crore of the total Budget for this foreign publicity and so on. There is not much investment as a result of which we are getting this. There are a large number of centres. For example, when we are improving our products, when we are improving our circuits, when we are improving our connectivity, the increase has been as a result of these measures.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: The percentage will be very little. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There are several Members who want to ask questions on this. I will be in a position to permit you a debate on this issue in the next Session.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a question. Whether the Member of Parliament coming from a tourist place will not be allowed to ask question?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that I will give you permission for debate on the subject of tourism.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Does it not show that how serious we are about tourism? I have been requesting from the beginning. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 284—Shri Arun Kumar.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, question No. 284. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me to ask a question.

MR. SPEAKER: Arun Kumarji, please wait for a minute.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after him I would also like to ask a question. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It so happens. Therefore, I do not give opportunity. Therefore, Arun Kumarji, please ask your question.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: If I permit you, then there will be several Members who would like to ask questions.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, would it not be injustice if MPs from tourist places are not given a chance. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You give a notice for debate on this issue. When you speak about justice then you have the right to ask for a debate. This is not injustice. I will allow a debate on this issue in the next session. Why have you not asked for a debate so far? Tomorrow will be the last day of the session. You could have asked for a debate earlier and I would have allowed it.

Shri Arun Kumar ji, ask your question.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had requested for the permission to ask a question when this question was taken up.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want to say much on this issue. I would like to say that it is my duty to give a chance to each party. You may have seen so far that I give chance to big parties to ask one question. Rarely, hon'ble MPs like Shri Sengupta ji should also be given a chance. Small parties should also be given a chance but this can not be an issue for discussion.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the place from where I have been elected is an international tourist place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should ask for permission to hold a debate on such issues. You give a notice and I will allow a debate.

[English]

This goes on record that if you are sincerely and honestly interested then you must give a notice for a debate on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. You do not allow me to complete my sentence. If you really want it, then I am prepared to allow a debate on this issue.

[Translation]

You give a notice, I will allow debate. I respect you.

[English]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Tourism are interconnected Ministries. The Ministers of both the Ministries are present here and that is why, I wanted to ask a question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: No member ask for debate on such issues. You can understand this.

[English]

Non-Deposit of Provident Fund by PSUs

*284. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the time-frame within which the PSUs are required to deposit the Provident Fund money in the accounts of the employees;

(b) whether certain Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are not depositing the Provident Fund money deducted from the salaries of their employees in their EPF Accounts;

(c) if so, the details of PSUs which have not deposited the Provident Fund money in the accounts of the employees during the last three years are thereafter, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the PSUs deposit the Provident Fund money within the stipulated time in the accounts of the employees?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) All the establishments including PSUs are required to deposit the Provident Fund money within 15 days from the close of the month for which salaries become due.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some of the PSUs are defaulting remittance of Provident Fund money deducted from the salaries of their workers.

(c) The number of PSUs who have not deposited PF money during the last three years, region-wise, are given in Annexure-A.

(d) The steps taken by the Government for realizing the dues from the establishments include the letters written by the Union Labour Minister to State Chief Ministers in respect of State PSUs; and to the Union Ministers-

incharge of the Central PSUs. The EPF Organisation has also initiated steps for monitoring the compliance of establishment on a month to month basis through an IT

assisted system for better compliance by establishments and early action by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation in case of any deficiency.

Annexure 'A'

Sl. No.	Region	Number of establishment of default			
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (upto 31st Oct, 03)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	25	52	56
2.	Bihar	12	27	32	30
3.	Chhattisgarh	0	2	3	2
4.	Delhi	5	4	1	1
5.	Gujarat	14	25	24	14
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0
7.	Haryana	3	5	5	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	4	2	1
9.	Jharkhand	0	9	8	4
10.	Karnataka	11	20	30	26
11.	Kerala	7	36	40	39
12.	Madhya Pradesh	13	39	46	40
13.	Maharashtra	38	46	46	46
14.	North East Region	3	35	35	50
15.	Orissa	3	147	124	182
16.	Punjab	3	20	23	93
17.	Rajasthan	4	8	13	9
18.	Tamil Nadu	14	32	31	31
19.	Uttaranchal	0	7	22	24
20.	Uttar Pradesh	21	54	98	94
21.	West Bengal	60	83	68	81
Total		221	628	703	828

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer to my question is in itself contradictory. Hon'ble Minister has said that the Provident Fund money of the PSU employees should be deposited within 15 days of their salaries. Hon'ble Minister has accepted that many companies are in default on this count and they are being monitored. But it is clear from the data that the

number of defaulter companies is 221 in 2000-2001, 628 in 2001-2002, 703 in 2002-2003 and 828 upto October, 2003. The result of monitoring is that the number of defaulter companies is on the rise. As such I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister how this number will start declining in place of the current trend of increasing? Due to highhandedness of the PSUs the hard earned

money of the workers do not reach them and it is being missed. Why are all the people working against the rules and when the situation would be improved?

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member the benefits of monitoring. In brief, I would like to say that we had collected a total amount of Rs. 778 crore from the defaulting companies between 1990-91 to 1998-99. But from the day, when we started strict monitoring, we have collected Rs. 626 crore in 1999-2000 alone, Rs. 796 crore in 2000-2001, Rs. 858 crore in 2001-2002 and Rs. 885.99 crore in 2002-2003. The total collection from 1999 to 31st October, 2003 has been Rs. 3936 crore while only Rs. 778 crore had been collected from 1990-91 to 1998-99. It is true that there has been an increase in the number of units but in just four and half years the collection of money has multiplied 5 times and it has reached Rs. 3936 crore from Rs. 778 crore. Total collection is eight years from 1999 was Rs. 778 crore whereas only in the last 4 years about Rs. 3936 crore have been collected.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the figures given by the hon'ble Minister are factual and a lot of money has been collected due to his efforts but we are concerned about the rise in the number of the defaulting companies and their arbitrary attitude. The situation prevailing in the last few years between 1990-1999 was so horrible. Though a lot of improvement has taken place in this direction in the last four and half years but the number of defaulting companies has risen to 828 which is affecting adversely future of the employees of such companies. How he will control it, we are concerned about that. We hope that it will be corrected.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I personally wrote letters to all the Chief Ministers regarding state PSUs or other organisations and had a personal telephonic discussion. This morning, I spoke to the Chief Ministers of the 5 states—West Bengal, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Punjab and told them about the outstanding amount. I also wrote a letter earlier to provide information in this regard and get money paid. Only because of this, as I have told you earlier, that the collection of money in default has increased five times in the last four and half years whereas we had collected only Rs. 778 crore in the first eight years. As compared to the amount collected in eight years, we have been able to collect 5 times more in 4 years. We are continuing our efforts in this direction. First of all we send a demand notice to the defaulters after prescribing action related provident fund under section 7 and then take action under section 8. We direct the Banks in respect of Bankers including the third party towards pooling money for their

provident fund and get them arrested. At many places, we got the accounts of the PSUs attached. Now, there are not many defaulters because of our strict action. Most of the people have got tired of the strict action. We try to take the dues from the PSUs as this money belongs to the workers.

Employment Generation in Organised and Unorganised Sectors

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

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the potential of generating additional avenues of employment in the organised and unorganised sectors;

(b) if so, the annual rate as well as the target set in terms of generating additional avenues of employment in the above sectors separately during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the estimated number of workers likely to be engaged by each of the sectors by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

A Special Group set up by Planning Commission went into the employment generation taking place in the country considering all relevant studies, reports, proceedings and other available documents and suggested strategy and programmes for creating 50 million gainful employment opportunities at the rate of 10 million per year during the 10th plan period. Accordingly, 10th plan envisages creation of 50 million jobs (considering both organised and unorganised sector taken together) during 10th plan period. Out of these 50 million, around 30 million employment opportunities will be created through the normal growth process assuming 8% growth rate of GDP per annum and 20 million employment opportunities through special employment generation programmes. By the end of the 10th Plan period, estimated workforce in the country on current daily status basis (considering both unorganised and organised sector) will be of the order of 392.35 million.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister in his reply has stated that there is proposed

strategy and programmes for creating 50 million gainful employment opportunities at the rate of 10 million per year during 10th Five Year Plan. According to a survey conducted regarding employment, 8 per cent labourers are engaged in organised sector and 92 per cent labourers are engaged in unorganised sector. Through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the organised sector employing only 8 per cent of work-force provides maximum employment security as well as incentives while the unorganised sector gives neither the job security nor any other incentives. I also want to ask whether the government will try to increase the share of organised sector upto 30-40 per cent and pay attention towards increasing employment opportunities in organised sector?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Prime Minister had made an announcement to create one crore employment opportunities every year. I want to ask whether the Government is trying to achieve that goal through the organised sector?

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of organised and unorganised sectors is concerned there is no doubt that we have not been able to increase employment opportunities in organised sector but due to the progress made on account of the economic policy of the country, the employment opportunities in the organised sector have increased during the last one year. However, I am unable to give the exact figures about this increase in job opportunities as I have not received the assessment and statistics of the last year. It is a fact that we have not been able to increase job opportunities in organised sector, but on the other hand, we have been able to increase job opportunities in unorganised sector. It is a fact that in unorganised sector there is more uncertainty and less social security in comparison to the organised sector. So, we should increase employment opportunities in organised sector. Hon. Member has rightly said that the employees get better security in organised sector. In this regard, announcement has already been made by the Hon. Prime Minister and a decision has been taken by the Group of Ministers. The government have decided to provide social security to the persons working in unorganised sector including the self-employed. It also includes 92 per cent workers engaged in unorganised sector who have been mentioned by hon'ble Member. Decision will be taken in this regard immediately, group of Ministers have already decided about it and, soon a legislation will be enacted in this regard so as to cover 36-37 crore people of the country. Hon. Member is aware of the fact that these persons have not got social security since independence.

The self-employed will get social security even upto the age of sixty in addition to the medical facilities, pensions, insurance upto one lakh on their death and they will also get family pension. I would like to inform the hon. Member that for the first time in the history of independent India. Labour Commission has been constituted and its report has been received. After that, meeting have been held with the Chief Ministers, Ministers and Secretaries of various states and in those meetings a decision has been taken to bring forward an umbrella resolution. Arrangements are being made in this regard. I have already mentioned that the Group of Ministers has given clearance to this scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: The question as well as the answer should be short.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has given information about 92 per cent workers engaged in unorganised sector and has claimed that the employment opportunities have increased in unorganised sector and I agree with him. But, I want to express my concerns on this issue and want to say that when the hon'ble Prime Minister promised to provide one crore employment every year, it conveyed a message among the unemployed people that employment opportunities will increase. But, employment opportunities have not increased in organised section. I welcome it that the Minister is considering to provide social security in unorganised sector and he is going to implement it. But, in my opinion, full security and incentives can not be provided in unorganised sector because the sector is unorganised. So, through you I would like to request the hon. Minister to increase employment opportunities in organised sector upto 50 per cent. If it is not possible, then I would like the Government to amend the Constitution to include Right to Work in the Fundamental Rights of the Constitution. I want to know whether the Government is considering to provide employment to all by including Right to work in the Fundamental Rights?

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the concerns expressed by the hon. Member are justified upto the extent that employment opportunities should be increased in organised sector. The Government is also concerned about it. I have written to the Chief Ministers about it and Chief Ministers of some states have requested us to increase employment in unorganised sector by making special Economic Zones and we have acceded to their requests.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: None of the Chief Ministers is interested in it. ...*(Interruptions)* He started writing about the Building and other Construction Workers' Welfare Fund. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Minister, I requested you to write to the Chief Ministers or call a meeting of the Ministers concerned to find a solution. ...*(Interruptions)* But none of them is working. It is a good way of talking about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please complete your answer. At present, it is not necessary to answer the question raised by hon. Member as I have not permitted him. Please complete the answer of your question.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have raised the issue of including the right to work in the Fundamental Rights, with the hon. Minister.

SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA: I will come to that point also. Sir, there are two important issues. Firstly, the hon. Member says that employment opportunities in organised sector should be increased. I have already told that there is a concept of special Economic Zone to increase employment opportunities in organised sector. The Chief Ministers of States like Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have asked for special permission from the Centre for Special Economic Zone. We have granted permission to almost all of them. In the meeting of Inter-State-Council held in Srinagar, the Prime Minister had categorically stated that any suggestion about flexibility of labour laws or about granting sanction of any kind would be sanctioned within thirty days. We have given sanction to those kinds of proposals within thirty days.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Barar, please speak.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not completed my reply as yet.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Hon. Speaker has permitted me to speak.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: My reply is still incomplete. The second point is that we have issued a notification about fixed term of appointment in order to increase employment opportunities in organised sector.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please conclude as the question hour is now over.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: We have written to all the Chief Ministers asking them to implement Fixed Term of Appointment in their respective states so that the employment may increase in organised sector. The Hon. Member has raised the question of fundamental right.

MR. SPEAKER: It was pointed out in the reply given earlier.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. Mr. Minister is talking about the fundamental right.

MR. SPEAKER: You will get the reply. But now, you please sit down. Mr. Barar, you ask the question directly.

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I put a very pointed question. ...*(Interruptions)* Today, the unemployment problem is a more burning topic in this country. There are 42 million farm workers in this country. ...*(Interruptions)* The NDA Government/the BJP Government has miserably failed to do anything on this front. I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. There were two Task Force Committees set up by the Government—one headed by Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia and the other one by one Shri Gupta. What is the report of those Committees? Is there any suggestion to re-orient the education system and training?

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Barar, it is already 1200 Noon and if you ask a lengthy question like this, you will not get a reply.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Sir, 42 million job seekers are getting disturbed. What is the Government doing for them?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: While replying this question, please also reply to the question of making employment a fundamental right.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of making employment a fundamental right is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Have the Government taken any action in this regard during the last five years? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister is on his legs.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of making employment as fundamental right is concerned, right from the beginning. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the Question Hour is coming to an end. Please reply briefly.

[*Translation*]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: I will be brief. The Government is concerned on the question of including it in the Fundamental Rights and is taking action as to how employment should be made a fundamental right, how unemployed persons should get unemployment allowance, how a coordination should be established among the states. It was discussed earlier. Ram Vilasji also had raised this question the other day.

MR. SPEAKER: I know it.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: We are making efforts to make further progress in this regard. One more thing you wanted to ask, was as to how we are increasing employment. In the S.P. Gupta and Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committees' Report, it was stated that 10 million jobs would be added every year. I would like to state for your information that as per suggestions given in that report and on the basis of an increase of 4.3 per cent in the growth rate during the year 2002-2003, we had created a total of 8 million jobs, 2.77 lakh in National highways, 4.83 lakh in Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana, 3 lakh in Prime Minister Employment Scheme 1.6 lakh in Rural Employment Generation Scheme and 3.2 lakh in Golden Jubilee Rural Employment Scheme.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

International Airports

*281. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of international airports in the country;

(b) whether this number is inadequate in view of the size of the country and the increasing number of air passengers;

(c) if so, the number of international airports required in the country alongwith the number of international airports for which the construction plans are being formulated; and

(d) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) There are 12 international airports in the country.

(b) The existing 12 international airports coupled with nine other domestic airports which have facility of customs and immigration for handling limited international flights is considered adequate to handle the increasing passenger traffic.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) is taking action to enhance the terminal capacities wherever necessary. In addition, new Green field airports of international standards are being planned at Bangalore and Hyderabad with private sector participation. Facilities at Srinagar Airport are also being upgraded for operation of international flights. Government has approved a proposal to construct an international airport at Mopa in Goa.

(d) In the case of Bangalore a consortium led by Siemens, Germany has been chosen as strategic joint venture partner. A joint venture company namely Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has been incorporated in January 2001. Share Holders Agreement was signed on 23.1.2002. Other crucial agreements such as Concession, CNS/ATM, State Support and Land Lease Agreements are currently in very advanced stages of finalisation. Financial closure is expected by December 2003 and actual construction will commence immediately afterwards. For Hyderabad M/s GMR-MAHB has been selected as preferred bidder. A company under the name of Hyderabad International Airport Limited has been incorporated. The Share Holders Agreement, land lease agreement and State Support Agreement have been executed on 30.9.2003. Financial closure is likely to be achieved by 1st September 2004. In the case of Mopa, Goa, the State Government is getting the feasibility study done through International Civil Aviation Organisation.

[*English*]

Technology Mission for Cotton Production

*286. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Technology Mission launched for increasing cotton production and also to safeguard the interests of cotton growers;

(b) the measures taken by the Government for encouraging farmers to take up cotton cultivation and the total hectares of land brought under cotton cultivation during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government is aware that spurious cotton seeds are being supplied to farmers, due to which farmers are incurring huge losses in terms of low yield and pesticide attack; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to curb supply of spurious cotton seeds and make quality seeds available to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of India had launched a Technology Mission on Cotton in February, 2000 to increase the production, productivity and improve quality of cotton. It consists of four mini missions, Mini-Mission-I is implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for research and generation of technology. ICAR through State Agriculture Universities and its Institutions are generating new location specific technologies for cotton production. Mini Mission-II is implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation through State Departments of Agriculture in thirteen cotton growing States for increasing production and productivity through transfer of technology and supply of critical inputs, Mini Mission-III and IV are implemented by the Ministry of Textiles. Mini Mission-III is meant for the development of market infrastructure like construction of market yards, auction centres, grading facilities, laboratories for testing of cotton quality etc. and Mini Mission-IV is devoted to modernisation of ginning and pressing factories.

To encourage the farmer to take up cotton cultivation, assistance is provided under Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton for the supply of critical inputs like quality seeds, sprayers, sprinkler and drip irrigation system, bio-agents, pheromone traps etc. In order to disseminate production and plant protection technologies, field demonstrations and training of farmers/extension workers/dealers by the State Governments and front line demonstrations by Indian Council of Agricultural Research are organised. Besides, assistance is also provided for the establishment of bio-agent production units and setting up of seed de-linking plants. To safeguard the interests of farmers from exploitation by input supply agencies, certified seed of released cotton cultivators, promotion of

Integrated Pest Management and Integrated Nutrient Management and training are done through Department of Agriculture of cotton growing States. Efforts are, thus, continuously being made to enhance productivity (per unit production) of quality cotton. Technology Mission on Cotton is aimed at vertical growth of cotton.

During the last three years, the total area covered under cotton in the country is given below:

Year	Area (in 000 ha)
2000-01	8534.60
2001-02	9097.20
2002-03	7476.00 (Provisional)

(c) and (d) The State Governments have been advised from time to time to take stringent action against the erring seed dealers involved in spurious seed supplies. The States have also been advised to gear up their enforcement machineries and take penal action as per the provision of the Environment Protection Act, 1986, the Seed Act 1966 and Seed (Control) Order 1983. A number of Seed Testing Laboratories have been set up to create seed testing facilities in the States. Assistance is provided under Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton for the production of breeder, foundation as well as production and distribution of certified seeds.

Discrimination against Air Hostesses

*287. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India/Indian Airlines has grounded air hostesses above the age of 50 years;

(b) if so, whether women pilots are allowed to fly upto the age of 60 years;

(c) if so, the reasons for discrimination between the two categories of women employees;

(d) whether the Government would direct Air India/ Indian Airlines to end such discrimination; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Air hostesses of Indian Airlines are flying upto the age of 58 years. Air India has grounded the Air hostesses above the age of 50 years.

(b) No, Sir. Both male and female pilots in Air India and Indian Airlines are allowed to fly upto the age of 58 years.

(c) to (e) The Government have subsequently directed Air India that in view of the exigencies of the circumstances and in the interest of operations of Air India, the female cabin crew may be allowed flying duties up to the age of 58 years subject to general conditions prescribed in this regard.

Market Share of AI

*288. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International market share of Air India is very low;

(b) whether the Government has a proposal to increase the capacity and market share of Air India in view of its present low percentage of market share;

(c) if so, the initiatives taken thereon; and

(d) the details of the new destinations proposed to be introduced and capacity addition planned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Air India's market share in the International Air Market to/from India was 19.9% in the year 2002.

(b) and (c) The Board of Directors of Air India in its meeting held on 8.11.2003 approved the proposal for acquisition of 10 medium capacity long-range (A340-300) and 18 small capacity short-range (B-337-800) aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs. 10,589 crores. The project report relating to this proposal has not yet been received by the Government.

Air India has inducted on dry lease a total of 12 aircraft viz. 2 B747-400 and 10 A310-300. One more B747-400 and one more A310-300 aircraft will shortly be taken on dry lease.

Besides induction of dry lease capacity, in order to enhance market share, Air India has also introduced various marketing initiatives.

(d) With the additional dry lease capacity inducted, Air India proposes to operate to Lagos as a new destination in the summer 2004 schedule. In recent times Air India has introduced twice weekly flight to Shanghai and added five flights to US per week.

Aid to Sugarcane Growers

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had approved a Rs. 678.06 crore one-time assistance package for sugarcane growers;

(b) whether the aid is confined to Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Punjab and Bihar;

(c) if so, the reasons for discrimination against cane growers of other States;

(d) whether there has also been a demand from other States for Central assistance and if so, the names of the States; and

(e) the quantum of assistance provided to these States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) to (c) The Central Government has decided to provide Rs. 678.06 crore as one time assistance through the Ministry of Agriculture as loan @ 4% per annum to the State Government to mitigate the hardship of the sugarcane farmers who have not been paid cane arrears for 2002-03 season arising out of the difference between Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) and State Advised Prices (SAP) with regard to private sector sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana, where SAP was in vogue.

(d) and (e) The States of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Gujarat have also demanded central assistance. A separate package for all sugar mills in States not announcing State Advised Prices (SAP) of sugarcane and for sugar mills in the cooperative and the public sector in SAP States has been approved by the Central Government in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. Under that package, it has been decided to offer assistance to the State Governments by way of market borrowings to help sugar factories to clear cane price arrears of 2002-03 sugar season. The State Governments would be extended financial support by the Central Government to meet the interest liability to the extent of difference between the Coupon Rate on the Bonds raised through additional market borrowings and 4% rate at which loan will be extended to the sugar mills by these State Governments. The State Governments

have to make specific proposals in this regard to the Ministry of Finance seeking permission for access to additional open market borrowings. The Central Government has permitted Maharashtra Government to access additional open market borrowings amounting to Rs. 300 crores.

[Translation]

Augmentation of Water Resources

*290. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any long term scheme for augmentation of water resources in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith estimated cost involved therein;

(c) whether the Government proposes to seek loan from the World Bank or any other foreign financial institution to implement the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the response of the World Bank/Financial Institution thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) In order to meet the projected requirements of water for various purposes, the available water resources are proposed to be utilized through:

- (i) creation of additional storages i.e. about 75 billion cubic metre (BCM) with completion of water resources projects under construction;
- (ii) creation of additional storages i.e. about 132 BCM with implementation of water resources projects which are under planning & investigation;
- (iii) formulation of National Perspective Plan which have two components namely Peninsular Rivers Development and Himalayan Rivers Development; and
- (iv) adoption of measures for rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge.

The estimated cost of the projects under construction is Rs. 1,52,429 crore. The cost of the schemes under National Perspective Plan has been approximately estimated to be of the order of Rs. 5,60,000 crore.

(c) Loans from World Bank/Financial Institutions are sought for specific schemes after detailed examination of the same. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for seeking loan from the World Bank or any other foreign financial institution for the schemes under National Perspective Plan.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Pollution In Ganga and other Rivers

*291. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether river Ganga is the most polluted river in the country as per study conducted by Central Pollution Control Board;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the same;

(c) the position of other rivers in the country and the areas where they are highly polluted, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to control pollution in these rivers?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) No, sir. Based on the water quality monitoring studies carried out at 34 locations by Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards, river Ganga is not polluted through its entire length. However, the stretches of river Ganga at Kannauj and downstream of Varanasi are identified as polluted stretches. The water quality in these stretches are not meeting the desired criteria for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total coliform bacteria.

(b) Disposal of industrial and untreated/partially treated domestic sewage into the river stretches is the major cause of pollution. At Kannauj, there is discharge through Kali Nadi and Ram Ganga. In addition, sewage and industrial effluents from Kannauj and Kanpur also pollute the river. In case of downstream of Varanasi, there is discharge of sewage and industrial waste water.

(c) Based on water quality monitoring carried out at 514 locations on various rivers, other river stretches identified as polluted stretches in different States is given statement enclosed.

(d) A National River Conservation Plan is under implementation in 175 towns along 31 polluted stretches of rivers in 18 States. The approved cost of works under the Plan is Rs. 4688 crore and an expenditure of Rs. 1335 crore has been made on the Plan till date.

Statement

State-wise list of Polluted River Stretches

River	Polluted Stretch
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	
Godavari	• Polavaram to D/S of Rajamundry
Navavalli	• Nagavalli along Thotapalli Regulator
Musi	• D/S of Hyderabad
Assam	
Kalong	• Elengabeel System
Bharalu	• D/S Guwahati
Delhi	
Yamuna	• Wazirabad to Okhla
Jharkhand	
Swarnrekha	• Ranchi to D/S of Jamshedpur
Gujarat	
Sabarmati	• Ahmedabad to D/S of Vautha
	• Kankoria Lake, Ahmedabad
Amlakhadi	• Along Ankeshwar
Shedi	• Along Kheda
Damanganga	• Vapi D/S to Confluence with sea
Ambika	• Billimora D/S
Bhadar	• Jetpur to Ratia (Junagarh)
Khari	• Lali village, Ahmedabad
Kolak	• Vapi to Patalia.
Par	• Vapi to Patalia
Haryana	
Ghaggar	• Inter-state border with Punjab to Ottu wier at Sirsa

1	2
Yamuna	• Okhla to Kosi Kalan
Drain No. 8	• Sonapat to Confluence with Yamuna
Himachal Pradesh	
Markanda	• Kala Amb D/S to Haryana Border
Karnataka	
Bhadra	• Maleshwaram to D/S of Bhadravathi
Tunga	• D/S of Shimoga
Kali	• Along Dandeli Town
Tungabhadra	• Harihar D/S to Hara eahalli Bridge.
M.P.	
Kahn river	• Indore city to confluence with Kshipra
Kshipra	• Ujjain to confluence with Chambal
Chambal	• D/S of Nagda
Tapi	• D/S of Napanagar to Burhanpur city
Maharashtra	
Godavari	• Nasik to (Raheer) Nanded
Kalu	• Atale village to Confluence with Ulhas
Ulhas	• Mohane to Baddapur
Weinganga	• D/S Ashti
Panchganga	• Along Ichalkaranji
Wardha	• Along Rajura village
Bhima	• Pargaon to Confluence with river Daund
Mula & Mutha	• D/S Pune city
Bhatsa	• D/S of Shahpur Industrial township.
Patalganga	• Khopoli to Esturaine region
Kundalika	• Along Raoha city
Krishna	• Dhomdam to Sangli
Tapi	• M.P. Border to Bhusaval

1	2
Girna	• Malegaon to Confluence with Tapi
Nira	• Along Pulgaon
Kharkhala	• Near Sutnga Khlieri, Jaintia Hills
	Orissa
Brahmani	• Panposh D/S to Dharamsala
Ib	• Sundargarh to Confluence with Mahanadi
Mahanadi	• Cuttack D/S
Kuakhai	• Along Bubhaneshwar
Kathjodi	• Along Cuttack
	Punjab
Satluj	• D/S of Ludhiana
Beas	• D/S of Mukorian
Ghaggar	• Mubarkpur to Sardulgarh
	Rajasthan
Ghaggar	• Ottu weir to Hanumangarh
Chambal	• D/S Kota city
Banas/Berach river	• Udaipur to Chittorgarh
	Tamil Nadu
Vaigai	• along Madurai
Palar	• Vaniyambadi
Adyar	• Along Chennai
Coovum	• Along Chennai
Tambiraparani	• Papavinasam to Arunuganeri
Noyyal	• Along Coimbatore, Tirupur, Palyanakotti
Cauvery	• D/S of Mettur Dam to Erode city
	Sikkim
Ranichu	• Along Ranipur
	Uttar Pradesh
Yamuna	• Kosi Kalan to confluence with Chambal
Hindon	• Saharanpur to Confluence with Yamuna

1	2
Western Kali	• Muzaffar Nagar to Confluence with Hindon
Buri Yamuna	• Pilkhani to Confluence with Yamuna
Kali Nadi Eastern	• Meerut to Kannauj
Gomti	• Lucknow to Confluence with Ganga
Ganga	• Kannauj to Kanpur D/S
	• Varanasi D/S
	West Bengal
Damodar	• Durgapur to Haldia

D/S: Down Stream

Development of Tourism Infrastructure

*292. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government expects spurt in foreign tourists to India during the ensuing winter;

(b) if so, the infrastructure facilities created to attract foreign tourists;

(c) the areas and regions likely to attract maximum foreign and domestic tourists; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to provide security arrangements particularly to the female tourists in and around the tourist spots?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The growth in foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings during January to November 2003 as compared to same period last year is 14.6% and 22.4% respectively. This trend is expected to continue.

(b) Development of tourist places including creation of infrastructure facilities to attract tourists including foreign tourists is primarily undertaken by the Private Sector and the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. the Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, undertakes development of Integrated tourism circuits, product/infrastructure, destination development projects, etc. in collaboration with the State Governments.

(c) On the basis of information received from the State Governments for the year 2002, the top five States popular among domestic tourists are Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal and Maharashtra and top five States popular among foreign tourists are Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal and Rajasthan. Ministry of Tourism and Culture is developing tourism hubs and integrated circuits synthesising elements of tourism, culture and clean civic governance. It is expected that with improved infrastructure these hubs/circuits will attract maximum traffic inflow.

(d) Providing security arrangements to all including tourists is undertaken by State Government/UT Administrations. On the advice of the Government of India, the Governments of Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have also set-up Tourist Police Force for the safety and security of tourists including female tourists.

Rehabilitation Scheme for Employed Children

*293. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government is aware that children are being employed by some State Governments including Tamil Nadu in their own projects;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has taken up the issue with such States and has also submitted a rehabilitation scheme to the Hon'ble Supreme Court about for lakhs of children employed in hazardous industries across the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Governments thereto;

(d) whether any allocation of funds for rehabilitation of such children have been made by the Planning Commission too; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in rehabilitating them so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Government is not aware of children being employed by the State Governments in their projects. However, no child is being employed in state government projects of Tamil Nadu as per information received from them.

(b) and (c) The issue of the elimination of child labour is taken up by the Union Government with the State Governments regularly. On the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the M.C. Mehta Vs State Government of Tamil Nadu Case No. 465, the Ministry

of Social Justice & Empowerment has formulated a Scheme titled "Scheme for Welfare of Working Children in Need of Care & protection" and submitted to the Hon'ble Court. The Scheme aims at providing opportunities including non-formal education, vocational training, etc. to working street children to facilitate their entry/reentry into mainstream education in cases where they have either not attended the learning system or where for some reasons their education has been discontinued.

The Scheme will lend support to projects in urban areas which have not been already covered by the existing schemes of the Ministry of Labour. This scheme would provide support for the wholesome development of child workers and potential child workers especially those who have none or ineffective family support.

The Government is already implementing the National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) in the country. In the 9th Plan 100 districts were taken up under the NCLPs for elimination of child labour before the above scheme was submitted to the Supreme Court.

Under the 10th Plan the NCLPs are proposed to be expanded by including 50 new districts in the first instance with a provision to include 100 districts more during the remaining part of the Plan period.

(d) and (e) The 10th Plan (2002-07) outlay for the above Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is Rs. 45 crore.

The outlay for the NCLPs in the country during the 9th Plan was Rs. 249 crore and the approved outlay for the 10th Plan is Rs. 607 crore.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's directions regarding implementation of the Scheme are awaited.

Ratification of Convention No. 151 of ILO

*294. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government has ratified the Convention No. 151 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for according democratic and political rights to the Government Employees and Trade Unions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ratify all the labour oriented conventions of ILO?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Convention has not been ratified as the provisions of the Convention are not fully in conformity with existing national laws and practices.

(d) All Conventions are considered for ratification only after the national laws and practices are brought in conformity with the provisions of the convention.

Monitoring of Air Space

*295. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to monitor the entire Indian air space with radars in view of the increased terrorist threat in the aftermath of 9/11 attack in USA;

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

(c) whether the present radars which are installed to monitor air traffic are not of standard quality; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to install sophisticated radars at airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The primary radars installed at 8 airports provide surveillance converge of aircraft during approach and landing phases. Secondary radars installed at 14 locations provide surveillance coverage for aircraft over all the major air routes in India and is in accordance with the Communication, Navigation, Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) plan of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and fully meets the air safety requirements.

(c) All the radars installed at various locations are state of art equipments with advanced features like Mode-S capability and safety features like Minimum Safe Altitude Warning as per the ICAO specifications.

(d) Does not arise.

Inter-Basin River Links

*296. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working on a long-term solution to the problems faced by the drought-prone areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details of 30 inter-basin river links including basins having surplus water to share, State-wise and category-wise; and

(c) the details of pilot projects alongwith funds provided to State Governments to solve water scarcity during each of the last three years State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and Central Water Commission formulated a National Prospective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/ areas with a view to minimize the regional imbalances and optimally utilize the available water resources. NPP comprises of two components namely Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. Based on water balance and pre-feasibility studies carried out by National Water Development Agency (NWDA), 30 links (14 under Himalayan Components and 16 under Peninsular Component) have been identified for preparation of feasibility reports. A list of water transfer links is enclosed as statement-I and II. According to basin-wise/sub-basin wise water balance studies carried out by NWDA, the following major basins/sub-basins are identified as having surplus water to share.

- Peninsular Component: Mahanadi, Godavari, Ken, Parbati, Kalisindh, Par & other West flowing rivers between Par & Tapi, Damanganga, Pamba, Achankovil, Natravati and Bedti.
- Himalayan Component: Kosi, Sarda, Ghagra, Gandak, Manas, Sankosh, Aie, Raidak, Torsa and Jaldhaka.

(c) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has implemented a central sector scheme on study of recharge to ground water under which 174 pilot projects were sanctioned. The State-wise details of pilot projects alongwith the funds provided to State Governments during each of the last three years are given as statement-III.

Statement I*List of water transfer links identified for preparation of feasibility report by NWDA under Himalayan Component*

S.No.	Name of the Link	Beneficiary States
1.	Kosi-Mechi link	Bihar
2.	Kosi-Ghaghra link	Bihar & U.P.
3.	Gandak-Ganga link	U.P.
4.	Ghaghra-Yamuna link	U.P.
5.	Sarda-Yamuna link	U.P. & Uttranchal
6.	Yamuna-Rajasthan link	Haryana & Rajasthan
7.	Rajasthan-Sabaramati link	Rajasthan & Gujarat
8.	Chunar-Sone Barrage link	Bihar & U.P.
9.	Sone Dam -Southern Tributaries of Ganga link	Bihar & Jharkhand
10.	Brahmaputra-Ganga link (Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga)	Assam, W.B. & Bihar
11.	Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka link	Assam, W.B. & Bihar (Alt. To MSTG)
12.	Farakka-Sunderbans link	W.B.
13.	Ganga (Farakka)-Damodar-Subernarekha link	W.B., Orissa & Jharkhand
14.	Subernarekha-Mahanadi link	W.B. & Orissa.

Statement II*List of water transfer links identified for preparation of feasibility report by NWDA under Peninsular Component*

Sl.No.	Name	Beneficiary States
1	2	3
1.	Mahanadi (Manibhadra)-Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	Andhra Pradesh & Orissa
2.	Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) link	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Godavari (Inchampalli Low Dam)-Krishna (Nagarjunasagar Tail pond) link	Andhra Pradesh
5.	Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)-Pennar (Somasila) link	Andhra Pradesh
6.	Krishna (Srisaillam)-Pennar (Prodattur) link	Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka
7.	Krishna (Almatti)-Pennar link	Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka
8.	Pennar (Somasila)-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link	Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry
9.	Cauvery (Kattalai)-Vaigai-Gundar link	Tamil Nadu
10.	Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link	Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan

1	2	3
11.	Damanganga-Pinjal link	Maharashtra (only water supply to Mumbai)
12.	Par-Tapi-Narmada link	Gujarat
13.	Ken-Betwa link	U.P. & M.P.
14.	Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link	Tamil Nadu
15.	Bedti-Varda link	Karnataka
16.	Netravati-Hemavati Link	Karnataka

Statement III*The State-wise details of pilot projects alongwith the funds provided to State Governments*

Rs. in lakh						
Sl.No.	State	No. of Project Sanctioned	Approved Cost of Project	Funds allocated in Year 2001-02	Fund allocated in Year 2002-03	Funds allocated in Year 2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	54.55	9.50	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	1	63.50	0.00	33.50	0.00
4.	Bihar	2	10.52	3.84	0.00	0.00
5.	Chandigarh	7	64.23	48.26	0.00	3.74
6.	Delhi	18	96.07	57.02	0.00	8.61
7.	Gujarat	3	20.05	9.05	0.00	0.00
8.	Haryana	8	107.17	3.00	36.41	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6	81.65	17.11	0.00	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	78.96	29.36	0.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	5	25.73	25.73	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	2	43.30	21.75	14.55	0.00
13.	Kerala	13	88.18	34.95	13.11	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5	43.85	4.16	0.00	0.00
15.	Maharashtra	4	126.63	7.30	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Meghalaya	1	20.32	8.65	0.00	0.00
17.	Mizoram	1	28.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Nagaland	3	116.43	60.00	25.47	5.96
19.	Orissa	8	1508.29	676.53	474.41	37.31
20.	Punjab	17	361.92	112.24	88.98	0.00
21.	Rajasthan	18	122.80	31.59	30.52	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	10	161.14	69.81	15.20	0.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	10	139.07	68.97	27.34	0.00
24.	Uttaranchal	1	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	West Bengal	7	154.09	50.03	0.42	0.00
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3	12.92	8.39	0.00	0.00
27.	Lakshadweep	2	19.85	8.00	11.85	0.00
Total		174	3581.22	1399.24	771.76	57.27

[Translation]

Burning of Dry Levels

*297. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite Hon'ble Supreme Court's ban on burning of dry leaves, hundreds of tons of dry leaves are being burnt every day by the safai karamcharis all over the country;

(b) if so, whether efforts are being made by the Government to identify such polluting incidents;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has taken any action against those State Governments/institutions where such incidents take place;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check such polluting incidents in future?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) The Government is not aware of any order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding the ban on burning of dry leaves. However, burning of dry leaves and garbage wastes has been prohibited under Schedule-II of the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules 2000, notified vide S.O. No. 908 (E) dated 25th September 2000. (MSW Rules, 2000).

(b) to (f) Under the MSW Rules 2000, specific responsibilities have been assigned to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations as well as to the local administration and municipal authorities for effective management of the municipal solid wastes. Detailed criteria and procedures have been laid down for the purpose. Further, State Governments have been advised to take necessary steps including awareness campaigns on this issue. Delhi Government has specifically notified administrative orders to ban the burning of biomass waste and have launched special drive to ensure the implementation of the orders on burning of dry leaves.

*[English]***Protection of Buddhist Artefacts**

*298. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some ancient Buddhist artefacts excavated from Buddhist sites are lying unprotected at different places;

(b) if so, whether representations have been made to the Government in this regard particularly from some Southern States;

(c) if so, the nature of such representations received by the Government;

(d) the steps being taken to preserve such ancient artefacts through interaction with all concerned citizens; and

(e) by when the Government is likely to announce a policy for such matters?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No, Sir. In fact, the ancient Buddhist artefacts, excavated from the centrally protected Buddhist sites by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), are kept well protected and the select material is displayed in the site museums for the benefit of the citizens.

(b) to (d) Representations are received for display of the sculptures in the newly constructed building at Ghantasala, Distt. Krishna (A.P.), in the tourist complex at Banawasi Distt. Uttar Kannada (Karnataka), and at Peddavegi in West Godavari District (A.P.). While the first two works may take two year's time, for Peddavegi no time-schedule can be indicated as it needs acquisition of land, construction of a building and organization of galleries.

(e) The Govt. policy is to synthesise the elements of culture, tourism and good civic life at heritage sites.

Smuggling of Crocodiles

*299. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether poachers from Myanmar, Indonesia and Thailand have been straying into India waters at Andaman and Nicobar islands and smuggling out crocodiles and other species; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to check such activities?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Vessels from Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand and other neighbouring countries do visit the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and sometimes manage to take marine products. Occasional cutting of trees is also resorted to by them for meeting their camping requirement and for repairing/construction of boats. The action taken to check such activities includes:

1. Regular patrolling by Forest Department of the Union Territory.
2. Patrolling by Coast Guards and Indian Navy in deep sea.
3. Camps by Police in far flung islands.
4. Technical and financial assistance to Andaman and Nicobar administration by the Government of India for protection of wildlife in Protected Areas.

Illegal Trade in Wildlife

*300. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the illegal trade in wildlife products and its derivatives is on an increase in the country;

(b) if so, the preventive measures proposed to be taken/being taken to minimize poaching an illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives by the wildlife mafia;

(c) whether the Government maintains data about the wildlife species and their products and derivatives traded illegally across the country and the profile of the wildlife mafia;

(d) if so, the details of such data for the last three years; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is proposed to compile the information?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) There has been an increase in incidents of seizures of wildlife, its products and derivatives during the last few years. However, the main reasons for such an increase is attributable to intensive and coordinated action of various enforcement agencies. The success of enforcement agencies does not necessarily indicate an increase in illegal trade.

(b) Steps taken to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives by wild life mafias include:

(1) STATE LEVEL:

- (i) State level and District level coordination committees have been set up in several states to check poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
- (ii) State Wildlife Authorities carry out regular checking of the stocks of dealers of animal products.

(2) NATIONAL LEVEL:

- (i) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export centers of the country to check smuggling of wild animals and their parts and products.
- (ii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- (iii) Financial and technical help is extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and

Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of states for providing effective protection to wild animals.

- (iv) Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.

3. INTERNATIONAL LEVEL:

- (i) Government of India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).
- (ii) Bilateral arrangements have been made with the Government of Nepal and People's Republic of China for monitoring trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.
- (iii) India is a member of the Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries created for addressing international protection issues related to Tiger Conservation.

(c) to (e) Control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife is essentially the responsibility of the State Governments. The data regarding poaching, illegal trade and the persons involved are maintained at the level of State Governments. Names of major wildlife species, their parts and products which are illegally traded across the country is as statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of important wild life species, their parts and derivatives which are illegally traded across the country.

Sl.No.	Wildlife species	Parts & derivatives
1	2	3
1.	Tiger	Skin, bones, nails, claws, Penis,
2.	Leopard	Skin, bones, nails, claws, Penis.
3.	Bear	Gall bladder, Bile.
4.	Musk deer	Musk
5.	Elephant	Ivory, meat
6.	Rhino	Horn
7.	Tibetan Antelope	Wool (Shahtoosh)
8.	Grey Jungle fowl	Feathers
9.	Mongoose	Hair
10.	Spiders	Live

1	2	3
11.	Horse Shoe Crab	Live
12.	Reptiles (snakes, crocodiles, lizards turtles and tortoises)	Skins, venom, carapace.
13.	Swiftlet	Nests
14.	Corals	Live and Dead
15.	Peacock	Peacock tail feathers, Meat, Oil
16.	Rhesus monkey	Live
17.	Hooklock gibbon	Live
18.	Falcons	Live
19.	Parakeets (Alexandrine, Blossom Headed etc.)	Live
20.	Turtle	Live
21.	Sharks and Rays	Fins, Liver
22.	Holothurians	Dried specimen
23.	Butterflies and Moths	Dried specimens
24.	Deers and Antelopes	Antlers, Meat
25.	Sassaurea lappa (kuth)	Root
26.	Rauvolfia serpentina	Root
27.	Taxus wallichiana (Himalayan Yew)	Leaf and Bark
28.	Nardostachys grandiflora (Indian Nard)	Oil
29.	Orchid Species	Plant, bulb
30.	Sandalwood	Pieces, Chips, Powder
31.	Aquilaria malaccensis (Agarwood)	Pieces, Chips, Powder
32.	Pterocarpus santalinus (Red Sanders)	Pieces, Chips, Powder

Production of Iron Ore

2847. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable increase in the production of iron ore from the Bailadila mines during the last two years;

(b) if so, the total dispatches of iron ore made from the said mines to the different steel plants during the said period;

(c) whether the production of iron ore has been in accordance with the targets fixed;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the targetted production of iron ore from the Bailadila mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BARAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of iron ore from Bailadila mines was 115.20 Lakh WMT and 128.48 Lakh WMT in 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively. The total dispatches of iron ore from Bailadila mines to different steel plants was 137.90 Lakh WMT in 2001-02 and 153.88 Lakh WMT in 2002-03.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Guwahati-Mumbai Flight

2848. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to discontinue Guwahati-Mumbai flight;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a proposal for reviving the said flight in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be restarted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) While Indian Airlines has not operated any regular air services from Guwahati to Mumbai, Air India's once weekly operations on the Mumbai-Guwahati-Mumbai route have been discontinued effective October, 2003 due to poor loads.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Calicut Airport

2849. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any developmental work has been undertaken at Calicut Airport in Kerala during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of development works undertaken at Calicut airport in Kerala during the last three years are as under:

(i) Extension/strengthening of runway upto 9380 feet/apron & taxi-track completed in August 2002.

(ii) Construction of Isolation Bay alongwith link taxi-track completed in March 2003.

(iii) Construction of fire station of category IX is likely to be completed by April 2004.

(iv) Expansion and modification of International & Domestic Terminal Building-Work awarded and is likely to be completed by May 2005.

(v) Electrical works like provision of three additional obstruction lights on the nearby hills' top for making obstruction more prominent and lead in lights in the approach path of runway 28 has been completed.

Night Landing Facility at Calicut

2850. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5469 on April 28, 2003 and state:

(a) whether additional lights for night landing facilities at Calicut Airport have been made operational now;

(b) if not, the position in this respect; and

(c) by when they are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Additional lights for night landing facilities at Calicut airport have already been made operational.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Air Cargo at Patna

2851. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of air cargo at Patna is necessary in view of huge production and export of fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, whether the proposal with regard to construction of air cargo at Patna airport is pending with the Government for the last five years;

(c) if so, the present position in this regard;

(d) the steps the Government proposes to take to expedite the matter; and

(e) by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Bihar State Export Corporation Ltd. (BSECL) to set up an Air Cargo Complex under a Joint Venture Company. Land is to be acquired & transferred by BSECL for the project and the Joint Venture Company has to be incorporated. A Project Steering Committee has been set up.

(e) After acquisition of land and formation of Joint Venture Company by BSECL, AAI would undertake the development of Air Cargo Complex at Patna as "Deposit Work" which is expected to take two years, after award of work.

Steel Plants

2852. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steel plants functioning in the country at present, State-wise; and

(b) the profit earned by Vishakhapatnam steel plant during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BARAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Public and private sector steel plants, State-wise, functioning in the country are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of Steel Plant	State
1	2	3
I. Public Sector Steel Plants		
1.	Bokaro Steel Plant, Bokaro	Jharkhand
2.	Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai	Chhattisgarh
3.	Durgapur Steel Plant, Durgapur	West Bengal
4.	Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur	West Bengal
5.	Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd., Bumpur	West Bengal
6.	Rourkela Steel Plant, Rourkela	Orissa
7.	Salem Steel Plant, Salem	Tamil, Nadu
8.	Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant, Bhadravati	Karnataka
9.	Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
II. Main Functioning Private Sector Steel Plants		
1.	Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd., Jamshedpur	Jharkhand
2.	Usha Martin Ltd., Adityapur	Jharkhand
3.	Jindal Steel & Power Ltd., Raigarh	Chhattisgarh
4.	Essar Steel Ltd., Hazira	Gujarat
5.	Shah Alloys Ltd.	Gujarat
6.	Ispat Industries Ltd., Raigad	Maharashtra
7.	Mukand Ltd., Kalve	Maharashtra
8.	Kalyani Carpenter Ltd., Poona	Maharashtra

1	2	3
9.	Lloyds Steels Industries Ltd.	Maharashtra
10.	Sunflag Iron & Steel Company Ltd.	Maharashtra
11.	Mahindra Ugine Steel Company Ltd.	Maharashtra
12.	Jindal Strips Ltd.	Haryana
13.	Star Wire (India) Ltd.	Haryana
14.	Modern Steel Ltd.	Punjab
15.	Upper India Mfg. & Engg. Co. Ltd.	Punjab
16.	Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Ltd. Bellary	Karnataka
17.	Hospet Steel Ltd., Hospet	Karnataka
18.	Southern Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., Salem	Tamil Nadu

In addition to the above mentioned private sector steel plants, there are many Electric Arc Furnace and Induction Furnace based steel plants scattered all over the country.

(b) The net profit made by Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant during 2002-03 and 2003-04 (upto 30.9.2003) is Rs. 521 crores and Rs. 465 crores, respectively.

Smuggling and Extinction of Plants and Animals

2853. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of species and sub-species of plants and wild animals in the country;

(b) whether illegal trade in wild animals is most rampant and the killing of the wild animals continues unabated despite the existing laws and bans;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to enact stringent laws to protect the wild animals and plants getting extinct and to stop their smuggling; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the *modus operandi* to be adopted for the protection of the wild animals and plants?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) As per the available record, it is estimated that there are nearly 48,000 species of plants and 81,000 species of animals in the country.

(b) to (d) Incidence of killing of wild animals and illegal trade in their parts and products are reported by various enforcement agencies from time to time. Government has recently amended the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 enhancing the penalties and has taken other measures for the protection of wild life and illegal trade. The details are as statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of penalty enhancement and other measures for protection of wildlife

- (i) For offences relating to wild animals (or their parts and products) included in Schedule-I or Part-II of Schedule-II and those relating to hunting or altering the boundaries of a sanctuary or national park, the imprisonment prescribed is from three years to seven years and also a minimum fine of Rs. 10,000. For a second or a subsequent offence of the nature mentioned above, the term of imprisonment shall not be less than three years but may extend to seven years and also with a fine which shall not be less than Rs. 25,000.
- (ii) The Central Bureau of Investigation has been authorized to take cognizance of wildlife offence and prosecute offenders of poaching and illegal trade.
- (iii) Any equipment, vehicle or weapon used in committing wild life offence is liable for confiscation by the Government.

- (iv) The composition amount has been enhanced from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 25,000.
- (v) The provisions for rewarding the informers have been increased from existing 20% of the fine and composition money respectively to 50% in each case. In addition, a reward of upto Rs. 10,000 can be given to the informants and others who render assistance in detection of crime and apprehending the offender.
- (vi) Funding support is provided to the states for infrastructure and protection of wildlife under various centrally sponsored schemes.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Child Labour

2854. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the target for rehabilitation of 44,300 additional child labour under ILO's International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour for the year 2000-01, has been achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) As per the information received from ILO, during the biennium 2000-01, 63191 children have been rehabilitated under the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour in India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Through the scheme of National Child Labour Projects, Government of India implemented the projects for elimination of child labour in 100 districts during the Ninth Plan.

Poaching of Chirus

2855. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chirus are still being slaughtered to run a flourishing shahtoosh trade despite a ban on its killing under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; and

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to stop the killings of Chirus and protect it from extinction?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) No incident of poaching of Chiru has been reported from Indian side of its range. Nevertheless, Government has taken preventive steps to check poaching and illegal trade of its products. These steps, *inter alia*, include the following:

- (i) The Jammu & Kashmir Government has amended its Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1978 giving complete protection to Chiru and banning the manufacture and trade of its products.
- (ii) Chiru is included in schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 and is, therefore, granted highest degree of protection. Hunting and trade in its parts and products is a punishable offence. The punishment for such offences has been recently enhanced to a minimum of three years imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 10,000.
- (iii) Awareness programme has been initiated amongst the people with the help of NGO's to prevent the use of shahtoosh shawls and other items.

VRS in ITDC

2856. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC has introduced Voluntary Retirement Scheme for its employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of employees thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Voluntary Retirement Scheme based on the Gujarat Pattern has been introduced in ITDC for the employees (executives and non-executives) of Headquarters including Regional Offices. The scheme is in force from 1st December to 31st December, 2003 subject to withdrawal, suspension, re-introduction by the Management.

(c) The response of employees will be known after the closure date of the scheme i.e. 31st December, 2003.

Taxi Track at Mumbai

2857. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 191 dated July 21, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the construction of Taxi Track at Mumbai Airport has been delayed for more than 12 months;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in the rehabilitation work of slum dwellers near taxi track at Jarimari area;

(c) the details about the joint proposal of Airports Authority, Mumbai SPPL and Maharashtra Government in this regard;

(d) whether the legal slum dwellers as on January 1, 1995 have been rehabilitated;

(e) if so, the reasons for not taking legal action against the slum mafia who are creating hurdles;

(f) the details about MoU between Government of Maharashtra, SSPL and Airports Authority; and

(g) the efforts being made to expedite the work on runway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The work could not be started because of the encroachment and non-removal of ineligible encroachers by Shivsahi Punarvasan Prakalp Limited (SPPL), the agency responsible for rehabilitation/removal as per the tripartite agreement amongst Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA), SPPL and Airports Authority of India (AAI) entered into in February 2001 for removal of approximately 2500 encroachers from Rafig Nagar (Zari Mari), Mumbai.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) 125 ineligible hutment dwellers are yet to be removed by the State Government as some of these encroachers have obtained stay from the Court and the next date of hearing is fixed for 17.1.2004.

(f) Due to operational necessity for extension of B-3 Taxi Track which would result in augmenting the runway capacity of main runway at Mumbai, encroachments (approx. 2,500) were required to be removed from Zari Mari Area. For this purpose, AAI entered into a tripartite agreement with SPPL, a fully owned company of Government of Maharashtra and SRA, Government of Maharashtra in February, 2001. As per agreement, AAI was to pay Rs. 1.20 lakhs per tenement

eligible for rehabilitation as per Government of Maharashtra policy and other who were not eligible were to be removed by SPPL. Besides the above, Rs. 5,000 per hutment for survey and community development was payable both by AAI and SPPL in the ratio of 50:50. Approximately 1857 hutment dwellers have been rehabilitated/shifted.

(g) As soon as area cleared off the encroachment, is made available, construction work will be commenced by AAI at site.

Torture to Temple Elephant

2858. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received complaints regarding forcibly transportation of the temple elephants to the Mudumalai Sanctuary for 'a so-called rejuvenation camp' under order of the Government of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the complaints and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Government have taken notice of the media reports alleging cruelty on the temple elephants during transportation to Mudumalai Sanctuary under directions of the State Government. Accordingly, the Chief Secretary of Tamilnadu was requested to put on hold further transportation of elephants.

Pending River Dam Project

2859. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some river dam projects are pending with the Central Water Commission for clearance, particularly from Orissa;

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

(c) the details of irrigation and dam projects cleared by the Union Government during the last three years alongwith the steps taken to clear the remaining projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The details of proposals received in Central Water Commission from various States including Orissa for techno-economic appraisal are given in the Statement-I.

(c) The details of irrigation and dam projects cleared by the Union Government during the last three years are given in the Statement-II. The clearance of irrigation

project depends upon the promptness with which the State Governments comply with the observations of the Central appraising agencies.

Statement I

Sl.No.	States	Major					Medium					Total				
		A	B	C	D	Total	A	B	C	D	Total	A	B	C	D	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	2	-	-	2	7	8	-	-	15	7	10	-	-	17
2.	Bihar	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	01
3.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	02
4.	Gujarat	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	02
5.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	01
6.	Himachal Pradesh	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	01
7.	Jharkhand	3	2	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	05
8.	Karnataka	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	03
9.	Kerala	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	02
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2	4	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	06
11.	Maharashtra	10	5	-	-	15	24	6	-	-	30	34	11	-	-	45
12.	Manipur	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	01
13.	Nagaland	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	01
14.	Orissa	-	3	-	-	3	-	8	-	-	8	-	11	-	-	11
15.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	3	1	2	-	-	03
16.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	01
17.	Uttar Pradesh	2	4	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	1	3	4	-	-	07
18.	Uttaranchal	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	01
19.	West Bengal	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	01
Grand Total		20	27	01	-	48	37	26	-	-	63	57	53	01	-	111

(A) Project under various stages of appraisal.

(B) Accepted by the Advisory Committee of MOWR subject to certain observations.

(C) Deferred by Advisory Committee of MOWR.

(D) Recommended to Planning Commission for Investment Clearance.

Statement II

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Major/ Medium	Estt. Cost (Rs.) in crore)	Benefits (Th.Ha.)	Date of Approval
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh					
1.	Vamsadhara Project Phase-I of Stage-II (Right Main Canal)	Major	123.936	35.0300	2.01.2002
2.	Chagalnadu Lift Irrigation Scheme	Major	43.050	14.165	08.6.2001
Assam					
3.	Pagladiya Dam Multipurpose Project	Major	542.900	54.160	03.01.2001
Chhattisgarh					
4.	Mahanadi Res. Project	Major	566.880	264.000	01.07.2003
Jammu and Kashmir					
5.	Mod. of Zaingir Canal	Medium	13.660	2.140	08.06.2001
6.	Rafiabad Irrigation Canal	Medium	35.600	2.932	27.09.2001
Karnataka					
7.	Upper Krishna Stage-II Multipurpose Project	Major	2358.860	227.000	13.12.2000
Madhya Pradesh					
8.	Bansagar Canal Project Unit-II	Major	344.660	249.359	20.11.2001
9.	Mahan (Gulab sagar) Irrigation Project	Major	140.510	19.740	24.09.2003
10.	Omkareshwar Multipurpose Project	Major	1784.290	283.320	15.05.2001
Maharashtra					
11.	Tajnapur Lift Irrigation Project Phase-I	Medium	23.467	3.622	29.07.2002
12.	Kirmiri Darur LIS (Medium)	Medium	27.890	2443.000	13.10.2003
13.	Sonapur Tomta LIS Medium	Medium	32.180	2441.000	13.10.2003
Orissa					
14.	Improvement to Sason Canal System	Major	34.920	26.051	29.07.2002
15.	Kanupur Irrigation Project	Major	428.320	47.709	16.09.2002
16.	Chheligada Dam	Medium	52.960	3.120	11.09.2003
17.	Ret Irrigation	Medium	86.140	9.775	17.10.2003
18.	Telengiri	Medium	106.180	13.830	25.02.2003
19.	Upper Indravati Extension Project	Major	136.670	41.794	18.03.2003
Punjab					
20.	Remodelling of Channels of UBDC System	Major	177.800	543.000	13.12.2000
21.	Kandi Canal Extn. From Hoshiarpur to Balachaur	Major	147.120	23.326	05.04.2002

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Ravi Project Unit-I (Ranjit Sagar (Thein) Dam with Shahpur Kandi Dam Project UBDC Hydel Project Stage-II)	Major	5065.480	—	05.11.2001
Rajasthan					
23.	Mod. of Gang Canal system	Major	445.790	48.192	29.09.2000
Uttar Pradesh					
24.	Bewar Feeder Canal	Major	53.310	9.900	25.07.2001
25.	Eastern Yamuna (Hathnikund) Link Channel	Major	22.440	—	17.09.2001
26.	Sarda Sahayak Pariyojna (RE)	Major	1299.120	1925.000	11.09.2001
27.	Mod. of Agra Canal	Major	71.620	50.000	11.02.2003
28.	Providing Kharif Channel in Hindon Krishna Doab (REV)	Major	39.420	31.420	07.12.2000
29.	Rajghat Canal Project	Major	126.430	270.520	23.03.2001

[Translation]

Entry Fee at Delhi and Mumbai Airport

2860. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the entry fee charged from visitors at Delhi and Mumbai Airports; and

(b) the average entry fee received daily from visitors at Delhi and Mumbai International Terminals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Rs. 50 is charged as entry fee at the international terminals and Rs. 20 is charged at the domestic terminals of Delhi and Mumbai Airports.

(b) The average entry fee per day received at the international terminal at Delhi Airport is Rs. 1,06,300.00 and at Mumbai Airport is Rs. 66,000.00 per day.

[English]

Shortfall of Water in Residential Schools of Maharashtra

2861. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether residential schools in Panchgani hill station are facing acute water crisis due to ban on selling of water by tankers in the eco-sensitive zone of Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra;

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

(c) whether proposal for identifying commercial wells for supply of water to residential schools is pending before the monitoring committee on eco-sensitive zone; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to identify the wells by the Government?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) The water crisis in Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani in Maharashtra is due to appreciable drop in the ground water table of the region resulting from indiscriminate drawal of water for commercial purpose such as hotels, swimming pools etc., There is no ban on the supply of water by tankers to residential schools in this area. The High Level Monitoring Committee for Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani has issued instructions that water from bore wells should only be used for drinking, domestic use and for genuine agricultural purposes. Hotels, lodges and schools have been instructed to set up rain water conservation structure and waste water recycling system.

(c) and (d) All proposals for identifying commercial wells for supply of water to residential schools have been approved by the High Level Monitoring Committee for Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani Eco-sensitive zone on 9th December, 2003.

Market Intervention Scheme for Potato and Onion

2862. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has forwarded a proposal regarding Market Intervention Scheme for Potato and Onion during 1996-97 to the Union Government for release of money;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government had pointed out in his letter dated January 20, 2002 that onions and potatoes procured by NAFED and State Government agencies during 1996-97 and 1997-98 examination in the Ministry of Finance;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has again requested to the Union Government on March 6, 2002 to reimburse 50% of the loss under the said scheme at the earliest but the Union Government has not so far released the money;

(d) if so, the reasons or delay; and

(e) by when the money is likely to be released to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Karnataka was informed vide this Ministry's letter dated 30th January, 2003, that accounts were under examination of the Ministry of Finance.

(c) The Government of Karnataka has requested vide their letter dated 6th March, 2003 to reimburse 50% Central share of the loss. The Central share of admissible loss amounting to Rs. 41,654.00 for the year 1996-97 and Rs. 40,36,105.00 for the year 1997-98 have been released to the Government of Karnataka.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

S.No.	Region	Prosecution u/s 14	406/409 IPC	Attachment of bank accounts	Arrests
1.	Karnataka	—	—	2	—
2.	Kerala	12	13	22	—
3.	Maharashtra	—	—	12	—
4.	Orissa	—	—	3	3
5.	Tamilnadu	3	8	—	—
		15	21	39	3

Development of Tourism in North Eastern States

2864. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any committee to develop tourism in the North Eastern States;

Non-Deposit of P.F. Contribution of Cashew Works

2863. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) the details of cashew factories management who have not deposited their share of PF and also the PF contribution of the workers in their PF account;

(b) whether the Government has taken any action against those cashew factories management; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) The region-wise details is as follows:

Sl.No.	Region	No. of establishments in default
1.	Goa	1
2.	Karnataka	4
3.	Kerala	40
4.	Maharashtra	12
5.	Orissa	7
6.	Tamilnadu	47
	Total	111

(b) and (c) In accordance with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 following actions have been taken against defaulters:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether each of the Northern States has drawn up the tourism calendar and related programmes for the development of tourism in their States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Department of Tourism, Government of India has not set up a Tourism Committee for North East.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Funds are sanctioned to NE States under scheme for Integrated Development of Circuits and Product Infrastructure & Destination Development. Besides, the Department of tourism also provides assistance for tourism promotional activities of the North-East Region in consultation with the State Governments. Out of the total Plan allocation of the Department of Tourism 10 per cent is earmarked for development of tourism in the North East Region. The projects sanctioned are constantly reviewed and monitored.

Policy on Drought Proofing

2865. SHRI SHASHI KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to formulate a policy on drought proofing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, the National Agriculture Policy-2000 relating to drought and flood management provides:

"In order to reduce risk in agriculture and impart greater resilience to Indian agriculture against droughts and floods, efforts will be made for achieving greater flood proofing of flood prone agriculture and drought proofing of rainfed agriculture for protecting the farmers from vagaries of nature. For this purpose, contingency agriculture planning, development of drought and flood resistant crop varieties, watershed development programmes, drought prone areas and desert development programmes and rural infrastructure development programmes will receive particular attention."

Similarly, the National Water Policy-2002 relating to drought prone area development provides:

"Drought-prone areas should be made less vulnerable to drought-associated problems through soil-moisture conservation measures, water harvesting practices, minimization of evaporation losses, development of the ground water potential including recharging and the transfer of surface water from surplus areas where feasible and appropriate. Pastures, forestry or other modes of development which are relatively less water demanding should be encouraged. In planning water resource development projects, the needs of drought-prone areas should be given priority."

Sahitya Akademi Awards

2866. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the lack of transparency in the selection process for the Annual Sahitya Akademi Awards;

(b) if so, whether Sahitya Akademi had laid down certain Rules and Procedure for selection for its Awards;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has taken steps to ensure transparency in the selection procedure for awards; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The Sahitya Akademi is an autonomous organization. The selection process of Awards is governed by the rules made by the Akademi, which are periodically reviewed. The rules and procedure governing the Award is Annexed as statement.

(d) The rules and procedure governing the Sahitya Akademi awards are sufficiently transparent.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

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No. SA. 61/99/A

18 March 1999

THE ANNUAL SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS RULES

1. General
 - (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-rule (2), there shall be an award every year for the most outstanding book by an Indian author, first
-

published in any of the languages recognised by the Sahitya Akademi (hereafter referred to as the Akademi) during the five years prior to the year, immediately preceding the year of the award.

Illustration: For the award of 1999, books published between 1993 and 1997 would be considered.

2. Criteria of eligibility
for the Award:

- (2) The award for any language may not be given during any year if, in the opinion of the jury constituted in pursuance of rule 5(1), no book published in that language during the five years preceding the year of the award merits the award.
- (3) The award shall consist of such amount as the Akademi may from time to time decide besides a citation that brings out, briefly, the book's significance and its author's contribution to his/her language and literature.
- (4) Where two or more books are found to be of equal merit, the total literary contribution and standing of their authors shall be taken into consideration in deciding the award.
- (1) In order to be eligible for the award, the book must be an outstanding contribution to the language and literature to which it belongs. The book may be a creative or a critical work, but must not be—
 - (a) a work of translation; or
 - (b) an anthology; or
 - (c) an abridgment, or a compilation, or an annotation; or
 - (d) a fresh collection of writings published earlier in book form, or revised editions published earlier, provided that the collection has been published during the period referred to in rule 1(1) and provided further that in the opinion of Referees in the Preliminary Panel and of the Jury, the collection merits consideration for the award;

or
 - (e) an incomplete work, provided that if the part that is comprised in the book is complete in itself, it may be considered for the award;

or
 - (f) a treatise or research work prepared for a university degree or any examination;

or
 - (g) the work of an author who has earlier won an award;

or
 - (h) the work of an author who is a member of the Executive Board of the Akademi.
- (2) A posthumous publication is eligible for award if only the book is published within three years of the death of the author.

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3. Preparation of the Ground list and obtaining recommendations from members of the Language Advisory Board:
- (3) A book shall be disqualified for the award if it is established to the satisfaction of the Executive Board that canvassing has been done by the author.
- (1) The Akademi shall have every year a ground list prepared of eligible books of each recognised language. Preparation of the ground list shall be entrusted to an expert or, at the discretion of the President, to two experts. In the case of Sanskrit, the number of experts shall not be less than two or more than three. The remuneration of experts shall be such as may, from time to time, be decided by the Akademi.
- (2) Each Language Advisory Board member shall send a panel of not more than five names and the President of the Akademi (hereafter referred to as the President) shall choose the expert or experts out of this panel.
- (3) In preparing the ground list, the expert or experts shall strictly conform to the criteria of eligibility laid down in these rules. The ground list so prepared along with the ground list of the previous year shall be sent to all the members of the concerned Language Advisory Board (including the Convener) with the request to recommend, by such date as may be specified by the Akademi, two titles each. A member may select:
- (a) both the titles from the ground list, or
- (b) one title from the ground list and the other on his own, or
- (c) both the titles on his own.
4. The Preliminary Panel and its Functions:
- (1) The Preliminary Panel shall consist of ten Referees. These Referees shall be nominated by the President after considering suggestions of the members of the Language Advisory Board concerned.
- (2) The recommendations received from members of the Language Advisory Board shall be compiled and sent to each Referee.
- (3) Each Referee should recommend two books. These titles may be selected either out of the list sent in pursuance of the preceding sub-rule or by the Referee on his own.
- (4) Each Referee shall be paid such remuneration as the Akademi may determine.
5. The Jury and its functions
- (1) The recommendations of Referees in the Preliminary Panel shall be considered by a three-member Jury. The Jury members shall be selected by the President after considering the recommendations in this behalf by the members of the Language Advisory Board concerned.
- (2) The Akademi shall purchase the books recommended by the Referees in the Preliminary Panel and send them to the Jury members and to the Convener.
- (3) The Convener shall act as the link between the Jury and the Akademi. He/she will ensure that the meeting of the Jury is conducted properly and satisfactorily and will countersign the report of the Jury.
- (4) The Jury members shall, either by consensus or by majority, recommend a book for the award. They may also recommend that, in their opinion, no book is eligible for the award during the year. In the event of a member not being able to attend the meeting, he/she may convey his/her view in writing.
-

- (5) The members of the Jury and the Convener shall be paid, besides actual travelling allowance, daily allowance and sitting fee at rates payable to members of the Executive Board.
6. Declaration of Award (1) The recommendation of the Jury shall be placed before the Executive Board for formal approval and announcement of the award. The names of the Jury members shall be made public simultaneously with the announcement of the award.
7. Miscellaneous (1) If the time limit for submission of the recommendations is not observed by a member of the Language Advisory Board or by a Referee, the Akademi shall presume that he or she has no recommendation to make and shall proceed accordingly unless, in any particular case, it is in a position to extend the time limit and actually does so.
- (2) The award ceremony shall be held on such date and at such place as the Executive Board may decide.

SECRETARY
Sahitya Akademy

[Translation]

Study on Tigers Turning Man-Eaters

2867. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has commissioned the Wildlife Institute of India to study the reasons for the tigers turning man-eaters in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the number of the wild animals is diminishing in the protected areas and increasing near the habitations; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures suggested/taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) Government of India has not commissioned the Wildlife Institute of India to study reasons for tigers turning man-eaters in Uttaranchal. However, such a study pertaining to leopards was taken up by the Wildlife Institute of India. There is no scientific evidence that these wild animals are diminishing in Protected areas and increasing near the habitations.

[English]

Emigration Check for Travelling Abroad

2868. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether emigration check is required for travelling abroad;

(b) if so, whether there is any provision for getting the emigration check at the international airports;

(c) if not, whether the Government is planning to provide such emigration check facilities at the airport itself; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Persons with 'Emigration Check Required' (ECR) endorsement on their passports need to obtain emigration clearance from the concerned Protector of Emigrants if going abroad for employment purpose. Those going abroad for purposes other than employment only need to get the ECR temporarily suspended from the concerned Protector of Emigrants.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The process of emigration clearance requires checking of documents and deposit of prescribed charges/fees. These facilities cannot be provided at the airports.

[Translation]

Take over of Tourist Places of Hadauti Circuit by ITDC

2869. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation had chalked out any plan to take over places of archaeological and historical importance in Hadauti circuit of Rajasthan;

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

(c) whether there was any proposal to make a documentary film for publicity of Hadauti circuit as a tourist spot;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any assistance has been provided to the State Government for development of Kota, Bundi, Jhalawad and Baran during the last five years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The details of projects sanctioned and financial assistance provided to the State Government of Rajasthan by the Department of Tourism, Government of India during the last five years at these places are given in statement enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Year	Details of the Project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	1998-1999	Integrated Development of important places in Hadauti Region—at Bundi and near Kota	82.00
2.	1999-2000	General Toilet and Development of lawns at Museum Kota	3.20
3.	2000-2001	Chemical conservation work at Garh Place, Jhalawar	8.30

[English]

Visit of Chairman of CWC at Kendriya Bhandar Offices

2870. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any permission has been granted to the Chairman, Board of Directors, Kendriya Bhandar who is working in Central Water Commission to attend the Kendriya Bhandar offices with in office hours apart from attending the Meetings of Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Annual General Meeting; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No permission has been granted to attend Kendriya Bhandar offices within office hours. However, he was granted half day special casual leave on 20.10.2003 for attending Board of Directors meeting of Kendriya Bhandar.

III Effects of GM Crops

2871. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being undertaken to educate the farmers about ill effects of G.M. crops;

(b) the extent to which the Government is helping the NGOs and individuals who are striving for the cause of preservation of Bio-diversity in the country; and

(c) the amount of funds provided to each of such NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF) organized eight training-cum-awareness workshops in different parts of the country during August, 2002 to February, 2003 to educate farmers about the advantages of application of biotechnology in agriculture, the regulatory regime for approval of Genetically Modified (GM) crops and precautions to be taken while planting Bt. cotton to ensure

biosafety. This year also, MOEF has undertaken a similar exercise in the six States where Bt. cotton is being cultivated.

(b) and (c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been supporting Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the collection of germ plasma, documentation of indigenous traditional knowledge and awareness generation at grassroots level.

25 NGOs were provided with financial support of Rs. 22.69 lakhs for the period from July, 1999 to December, 2003 under the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP). 3 NGOs were provided with financial support of Rs. 99.58 lakhs during the same period under the Sub Project on Household Food and Nutritional Security for Tribal, Backward Hill Areas.

Expenditure on Advertisement in A&N Islands

2872. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred during the last two years towards advertisements published in mainland magazines, international magazines and other media on tourism development by Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) whether there is any increase in foreign tourists arrival in Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the above period;

(c) if so, the revenue earned as a result thereof as against the amount spent on advertisements; and

(d) the expenses incurred by IP and T, Port Blair in Printing calendars both wall and desk as well as diaries during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (d) Department of Tourism, Government of India does not maintain information relating to the expenditures incurred by State Governments/Union Territories on tourism promotion. No such information is maintained by the Central Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Salinity in Sea/Rivers Water

2873. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated or proposes to formulate any scheme to reduce the salinity in sea/rivers water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this scheme has been extended to Jamnagar city in Gujarat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Using the process development by Bhabha Atomic Research Center, a plant for production of 1800 m³/day of desalinated water from seawater has been commissioned at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. Another plant with capacity of 4500 m³/day is also at advanced stage of construction. However, the Ministry of Water Resources has not formulated any scheme to reduce the salinity in sea/rivers water.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Bilateral Agreement of Private Airlines

2874. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to allow private airlines to sign air services pacts with foreign countries under the Bilateral Air Traffic Rights Agreements;

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

(c) whether any rights already conferred in Indian Airlines will be withdrawn in view of the new agreements;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Indian Airlines has sought more foreign routes; and

(f) if so, the details of such requests and their relevance in the new scheme of things?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Bilateral Air Services Agreement are signed between the Governments. However, it has been decided that private airlines of India will be allowed to operate to the SAARC countries subject to the provisions of the Air Services Agreements.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Operations of private airlines to SAARC countries will be against the unutilised entitlements of the Indian side.

(e) and (f) Under the existing policy, Air India has the first right of refusal so far as operations on new international routes are concerned. Requests of India Airlines to operate more international services are considered on a case to case basis under the existing policy and the ongoing effort to achieve greater synergy in the operations of two national carriers.

Expansion of ESI

2875. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any scheme for the expansion of ESI in new areas of the country, particularly in Maharashtra, in phased manner;

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

(c) the efforts made so far by the Union Government to provide assistance to Maharashtra and other States for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. To facilitate implementation of the ESI Scheme in new areas the ESI Corporation has prepared a phased programme for implementation of the scheme (in new areas) for two years at a time i.e. current financial year and the following financial year, in consultation with the State Governments.

(b) Phased programme for implementation of the ESI Scheme for the year 2003-2004 (revised) and 2004-2005 sent to State Governments is enclosed as statement.

(c) Provision of medical care under the ESI Act is the statutory responsibility of the State Government concerned except in National Capital Territory Region of Delhi and NOIDA area of Uttar Pradesh where medical care is directly provided by the ESI Corporation. The targets fixed for implementation in the phased programme are not adhered to as the State Governments are often not able to complete the requisite arrangements to provide medical care to coverable workers and the members of their families. With a view to facilitate early implementation of the ESI scheme in new areas, the ESI Corporation has decided to bear the entire expenditure on provision of medical care to coverable employees and members of their families in new areas for the first three years of implementation of the ESI scheme.

Statement

Revised Phased Programme for Implementation of ESI Scheme in New Areas during the Year 2003-2004 & 2004-2005

Name of the States	No. of areas to be covered	
	2003-2004	2004-2005
1. Andhra Pradesh	13	9
2. Bihar	1	—
3. Chhattisgarh	2	1
4. Haryana	3	1
5. Jharkhand	3	4
6. Karnataka	5	4
7. Kerala	3	4
8. Madhya Pradesh	4	5
9. Maharashtra	15	6
10. Orissa	3	3
11. Punjab	3	2
12. Rajasthan	6	—
13. Tamilnadu	15	13
14. Uttar Pradesh	5	5
15. Uttaranchal	2	—
16. West Bengal	3	2
Total	86	59

Permission for Government Servants to Contest Elections

2876. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government servants contesting/standing in the elections, like RWA/Kendriya Bhandar, have to obtain prior permission/No Objection Certificate (NOC) from their departments and permissions has to be submitted to the returning officer (RO) before scrutiny of nomination and the nomination shall be cancelled in the absence of such permission/NOC;

(b) if so, whether the Government servants holding the post of elected directors in the Kendriya Bhandar and contested for the post of Chairman, Kendriya Bhandar

obtained permission/NOC from their department and submitted the same to the RO before scrutiny of their nominations;

(c) if not, were the nominations of those Government Servants cancelled and if not the reasons therefor;

(d) whether approval of the Minister in-charge was obtained, if so, the reasons for obtaining the approval of the Minister when the permission is required from the department; and

(e) the details of corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Chartered Flights

2877. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed entry of chartered flights in the country;

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

(c) the extent to which this will affect the Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) As per the existing guidelines, besides the 12 international airports, tourist charter flights can also be operated to all airports having customs and immigration facilities. This has been done to promote tourism.

(c) The operation of tourist charter flights does not have any direct bearing on the scheduled services operated by Indian Airlines.

Extension of Runways

2878. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of requests received by the Central Government from State Governments for extension of

runway for Boeing 737/A-320 aircraft operations during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the details of airports where runways have been extended for smooth operation of Boeing aircraft; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in respect of other pending requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The details of requests received from State Governments for extension of runway for operation of B-377/A-320 aircraft during the last three years are as follows:

2001—Chhattisgarh for Raipur Airport and Uttaranchal State for Dehradun Airport.

2002—Uttaranchal State for Pant Nagar and Gujarat State for Surat.

2003—No new request received.

(b) Details of airports where runways have been extended for operation of B-737/A-320 aircraft are as follows:

Jammu—From 6000 ft. to 6700 ft.

Jabalpur—From 4500 ft. to 6500 ft.

Lilabari—From 6000 ft. to 7500 ft.

The runway extensions (7500 ft/8000 ft.) are undertaken/planned for operations of A-320 type of aircraft at following airports:

Bhopal, Bhavnagar, Dibrugarh, Madurai, Dehradun, Raipur, Rajkot, Trichy, Silchar, new runway at Mangalore.

Agartala—Runway extension work to 7000 ft. is nearing completion.

Khajuraho—Runway extension work to 7000 ft. is in progress.

Vijayawada—Economic feasibility study being carried out.

(c) Extension of runway at Pantnagar and Surat is likely to be examined depending upon the traffic requirements and demand from airlines.

Aerial Ropeway-Cable Car System

2879. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any requests from certain States, particularly the Southern

States seeking permission to start Aerial Ropeway-Cable Car System through forests;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Government have received proposals for construction of Aerial Ropeway from various States. The details and action taken are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Total No. of Proposals	No. of Proposals Approved	Total Forest Area Diverted (in Hectare)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	2	29.6
2.	Bihar	1	0	0
3.	Gujarat	3	3	1.8519
4.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	1.3744
5.	Karnataka	2	2	10.22
6.	Madhya Pradesh	2	2	2.029
7.	Maharashtra	4	4	4.722
8.	Sikkim	2	2	0.887
9.	Uttar Pradesh	5	5	6.6205
10.	Uttaranchal	2	1	0.09
Total		27	23	57.3948

[Translation]

Exploitation of Indian Girls In Gulf

2880. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether some incidents of sending poor girls from various parts of the country to Gulf countries on the pretext of providing jobs have come to notice of the Government;

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

(c) whether these girls are physically exploited; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Fixation of Support Prices

2881. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed minimum support price for paddy and tobacco;

(b) if so, whether any requests have been received for fixing minimum support price for chillies; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government has already fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the 2003-04 season of

Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of paddy (Common) at Rs. 550 per quintal and for paddy (Grade A) at Rs. 580 per quintal. Similarly the Government has fixed the MSP for 2003-04 season of Fair Average Quality of Tobacco (F-2 Grade) and Tobacco (L2 Grade) at Rs. 31 and Rs. 33 per kg. respectively.

(b) and (c) No request for fixing the MSP for chillies has been received from any State Government. However, on the request of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of chillies was implemented in 2000-01. A quantity of 602 metric tonnes of chillies valued at Rs. 144.48 lakh at the procurement price of Rs. 24,000 per metric ton was procured from 20th March, 2001 to 30th June, 2001 in Andhra Pradesh. No proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for implementing MIS for chillies in the current year has so far been received.

Chromite Mines

2882. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether substantial area of Chromite mines originally leased to Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) was reallocated to four Ferro Chrome producers for their consumption of Chrome ore from such allotted mining area;

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

(c) the details of the production of Chrome ore from the captive mines;

(d) the production of Ferro Chrome utilising Chrome ore from other captive mines; and

(e) the quantity of such ore sold in DTA and exported;

(f) the quantity of Ferro Chrome utilising Chrome ore from other captive mines; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to encourage value added export of Ferro Chrome by banning export of Chrome ore and to mitigate the plight of such Ferro Chrome producers who do not have captive Chrome ore to meet their requirement of Chrome ore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BARAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The original lease area of Sukinda chromite mine of M/s. Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) was 1261.476 hectares. During second renewal of this lease, the area has been reduced to 406 hectares. Out of the balance area of 855.476 hectares. The following four companies have been allotted mining lease for their captive use:

Sl.No.	Name of Company	Area in hectares	Date of execution of lease
1.	M/s. Indian Metal & Ferro Alloys Ltd./ICCL	116.76	4.9.1999
2.	M/s. Ispat Alloys Ltd. (now renamed as Balasore Alloys Ltd.)	64.463	15.7.2000
3.	M/s. Jindal Strips Ltd. (now renamed as Jindal Stainless Ltd.)	89.00	4.1.2002
4.	M/s. Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd.	39.18	Lease yet to be executed for which Mining Plan had been approved by IBM on 17.10.2002.

These allotments were based on the recommendations of a Committee constituted by Government of India in compliance of the directions of Hon'ble High Court of Orissa given on 4th April, 1995. The SLP filed by M/s. TISCO in the Hon'ble Supreme Court was dismissed on 23rd July, 1996 with comments that the Order of the Central Government is justified.

(c) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

(g) The policy of the Government is to conserve high grade Chrome ore for the domestic users. As per the export policy on Chrome ore, the Government has placed all high grade ore in restricted list except beneficiated Chrome ore fines/concentrates having feed

up to 42% Chromium Oxide, low silica friable/fine Chromite ore with Chromium Oxide not exceeding 54% and silica exceeding 4% and Chrome ore lumps with Chromium Oxide not exceeding 40%. Moreover, the exports of these low silica friable/fine Chromite ore and Chromite lumps are canalised through MMTC Limited within an overall ceiling of 4 lakh tonnes per annum.

Durgapur Steel Plant

2883. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present productivity, profit/loss making ratio of Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) of SAIL;

(b) the total manpower working in DSP at present;

(c) whether the Government is considering to expand the said plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BARAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The labour productivity for Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) for current year 2003-04 (H1) is 121 crude steel/tonne/man/year.

The profitability position of DSP for the year 2002-03 and for the first half (April to September) of 2003-04 is as under:

	(Rs./Crores)	
Income of Durgapur Steel Plant	2002-03	2003-04 (April to Sept.)
Turnover	2357	1246
Gross Margin (EBDIT)*	179	226
Net Profit (+)/Loss (-)	-247	31
Capital employed**	3814	3661
Profitability Ratio		
Gross Margin (EBDIT)/Turnover	7.6%	18.1%
Gross Margin (EBDIT)/Capital Employed	4.7%	***12.3%

* Earning before depreciation interest and tax.

** Net Fixed Assets+working capital.

*** Annualised Gross Margin.

(b) The total manpower in DSP as on 31.10.2003 is 17301.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Kolkata-Cooch Behar Flight

2884. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for introducing regular flight between Kolkata-Cooch Behar and Mumbai-Aurangabad-Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon;

(d) whether negotiations are being held with private aviation companies in this regard; and

(e) if so, the progress made therein so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) A request was received in May, 2003 from Government of West Bengal regarding introduction of air service between Kolkata and Cooch Behar. No proposal for introduction of service on Mumbai-Aurangabad-Nagpur route has been received.

(c) Due to scheduling and capacity constraints, Indian Airlines is unable to start services on new routes.

(d) and (e) 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. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

Setting up of Shore-Based Steel Plants

2885. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to set up shore-based steel plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the places identified for the purpose State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for setting up of the said plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (d) As per available information, the Government at present has no proposal to set up any shore based steel plant in the country. According to the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, steel industry has been de-licensed and removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector subject to certain locational restrictions. No industrial licence is, therefore, required for setting up steel plants under the Industrial (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 and the entrepreneurs are free to set up such plants anywhere in the country except in the restricted locations based on their commercial judgement.

[Translation]

Centrally Sponsored Training Programmes of FPI

2886. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored training programmes in various fields of food processing;

(b) the amount allocated to various States including Maharashtra and Karnataka to run these programmes during each of the last three years; and

(c) the number of persons trained during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries is not operating any centrally sponsored training programme in food processing. However, financial assistance to various organizations for such programmes is being provided under Scheme of Human Resource Development in the 10th Plan. The scheme has four components namely:

(i) Setting up of Food Processing & Training Centre (FPTC).

(ii) Creation of infrastructure facilities for running Degree/Diploma Courses and Training Programmes for Food Processing.

(iii) Training Programmes assisted by Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

(iv) Entrepreneurship Development Programme.

(b) Our schemes are project oriented and not state or area specific. A statement of assistance released for the training programmes to various organisations during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) Since the Scheme of Human Resource Development is promotional in nature, no such information has been centrally maintained.

Statement

State-wise details of Financial Assistance Released for various Training Programmes

(Rs. in Lakhs)			
State	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	0.3000	—	1.600
Assam	—	—	25.00
Bihar	6.440	1.436	2.00
Delhi	0.771	1.380	0.175

1	2	3	4
Goa	—	—	—
Gujarat	0.186	—	62.180
Haryana	—	24.900	26.250
Himachal Pradesh	0.512	0.850	—
Jammu and Kashmir	—	0.420	1.990
Karnataka	23.45	45.380	14.300
Kerala	8.100	—	19.00
Madhya Pradesh	4.820	18.673	19.716
Maharashtra	6.500	9.116	27.000
Orissa	0.998	—	0.540
Punjab	0.440	4.985	4.709
Rajasthan	1.200	—	0.512
Sikkim	—	—	1.200
Tamil Nadu	34.750	32.841	4.247
Tripura	6.050	0.430	20.350
Uttar Pradesh	3.119	28.200	61.528
West Bengal	—	—	—
Manipur	—	—	2.546
Uttaranchal	—	12.000	3.145
Chhattisgarh	—	—	4.236
Mizoram	—	—	—
	97.636	180.611	262.758

[English]

Deemed University Status for Research Institutes

2887. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to accord Deemed University Status to the leading research institutes under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of research institutes which have already been accorded the Deemed University status and the institutions taken up for consideration now;

(d) the details of the funds allocated for the research institutes during the last three years and the major projects or works completed by these institutes during the said period;

(e) the measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representation to the OBCs in these research institutes;

(f) whether the Government has the detailed reports from the various research institutes regarding the current status of OBC representation in Group 'A', 'B' and 'C'; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) An Autonomous Society in the name of Paddy Processing Research Centre (PPRC) is a fully financed research institution of this Ministry. This Ministry has decided to expand the scope of the activities of this Institution and conduct certain courses, which would ultimately become eligible for obtaining Deemed University status.

(d) Details of funds allocated for PPRC for last three years:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
2000-01	80.00
2001-02	175.00
2002-03	380.00

The Project/Works completed during the last three years:

- (i) Development of integrated management system for pesticides in paddy and rice storage.
- (ii) Investigation on techno-economic characteristics of rice mills.
- (iii) Processing of brown rice for retention of nutrients in milled rice and its storage.
- (iv) Pilot study on the production of protein enriched rice vermicelli.

(e) Post based reservation roster is maintained in this Institute to ensure adequate representation to the OBCs.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) while as per the roster, only one Group 'A', one Group 'B' and five Group 'C' posts are to be filled with OBC, the Institute has not only filled these posts as per requirement but have also filled three more Group 'A' posts and 15 Group 'C' posts from the OBC's.

Withdrawal of Flight from Guwahati

2888. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for withdrawal of Guwahati-Bangkok the only international flight from North East;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to resume international flights from Guwahati;

(c) by when the Government proposes to convert the Lok Priya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport as a hub for ATR-42 aircraft services;

(d) the reasons for the delay in this regard; and

(e) the details of the steps taken for reviving all the international flights from North East Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Air India commenced international operations from Guwahati to Bangkok effective 4th April 2002. However, they had discontinued these flights from 27th April 2003 due to the increase in fuel prices, impact of SAARS on Civil Aviation Industry and lack of commercial viability.

(b) Air India has no plans to resume international flights from Guwahati for the present.

(c) and (d) Subject to availability of suitable Infrastructure, Alliance Air has plans tonight halt one ATR aircraft at Guwahati.

(e) Presently, Air India operate a weekly flight from Kolkata to Mumbai to provide convenient connections to the UK/USA and Gulf points in the network. Indian Airlines currently has no plans to commence any international flights from Guwahati. Indian airlines links Guwahati on a daily basis with Kolkata and Delhi, the regional hubs in East and North India.

Cooch-Behar Airport

2889. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) since when the Cooch-Behar Airport is completely closed;

(b) whether requests have been received by the Government to make this airport operational;

(c) if so, the reasons for failing in making this airport operational even after incurring heavy expenditure; and

(d) by when the Government proposes to make it operational and start flights for Bagdogra/Kolkata?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The airport has been closed since 2002.

(b) and (c) Requests have been received for making this airport operational. However, no airline has projected any requirement for operation from this airport.

(d) Airlines plan their operations for any sector on the basis of commercial and operational viability subject to route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

AI In Global Aviation Alliance

2890. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has since finalised plans to join global aviation alliance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which this would benefit Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Air India presently has no plan to join any global alliance. However it has signed Memorandum of Understanding with Lufthansa for working out long term co-operation.

Production of Seeds

2891. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether seeds are produced by a number of institutions in public sector;

(b) if so, the total number of such institutions of Central and the State Governments as on date;

(c) whether the seeds produced in such institutions are adequate to meet the demands of the farmers; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) National Seeds Corporation (NSC), State Farms Corporation of India Limited (SFCI), Indian Farmers' Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), State Seeds Corporations, Oilseeds Growers Cooperative Federations and the Departments of Agriculture and Horticulture of various States are engaged in seed production. The demand for seeds is also met through private sector seed companies and farm saved seeds.

Milk Production

2892. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of milk production in the country vis-a-vis the demands recorded during the last three years and thereafter; State-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken to increase the production of milk in the country to meet the demand;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Estimates of milk production are as given in statement enclosed, No such data on estimated demand of milk is available.

(b) For maintaining the tempo of milk production in the country, Government of India has been implementing the following schemes:

- (i) National Project for cattle and Buffalo Breeding.
- (ii) Assistance to States for feed and fodder Development.
- (iii) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases.
- (iv) National Project on Rinderpest Eradication.
- (v) Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP) in non-operation flood, hilly and backward areas.
- (vi) Professional Efficiency Development.

Besides, the Co-operative Milk Unions/Federations in various States have drawn long term plans with assistance of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for promoting the activities in processing and manufacturing facilities, quality assurance, productivity enhancement etc.

Statement

Estimates of Milk Production

States/UTs	Year 2000-01 to 2002-03		
	Milk (000 Tonnes) (2000-01)	Milk (000 Tonnes) (2001-02)	Milk** (000 Tonnes) (2002-03)
	2	3	4
1			
Andhra Pradesh	5521	5814	6122
Arunachal Pradesh	41	46	51
Assam	670	751	841
Bihar@	2489	2632	2783
Goa	44	47	50
Gujarat	5312	5876	6500
Haryana	4850	4977	5108
Himachal Pradesh	760	763	766
Jammu and Kashmir	1321	1357 *	1394
Karnataka	4599	4784	4976
Kerala	2605	2718	2835
Madhya Pradesh@	4761	5284	5864
Maharashtra	5849	6093	6347
Manipur	68	71	74
Meghalaya	64	66	68
Mizoram	14	14	14
Nagaland	50	54 *	58
Orissa	875	929	986
Punjab	7777	8375 *	9019
Rajasthan	7455	6330 *	5375
Sikkim	36	46 *	59
Tamil Nadu	4909	4990	5073

1	2	3	4
Tripura	78	79 *	80
Uttar Pradesh@	13858	15440 *	17203
West Bengal	3470	3515	3561
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	23	25 *	28
Chandigarh	43	43	44
Daman and Diu	10	11	12
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1	1	1
Delhi	292	321 *	353
Lakshadweep	1	1	1
Pondicherry	36	35	34
Chattisgarh**	777	807	838
Uttaranchal**	1026	1066	1108
Jharkhand**	1389	1436	1485
Total	81074	84797 *	89111

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Contractual Workers in HSCL, BSL and SAIL

2893. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether contractual workers working in the store department of HSCL, BSL and SAIL were removed after years of regular service and replaced by the departmental workers;

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

(c) whether the State Labour Department held such substitution contrary to law;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether in 2003 a new set of contractual workers were allowed to work at the same place without allowing the retrenched contractual workers;

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

(g) whether such act is in violation of labour laws;

(h) whether the old retrenched workers repeatedly represented against their replacement by the new workers; and

(i) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRIJ KISHOER TRIPATHY): (a) to (i) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Reduction in Price of ATF

2894. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of ATF went up by over 5 percent during November, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of extra cost paid by the Airlines due to increased ATF and Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT);

(c) whether the Government efforts to reduce and introduce uniform price of ATF across the country in consultation with the State Governments have failed;

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

(e) whether the State Governments have requested the Government for reduction in Central Sales Tax on ATF;

(f) if so, whether the Ministry has taken up the matter with the Finance Ministry; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and by when the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir. The price of ATF for domestic flights showed an increase of 5.10% in November, 2003 as compared to October, 2003. However, Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) is a decontrolled product. There is no intervention of the Government in pricing of ATF.

(b) The ATF price increase in November, 2003 resulted in additional cost of fuel of about Rs. 6 crores for operations of Indian Airlines including Alliance Air during November, 2003. Government does not maintain record of expenditure incurred by the private airlines on ATF. Further, there has been no increase in the Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT).

(c) and (d) Ministry of Civil Aviation has requested State Governments to consider reducing rates of Sales Tax on ATF. Only the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Chhattisgarh have reduced the rates of Sales Tax. Other State Governments have not responded favourably.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Ministry of Civil Aviation has requested Ministry of Finance to rationalise taxes on ATF.

Floor Price

2895. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agro producers who are being protected by providing floor price by the Government; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to save paddy farmers by providing floor price and other facilities for the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The Government announces each season Minimum Support Price (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities and organises purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India (paddy, wheat and coarse cereals), Jute Corporation of India (Jute), Cotton Corporation of India (cotton), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (oilseeds and pulses) and Tobacco Board (tobacco), besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. During the current kharif season 2003-04, the Government has procured 103.83 lakh tonnes of rice, 5.97 lakh tonnes of coarse grains and 1.00 lakh tonnes of urad. A quantity of 2088 tonnes of moong has also been procured. A quantity of 17.36 lakh quintals of jute (9.64 lakh bales) has also been procured. During the rabi marketing year 2003-04, a total quantity of 158.00 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured.

(b) The Government has taken several steps to step up procurement of paddy in the non-traditional States

during the previous kharif marketing season 2002-03 and the current marketing season 2003-04. In order to reduce the hardship of farmers and to avoid distress sale of paddy, the Government has also been time to time granting relaxations in specification for paddy. The Government has also been encouraging the States to take up the scheme of Decentralised Procurement of Foodgrains for encouraging local procurement to the maximum extent thereby extending the benefits of the MSP to local farmers.

Grounding of Aircraft

2896. SHRI MANSUKHABHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines suffered losses on account of discrepancies in aircraft maintenance and grounding of A-320 aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard and achievements made therein;

(d) whether despite having facilities for carrying out major checks on A-320 aircraft in India some aircraft were sent abroad for check up;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action the Government proposes to take to avoid such losses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) Indian Airlines is capable of undertaking all maintenance jobs on all aircraft in its fleet. However, some Airbus A-320 aircraft of Indian Airlines had been sent abroad for major maintenance work because the actual arisings of major checks per year are more than the in-house capacity of Indian Airlines. The in-house capacity is for 18 to 20 major checks (C Checks) per year, whereas the actual arisings are more than 20 checks per year.

Agricultural Area

2897. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area of agricultural land is increasing every year due to various schemes;

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

(c) the area of agricultural land increased during the Ninth Plan; and

(d) the area of agricultural land likely to be increased during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Government of India are implementing various schemes for development of degraded land/rainfed areas which contribute to increasing the Net Sown Area in the country.

As per available estimate, Net Sown Area has increased from 140.27 million hectare in the year 1980-81 to 142.60 million hectare in the year 1998-99. The State-wise details are enclosed.

(c) The Net Sown Area in the VIII Five Year Plan (1993-94) was 142.34 million hectare and the same has increased to 142.60 million hectare during IX Five Year Plan (1998-99).

(d) The Working Group on Watershed Development, Rainfed Farming and natural Resources Management for X Five Year Plan, constituted by Planning Commission has suggested a perspective plan for development of 15.00 million hectare through Watershed Development Programmes during X Plan.

Statement

State-wise Net Sown Area in the country during 1980-81 and 1998-99

(Area in lakh hec.)

S.No.	States	1980-81	1998-99
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	107.38	109.78
2.	Arunacha Pradesh	1.12	1.85
3.	Assam	26.55	27.01
4.	Bihar	83.15	74.31
5.	Chhattisgarh	*	*

1	2	3	4
6.	Guajrat	95.76	96.74
7.	Haryana	36.02	36.28
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5.72	5.49
9.	Jharkhand	**	**
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.15	7.33
11.	Karnataka	98.99	104.89
12.	Kerala	21.80	22.59
13.	Madhya Pradesh	187.02	198.39
14.	Maharashtra	182.99	177.32
15.	Manipur	1.40	1.40
16.	Meghalaya	1.93	2.21
17.	Mizoram	0.77	1.09
18.	Nagaland	1.48	2.61
19.	Orissa	61.30	60.48
20.	Punjab	41.91	42.38
21.	Rajasthan	152.68	160.73
22.	Sikkim	0.86	0.95
23.	Tamil Nadu	53.60	56.35
24.	Tripura	2.46	2.77
25.	Uttar Pradesh	172.21	175.85
26.	Uttaranchal	***	***
27.	West Bengal	55.65	54.40
28.	Goa	1.33	1.42
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.33	0.38
30.	Chandigarh	N.A.	0.02
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.23	0.23

1	2	3	4
32.	Delhi	0.58	0.41
33.	Daman and Diu	#	0.04
34.	Lakshadweep	0.03	0.03
35.	Pondicherry	0.30	0.25
Total		1402.70	1425.98

* Area included in Madhya Pradesh.

** Area Included in Bihar.

*** Area included in Uttar Pradesh.

Area included in Goa.

Shifting of Ground Handling Responsibilities

2898. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new airport norms for shifting X-raying and baggage handling responsibilities has hit Indian Airlines hard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines is likely to suffer a loss of Rs. 1000 crore annually on account of he shifting of above responsibilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Scheme for Unemployed Youths

2899. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme in collaboration with Insurance Companies for welfare of the unemployed youths in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fall back of the said scheme on the contract labour sector?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Labour to formulate any scheme in collaboration with Insurance Companies for welfare of the unemployed youths in the country.

[English]

International Airport at Nagpur

2900. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal submitted by the Government of Maharashtra to declare Nagpur Airport as International Passenger and Cargo Airport and to transfer the Nagpur Airport to the State Government of Maharashtra, is under consideration of the Union Government for quite a long time;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in taking a decision thereon; and

(d) by when a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) In response to the proposal of Government of Maharashtra regarding Nagpur, Ministry of Civil Aviation has already advised Government of Maharashtra to conduct a due diligence of Airport infrastructure at Nagpur and prepare a Road map for all activities to be undertaken like Joint Survey, determining requirement of land, Techno-Economic Feasibility (TEF) study etc.

(c) and (d) The delay is mainly because of the fact that Techno-Economic Feasibility of the project is yet to be established and a detailed proposal from Government of Maharashtra as mentioned in (a) and (b) above is awaited. A final decision will be taken after the report of due diligence and TEF study is received from Government of Maharashtra and examined.

Threat to Silent Valley

2901. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that world renowned Silent Valley is facing a threat as 35 acres of its Corridor at Kakkivani Malavaram under the Mannarked Forest Division has been cleared for plantation/cultivation and the settlers, have encroached upon the rain forest; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/to be taken to prevent the illegal use and occupation of this land alongwith removal of encroachers therefrom?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) The State Government authorities have detected illegal ganja cultivation during the current year in Mannarked Forest Division adjacent to silent Valley National Park.

(b) The illegal ganja crop was destroyed. Actions including booking of offence cases and making arrests have also been taken.

Revival of Mecon Limited

2902. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fully examined the potentials and means of revival of MECON Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of employees of MECON who availed VRS during the last three years, category-wise;

(d) whether major problems in viability of MECON is due to accumulation of huge un-recovered outstanding payments from its clients over the past years;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the total dues as on November 30, 2003; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BARAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) During the last few years the financial condition of MECON Ltd. has deteriorated due to various reasons such as excess manpower, slow down and sluggish new investments in the steel sector etc. The Government has been regularly reviewing the monitoring the physical and financial performance of the company and has initiated and supported several measures for the improvement of the company's financial condition. These are:

- Roll back of retirement age of employees of MECON Ltd. from 60 years to 58 years.
- In 2001-02, the Government provided guarantee in favour of the company enabling it to raise Rs. 50 crore (with a provision of 50% interest subsidy) for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme for reducing manpower. During the current year, further guarantees were given to the company for raising another Rs. 125 crores for achieving further reduction in manpower through VRS.
- Several austerity measures have been implemented for reducing management expenses and overheads.
- The company has re-focussed its attention on the consultancy and services segment of business. In addition. It has substantially diversified its operations into non-steel sector.
- The Government has approved a proposal for disinvestment of 51% shares of the company in favour of a strategic buyer. To facilitate this process the company has been advised to prepare a restructuring plan.

(c) The number of employees of MECON Ltd. who availed VRS during the last three years, category-wise is as follows:

Category		2001*	2002*	2003* (as on date)
A.	Executives	1	323	412
B.	Supervisors/Section Officers	0	10	20
C.	Clerical staff/skilled employees	0	11	16
D.	Group IV & un-skilled employees	0	56	52
Total		1	400	500

*on calendar year basis.

(d) One of the main problem facing MECON Ltd. is the existence of substantial unrealised dues from its clients. This has adversely affected resource availability in the company.

(e) The total outstanding dues owned to MECON Ltd. by its clients as on 30.11.2003 stood at Rs. 100.26 crores. The details of major outstanding dues are as follows:

A.	Consultancy	Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd.	Rs. 7.56 crores
		Konark MetCoke Ltd.	Rs. 4.21 crores
		Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	Rs. 2.62 crores
		Sri Vishnupriya Project Ltd.	Rs. 1.20 crores
		SJK Steel Corporation	Rs. 0.57 crores
		Mid East Integrated Steel	Rs. 1.55 crores
B.	Supply	SAIL/Rourkela Steel Plant	Rs. 32.2 crores
		Oil & Natural Gas Co.	Rs. 3.66 crores
		Tamil Nadu Electricity Board	Rs. 2.41 crores
		Southern Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	Rs. 1.89 crores
		Govt. of Kamataka (Kidway/Res. Schools)	Rs. 3.00 crores
		NISCO (Govt. of West Bengal)	Rs. 0.73 crores.

(f) The Government has advised the company to take concerted action, with the Ministry's assistance, wherever required, for realisation of these dues. A large part of the dues are on account of claims which are under dispute. Several of these disputed claims pertain to contracts with SAIL. To resolve these matters the Ministry of Steel has formed a Dispute Redressal Committee.

Airport at Navi Mumbai

2903. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project proposal for development of an International Airport at Navi Mumbai through public/private participation was submitted by the Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the project is likely to be finalised; and

(c) the step taken to expedite the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Techno Economic Feasibility Report prepared by City & Industrial Development Corporation of

Maharashtra Limited (CIDCO) for an airport at Navi Mumbai was received from the Government of Maharashtra. CIDCO has been asked to carry out a simulation study of conflict-free operation for the existing airport and the proposed airport before the preparation of Detailed Project Report.

[Translation]

Employment on Compassionate Ground

2904. SHRI RAVINDER KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dependents of employees of Bokaro Steel Plant who died on duty or because of some accident occurred while on duty have been provided employment in accordance with the provisions of agreement of National Joint Committee (NJC) of steel;

(b) if so, the number of dependents of deceased employees provided employment during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the salient features of agreement of NJC in the regard;

(d) whether agreement of NJC provides that dependents of only such employees who have died during

duty in plant itself will be provided employment and not to the dependents of employees who have died outside the plant even while they were in service;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide employment to such dependents of employees of steel plants in other Government departments and Public Sector Undertakings in the event of death of employees working therein or their being incapacitated; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BARAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) provides employment in accordance with National Joint Committee of Steel (NJCS) agreement.

(b) Dependents of deceased employees provided employment under provisions of NJCS for the last three years and the current year (till Nov. 2003) is as follows:

Sl.No	Year	No. of dependents given employment
1.	2000	23
2.	2001	10
3.	2002	12
4.	2003 (Till Nov. 2003)	15

(c) and (d) The NJC agreement provides that in case of death or permanent total disablement of an employee due to accident arising out of and in the course of employment, employment to one of his/her direct dependents will be provided. It also extends the benefits in death or permanent total disablement cases due to injury arising during journey from residence to place of work, and back within one hour of the start or end of his/her duty hours provided that, the accident takes place on the normal route of journey to the place of work.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Helicopter Service between Mumbai Airport and City Centre

2905. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start a helicopter service in Mumbai between Chhatrapati Shivaji airport and the city;

(b) if so, whether the consent of the residents over noise pollution has been obtained; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Government of India, has a plan to introduce helicopter services between Chhatrapati Shivaji airport and the City Centre near Nariman Point in Mumbai.

(b) and (c) Discussions were held recently with some of the representatives of the Cuffe Parade Residents Association to resolve the matter amicably. However, the residents have not yet given their consent over noise pollution.

Flood Management Programme

2906. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any Flood Management Programme for those inter-State rivers which are linked with Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa;

(b) if so, the specific proposals mooted in this regard during Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Flood Management being a State subject, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments as per their own priorities. The assistance rendered by Central Government to technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

Central Water Commission under the Ministry of Water Resources has established a network of 166 flood forecasting stations on major rivers in the country out of which 31 stations are located in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh & Orissa which are providing timely flood forecasting and warning to the State Governments for flood mitigation.

The Central Government is also rendering financial assistance to various State Governments for carrying out

critical flood management works. In this connection, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to take up critical anti erosion works in Ganga, Basin States has been approved for implementation during the X Plan which, inter alia, includes a scheme for Jharkhand. Centrally Sponsored Schemes have also been formulated to take up critical anti river erosion works/raising & strengthening of embankments; and also for improvement of drainage in critical area in the States including Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

Shortage of Quality Seeds

2907. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is continuous shortfall in achieving the targets for distribution of certified and quality seeds in respect of oilseeds, pulses, cotton, jute and potato;

(b) if so, the reasons for not achieving the targets; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shifting of Sikh Artefacts

2908. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the articles belonging to Guru Nanak Dev and Guru Gobind Singh have been allegedly shifted to Canada; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring them back from Canada for their proper preservation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) There is no information available on the subject,

(b) Does not arise.

Distress Sale of Agricultural Produce

2909. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHURA:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of marginal, small and medium farmers have resorted to distress sale of their agricultural produce;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to arrest this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) During the current marketing season 2003-04 complaints of sale of foodgrains below the MSP have so far been received from the following States/UTs.

WHEAT—Bihar, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

PADDY—Gujarat, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

COARSE GRAINS—Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

These complaints were sent to the Food Corporation of India and the respective State Governments for taking urgent corrective action. Replies received so far revealed that only non-Fair Average Quality (FAQ) foodgrains were sold below the MSP.

During 2003-04 kharif season, except urad and moong the rates of all notified oilseeds and pulses were ruling above the MSP fixed by the Government. Accordingly procurement operations in respect of urad and moong have been undertaken by the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED).

There is no reported distress sale of cotton and jute during the current crop season.

(c) To protect the interests of the farmers, including marginal, small and medium farmers, the Government is implementing the Minimum Support Price Scheme (MSPS) and the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). The Government announces each season MSPs of major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India (paddy, wheat and coarse cereals), Jute Corporation of India (Jute), Cotton Corporation of India (Cotton), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (oilseeds and pulses) and Tobacco Board (tobacco), besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. As and when market prices fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government, the Central nodal agencies are required to intervene for undertaking the procurement operations. The MSPs are widely publicized and the Central nodal agencies open procurement centers. In order to avoid distress sale of foodgrains and to ensure smooth procurement operations, before the start of every marketing season, State/UTs are advised to open control rooms which should function on a 24 hour basis during

the peak procurement period. The State Governments and the FCI official sale also requested to hold review meetings regularly to ensure sale of foodgrains at the MSP.

Under the M.I.S. scheme, on the request of the State/ U.T. Government, horticultural commodities are purchased through NAFED and the concerned State agencies to the benefit of the farmers when the prices fall below the economic level.

[Translation]

Contract Farming

2910. SHRI SATYAVART CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to identify the defaulting multinational companies and others who are engaged in contract farming in different parts of the country; and

(b) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Contract farming arrangements of different types have existed in the various parts of the country for centuries for both subsistence and commercial crops. The Commercial Crops like sugarcane, cotton, tea, coffee etc. have always involved some forms of contract farming. Even in the case of some fruit crops and fisheries, contract farming arrangements, involving mainly the forward trading of commodities have been observed. Contract farming is becoming an increasingly important aspect of agribusiness, whether products are purchased by multinationals or by smaller companies. There are few success stories on contract farming such as Pepsico India

in respect of potato, tomato, groundnut and chili in Punjab, Safflower in Madhya Pradesh, Oil palm in Andhra Pradesh, seed production contracts for hybrids seed companies etc. which helped the growers in realization of better returns for their produce. Other success stories of contract farming are milk procurement by Amul and NDDB.

(b) Since there is no ban on contract farming in the country, the question of taking action against contract farming companies does not arise.

[English]

Central Assistance to Gujarat to Meet Drought Situation

2911. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the normal and actual rainfall and shortfall noticed in Gujarat during the last six months, district-wise;

(b) the name of the districts affected by the drought in Gujarat during 2003-04; and

(c) the financial assistance and foodgrains provided by the Union Government to meet the drought situation in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) to (c) During the South-west Monsoon (June-September 2003), Gujarat received 1048.8 mm rainfall against normal rainfall of 861.6 mm amounting to surplus of 22%. All the twenty-five Districts of the State received Excess or Normal rainfall during the monsoon season. The normal and actual rainfall and shortfall noticed by India Meteorological Department in Gujarat during the last six months, district-wise is as statement. The question of any drought relief assistance for this period, therefore, did not arise.

Statement

Month-wise (June-03 to Nov-03) and District-wise rainfall in Gujarat

Name of District	Jun-03			Jul-03			Aug-03			Sep-03			Oct-03			Nov-03		
	Actual	Normal	%Dep	Actual	Normal	%Dep	Actual	Normal	%Dep	Actual	Normal	%Dep	Actual	Normal	%Dep	Actual	Normal	%Dep
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Ahmedabad	161.1	81.1	99%	225.4	249.3	-10%	327.3	209.7	56%	77.2	119.2	-35%	0	13.6	-100%	0	8.3	-100%
Anand	177.7	99.9	78%	532.5	308.9	72%	282.3	262.1	8%	125.9	147.1	-14%	0	17.2	-100%	0	14.73	-100%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Banaskantha	94.2	63.3	49%	456.4	255.0	79%	147.4	213.4	-31%	41.1	97.9	-58%	0.8	15.1	-95%	0	7.9	-100%
Baroda	207.6	132.6	57%	391.4	342.3	14%	323.8	323.1	0%	130.3	166.9	-22%	0	24.6	-100%	0	15.6	-100%
Broach	159.5	136.3	17%	316.7	323.9	-2%	182.3	229.5	-21%	115.7	167.5	-81%	4.3	25.6	-83%	0	10.1	-100%
Dahod	183.8	100.6	83%	390.5	286.1	36%	150.4	283.0	-47%	92.0	156.3	-41%	0	27.2	-100%	0	13.4	-100%
Dangs	491.0	232.0	112%	831.0	815.5	2%	514.0	560.4	-8%	325.0	348.7	-7%	28	51.1	-45%	0	15.2	-100%
Gandhinagar	152.7	71.3	114%	479.7	287.9	67%	416.4	227.6	83%	58.3	140.9	-59%	0	15.9	-100%	0	6.9	-100%
Kheda	100.8	102.0	-1%	519.6	322.7	61%	351.8	259.5	36%	128.8	147.0	-12%	0	15.3	-100%	0	11.4	-100%
Mehasana	63.6	73.3	-13%	473.1	252.6	87%	286.6	231.3	24%	57.2	119.5	-52%	0	16.3	-100%	0	9.3	-100%
Narmada	304.4	155.6	96%	467.6	406.1	15%	316.7	361.4	-12%	153.4	183.9	-17%	19.5	24.3	-20%	0	13.1	-100%
Navsari	568.0	267.7	112%	956.0	756.2	26%	534.0	478.7	12%	184.0	286.6	-36%	20.7	38.7	-47%	0	12.8	-100%
Panchmahal	196.2	114.5	71%	460.8	334.9	38%	342.7	335.1	2%	107.2	166.5	-36%	0	21.4	-100%	0	12.9	-100%
Patan	93.6	61.7	52%	457.0	223.8	104%	121.0	180.3	-33%	10.5	83.7	-87%	0	10.4	-100%	0	6.4	-100%
Sabarkantha	74.0	81.9	-10%	432.8	280.2	54%	304.0	258.3	18%	65.7	132.9	-51%	0	18.2	-100%	0	8.8	-100%
Surat	520.2	208.8	149%	769.3	558.7	38%	580.2	393.8	47%	220.6	231.8	-5%	6.2	31.2	-80%	0	13.2	-100%
Valsad	510.6	321.4	59%	1020.1	803.8	27%	514.2	522.3	-2%	309.5	299.0	4%	2.2	39.5	94%	0	14.7	-100%
Amreli	110.7	102.9	8%	280.0	192.9	45%	201.1	130.0	55%	56.7	91.8	-38%	22.7	21.1	8%	0	18	-100%
Bhavnagar	102.3	106.2	-4%	336.4	192.7	75%	-	156.1	-100%	48.8	111.1	-56%	0	19.2	-100%	0	11.8	-100%
Jamnagar	31.8	83.1	-62%	487.5	201.8	142%	312.7	138.4	126%	16.7	50.2	-67%	1.8	10.1	-82%	0	11.9	-100%
Junagarh	158.1	190.7	-17%	356.1	318.4	12%	384.4	182.4	111%	66.5	96.0	-31%	4.6	25.2	-82%	0	16.5	-100%
Kutch	28.3	45.6	-38%	515.8	157.8	227%	110.5	119.9	-8%	1.1	56.6	-98%	0.00	9.4	-100%	0	8.4	-100%
Porbandar	70.9	170.3	-58%	391.4	247.9	58%	304.9	150.9	102%	10.5	63.6	-83%	0.00	16.9	-100%	0	17	-100%
Rajkot	133.8	92.4	45%	356.6	236.1	51%	248.6	159.2	56%	33.6	86.8	-61%	4.1	20	-80%	0	9.8	-100%
Surendranagar	98.1	73.8	33%	200.6	191.9	5%	168.4	147.9	14%	48.4	86.2	-44%	0.00	11.7	-100%	0	9.1	-100%

Work at Devanahally Airport

2912. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work at the International Airport at Devanahally near Bangalore is likely to commence during December, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total estimated cost of this project;

(d) whether the consortium group has agreed to provide Rs. 350 crore for this purpose;

(e) if so, the details regarding the shares of the Union and State Governments; and

(f) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Financial close is expected to be achieved by end December, 2003. The actual construction will commence immediately after the Financial Close.

(c) The present estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1330 crores.

(d) The consortium group shall hold 748 equity of the company.

(e) Government of Karnataka through Karnataka State Investment and Industries Development Corporation (KSIIDC) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) will together hold 26% equity. AAI's investment in the equity is capped at Rs. 50 crores.

(f) The target opening date for the airport is 33 months from the date of Financial close.

Tourism Projects

2913. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any tourism projects are being taken up jointly by the Union and the State Governments in Jammu and Kashmir to boost tourism;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned/released by the Union Government to the State Government for the purpose; and

(c) the present status of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir had announced a comprehensive plan to rebate at least one lakh employment including self-employment opportunities in the next two years. Based on this announcement, a package for revival of tourism has been prepared for Kashmir Valley. The package has the following components:

1. Assistance for House Boat Owners
2. Assistance for Hotel and Guest Houses
3. Assistance for Shikara Owners
4. Assistance for Ponywalas.

In addition, the following tourism infrastructure projects have been sanctioned for Jammu & Kashmir during 2003-04:

S. No.	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned/ Released (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Integrated Development of Khir Bhawani Shrine at Tulumula Ganderbal, Kashmir	107.00
2.	Integrated Development of Shrine Complex at Baba Rishi, Tangmarg, Kashmir	126.00
3.	Reconstruction of existing deteriorated/damaged wall of Mughal Garden (Nishat Bagh Kashmir)	103.00
4.	Integrated Development of Aishmuquam Shrine, Kashmir	61.25
5.	Integrated Development of Shrine at Mattan, Kashmir	104.00
6.	Construction of Shelter Sheds for Yatrics at different Padavs on Amarnathji Yatra Route from Chandanwari to Holy Cave	109.00
7.	Construction and improvement of drainage scheme in Katra Town	125.00

The Government is of the view that with the implementation of this package, the number of tourists is likely to go up.

[Translation]

Assistance Under Soil Conservation Scheme

2914. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance granted by the Government to Bihar under soil conservation scheme during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to grant more financial assistance to the State for soil conservation particularly in the drought hit areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Since November, 2000, 27 Schemes of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) were subsumed under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) which is being implemented in the country, including Bihar. State Governments prioritize allocation of funds to individual schemes under MMA.

The schemes subsumed under MMA include two schemes relating to soil conservation namely, Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project & Flood Prone River and National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.

Ministry of Rural Development (MORD) is also implementing two schemes namely, Drought Prone Areas Programme and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme in the country including Bihar, in which soil conservation is one of the components.

The funds released to Bihar under MMA and MoRD schemes mentioned above in last 3 years are:

Year	MoA	MoRD
2000-01	352.50	100.10
2001-02	1800.00	308.06
2002-03	1250.00	315.75
Total	3402.50	724.00

(b) No such proposal for additional fund from State Government of Bihar has been received under MMA or under the related schemes of MORD.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Information Technology for Tourists

2915. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any initiative to use Information Technology as a tool to boost tourism and benefit the tourist;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred by the Government during the last three years in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to boost tourism, the Department of Tourism has taken the following initiatives in the field of Information Technology:

- Online Campaign in the major international and domestic websites.
- Development of Handy Audio Reach Kit (HARK) at Bodh Gaya.
- Virtual Reality Recreation of Heritage sites at Ajanta and Hampi.
- Tourist Information Kiosks at places frequented by tourists.
- Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) installed at four Regional Offices in India.
- Production of CDs/VCDs promoting the destinations.
- Central Financial Assistance to States/UTs for developing similar projects.

(c) Rs. 17.72 crores was spent during the last three years in the regard.

[Translation]

Mahila Krishi Priyojana

2916. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts in Maharashtra where Maharashtra Mahila Krishi Priyojana has been implemented;

(b) whether there is any proposal to cover some more districts of the above State under the said project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The Central Sector scheme in the name of 'Women

in Agriculture' (Krishi Mein Mahilon Ki Bhagidari) is being implemented in only Thane district of Maharashtra.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Vacant Land at Airports

2917. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vacant land at the airports across the country;

(b) whether the Union Government has issued direction to the State Governments to demolish Jhuggi clusters including unauthorised constructions in the vicinity of large airports in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union and State Government to clear the land from encroachments; and

(e) the steps being taken for resettlement of those who are displaced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The details of vacant lands (areas in acres) at various Airports and Civil Enclaves under the control of Airport Authority of India (AAI) are as under: Kolkata-1600, Bhuvaneshwar-935, Patna-254, Ranchi-526, Gaya-861, Bagdogra-23, Port Blair-45, Jogbani-153, Muzzaffarpur-102, Raxaul-211, Chakulia-353, Jharsuguda-653, Balurghat-87, Cooch Behar-155, Malda-140, Behala-222, Asansol-508, Chennai-1200, Madurai-442, Trichy-56, Coimbatore-553, Thiruvananthapuram-583, Calicut-440, Mangalore-151, Hyderabad-790, Tirupati-293, Agatti-46, Salem-136, Tuticorin-180, Belgaum-440, Hubli-325, Rajamundhary-366, Vijayawada-671, Pondicherry-115, Nadirgul-261, Visakhapatnam-252, Bangalore-19.3 Cuddapah-533, Donakonda-137, Warrangal-775, Mysore-292, Hassan-145, Mumbai-1625, Aurangabad-518, Nagpur-1564, Ahmedabad-931, Bhavnagar-295, Porbandar-302, Rajkot-250, Vadodara-828, Bhopal-613, Indore-575, Raipur-544, Jabalpur-333, Juhu-384.5, Kandla-355, Keshod-385, Pune-14, Goa-20.65, Bhuj-42.16, Jamnagar-35.8, Bilaspur-352, Khandwa-41, Panna-106, Deesa-77, Kolhapur-183, Sholapur-365, Akola-196, Hadaspar-50, Delhi-5050, Amritsar-1026, Jaipur-699.6, Udaipur-328, Khajuraho-378, Kullu-69, Shimla-141, Kangra-14, Lucknow-1592, Varanasi-

583, Dehradun-89, Safdarjung-253, Ludhiana-125, Kota-530, Kanpur-209, Pantnagar-129, Agra-14.8, Jodhpur-10.9, Gwalior-30, Jammu-90.74, Leh-20, Srinagar-53, Bikaner-20, Jaisalmer-16.53, Lalitpur-138, Jhansi-197.77, Satna-452, Dibrugarh-354, Guwahati-634, Imphal-505, Dimapur-252, Agartala-467, Lengpui-380, North Lakhimpur-218, Shillong-192, Jorhat-10.76, Silchar-37, Tezpur-42, Kailashahar-63, Kamalpur-91, Khowai-90, Rupsi-448, Passighat-66, Tural-35.

(b) No, Sir. However, as and when necessity is felt, the matter is taken up with concerned State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Removal of encroachments from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) land has been taken up in a big way at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport Mumbai with the help of the State Government Authorities. A Tripartite Agreement has been signed between AAI, Slum Rehabilitation Authority, Government of Maharashtra and Shiv Shahi Punarvikas Prakalp Ltd. (SPPL) a Government of Maharashtra agency for undertaking survey of the encroachments to be rehabilitated. So far, 1857 hutment dwellers have been rehabilitated and an amount of Rs. 16.01 crores has been spent by AAI towards this purpose. The AAI Act has also been amended under which powers have been vested with Eviction Officers for removal of unauthorized occupants from airport premises besides provisions of setting up of the Tribunal for expeditious disposal of cases.

[English]

Environmental Damage due to Pollution

2918. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the estimated cost of environmental damages in the country due to pollution, soil degradation, deforestation etc., during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to contain pollution from processing industries;

(d) whether the Government proposes to seek help from Environmental Experts and other agencies to contain environmental damages; and

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

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) The Government have not worked the estimated cost of environmental damage in the country due to water pollution, air pollution and deforestation etc. However, the cost of environmental degradation have been estimated by the World Bank and

The Energy Research Institute (TERI). According to the World Bank, the estimated cost of environmental degradation for the year 1991-92 adds up to 4.8% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and the economic values of environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources in 1997 according to TERI are as follows:

Problem	Annual Economic Value (Rs. Billion)
Poor quality of drinking water and its effect on human health	122
Loss of crop productivity due to soil degradation	89-232
Loss of wood due to forest degradation	57
Air pollution and its impact on human health	885-4250

(c) To contain pollution from processing industries, emission and effluent norms have been notified and monitoring is undertaken to ensure compliance to the notified standards by the industries.

(d) and (e) Environmental experts and agencies like Technical & Scientific Institutions, Industrial Associations, Universities etc. are associated during formulation of policies, plans and standards for control of environmental pollution.

[Translation]

Harmful effects of Urea and Chemicals

2919. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any programme wherein the farmers are provided information about the negative effects of Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate and other harmful chemicals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has any plan to provide the farmers information about Bio and organic manures which protect the fertility of fields; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through its various programmes such as Field Level

Demonstrations, trainings, kisan goshthies educate the farmers on the correct application of different fertilizers including urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate and Muriate of Potash. To ensure that there is no negative effect of any kind of excessive use of chemical fertilizers, the Government propagates Integrated Nutrient (INM) which includes soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic sources of nutrients. Besides, the average consumption of Fertilizers in the country is only 84.82 Kg/ha (during 2002-03). This level of consumption is not considered to cause negative effect on soil and water.

(d) and (e) The Government is promoting enhanced use of organic source of nutrients such as farm yard manure, compost, green manure, vermicompost and bio-fertilizers.

The Government has formulated a "National Project on Organic Farming" with an outlay of Rs. 99.58 crores during Xth Plan. Under the project a "National Institute of Organic Farming (NIOF)", is to be set up for promotion of organic farming in the country.

[English]

Irrigation Facilities

2920. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to launch any effective scheme for providing irrigation facilities to farmers in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government also proposes to build irrigation canals between the States in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects including modernisation of Canals are planned, investigated, funded, executed, operated and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own priorities.

(c) and (d) Building of irrigation canals between the States will depend upon the agreement for such purposes reached between the States.

Assistance to Karnataka for Establishment of Nutritional Gardens

2921. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Horticulture Board has been assisting rural masses for the establishment of Nutritional Gardens in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided therefor during 2002-03 and 2003-04 in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Scheme, "Establishment of Nutritional Gardens in Rural Areas", earlier implemented by National Horticulture Board (NHB) in the country including the State of Karnataka has since been discontinued during the X Five Year Plan.

World Heritage Site at Hampi

2922. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI SHASHI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNESCO has declared that Hampi will remain on the list of endangered world heritage sites;

(b) if so, the steps undertaken for development and conservation of Hampi as a world heritage site;

(c) whether any other site in Karnataka has been declared as world heritage site; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for their development?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The World Heritage Committee in its 27th session held at Paris in July 2003 has decided to retain the status of Hampi as 'site in danger' till such time corrective measures are implemented by the State Government of Karnataka.

(b) Government of Karnataka has undertaken various measures such as removal of encroachments, banning of mining activities in the heritage area, removed the pylons of the foot bridge and has stopped construction of the main bridge near Anegundi. For construction of a new bypass road land has been acquired by the State Government. Central Tourism Department has funded construction of Visitor centre which is in progress. Archaeological Survey of India has taken up large scale conservation programme in important monuments and environments around the monuments have been improved by developing gardens.

(c) The group of monuments at Pattadakal in Bagalkot district of Karnataka is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

(d) Conservation works have been taken up in important monuments and the environs around the monuments have been improved by developing gardens.

[*Translation*]

National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology

2923. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works undertaken by 'National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology' under Ministry of Steel;

(b) whether the Government proposes to expand the said Institute; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology (NISST), a registered Society established by Ministry of Steel is engaged in the field of human resource development and technology upgradation in the Secondary Steel Sector. It

also provides consultancy and testing services to industry as per the details given in statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal at present before the Govt. for expansion of the said Institute.

Statement

(i) Human Resource Development

- Job Oriented Certificate Course
- Seminars/Workshops
- Refresher Courses/Skill Upgradation Programmes
- In-House Training
- CAD/CAM/CAE Courses

(ii) Industrial Services/Consultancy In:

- Performance of Combustion & Reheating Furnace Studies
- Thermal Audits
- Vetting of Designs of Reheating Furnaces
- Electrical Energy Audits
- Power Factor Monitoring & Improvement Studies
- Electrical Power System Studies
- Capacity Assessment Studies
- Process Audits/Studies
- Energy Efficiency Improvement Studies in Induction Furnances.
- Failure Analysis of Mill Rolls.
- Quality Improvement of Steels.
- Techno-Economic Evaluation of Re-Rolling Mills
- Feasibility Studies.

(iii) E-Commerce

NISST has ventured into E-Commerce by signing MOU with a leading E-Commerce Player. Under this programme, NISST is providing Private Trading Area (PTA) Facilities & Mini ERP Solutions to secondary Steel Sector.

(iv) Testing Services

Chemical, Energy & Environment Lab

- Chemical Analysis of Steel
- Pollution/Stack Pollution Testing
- Ambient Air
- Water & Waste Water Analysis
- Fuel Analysis
- Moisture/Viscosity, Pre-Heat Temp./Calorific Value
- Combustion Studies.

Metallography Lab

- Micro Structure With Photograph
- Grain Size Determination
- Inclusion Rating
- Decarburisation Depth
- Case Depth
- Hardenability Determination
- Nodule Count, Carbide, Nodule Shape Determination in S.G. Cast Iron
- Graphite Flake Type And Size in Cast Iron
- 'Zn' Coating Thickness Determination In G.I.

Spectrometer Lab

- Chemical Analysis of Steel
- Chemical Analysis of cast iron

Mechanical & NDT Lab

- Tensile/Compression Test By Utm
- Nut/Bolt Test (Tensile Type)
- Bend/Rebend Test
- Double Shear Test
- Draft Expanding (For Tubes)
- Flattening (For Tubes)
- Hardness Rockwell/Brinell
- Impact Testing (Izod/Charpy)
- Erichson Cupping
- Dynamic/Impact Hardness Test (Shore)
- Ultrasonic Test
- Magnetic Particle Testing
- Measurements of Tolerances

- Twist (For Tubes)

Electrical Lab

- Transformer Oil Filtration/Dehydration
- Transformer Oil Testing-Dielectric Strength
- Insulation Resistance Testing
- Earth Testing

(v) Safety Inspection of Factories**Introduction of New Air Service**

2924. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified the cities including Surat where civil air service is required;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the names of the cities where airports would be constructed to introduce new flights; and

(e) by when air services are likely to operate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans to develop existing airport at Surat for operations of 50-seater type of aircraft. However, due to non-availability of suitable aircraft, Indian Airlines has no plans to airlink Surat at present. 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. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government. Airports Authority of India has no plans to construct any new AAI airport. However, the following new airports have been approved 'in principle' by the Government:

- (i) Mopa near Goa

(ii) Devanhalli near Bangalore.

(iii) Samshabad near Hyderabad.

(iv) Taj International Airport and Aviation Hub in Bulandshahar, UP.

(v) Peking near Gangtok.

Non-Payment of Minimum Wages by Contractors

2925. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the labourers employed in the maintenance and construction work in the various colonies and offices of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Postal Department in Delhi are not being paid statutory minimum wages by the contractors and officers; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the payment of minimum wages to daily wagers engaged by contractors in Kali Bari Marg, Atul Grove Road, R.K. Puram, Kidwai Bhawan, Khurshid Lal Bhawan, Dev Nagar, Janak Puri and Jhilmil colony/Offices?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 binds the employers to pay to the workers the minimum wages fixed and revised thereunder. However, periodic inspections are made by the officers of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery to reveal cases of less payment minimum wages to the workers engaged by contractors. Whenever the inspecting Officers come across any case of less payment of minimum wages, they advise the employers to make payment of shortfall of wages. In the case of non-adherence, they file claim applications and take legal action as per provisions of the Act against the defaulting employers.

A statement showing enforcement of provisions of the Minimum Wages Act for the last three years in respect of the workers engaged by the contractors in maintenance and construction work in BSNL and Postal Department is enclosed.

Statement***Consolidated figure of 3 years of Enforcement under Minimum Wages Act***

Establishment	No. of Inspection	No. of Claim Cases	Amount Detected (Rs.)	Amount Awarded (Rs.)	Amount Disbursed (Rs.)	No. of Workers
B.S.N.L.	7	—	Rs. 3372*	—	—	4
M.T.N.L.	13	5	Rs. 109461/20	Rs. 105986/60	Rs. 2470	25
Post	8	5	Rs. 17244/10	Rs. 28312/20	Rs. 26878/20	29

*under process.

[English]

Prices of Oils

2926. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an abnormal spurt in the prices of all edible oils during the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total acreage of land under cultivation for oil seeds at present, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken to bring more land under cultivation for growing more oil seeds to bring down the prices of oils in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the prices of some of the edible oils have been fluctuating slightly due to interplay of domestic as well as international market forces.

(c) State-wise area under Oilseeds cultivation during 2002-03 is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) In order to increase the production of oilseeds in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in 28 states. Under this scheme financial assistance is provided for various inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, rhizobium culture, micro nutrients etc. in order to motivate the farmers to take up cultivation of oilseeds on a large scale. Further, in order to transfer the improved production and Plant Protection technologies to the farmers' field, frontline demonstrations by ICAR and block demonstrations by the States are also organised.

Statement

State-wise Area Under Oilseed Cultivation during 2002-03 (IVth Advance Estimates)

State	Area (in '000 Hectare)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	2321
Assam	331

1	2
Bihar	288
Chhattisgarh	295
Gujarat	2717
Haryana	658
Himachal Pradesh	11
Jammu and Kashmir	100
Jharkhand	62
Karnataka	2073
Kerala	8
Madhya Pradesh	4806
Maharashtra	2537
Orissa	349
Punjab	125
Rajasthan	2326
Tamil Nadu	902
Uttar Pradesh	911
Uttaranchal	32
West Bengal	5566
Others	86
All India	21497

[Translation]

Reduction in Staff Strength of DMS

2927. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to reduce the staff strength of D.M.S.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) to (c) There is no specific scheme to reduce the staff strength of D.M.S. However, in terms of Department of

Personnel and Training OM No. 2/8/2001-EIS dated 16.5.2002, which provides for optimization of direct recruitment to civilians posts, only 1/3rd of the posts falling in direct recruitment quota or 1 percent of the total strength of the Department, whichever is less, are to be filled up.

Symposium on Water Management

2928. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an international symposium was recently organised on water management;

(b) if so, the details of deliberations held in this regard alongwith outcome thereof; and

(c) the details of participating countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) An International Conference namely Rotary International Presidential Celebration on Water Management was held on December 9-10, 2003 at New Delhi, which was organised by the Rotary International.

(b) The deliberations were held on four major issues: "Conservation, Development and Management of Water Resources"; "Interlinking of Rivers"; "Development of Water Resources-with particular focus on Watershed Management and Rain Water Harvesting" and "Potable Water and Water Quality".

The outcome of Rotary International Presidential Celebration is in the form of action plan by Rotarians in respect of (i) creation of awareness and (ii) dissemination of knowledge and techniques of rainwater harvesting and efficient use of water through various clubs of Rotarians.

(c) Besides India, the Rotarians/other invitees from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand, U.S.A., Brazil, Israel, The Netherlands, Finland and Italy participated in the Conference.

[English]

Non-Payment of Pension to Retired Employees of I.A.

2929. SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several employees of Indian Airlines who retired after February, 2000 are not being paid their pension;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the remedial steps taken to resolve the deadlock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) The employees retiring after February, 2000 are awaiting payment of annuity under Indian Airlines Employees' Self Contributory Superannuation Pension Scheme, as it became necessary to restructure the Scheme due to employees' contribution being not sufficient to buy the annuities by the Trust. The Scheme had since been restructured and the revised Scheme after obtaining the necessary approvals has been implemented. Accordingly, all the eligible retired employees are being sent the letters to exercise their option under the revised scheme. The employees are being sent the letters to exercised their option are being paid annuity through LIC.

Prices of Steel

2930. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to liberalise the import of steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of the increase in the prices of indigenous steel, the car producers propose to import the steel from other countries at cheaper rates;

(d) if so, the total requirement of steel of domestic car manufacturing industry and the extent to which the demand is being met indigenously;

(e) the difference between the prices of indigenous steel as compared with the prices of imported steel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) As per the extant policy import of steel is freely permitted.

(c) There has been no general increase in the domestic prices in the last three months when compared

to the peaks attained in August' 2003. However, car manufacturers use domestic or imported steel in different proportions based on technical specification of the vehicle and relative prices of domestic vis-a-vis imported steel. In view of stringent quality specifications, the import content of steel in automobiles manufactured for export is high.

(d) The Ministry of Steel does not maintain data on segment-wise requirement of steel by the automobile industry. However the total consumption of steel by all the segments of the automobile sector, including passenger cars, during the financial year 2002-03 has been estimated at 1.64 million tonnes and 85% of this requirement was met indigenously.

(e) It is difficult to establish a one to one correspondence between the prices of domestic and imported steel due to differences with respect to quality, chemical composition, size and other parameters. However, in respect of deep drawing and extra deep drawing grade flat steel imported by the car segment the landed cost at the users' premises is generally comparable to the prevailing domestic market price.

(f) The Government has no direct role to play in the investment decision of the industry. However, since the time of liberalization it has taken pro-active steps to support the development of the steel industry and facilitate programmes towards import substitution. Much of these efforts have resulted in visible improvement and today, the industry has the capacity to produce almost all kinds of steel, including some of the very high value added ones.

Service Condition of Inter-State Migrant

2931. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala regarding the service condition of the inter-State migrant workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) In the recent past, no proposal from the Government of Kerala regarding the service condition of the inter-State migrant workers has been received.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Assistance to Assam for Flood Control

2932. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has sought additional financial assistance from the Union Government for flood and erosion control works in the State;

(b) if so, the details of flood and erosion control works proposed to be undertaken alongwith estimated cost involved therein; and

(c) by when the assistance is likely to be released to the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Assam has requested the Planning Commission for release of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of Rs. 30 crore during 2003-04 for taking up various critical and anti-erosion schemes/raising and strengthening of embankments against which the Planning Commission has approved Rs. 22.6 crore. In addition, the State Government has submitted a proposal for raising and strengthening of Brahmaputra Dyke at an estimated cost of Rs. 13.24 crore to the Department of Development of North Eastern Region, which has been retained for detailed techno-economic feasibility study under Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources.

[Translation]

Expansion of Kullu Airport

2933. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced to make available additional funds for the construction/expansion of the runway at the Kullu (Bhuntur) airport in Himachal Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the expansion/construction work of runway is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced during his visit to Manali in May, 2003 that Centre has decided to bear the full cost of the project. Airports Authority of India (AAI) will complete this project in three years.

(c) The extension of runway is likely to be started after the State Government makes the required land available to AAI by diversion/training of the river flowing along side the runway.

[English]

Retired Trade Union Representatives

2934. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether elected trade union representatives who are retired from service are also allowed to participate in the bilateral Industrial Relation talks with the Management;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The Government have amended the provisions of the Trade Unions Act, 1926 by the Trade Unions (Amendment) Act, 2001 which have come into force w.e.f. 09.1.2002. As per amended provisions, an employee who has been retired or retrenched shall not be construed as outsider for the purpose of holding an office in a trade union.

(c) In view of answer to (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

[Translation]

Insurance Claims of Farmers under NAIS

2935. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether payment to farmers under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is yet to be made to all districts in Jharkhand and Maharashtra for the last two years;

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

(c) by when the dues are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the payments made against insurance claims during the Ninth Five Year Plan, Year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Claims amounting to Rs. 1966.24 lakhs for Kharif 2002 and Rabi 2002-03 seasons are pending for the State of Maharashtra for want of the State share of funds. Payment of the pending claims is contingent upon receipt of the State share of funds.

(d) Year-wise details of the payments of crop insurance claims during the Ninth Five Year Plan are given as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	Claims
1997-98	18507.68
1998-99	12785.20
1999-2000	46937.94
2000-01	128173.33
2001-02	55680.10

[English]

Eco-Tourism in Kerala

2936. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given any financial assistance to promote Eco-tourism in Kerala;

(b) if so, the places identified in the State to promote Eco-tourism;

(c) whether there is any proposal to promote Eco-tourism at Thenmmala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Department of Tourism, Government of India formulated a National Eco-Tourism Policy and circulated to all States and Tourism Trade. Greater emphasis has been laid down on promotion of Eco-Tourism in National Tourism Policy 2002. The Government

has also set up a National Committee on Eco-Tourism and Mountains to work out details for managing the fragile eco-system and to consider projects/programmes for development of eco-tourism in the country.

A project proposal was sanctioned for procurement of trekking and rock climbing equipment at Thenmmala, Kerala during 1998-99 for central financial assistance of Rs. 7.15 lakhs.

Sea erosion in Karnataka

2937. SHRI SHASHI KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive proposal to control sea erosion in Karnataka is pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Comprehensive proposal of Government of Karnataka to control sea erosion in Karnataka is not pending with the Union Government for clearance. However, a proposal of the Government of Karnataka for anti-sea-erosion works in certain specific reaches at estimated cost of Rs. 135.95 crore has been submitted for inclusion in the National Coastal Protection Project (NCPPI), Phase-I.

The proposal for NCPPI phase-I is required to be examined in Planning Commission/Department of Economic Affairs and other concerned agencies before its consideration of external funding.

Patriotic Tourism Development Project

2938. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop INS Vikrant as unique War Museum;

(b) if so, whether any joint project is under progress between the Union Government and the Government of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, whether it can be developed as National (Patriotic) Spirit Development Tourism Project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) The matter is under consideration and decision would be taken as early as feasible.

National Cattle Development Board

2939. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any Memorandum for setting up of National Cattle Development Board (NCDB) and National Cattle Development Institute on the pattern of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB);

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has received a memorandum for setting up of National Cattle Research Institute and revival of Central Council of Gosamvardhana as National Cattle Development Board.

(c) The Government have reconstituted Gosamvardhana Advisory Council for further period of three years.

Charter Fare on Haj Yatra

2940. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the mode of determining the charter fare payable to carriers for Haj 2004 flights;

(b) whether the Haj charter fare has exceeded the current IATA fare during the last four of five years;

(c) if so the details of Haj charter fare paid to the carriers for the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the corresponding Delhi-Jeddah-Delhi return IATA fare by economy class?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The charter fare for Haj 2004 has been retained at the same level as in the last two years US Dollar trend. This rate has been settled in negotiation with Saudi Arabian Airlines (SAA) as SAA is entitled to carry 50% of the Haj Pilgrims.

(b) to (d) The Haj charter fare and IATA fares during the year from 1999 to 2003 are as under:

Year	Total fare (Haj)	IATA Fare (Delhi-Jeddah-Delhi and Mumbai-Jeddah- Mumbai)
1999	Rs. 27,855/-	Rs. 29,960/-
2000	Rs. 28,526/-	Rs. 31,460/-
2001	*Rs. 34,122/-	Rs. 36,340/-
2002	*Rs. 37,569/-	Rs. 36,340/-
2003	*Rs. 36,397/-	Rs. 37,070/-

*Provisional.

[Translation]

Funding of Monuments/Museums

2941. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provides assistance to the State Governments for construction of new museums under the centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the funds provided to the Rajasthan during the last three years;

(c) the number of schemes for which these funds were provided alongwith the details of progress of these schemes;

(d) whether the Government of Rajasthan has forwarded any action plan to the Union Government in the current financial year for the protected monuments and new museums in Kota, Baran, Bundi and Jhalawara districts under the Kota Division; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and progress made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) The Department of Culture operates a scheme for the promotion and strengthening of regional and local museums. Under the scheme, financial assistance is given to develop museums professionally. No financial assistance is given for the construction of new museums. The specific purposes for which financial assistance is granted are as follows:

- (1) Renovation/Repairs/Extension/Modernisation of gallery/reserve collection
- (2) Publication
- (3) Conservation Laboratory/Conservation Projects
- (4) Museum Library
- (5) Equipment
- (6) Documentation.

The details of funds provided to various organisations in Rajasthan during the last three years enclosed as statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

*Financial Assistance given to various Institutions in the State of Rajasthan during the last three years
Under the Scheme of 'Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums'*

S.No.	Name & Location of the Organisation	Amount Released in (Rupees)
1	2	3
2000-2001		
1.	Govt. Central Museum, (Albert Hall), Jaipur	21,65,000/-
2.	Govt. Weapons Museum, Jaipur	1,47,500/-
3.	Govt. Museum, Sikar	1,43,750/-
4.	Govt. Museum, Jaisalmer	3,12,500/-
5.	West Zone Cultural Centre, (Haveli Museum), Udaipur	8,625/-
2001-2002		
1.	Jaigarh Public Charitable Trust, Amber, Jaipur	87,500/-
2.	Rajasthan Kala Kendra, Jaipur	37,500/-

1	2	3
3.	S.R.C. Museum of Indolgoy, Jaipur	2,06,250/-
4.	Govt. Central Museum, Albert Hall, Jaipur	1,25,000/-
5.	Sri Sanjay Sharma Museum & Research Institute, Jaipur	2,89,000/-
2002-2003		
1.	Jaigarh Public Charitable Trust Museum, Jaipur	6,00,000/-
2.	Anandilal Podar Museum, Jhunjhunu	4,50,000/-
3.	Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal, Udaipur	95,000/-
4.	The Director, Maharaja Swai Mansingh-II Museum, City Place, Jaipur-2	6,00,000/-

*[English]***Buses at Airports**

2942. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines deploy high-floor buses to transport passengers up to the aeroplane from the departure lounge;

(b) if so, whether low-floor buses are in use at all international airports abroad;

(c) if so, the technical or economic reasons for Indian Airlines not using low floor passenger friendly buses;

(d) whether the government proposes to introduce such buses at Indian Airports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Indian Airlines had high floor conventional buses for the transportation of passengers from the tarmac to the aircraft and vice versa. Indian Airlines is in the process of replacing the high floor buses with the low floor ones

in a phased manner. In addition, Indian Airlines are undertaking figment of low high entry platforms on the conventional high floor buses.

Edible Oil Marketed by Subsidiaries of NDDB

2943. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the type and quantity of each edible oil marketed by the Dhara Vegetable Oil and Foods Company Limited, a subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) during each of the last three years;

(b) the type and quantity of said oil imported by the said company during the said period and the reasons for such import; and

(c) the type and quantity of said oil procured from private vendors and cooperative federations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Commercial operation of Dhara Vegetable Oil and Food Company Ltd. (DOFCO) started w.e.f. 1.4.2001. The details of Edible Oil Marketed by Dhara Vegetable Oil and Food Company Ltd. (DOFCO) during the last three years are as under:

(in MT)

Year	Ground-nut Oil	Mustard Oil	Refined Vegetable Oil	Refined Sunflower Oil	Refined Soyabean Oil	Total
2001-02	7690	9700	34393	7712	—	59495
2002-03	8400	12543	32412	6524	3784	63663
2003-04 (Till Oct.-03)	2261	5230	11855	1374	1493	22213

(b) Details of Edible Oil Marketed by Dhara Vegetable Oil and Food Company Ltd. during the last three years are as under:

Year	Type of Oil	Qty. Imported (MT)
2001-02	Crude Degummed Soyabean Oil (CDSBO)	1972
2002-03	Crude Degummed Soyabean Oil (CDSBO)	3962
2003-04 Till Oct.-03)	Refined Bleached Deodourised Palmolein Oil (RBDPL)	988

(c) DOFCO has not purchased oil from private parties (vendors) for marketing. DOFCO procured edible oil from the Cooperative Unions/Federations as per details hereunder:

(in MT)

Year	Ground-nut Oil	Mustard Oil	Refined Vegetable Oil	Refined Sunflower Oil	Refined Soyabean Oil	Total
2001-02	5169	10007	33991	8471	—	57638
2002-03	8228	13227	32434	5432	—	59321
2003-04 (Till Oct.-03)	1822	5824	9093	1359	280	18378

Airport at Ajmer

2944. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4439 dated April 21, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the construction of the Airport at Ajmer has since been started;

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands at present and by when the airport is likely to become operational; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Requisite land has not yet been acquired and handed over to Airports Authority of India (AAI) for development of a new airport at Ajmer for operation of A-320 type of aircraft. The site located near village Kayar on Ajmer-Sikar road has been found most suitable in the feasibility study carried out by AAI in July, 2002.

Government of Rajasthan have expressed inability to bear the cost of the land.

(c) the airport would not be viable without substantial support from the State Government in the form of land and other infrastructure facilities like approach roads, water, power etc.

Construction and Agricultural Activities in CRZ-I

2945. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received the report of evaluation from the Government of Maharashtra in order to allow agricultural activities in CRZ-I areas;

(b) if so, whether similar report of the two members committee constituted by the Ministry to study the ground realities of Konkan Region of Maharashtra has been received;

(c) if so, whether decision has been taken on the request of the Government of Maharashtra to allow construction and Agricultural Activities in CRZ-I areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the present status of the case?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Based on the site visit report of the two member Committee constituted by Government and the revised Coastal Zone Management Plan submitted by the Government of Maharashtra, the Karnataka Development Projects, which involved agricultural activities in Coastal Regulation Zone areas have been accorded clearance on 22nd August, 2003.

Demand for Indian Iron Ore

2946. PROF UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether demand for Indian iron ore is increasing from China and some other countries;

(b) if so, whether increasing freight rates have made Indian iron ore very competitive in the international market;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to open new iron ore mines in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the iron ore exported to various countries during the last three years, and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government has no proposal of its own to open new iron ore mines. However, PSUs such as National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) have been asked to increase their production in the existing mining leases.

(e) Details of iron ore export to various countries during the last three years are given below:

(Quantity: In Million Tonnes)

Country	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4
China	14.10	19.22	26.27
Japan	16.77	15.62	15.75

1	2	3	4
South Korea	2.31	3.00	2.41
Taiwan	0.90	0.43	0.58
Europe	1.48	1.81	2.04
Others	1.93	1.56	1.00
Total	37.49	41.64	48.02

(Source: MMTC)

(f) Government has no proposal at present to take any specific steps to increase export of iron ore.

International Flights from Hyderabad

2947. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to grant permission to Sri Lankan Airlines, Qatar Airways, Saudi Airlines and Kuwait Airways to operate international flights from Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) the present status of the request; and

(d) by when the permission is likely to be granted to these airlines to operate from Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Qatar Airways is presently operating thrice weekly services to/from Hyderabad. It has also been decided to permit Sri Lankan Airlines to operate seven flights per week to Hyderabad. However, Hyderabad is not presently available as a point of call to Kuwait Airways and Saudi Airlines. Government of Andhra Pradesh has been apprised of the position.

Upgradation of Security at Airports

2948. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to upgrade security system at the Airports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Upgradation of security at airports is an on going process and it is carried out on the basis of threat perception. Some of the recent proposal *inter alia* include:

- (i) Introduction of biometric based Smart Cards on pilot basis at IGI airport to strengthen access control system.
- (ii) Expansion of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) for surveillance at hyper-sensitive and sensitive airports.
- (iii) Installation of Integrated Automated Registered Baggage Screening System to speed up screening of registered baggage.
- (iv) Establishment of Civil Aviation Security Training Academy at Delhi so as to ensure that the persons implementing the security controls are appropriately trained.

Insurance Scheme for Indians going Abroad

2949. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether any Insurance Scheme has been introduced for Indians going abroad including Gulf countries for work;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof including the total amount expected to be collected therefrom during the year 2003-2004;

(c) whether fees is also being collected during emigration clearance for evacuation of workers from their respective countries/work place during emergent situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof and total amount of the above fund collected so far;

(e) whether the Government proposes to abolish the above fee in the light of the said Insurance Scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An insurance scheme for

Indian workers going abroad for employment viz, "the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana, 2003 has been notified on 13.11.2003. This insurance scheme will be effective from 25.12.2003" under which all emigrants with Emigration Check Required (ECR) endorsement on their passports will be required to take an insurance policy from any Insurance Company operating in India and duly registered with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority while applying for emigration clearance under the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983. The salient features of the scheme are given in the Statement. The premium will be determined by the insurance companies but it will be fair and reasonable. Government will not collect any amount towards insurance premia.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Salient Features of the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana, 2003

- The Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana seeks to provide insurance cover of a minimum sum of Rs. 2.00 lakhs payable to the nominee/legal heir in the event of death or permanent disability of any Indian emigrant who goes abroad for employment purpose after obtaining emigration clearance from the concerned Protector of Emigrants (POE).
- In the case of death, besides the cost of transporting the dead body, the cost incurred on the one-way airfare of one Attendant shall also be reimbursed by the Insurance Company.
- If a worker is not received by the employer on his arrival to the destination abroad or there is any substantive change in Employment Contract to his disadvantage or if the employment is prematurely terminated within three months for no fault of the emigrant, the Insurance Company shall reimburse one way economy class airfare provided the grounds of repatriation are certified by the concerned Indian Mission/Post.
- The Insured erosion shall be reimbursed actual one way economy class airfare by the Insurance Company if he falls sick or is declared medically

unfit to commence or continue working and the service contract is terminated by the Foreign Employer within six months of taking the insurance.

- The Insurance Policy shall be valid for a period of two years or the actual period of contract whichever is less.
- The Insurance Policy shall also provide medical cover of a minimum of Rs. 50,000/- as cashless hospitalization and/or reimbursement of actual medical expenses of the insured emigrant workers on grounds of accidental injuries and/or sickness/ailments/diseases occurring during the period of insurance provided the medical treatment is taken in India.
- The Insurance Policy shall also provide maternity benefits, subject to a minimum cover of Rs. 20,000/- in case of women emigrants but reimbursement to be restricted to actual expenses.
- The family of emigrant worker in India consisting of spouse and two dependent children up to twenty one years of age shall be entitled to hospitalization cover in the event of death or permanent disability of the insured person for a maximum amount of Rs. 10,000/- per annum.
- The Insurance Companies shall charge fair and reasonable premium for policy period of six month, one year and two years.

[Translation]

Labour Laws

2950. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government has decided to make special labour laws for the labourers engaged in industrial units set up in special economic zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the said changes; and

(d) the benefits likely to accrue to the labourers and industrialists as a result of these changes?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (d) There is, at present, no proposal

before the Central Government to make special labour laws for the labourers engaged in the industrial units set up in the Special Economic Zone (SEZ). However, the State Governments of Gujarat and Karnataka had proposed to seek relaxation in some provisions of the Central Laws through enactment so as to facilitate setting up of Special Economic Zones in their respective States. The salient features of those proposed laws are enumerated below:

(I) The Gujarat Special Economic Zone Ordinance, 2003.

- (a) Delegation of power of the Labour Commissioner to the Development Commissioner of SEZ under certain labour laws.
- (b) Certain amendments in the Factories Act, 1948, Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Trade Union Act, 1926.
- (c) Consolidated return under certain labour laws; and
- (d) Application of Chapter V-D of the Industrial Disputes (Gujarat Amendment) Ordinance, 2003.

(II) The Karnataka Special Economic Zones Development Bill, 2003

- (a) Constitution of Unit Approval Committee to grant approval, clearance, permissions and licences for the establishment and operation of units in the Special Economic Zones.
- (b) Notify an officer of agency for carrying out inspections under certain labour laws.
- (c) Specify single return for reporting under certain labour laws.

These changes were considered necessary to facilitate establishment of the Special Economic Zone in the States for promotion of export activities. The intention is to provide certain facilities to the developer in creation of infrastructure as well as to make applicable a flexible labour policy to the units in such zones. It is expected that establishment of such zones, among others, would create more jobs and also conducive atmosphere to boost economic growth besides exports benefiting the labourers as well as the industrialists.

[English]

Rate of Interest on EPF Deposits

2951. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the uncertainty about the rebate of interest on EPF deposits has been agitating the mind of the workers;

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove the misgivings and to settle the issue; and

(c) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Landing Rights to Foreign Airlines

2952. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to grant landing rights in Bangalore to the British Airways, Emirates Airlines and Qatar Airways;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether the number of international flights from Bangalore are very negligible; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Bangalore is not presently available as a point of call to British Airways, Emirates and Qatar Airways.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Presently about 35 international flights per week are being operated to/through Bangalore airport.

Deemed University Status for Research Institutes

2953. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government has decided to accord Deemed University status to the leading Research Institutes under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of research Institutes which have already been accorded the Deemed University Status and the Institutions taken up for consideration now;

(d) the details of the funds allocated for the research institutes during the last three years and the major projects

or works completed by these Institutes during the said period;

(e) the measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representation to the OBCs in these research institutes;

(f) whether the Government has the detailed reports from the various research institutes regarding the current status of OBC representation in Groups "A", "B" and "C"; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) There are four Autonomous Organisation viz. Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC); Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO); V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI) and Central Board for Workers Education (CBWE) under the Ministry of Labour, who are not engaged in activities related to education for awarding Degrees. Thus, the Ministry of Labour has no Research Institute under its control so as to be eligible presently for seeking Deemed University Status.

(d) to (g) Does not arise.

Soyabean Prices

2954. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether soyabean growers are receiving adequate prices of their products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NAFED has prepared any plan to purchase soyabean from the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The market price of Soyabean during Kharif 2003 remained above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs. 930 per quintal for Yellow variety and Rs. 840 per quintal for Black variety. Presently the market price is ruling between Rs. 1350 and 1475 per quintal in different mandies of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) National Agricultural Cooperation Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) undertakes

procurement of notified commodities under the Price Support scheme through a two tier network comprising of state level agencies and primary/regional societies. Also prior to commencement of arrival of soyabean in the mandies an Inter State Conference comprising of the State Federation/ Oilseed Growers Federations along with representatives of State and Central Government discuss production prospects, price trends and operational arrangement for procurement in the event of prices falling below the MSP. However, market prices have remained above the MSP due to high prices of soyabean in the overseas market and less availability in the American market.

[Translation]

Seeds and Assistance to Farmers

2955. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided seeds and other assistance to the farmers to improve the quality of oilseeds and pulses; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) and (b) In order to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses in the country, two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely, Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) are in implementation in various States/UTs. in the country. Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided for production of foundation seed, Seed Village Programme (SVP) for certified seed production, distribution of certified seed and distribution of minikits in order to make available improved quality of seeds of oilseeds and pulses to the farmers in the country. Besides, assistance is also provided for various other inputs like distribution of improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, rhizobium culture, micro nutrients etc. in order to motivate the farmers to take up cultivation of oilseeds and pulses on a large scale. The assistance provided to the States/ UTs. under these Schemes during the last 3 years is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Financial assistance provided to different States/UTs. under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) during the last three years i.e. 2000-01 to 2002-03.

(Rs. in lakhs)

State/U.T.	OPP			NPDP		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-2002	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	805.00	928.75	760.00	91.00	87.00	25.00
Bihar	—	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	—	157.00	70.00	—	85.00	45.00
Goa	5.00	5.00	3.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Gujarat	980.00	850.00	615.00	100.00	105.00	50.00
Haryana	170.00	183.00	130.00	49.00	0.00	10.00
Himachal Pradesh	10.00	0.00	15.05	8.50	10.00	2.50
Jammu and Kashmir	20.00	0.00	5.00	18.50	0.00	4.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jharkhand	—	30.00	5.00	—	27.66	2.50
Karnataka	535.00	535.00	456.95	112.00	107.00	67.00
Kerala	35.00	35.00	25.00	6.50	5.00	4.00
Madhya Pradesh	960.00	1207.00	675.00	398.00	275.84	132.50
Maharashtra	825.00	825.00	575.00	271.00	262.00	147.00
Orissa	369.97	131.25	25.00	145.50	58.50	10.00
Punjab	15.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	0.00
Rajasthan	900.00	910.00	815.00	315.00	255.00	254.00
Tamil Nadu	470.00	470.00	420.00	115.00	115.00	93.00
Uttar Pradesh	75.00	100.00	0.00	330.00	107.00	60.00
Uttaranchal	—	50.00	25.00	—	55.00	4.50
West Bengal	190.00	190.00	95.00	20.00	30.00	4.50
Andaman and Nicobar Island	—	—	—	1.00	1.00	1.00
Delhi	—	—	—	1.00	1.00	1.00
Arunachal Pradesh	127.11	0.00	15.00	50.00	5.00	5.00
Assam	465.00	150.00	110.00	70.00	32.00	15.00
Manipur	265.00	56.00	72.00	115.00	31.84	40.00
Meghalaya	121.67	0.00	24.00	50.00	4.16	15.50
Mizoram	276.25	190.00	79.00	140.00	80.00	51.00
Nagaland	185.00	136.00	90.00	105.00	70.00	37.00
Tripura	165.00	115.00	60.00	110.00	73.00	37.00
Sikkim	50.00	69.00	50.00	10.00	14.00	10.00
Total	8020.00	7323.00	5215.00	2648.00	1898.00	1129.50

Policy of "Hire and Fire"

2956. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the policy of "hire and fire" is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of answer to (a) above, questions do not arise.

Expansion of Aurangabad Airport

2957. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Aurangabad Airport has been expanded during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend its runway further;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the number of flights on Aurangabad-Mumbai-Delhi route; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) There is a plan to extend the runway from 7500 feet to 9000 feet alongwith development of other infrastructure facilities at Aurangabad airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 74 crores with the assistance of Japan Bank for International Corporation.

(e) and (f) Indian Airlines operates flights on the route Delhi-Mumbai-Aurangabad and vice versa daily. There is no plan at present to increase flights in this route by Indian Airlines. However other airlines are free

to operate in any sector subject to commercial viability and compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines.

[English]

Housing Scheme for Beedi Workers

2958. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government has a scheme to provide House for Beedi workers in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the houses constructed for the Beedi workers in the year 2002-2003 and sanctioned for the year 2003-04 and expenditure incurred/expected in this regard, State-wise; and

(c) the total number of Beedi workers benefited by this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a scheme named 'Integrated Housing Scheme' (IHS) which provides some financial assistance for construction of individual houses by the Beedi Workers.

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

Statement

S. No.	Name of State/UT	2002-2003		2003-2004		No. of Workers Benefited
		No. of Houses Constructed	Expenditure * Incurred (Rupees in lakh)	No. of Houses Sanctioned (01st April to 15th December, 03)	Expected Expenditure (Rupees in lakh)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	West Bengal	752	66.57	538	107.60	1290
2.	Asam	59	4.25	—	—	59
3.	Karnataka	27	58.99	1522	304.40	1549
4.	Kerala	504	127.71	407	81.40	911
5.	Uttar Pradesh	104	7.00	481	96.20	585
6.	Andhra Pradesh	476	64.09	1036	207.20	1512
7.	Tamil Nadu	353	1.32	—	—	353

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Orissa	1830	175.00	242	48.40	2072
9.	Rajasthan	03	0.5	06	1.20	09
10.	Maharashtra	2802	414.25	—	—	2802
11.	Chhattisgarh	286	50.02	254	50.80	540
12.	Madhya Pradesh	296	48.40	—	—	296
Total		7492	1018.10	4486	897.20	11978

*includes amount for the House sanctioned in previous year also.

Global Tourism

2959. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study commissioned by the ministry has revealed that airlines seat capacity and pricing are critical barriers of Indian competitiveness in global tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Civil Aviation in this regard;

(d) if so, the response of that Ministry thereto; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This Ministry had commissioned a study on Impact of Civil Aviation Policies on Tourism in India. Inter-alia, the study revealed that:

- The growth of air seat capacity on all International routes to India has increased by 40% between 1989-2000. In comparison, China, U.K. and USA has shown a growth rate of 485%, 101% and 61% respectively during the same period.
- Air transport to and from India have suffered from capacity shortages for some years mainly as a result of slow pace of liberalization of the air transport sector, particularly during the peak season October-March for inbound visitors and April-June for outbound travellers.

- An increase of one million air seat capacity to facilitate tourist travel may result in an incremental spend in India of close to Rs. 6021 crores for hotel rooms, and create over 1,50,000 jobs in the tourism industry.

- In case of India air services, air seat capacity and pricing are critical barriers to its ability to become competitive in the global tourism market.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken a number of measure to enhance the seat capacity, as follows:

- ASEAN INITIATIVE: The designated airlines of 10 ASEAN countries will be allowed to operate daily services to/from 4 metropolitan cities of New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata and also to operate as many services as they wish, subject to equal reciprocal rights to Indian side to 18 other destinations.
- SRILANKA INITIATIVE: The designated airlines of Sri Lanka will be allowed to operate daily services to the metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Kolkata, and as many services as they wish to 18 other destinations subject to reciprocal rights being granted to the Indian carriers.
- The Private Airlines of India will be allowed to operate to SAARC countries.
- AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT: All the countries having bilateral Air Service Agreements with India will be allowed to operate 14 flights per week to any two of the 12 international airports in

India, subject to the condition that the first 7 flights or part thereof shall be to/from any one international airport in India and the next 7 flights or part thereof shall be to/from any one of the other international airport in India subject to reciprocal rights being available to India.

- (v) **REVIEW OF TRAFFIC RIGHTS:** Capacity entitlements for operations of air services between India and various countries have been increased.
- (vi) **OPEN SKY POLICY:** The airlines of various countries are allowed to operate additional flights to provide extra seats during the peak season i.e. December 2003 to February, 2004 under the Open Sky Policy.

[Translation]

Development of New Varieties of Oilseeds

2960. **SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:**
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the oilseeds producing States in the country;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any research to develop new varieties of oilseeds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The major oilseeds producing States in India are Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Bihar and Punjab.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities of different States has conducted research to develop new varieties of oilseeds. As a result more than 50 new and improved varieties and hybrids of different oilseed crops have been developed and released for cultivation in the last five year. The new varieties and hybrids have yield potential 20-30% higher than local cultivators. Some of the improved varieties of oilseeds crops released recently are:

Groundnut: LGN 2, Dh 86, GG 14, CSMG 884.

Rapeseed-Mustard: RTM-314, VSL-5, Vasundhara, Swarn Jyoti, Geeta, Arawali.

Soybean: Ahilya 4, MAUS 47, MPUS 61, MAUS 71, RAUS 5, Indira Soya 9, Hara Soya.

Linseed: LCK 9216, LMH-62, Meera, Parvati.

Sunflower: MLSFH-47, MLSFH-82, KBSH-44.

Safflower: DSH-129, MKH-11.

Sesamum: TKG-55, MT-75, JTS-8.

Castor: Jyothi, DCH-177, GCH-5.

Committee for Minimum Support Price of Cotton

2961. **SHRI SHIVAJI VITHAL RAO KAMBLE:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set-up any committee to determine the Minimum Support Price of cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government already fixes each season the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for basic varieties of Cotton like J-34/F-41/H-777 and H-4 and the MSPs for other varieties area fixed by the Textiles Commissioner Ministry of Textiles on the market price differences of the basic varieties. The MSP fixed for the 2003-04 season of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of Cotton (J-34/F-414/H-777) is Rs. 1725/- per quintal and Cotton (H-4) is Rs. 1925/- per quintal.

[English]

Prices of Ordinary Steel Round

2962. **SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:** Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of ordinary steel round used by large number of industrial units in the country has gone up from Rs. 15,000/- per M.T. to Rs. 23,000/- per M.T. during the last four months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the steel is exported 30 to 40 percent cheaper than the domestic steel prices;

(d) if so, whether the Government is also giving them 20% export incentive from its exchequer; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The domestic price movement from August 2003 to November 2003 in respect of steel Rounds, 12 mm/16 mm (ordinary) as observed in the Mumbai market, the most representative one, does not indicate such an increase in prices. Prices have decreased from the levels attained during August, 2003.

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

(c) Comparison of domestic prices with the Freight on Board (FOB) prices of exports is not justifiable. The FOB prices are, always lower than the domestic market prices because these prices do not include the various add-ons such as customs/excise duties, transportation costs and other sundry levies. The importer of Indian steel pay a higher prices than the FOB price—the difference being equal to the customs duty, the transportation charges to the user and any other indirect taxes levied on steel in that country.

(d) and (e) The Government does not provide any specific export incentives to the steel sector other than those which are generally available to exporters under duty remission/exemption schemes etc. of the Exim Policy.

Rise in International Demand of Steel

2963. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp rise in international demand of steel;

(b) if so, whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and other steel PSUs are geared up to meet the demand; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BARAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Steel Authority of India Ltd; (SAIL) and other PSUs have taken adequate measures to meet the international demand for Indian steel to provide value added services and delivery of quality products. The volume of steel exported by SAIL and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), PSUs under this Ministry, for the last two years is given below:

Export of Steel

				(in tonnes)
PSU	2001-02	2002-03	2002-03 (April- November)	2003-04 (April- November)
SAIL	553000	846000 (52.9%)	402000	774000 (92.53)
RINL	271357	377622 (39%)	205881	215073 (4.46%)

(Figures in brackets indicate the percentage increase over the corresponding period previous year)

Vizag Steel Plant

2964. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of the Vizag Steel Plant at present;

(b) whether the Government proposes to expand the capacity of the plant; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The capacities of the Vizag Steel Plant are as under:

Hot Metal	—	3.4 million tonnes
Liquid Steel	—	3.0 million tonnes
Saleable Steel	—	2.656 million tonnes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

BT Cotton in Punjab

2965. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trial for BT Cotton has been conducted in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has consented for sowing of the BT cotton in Punjab;

(d) if so, the details of the cultivable land under BT cotton in the State, district-wise;

(e) whether the Union Government is providing any financial and technological assistance to cotton growers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) Contained field trials on Bt. Cotton hybrids expressing Cry1AC gene have been conducted in Abohar, Muktsar, Manasa and Talwandi.

(c) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee has not, as yet, released any Bt. cotton hybrid for cultivation in Punjab.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented under Mini Mission-II of the Technology Mission of Cotton (TMC) to increase production & productivity of cotton. The funding pattern under the scheme is mostly on 75:25 sharing basis between the Government of India and the implementing states.

Lift Irrigation Projects

2966. SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether lift irrigation projects in Bijapur district in Karnataka have been put in "B Scheme";

(b) if so, whether people are requesting the Government to include these projects in "A Scheme" so that 260 TMC of water from Alamatti dam could be utilised for irrigation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) As reported by the Government of Karnataka four Lift Irrigation Projects in the Bijapur District of Karnataka have been proposed for inclusion in Scheme 'B' and the people are requesting the Government of Karnataka to include these projects in Scheme 'A'. As per the existing allocation (Scheme 'A') of Krishna Waters to the State of Karnataka by the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal, the State can take up projects for utilization of Krishna waters not exceeding 700 thousand million cubic feet plus return flows calculated in a manner specified in the Award.

Import of Steel by China

2967. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tata Steel has asked the Government to prevail upon China to lift restrictions on import of steel from India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Modernisation of Canals

2968. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the existing irrigation system in each States;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to modernise/upgrade the canals of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects including modernisation of Canals are planned, investigated, funded, executed,

operated and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own priorities. However, the details of proposals for modernisation of canals received in

Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal from various State Governments are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Project	State	Major/ Medium	Estimated Cost (Rs. Crores)	Category
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Krishna Delta System Mod.	Andhra Pradesh	Major	659.16	B
2.	Modernisation of Machchu-I	Gujarat	Major	8.12	B
3.	Tawi Pump House and Tawi Lift Canal	Jammu & Kashmir	Major	13.563	A
4.	Mod. of Nandi Canal	Jammu & Kashmir	Medium	6.61	A
5.	Mod. of Ahiji Canal	Jammu & Kashmir	Medium	7.96	A
6.	Mod. of Lar Canal (Budgam)	Jammu & Kashmir	Medium	6.63	A
7.	Mod. of Mavkhul	Jammu & Kashmir	Medium	7.00	A
8.	Mod. of Martand Canal	Jammu & Kashmir	Medium	17.72	A
9.	Mod. of Babul Canal	Jammu & Kashmir	Medium	4.77	A
10.	Mod. of Dadi Canal	Jammu & Kashmir	Medium	11.10	B
11.	Mod. of New Pratap Canal	Jammu & Kashmir	Medium	21.68	B
12.	Mod. of Kathua Canal	Jammu & Kashmir	Medium	15.68	B
13.	Improvement of Tatadanda Main Canal and Distributory No. 12	Orissa	Major	57.06	A
14.	Drainage Development (Ph-I) in Mahanai delta St. I & II	Orissa	Major	227.75	A
15.	Upper Kolab Extension Project	Orissa	Major	71.66	B
16.	Improvement of Salki Irr. Project	Orissa	Major	11.57	B
17.	Raising Lining of Bhakra Main Canal	Punjab	Major	26.69	A
18.	Raising of Lining/Bank of Srihind Feeder	Punjab	Medium	13.7543	A
19.	Punjab Irrigation Project (Lining of Channels) under RIDF fund	Punjab	Medium	49.02	B
20.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project	Rajasthan	Major	745.59	B
21.	Indira Gandhi Nahar St. I (ERM)	Rajasthan	Major	121.92	B
22.	Mod. of Cauvery delta Ph-I	Tamil Nadu	Major	78.80	B
23.	Raising of Meja Dam	Uttar Pradesh	Major	65.0	B
24.	Lining of Channel In Bundelkhand	Uttar Pradesh	Major	57.37	B

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Increasing Capacity of Bhupali Pump Canal	Uttar Pradesh	Major	60.53	B
26.	Improving Water Management in existing Sarda Canal System	Uttar Pradesh	Major	102.41	B
27.	Mod. of Lachura Dam	Uttar Pradesh	Major	94.18	B
28.	Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	Uttar Pradesh	Major	663.41.	D
29.	Mod. of Kangsabati Res. (Ph-I)	West Bengal	Major	471.90	A

Category:

- (A) Under Correspondence.
 (B) Put up to Advisory Committee & Accepted Subject to Observations.
 (C) Deferred by Advisory Committee.
 (D) Pending with Planning Commission for Investment Clearance.

*[English]***Recruitment in AI and IA**

2969. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently incorporated certain changes in the recruitment policy for selection of air-hostesses and stewards for the Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the methodology to be followed for short-listing the general category applicants and reserved category applicants;

(d) whether the revised rules would need approval of Parliament; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India in its recent advertisement in February 2003 for the post of Cabin Crew (Male and Female) has changed the age criteria. As per the revised criteria Cabin Crew (Male and Female) below 24 years are eligible for the post. In addition to this, the height relaxation of 2.5 cms (1 inch) has been extended to the Gorkhas/Garhwalis and those hailing from North-East states and Hilly areas.

As regards, Indian Airlines, there is a change in qualification for the post of Cabin Crew (Male/Female). New eligibility criteria is Graduate OR 10+2 and Three-year Diploma/Degree in Hotel Management and Catering Technology from Government recognized Institutes as equivalent to Graduation. Candidates having minimum one year (a) Airlines experience (Cabin Crew/Airport Handling/Customer Services) or (b) Hotel Industry (Five Star) experience (Front Office/Guest Relations/Restaurant Hostess/Steward) are given due weightage.

(c) There was no change in methodology in short listing the candidates both belonging to general as well as reserved categories. The selection process consisted of written test conducted by an external agency followed by Group Discussion and Personal interviews. The reserved categories applicants were assessed on relaxed standards at all stages of the selection process.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Missing of Tigers from Tiger Reserves

2970. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that during the last tiger census, Madhya Pradesh had claimed that the number of tigers in Kanha Pench National Park and Bandhavgarh have risen to 711;

(b) if so, whether Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve counted 57 tigers at that time and 10 cubs out of which now remain reportedly missing; and

(c) if so, since when the cubs are missing along with the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to trace them?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported 711 tigers in the entire state during the 2002 estimation, which includes 128 tigers from Kanha Tiger Reserve, 45 tigers from Pench Tiger Reserve, 10 from Pench Wildlife Sanctuary, 59 tigers from Bandhavgarh National Park, and 7 from the adjoining Panpatha Wildlife Sanctuary. Death of only two cubs has been reported from Bandhavgarh National Park since then, owing to natural causes.

High Interest Rate Borrowings by AAI

2971. COL (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airport Authority of India (AAI) invested Rs. 217.10 crores since April 1995 in fixed deposits with various banks at interest rate ranging from 8.5% to 12.5%;

(b) if so, whether AAI borrowed Rs. 55.00 crores between April 1995-March 2000 at 15% to 16% interest per annum;

(c) whether AAI had paid Rs. 30.00 crores to Government during July-August 2000 and Rs. 25.00 crores after borrowing Rs. 10.25 crores @ 14.50% interest during March 2001;

(d) if so, the reasons AAI had been borrowing funds at a higher rate of interest than the investment made despite availability of surplus funds in violation of Department of Public Enterprises directives;

(e) whether the Government propose to initiate any investigation in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has invested in Banks during year 1995-96: Rs. 334.92 crores, 1996-97: Rs. 340.98 crores, 1997-98: Rs. 544.41 crores, 1998-99: Rs. 787.19 crores and 1999-2000: Rs. 984.47 crores.

(b) No, Sir. However, Government has provided Rs. 110 crores as Budgetary Support consisting of 50% Loan to AAI for non-viable projects in identified areas with poor connectivity on socio-economic consideration.

(c) AAI has paid Rs. 30 Crores during July/August 2002 & Rs. 24.15 crores during June 2001 out of internal resources. Government had provided Rs. 10.25 crores as loan portion of Budgetary support.

(d) AAI has not borrowed funds at a higher rate. The weighted average cost of the budgetary support works out to 6.10% approximately as against interest earned between 8.55% to 12.5%.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Regulation of Domestic Airlines

2972. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has directed the Director General Civil Aviation to conduct a study regarding the operation of domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the details of existing guidelines for the domestic airlines;

(c) whether the Government propose to cut down operation of domestic airlines on uneconomical routes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Government have constituted a committee on 23.9.2003 under the Chairmanship of Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to review the Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG).

(b) A copy of the RDG is attached as statement.

(c) and (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. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

Statement

No. AV-11012/2/94-A
 Government of India
 Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism
 (Department of Civil Aviation)

B Block, Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan,
 Safdarjung Airport, Aurobindo Marg,
 New Delhi-110003. Dated: 1-3-1994

ORDER

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (1A) 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 1, 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 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 Government of India
 Ph. No. 4610369

Provision of Services of 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 and Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep.

Category III

Routes other than those in Category-I and Category-II. Any one who operates scheduled air transport service and 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 services 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 Kilometres (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-Impha sector will count towards service exclusively within Category-II.

Production of Steel in Tenth Plan

2973. SHRI ANANT NAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to increase the production of steel during Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the target set therefor;

(c) whether the new steel plants are proposed to be set up for capacity addition;

(d) if not, whether there is any proposal for expansion of any existing steel plant; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The target for production of saleable steel during the Tenth Plan (2002-2007) set for Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (VSP) is 53.984 million tonnes and 14.240 million tonnes respectively. Ministry of Steel do not monitor the production targets etc. of private sector steel plants.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Public sector steel plants plan to increase production by exploiting the full potential of the individual steel units.

Grading and Marking of Agricultural Products

2974. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grading marking of agricultural products particularly organic food is done as per the Grading and Marking Act, 1937;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Agricultural Produce (Grading & Marking) Act, 1937 empowers the Central Government to fix quality standards and grade designations in respect of agricultural commodities. So far, standards for 163 agricultural commodities have been notified under the Act.

Grading and Marking of organic food is, however, not covered under the above Act for the reason that organic food standards are process standards regulating inter-alia the use of inorganic fertilizers, insecticides, water. Since organic standards are process standards and not related to quality of agricultural commodities, these do not fall within the purview of Agricultural Produce (Grading & Marking) Act, 1937.

Development of Tourist Circuits

2975. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Government on integrated development of tourist circuits in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of tourist circuits developed in the States?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism has introduced a scheme for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits during the 10th Five Year Plan. Development works have been sanctioned in the first year (2002-03) of the 10th Five Year Plan for the following seven tourist circuits under this scheme. Details are as follows:

Sl.No.	Tourist Circuit	Amount Released (Rs. in crores)
i.	Vaishali-Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda-Varanasi	8.00
ii.	Chandigarh-Kullu-Manali-Lahaul-Spiti-Leh (Route I & II)	7.23
iii.	Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi-Orcha-Khajuraho-Jhansi-Bhopal-Sanchi and surrounding Buddhist areas-Bhimbetka-Pachmarhi-Kanha-Jabalpur-(Bhedaghat)	5.08
iv.	Bombay-Alibagh (Mandva)-Ganapatipule-Vijaydurg-Mithibad-Kunkeshwar-Mochetmad-Sindhudurg-Tarkarli-Shiroda-Savantwadi-Amboli-Goa-Coastal-Karnataka- Bekal	8.05
v.	Cochin-Kumarakom (Backwaters)-Kottayam-Quilon-Trivandrum (Kerala)	7.80
vi.	Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpong-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima	5.42
vii.	Jaipur-Jodhpur-Jaisalmer Bikaner-Shekhawati-Jaipur	6.44

*[Translation]***Visit of Tourists**

2976. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state the number of tourists from China who visited India and those from India who visited China during the last and the current year, separately?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): Latest available information about number of tourists visited India from China, and those from India who visited China is as follows:

	2001	2002
(i) No. of tourists who visited India from China	13901	15422
(ii) No. of tourists who visited China from India	159361	N.A.

Similar information for the year 2003 is not available.

*[English]***Guidelines for Registration of Alternative Import Sources**

2977. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Agriculture has issued any strict guidelines for registration of alternate import sources to ensure restrictions on the sub-standard materials coming into the country;

(b) if so, whether the revised guidelines are being followed by authorities concerned, including the registration committee;

(c) whether the registration committee has rejected the import of Allethrin alternate source from China; and

(d) if so, the details of companies whose consignment has been rejected by the Registration Committee and the reasons behind such rejection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) One application from M/s. Khimani & Co. for registration for import of Allethrin from alternate source at China has been refused registration by Registration Committee. No import is allowed till the source of import is approved by the Registration Committee.

*[Translation]***Home Delivery Scheme Under DMS**

2978. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the commission in respect of Home Delivery Scheme under the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) has been reduced;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase it again; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir. The discount in respect of Home Delivery Scheme under the Delhi Milk Scheme has been reduced.

(b) and (c) There is no move at present, as it will result in further financial burden on DMS.

*[English]***Pending Cases of P.F. in Gujarat**

2979. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) the number of pending applications for withdrawal of PF in Gujarat during the period 2002-03, month-wise;

(b) the reasons for pendency; and

(c) the steps being taken for early clearance of these applications?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Number of pending applications for withdrawal of Provident Fund in Gujarat for the period 2002-2003, month-wise is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The reason for delay in settlement of cases is on account of non-remittance of contribution/non-submission of returns by the employer, non-submission of completed forms by members and lengthy settlement procedures.

(c) Regular monitoring is being done for early clearance of the withdrawal applications.

Statement

Statement of withdrawal of P.F. in Gujarat for the period 2002-03, Month-wise.

Months	Total Workload	Claims processed & disposed	Claims Pending
April-02	40082	10783	29299
May-02	41504	14884	26620
June-02	35656	9875	25781
July-02	38563	15357	23206
August-02	36662	15496	21166
September-02	34202	20689	13513
October-02	29218	17349	11869
November-02	21012	8266	12746
December-02	27478	11431	16047
January-03	32995	18526	14469
February-03	26533	14929	11604
March-03	18553	16174	2379

[Translation]

Purchase Mechanism of NAFED

2980. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the purchase mechanism of products by NAFED is not satisfactory and the benefit is not reaching the farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) NAFED undertakes purchase of agricultural commodities under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) as Central nodal agency and for its commercial operations. Under PSS and MIS, NAFED purchases through State Co-operative Marketing Federations and Primary Agricultural Co-

operative Marketing Societies, without involving any middlemen. Payments to farmers are released expeditiously after the purchases. Thus, the benefits of these operations reach the farmers.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Emigration Rules

2981. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government has made emigration rules more stringent for those who travel abroad for job;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representation has been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Tourist Circuit Set up by North East Council

2982. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North East Council has prepared a plan to establish a single tourist Circuit covering all important tourist destinations in the Region to give a fillip to the tourism sector in the region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith estimated cost involved therein indicating the important destinations to be covered in Assam and other States?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) North East Council has constituted a North Eastern Tourism Board to advise the Council on matters relating to the development of tourism industry in the region. The Council has advised the constituent states to send a list of tourist circuits in their respective states so that an integrated interstate tourism route for the north east could be developed.

Noise Pollution

2983. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether noise pollution cannot be controlled as per the views of police;

(b) if so the reasons therefor alongwith the name of the implementing agency authorised for ensuring implementation of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to re-examine the pollution control laws in order to remove the anomalies?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) No, Sir. However, difficulties have been expressed by the regulatory agencies on certain occasions like marriages and religious processions.

(b) The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 have been notified and Governments of all the States and Union Territories have been delegated the powers to enforce them. The implementing authorities, in the Rules, are those authorised by the Central or State Governments in accordance with laws in force which include the Commissioner of Police and the District Magistrates.

(c) As and when amendments were required, they have been carried out.

Comfort for Air Travellers

2984. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has examined the findings of the European study called CABINAIR to provide better quality and comfort to the air passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the Government proposes to implement the above recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Performance of Pawan Hans

2985. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of Pawan Hans has declined recently;

(b) if so, the number of helicopters that met with accidents during the last two years;

(c) the reasons therefor stating the number of casualties;

(d) the status of enquiry in the accident at Bombay High; and

(e) the financial condition of Pawan Hans during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Only one helicopter of Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited met with an accident from 01.12.2001 to 30.11.2003.

(c) One person died on account of the above accident. Accident is under investigation.

(d) Inspector of Accidents has not yet submitted his report on this accident involving helicopter of M/s. Mesco Airlines.

(e) The revenue hours flown, total revenue and profit after tax during the last three years are as under:

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Revenue hours flown	19206	18506	20173
Total revenue (Rs. in crores)	191.96	195.86	205.02
Net profit after tax (Rs. in crores)	38.01	59.31	15.39 (*)

(*) after making provision of Rs. 39.31 crores towards interest on Government of India dues.

Setting up of Fodder Banks

2986. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fodder banks functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has received any proposal for setting up of new such banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of out of them sanctioned, State-wise; and

(d) the funds proposed to be provided for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) A statement showing detail of funds sanctioned to various State Governments for establishment of Fodder Banks is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The details of the proposals of Fodder Banks received during the current year 2003-04 from the States and funds released is given in statement-II enclosed.

(d) The Scheme is demand driven. The funds are provided to the States on the submission of fund utilization certificates in respect of earlier grants and new viable proposals.

Statement I

Funds sanctioned to the States for establishment of fodder banks

State	No. of Fodder Banks	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
Karnataka	7	88.55
Tamil Nadu	1	41.25
Arunachal Pradesh	4	59.621
Gujarat	3	105.25
Jammu & Kashmir	5	129.24
Kerala	2	59.25
West Bengal	1	41.25
Uttar Pradesh	1	41.25
Orissa	1	40.50
Punjab	1	38.70
Mizoram	2	61.496
Maharashtra	1	41.25
Uttaranchal	2	54.60
Tripura	1	37.46

Statement II

Proposals for fodder banks received during the current year 2003-04 from the States and funds released

State	Amount proposed (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
Mizoram	82.50	39.525
Tripura	41.25	37.46
Jammu & Kashmir	439.70*	—
Karnataka	42.00*	—
Haryana	112.50*	—
Sikkim	165.00*	—

*No amount sanctioned as unspent balance of earlier grant under the Scheme was pending with the States.

Traffic Right to Foreign Airlines

2987. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of foreign airlines which enjoy traffic rights in India;

(b) the names of foreign airlines which transit through India without any passenger right;

(c) the names of foreign airlines which enjoy overflight rights;

(d) whether Air India or Indian Airlines have been granted reciprocal rights in countries of origin of those foreign airlines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Traffic rights for operation of international air services to India, are available under India's Air Services Agreements (ASA) with 98 countries, list of which is given in statement. Such rights can be exercised by the airlines designated by these countries.

(b) All foreign airlines operating scheduled services to/through India are having the requisite traffic rights under the bilateral Air Service Agreements.

(c) Besides the airlines of countries having ASAs with India, airlines of countries, which are signatories to International Air Services Transit Agreement, to which India is also a party, enjoy rights to over fly each others territory.

(d) and (e) Equal rights under these agreements are also available to Indian side as such rights are always exchanged on a reciprocal basis.

Statement

List of Countries with whom India has Bilateral Air Services Agreement

1. Afghanistan
2. Algeria
3. Armenia
4. Australia

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 5. Austria | 38. Iraq |
| 6. Azerbaijan | 39. Ireland |
| 7. Bangladesh | 40. Israel |
| 8. Belarus | 41. Italy |
| 9. Belgium | 42. Japan |
| 10. Bhutan | 43. Jordan |
| 11. Brunei | 44. Kazakhstan |
| 12. Bulgaria | 45. Kenya |
| 13. Cambodia | 46. Republic of Korea |
| 14. Canada | 47. Kuwait |
| 15. China | 48. Kyrgyzstan |
| 16. Croatia | 49. Latvia |
| 17. Cyprus | 50. Lebanon |
| 18. Czech Republic | 51. Lesotho |
| 19. Denmark | 52. Lithuania |
| 20. Djibouti | 53. Luxembourg |
| 21. Egypt | 54. Macau |
| 22. Ethiopia | 55. Madagascar |
| 23. Fiji | 56. Malaysia |
| 24. Finland | 57. Maldives |
| 25. France | 58. Malta |
| 26. Georgia | 59. Mauritius |
| 27. Germany | 60. Mongolia |
| 28. Ghana | 61. Morocco |
| 29. Greece | 62. Myanmar |
| 30. Gulf (Oman) | 63. Nepal |
| 31. Gulf (Qatar) | 64. Netherlands |
| 32. Gulf (Bahrain) | 65. New Zealand |
| 33. Gulf (UAE) | 66. Nigeria |
| 34. Hong Kong | 67. Norway |
| 35. Hungary | 68. Pakistan |
| 36. Indonesia | 69. Philippines |
| 37. Iran | |

70. Poland
71. Portugal
72. Russian Federation
73. Romania
74. Saudi Arabia
75. Seychelles
76. Singapore
77. Slovakia
78. Slovenia
79. South Africa
80. Spain
81. Sri Lanka
82. Sweden
83. Switzerland
84. Syria
85. Tajikistan
86. Tanzania
87. Thailand
88. Turkey
89. Turkmenistan
90. United Kingdom (UK)
91. U.S.A.
92. Uganda
93. Ukraine
94. Uzbekistan
95. Vitenam
96. Yemen Arab Republic
97. Yugoslavia
98. Zambia

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has launched a two-year exercise to test the water in three land-fills sites in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Ground Water Board proposes to undertake such exercises all over the country; and

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

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

(b) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in association with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has taken up a collaborative project on "Application of isotope techniques in ground water contamination studies in Delhi". Under this project, two active landfill sites at Balasava and Ghazipur and one old landfill site at Indraprastha Depot have been identified for the study.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Fruits and Vegetables sold by Mother Dairy

2989. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of fruits and vegetables sold through Mother Dairy and Safal booths in Delhi during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantum of fruits and vegetables procured by Mother Dairy directly from growers associations, cooperatives, Government-authorized mandis and private vendors/traders during the above period;

(c) whether Mother Dairy products are being made by the private companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Total quantity of fruits and vegetables sold through Mother Dairy and Safal Booths in Delhi during each of last three years is as under:

2002-03	95,463 Metric tons
2001-02	90,300 Metric tons
2000-01	61,260 Metric tons

Testing of Ground Water by Central Ground Water Board

2988. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(b) The quantum of fruits and vegetables procured from various sources is as under:

(in MT)			
Source	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Grower/Associations	33648	50909	56946
Cooperatives	5494	7673	8410
Govt. Auth. Mandis	22016	30528	29163
Pvt. Vendor/traders	1755	2359	1827
Total	62913	91469	96346

(c) SAFAL Pickles and Namkeen are being outsourced from private organizations.

(d) Details of outsourced products are as under:

S.No.	Items	Sourced from
1.	Pickles	M/s Astra Agro Foods (Pvt.) Ltd., Mohali (Punjab)
	Namkeens	M/s Bikanerwala Foods (Pvt.) Ltd. Delhi.

These products are being outsourced because volumes are very small, and setting up of own facility is not economically viable.

Changes in NAIS

2990. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals for certain changes in the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) from the Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal to extend the coverage of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) to all small and marginal farmers, growing rain fed crops, at 90% indemnity and providing 100% premium subsidy.

The Government of India is of the view that the parameters proposed are impractical and not in consonance with the provisions of the existing scheme.

Performance of Directorate of Maize Research

2991. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any appraisal/review relating to performance of directorate of Maize Research, Pusa has been made;

(b) if so, the details thereof in physical and financial terms, during the last two years and thereafter;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure that its performance commensurate with the investment made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir. A QRT team under the chairmanship of Dr. R.L. Paliwal and the Research Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. A.S. Khehra had reviewed the performance of the Directorate of Maize Research (DMR) and have given recommendations which have been incorporated in the Xth Plan.

(b) During the last two years, infrastructure facilities such as Biotechnology lab, Biochemistry lab, Cold storage facility, land development at new centre at Begusarai, Bihar, and Winter nursery Centre, Hyderabad have been created. Financial outlay of DMR and its AICRP (All India Coordinated Research Projects) centres for the last two years are as follows:

The Budget allocation for the year 2001-02 was Rs. 668.11 lakhs and expenditure incurred was Rs. 666.25 Lakhs and Budget allocation for the year 2002-03 was Rs. 746.00 Lakhs and expenditure incurred was Rs. 738.72 Lakhs.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) To ensure proper implementation of the different research programmes, the programmes of various centres are formulated and finalized in the All India Coordinated Maize Research Workshop/Group Meeting. The programmes are also reviewed by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of the Directorate. Also during the cropping season monitoring teams visit different centres

to monitor and advice on the implementation of the programmes.

Expansion of Sanctuaries

2992. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to expand the number of Sanctuaries under its control;

(b) if so, the details of sanctuaries to be taken over by the Government, State-wise; and

(c) the criteria adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) No Sir. Government is not considering expanding the number of Sanctuaries under its control by taking over Sanctuaries from the State Governments. Establishment and maintenance of wildlife Sanctuaries is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Foot and Mouth Disease

2993. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has selected some districts in the country particularly in Southern region for launching a pilot scheme for the eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease among livestock;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has received representations from other States to start such a scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) In the 10th plan, Government is implementing

an intensive Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP) in selected 54 districts of the country. These are located in the states of Tamil Nadu (Kanyakumari District); Kerala (Quilon, Trivandrum and Pathanamthitha Districts); Punjab (Districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Ferozpur, Bathinda, Mansa, Sangrur, Patiala and Fatehgarh Sahib); Haryana (Districts of Sirsa, Fatehabad, Hisar, Bhiwani, Jhajjar, Rohtak, Sonapat and Jind); Uttar Pradesh (Districts of Aligarh, Hathras, Mathura, Firozabad, Agra, Etah, Bulandshahar, Ghaziabad, G.T. Nagar, Badun, Moradabad, J.B.P. Nagar, Meerut, Baghpat, Sarahanpur and Muzaffar Nagar), Maharashtra (Districts of Aurangabad, Ahmed Nagar, Pune, Satara and Mumbai including a part of Thane); Gujarat (Districts of Banaskantha, Mehsana, Sabarkantha and Patan); Andhra Pradesh (Districts of Medak, Ranga Reddy, Chittoor and Ananthapur), NCT of Delhi, and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir.

The states have been intimated to take up the scheme under another programme 'Assistance to states for Control of Animal diseases' where there is a provision for immunization of animals against various diseases including Foot and Mouth Disease and states are at liberty to prioritize the diseases as per their need.

Immigrants to Developed Countries

2994. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing immigrants from India to the developed countries;

(b) if so, the details including the number of such immigrants for the last three years, year-wise, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government has initiated any step to facilitate economic emigration to developed countries;

(d) if so, the details including the basic training to be given to the potential unskilled immigrant labour; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to minimise the role of middle man in illegal immigration?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The Government does not maintain such specific data. However, the number of persons

granted emigration clearance for employment abroad during the last three years are as follows:

2002	:	3.68 lakhs
2001		2.79 lakhs
2000	:	2.43 lakhs

(c) and (d) The Government had introduced the Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha on 21.11.2002 which has been referred to the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare. It is proposed, through the Amendment Bill, to set-up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council and establish an Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund. A compulsory Insurance Scheme has been notified on 13.11.2003 and emigration procedures simplified.

(e) The Government deals strictly with illegal immigration. All such case are referred to the Police authorities for booking the unregistered recruiting agents. All State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have also been requested to instruct the Police Stations to keep a strict vigil on the activities of middlemen engaged in illegal emigration.

Maintenance of Ancient Temples and Monuments

2995. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ancient temples in the country which fall under the category of national monuments alongwith their locations, State-wise;

(b) the details of such temples which have declared as centrally protected monuments;

(c) the number out of them which have been entrusted to the State Governments for their maintenance;

(d) the amount spent on the proper preservation of each of them during the last three years;

(e) the steps taken for their proper maintenance and development; and

(f) the extent of achievements made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and would be placed on the table of the House.

Scheme for Flood Control

2996. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating any concrete scheme to deal with the problems relating to floods in the States in future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Flood Management being a State subject, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments as per their own priorities. The assistance rendered by Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

For tackling the flood problem in the Ganga and Brahmaputra Basin States, Government of India set up the Ganga Flood Control Commission in 1972 and Brahmaputra Board in 1982 who prepared Master Plans for the respective basins, which were forwarded to the concerned states of taking further action.

A model Draft Bill for flood plan zoning was also prepared and sent to States for enactment of suitable legislation. Flood Forecasting & Warning Services are also being provided to the States by the Central Water Commission (CWC) through a network of 166 flood forecasting stations. The network is being modernised for which a scheme has been approved for implementation during Tenth Five Year Plan. Cooperation also exists between Indian and neighbouring countries of China, Bhutan & Nepal for receiving hydrological information during flood season which help CWC in flood forecasting activities.

As long term measures for control of floods in the North Eastern Region, Government of India has taken up the execution of Pagladiya Dam Project in Assam through Brahmaputra Board. The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation has been entrusted with the investigations & implementation of Siang (Dihang) and Subansiri Dam Projects in stages in Brahmaputra valley while the Tipaimukh Project in Barak valley has been entrusted to North Eastern Electric Power Corporation for investigation and implementation. These multipurpose projects will play a major role in control of floods.

In regard to North Bihar and Eastern U.P. where floods are mainly caused by rivers flowing from Nepal, it has been agreed with Nepal to take up field investigations/studies and preparation of Detailed Project Report of multipurpose project on river Kosi. The field investigations on Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project located on river Mahakali (Sharda) have also been completed. These projects will, *inter alia*, have flood control benefits.

A National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular and Himalayan rivers for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilization of water resources has been formulated which *inter alia* will also have flood control benefits.

In addition Central Government is also rendering financial assistance to State Governments through Centrally Sponsored Schemes for carrying out critical flood management works.

Deemed University Status for Research Institutes

2997. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to accord Deemed University status to the leading research institutes under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of research Institutes which have already been accorded the Deemed University status and the institutions taken up for consideration now;

(d) the details of the funds allocated for the research institutes during the last three years and the major projects or works completed by these institutes during the said period;

(e) the measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representation to OBCs in these research institutes;

(f) whether the Government has the detailed reports from the various research institutes regarding the current status of OBC representation in Group 'A', 'B' and 'C'; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism

has no research Institute under its control. However, proposals to accord the Deemed University status to the National School of Drama and Institute of Archaeology under the Department of Culture have been submitted to Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(c) The National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi which comes under the control of Department of Culture had acquired the status of Deemed University.

(d) The Funds received by The National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi during the last three years are as follows:

	(Rupees in lakhs)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Plan	75.00	67.00	91.18
Non Plan	5.25	4.00	2.00

The major activity is to impart teaching and training for award of M.A. & Ph.D degrees in the disciplines of History of Art, Conservation & Restoration of works of Art, and Museology Institute also run short terms courses in Art Appreciation, Indian Art & Culture and Bhartiya Kalanidhi (in Hindi) Besides, it conducts thematic workshops, seminars & Lectures relating to the History of Art, Conservation and Museum Sciences.

(e) to (g) Adequate representation for OBC in recruitment is observed in The National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi. There are 7 regular and 2 endowments posts in Group 'A'; 3 in Group 'B'; 4 in Group 'C'; and 2 in Group 'D'. There is no OBC person in Group 'A' but 27% representations is achieved in case of other posts.

Production Rate of Irrigated and Non-Irrigated Land

2998. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is difference in the rate of production on irrigated and non-irrigated land in the country;

(b) if so, the average rate of production on the irrigated land; and

(c) the assessment regarding the average rate of production on the non-irrigated land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The National Sample Survey Organisation Under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in their Report "Consolidated Results of Crop Estimation Survey (CES) on Principal Crops 2000-2001" has presented estimates of yield rates from irrigated and non-irrigated plots under CES during 2000-01 which shows that the average rate of production in irrigated land is more than the average rate of production in non-irrigated land. The crop-wise details are given below:

		Yield (in Kg per Hectare)	
S.No.	Crops	Irrigated Land	Non-irrigated Land
1.	Rice	2666	1344
2.	Wheat	2446	869
3.	Jowar	1217	751
4.	Bajra	1431	614
5.	Maize	2868	1685
6.	Groundnut	1423	896
7.	Rape Seed/Mustard	2597	566
8.	Cotton	486	188
9.	Sugarcane	73957	69503

Violation of Gratuity Act

2999. SHRI RAVINDRA KUAMR PANDEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiary companies particularly Mahanadi Coalfield Limited is violating the provisions of Gratuity Act;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints filed in the court of Gratuity Controller by the employees and executives of CIL and its subsidiary company during the last two years and till date;

(d) the number of cases settled and pending as on date; and

(e) the action taken by the Government for payment of gratuity alongwith interest?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The number of complaints filed in the court Gratuity Controller is 3068.

(d) The number of settled cases is 2546 and number of pending cases is 1694.

(e) Action is taken as per the provisions of the Payment of Gratuity Act. 1972.

Grants for Cultural Institutions of Orissa

3000. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to release grants against the pending proposals of the cultural institutions in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the grants are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Government releases grants to cultural institutions after the applications are screened by Expert Committees and formalities are completed. As applications are considered annually, there is no pendency. An indicative list of organizations in Orissa to whom grants have been sanctioned during 2002-2003 is given statement enclosed.

(c) Does not arise in view of 'A' above.

Statement

Financial Assistance released to Cultural Institutions in Orissa during 2002-2003.

S. No.	Name of the Organisations/NGOs	Amount Released (Rs.)
1	2	3

Building Grant

1.	Akhyaana Kalyan Samiti	370,000
2.	Vivekananda Gramya Vikas	2,500
3.	Pampara	1,18,200

1	2	3
4.	Social Welfare & Rural Development	9,627
5.	Thanapally Mittal Yubak Singh	5,600
6.	Sarswat Sahity Sangha	2,10,000
Tribal Folk Art		
1.	Arun Institute of Rural Affairs	92,000
2.	Bijayaketan Institute of Rural Development	50,000
3.	Shri Baveen Singh Deo	35,000
4.	Voluntary Institute for Rural Development	1,08,000
5.	SEVA	27,400
6.	Sangram Kesari Mahanti	75,000
7.	Orissa Media Centre	45,000
8.	Bikalpa Vikas	65,000
Salary Grant		
1.	Mayur Art Centre	4,92,000
2.	Art Vision	1,68,000
3.	Socio Economic & Education Development Society	1,68,000
4.	Kala Vikash Kendra	3,60,000
Production Grant		
1.	Utkal Bharati Smruti Sanskruti	90,000
2.	H. Leena Citaristi	50,000
3.	Kamala Kala Pitha	75,000
4.	Ram Chand Sahoo	75,000
5.	Indara Social Welfare Org.	40,000
6.	Sanskar	30,000
List of NGOs		
1.	Cultural Academy, Rourkela	37,500
2.	Janajagaran Kendra, Dhenkanal	37,500
3.	Seva, Cuttack	37,500
4.	Voluntary Institute for Rural Development, Angul	22,500

1	2	3
5.	Women Association for Rural Development, Dhenkanal	22,500
6.	Association for Socio-Cultural Reforms and Environmental Ethics, Dhenkanal	26,500
7.	Lingaraj Kala Niketan, Puri	15,000
8.	The Kond Adivasi Self help Society, Kendrapara	22,500
9.	Sola Pua-Maa United Cultural, Cuttack	45,000
10.	Sanskar, Khurda	18,750
11.	Sankalp, Puri	56,250
12.	Young Men's Christians' Association (Orissa)	37,500
13.	Sanchar Orissa	18,750

Drilling in National Park by ONGC

3001. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision on the request of the ONGC to drill in the desert national Park in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the compensation to be paid by the ONGC:

(d) the details of animals which will be affected adversely due to exploration work of ONGC: and

(e) the alternative refuge earmarked for these animals?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) No proposal for diversion of National Park area for exploratory drilling was submitted by the ONGC to Government. However, the ONGC had filed an Interlocutory Application No. 22 and 23 in Civil Writ Petition number 337 of 1995 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to issue directions to Government to grant permission for exploratory survey in the Desert National Park. The matter was referred by Hon'ble Supreme Court to the standing Committee of Indian Board for Wild Life for its consideration. The Standing Committee considered the matter and recommended to the Hon'ble Supreme Court that permission may be granted for diversion of

24.5 hectare area for exploratory survey and ancillary works in the Desert National Park. The recommendation was, *inter alia*, accepted by the Supreme Court, who in conclusion asked the ONGC to pay a compensation of Rs. two crores.

(d) and (e) The permission to ONGC is only for exploratory works in a small area of 24.5 hectares of the total area of 3162000 hectares of Desert National Park and it is not likely to have any permanent impact on the wild animals in the national park.

Guidelines for Tourist Guides

3002. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether guidelines have been issued to the authorised tourists guides to advertise the true picture of Indian culture and heritage before the foreign tourists; and

(b) if so, the details of guidelines issued?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Department of Tourism has issued guidelines which contains a Code of Ethics to be followed by Approved Tourist Guides.

(b) The relevant extracts of the Code of Ethics for Approved Tourist Guides are as follows:

- (i) The Tourist Guide shall always be aware of projecting a good and positive image of India adhering to the ancient Indian concept of "Athithi Devo Bhava".
- (ii) The Tourist Guide will, therefore, bear in mind that "word of mouth" publicity and comments have a tremendous impact on the creation of an image for the country. This is several times more valuable than the most expensive advertisement that can be put out.
- (iii) The Tourist Guide will ensure that he will give correct and all possible information of the latest developments in the country and keep himself upto date. He will understand and convey the positive aspects of his culture and tradition, and be well-versed with matters relating to local customs, habits and traditions to ensure that both the tourists and the local people respect each other.
- (iv) The Tourist Guide will respect and safeguard our heritage, monuments and ecology.

Earnings from Protected Monuments

3003. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the maintenance and preservation of historical monuments and heritage sites during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has explored the possibility of hiring the vacant land around the monuments for holding small functions/festivals etc. against payment of certain percentage of gate money or fixed amount; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Amount spent annually on maintenance and conservation of centrally protected monuments for the last three years are as below:

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs)
2000-2001	2917.65
2001-2002	4737.66
2002-2003	6649.78

(b) and (c) The present position is being reviewed.

Drought Relief Document

3004. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is bringing out first drought relief document and strategies to tackle drought in the country as reported in the 'Economics Times' dated November 28, 2003;

(b) if so the details thereof including suggestions given by various States; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Efforts are on to prepare a documentation of the management of the drought of 2002.

Passenger Amenities at Thiruvananthapuram Airport

3005. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps for the improvement of passengers amenities at the domestic airport at Thiruvananthapuram; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The steps taken for improvement of passenger amenities at the domestic terminal of Thiruvananthapuram airport are entertainment TV provided in the check-in area, additional three seater sofas provided to augment seating arrangement, airconditioning has been improved, toilets have been renovated in domestic arrival, ramp facility has been provided for physically challenged persons, signage system has been provided, free local telephones have been provided in the security hold area, new X-ray machines for registered and hand baggage check, car park area has been improved, new flight information display system is likely to be commissioned by March, 2004, 300 trolies to be provided by March 2004 and action is in hand to replace the flooring with vitrified tiles, replace the existing canopy and provide false ceiling on the city side.

Review of Transgenic Crop Policy

3006. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the transgenic crop policy of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received some adverse reports on the performance of Bt. Cotton; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of India is following a case by case policy for approval of transgenic crops, since the biosafety assessment depends on the agro-climatic conditions, local biodiversity and the type of genetic modification proposed. However, the Ministry of Agriculture has taken up the exercise of recommending streamlining of the procedure and protocols to be adopted while according approval of commercial cultivation of transgenic crops.

(c) and (d) According to Ministry of Environment and Forests, the nodal Ministry, no official adverse reports on the performance of Bt. Cotton for Kharif 2003 have been received.

Closure of Otto India Limited

3007. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) the number of workers and employees in various units of Otto India Limited in the country including Orissa, unit-wise;

(b) whether the workers of some of the units are facing great uncertainty due to the attempt of the management to close down these units; and

(c) if so, the alternative job planned by Otto India Limited for those workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tourism Projects of Gujarat

3008. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted tourism projects including Modhera and Tera Kutch for approval; and

(b) by when the projects are likely to be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The following project proposals for grant of central financial assistance have been received from the State Government of Gujarat during the year 2003-2004;

- (1) Development of Vicinity, Sun Temple, Modhera
- (2) Development of Nana Laija (Kutch)
- (3) Development of heritage village at Tera
- (4) Development of Saputara.

(b) Tourism projects are identified and processed on inter-se-priority for sanction based on field visits/consultation with the State Governments and funds

released, subject to availability. The following projects have been sanctioned by the Department of Tourism for the

development of tourism in Gujarat in the year 2002-03 and 2003-04:

2002-03		Rs in lakhs
Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Development of Infrastructure at Udwada	97.27
2.	Development of Vadnagar	99.85
Total		197.12
2003-04		Rs. in lakhs
1.	Navratri Festival	15.00
2.	Celebration of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti	4.00
3.	Development of areas around Somnath Temple.	500.00
Total		519.00

Besides, the Archaeological Survey of India has also taken up works at several places in Gujarat in the year 2003-04, some of which are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of Work/Monument	Amount Allocated (Rs. in lakhs)
(1)	Jami Masjid, Pavagadh, Distt. Godhra	4.00
(2)	Rani Ki Vav, Patan	10.00
(3)	Rao Lakha Chhatri, Bhuj Distt. Kutch	9.00
(4)	Torana, Vadnagar, Mehsana	8.00
(5)	Annual repairs to monuments of Gujarat	45.00
(6)	Excavated Site, Dholavira, Distt. Kutch	4.50
(7)	ASI Complex at Dholavira Distt. Kutch	123.00
Total:		203.50

Plantation Labour Act

3009. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether over 60% of the Tea Gardens in Assam have not implemented the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 and also the rules framed thereunder for the welfare and upliftment of the plantation labour and their families;

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

(c) the remedial measures being taken in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the implementation and enforcement of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of answer to (a) above, questions do not arise.

(d) According to the information furnished by the Government of Assam, implementation of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 is monitored by way of evaluation of

the monthly reports of Inspectors on the enforcement performance under the Annual Action plan of enforcement.

Ship Breaking Activities

3010. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that another ship breaking yard is fast coming up at Azhikkal on Kannur beach in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether environmental clearance has been given to this yard;

(c) the quantum of fish and other marine stock likely to be killed due to hazardous material of this yard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop ship breaking activities at this yard immediately?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) As per the information received from the Government of Kerala, a ship breaking unit of Steel Industries Kerala Limited, Government of Kerala is operating at Azhikkal, Kannur since, 1984.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government has not received any report regarding the environmental damage caused by the ship breaking unit.

(d) Government of Kerala has been advised to seek environmental clearance under Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 to operate the ship breaking units.

Seminar on Industrial Relations

3011. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether at a recently held national seminar on Industrial Relations organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) concern was expressed about the poor work culture and increasing number of holidays resulting in the significant drop in the working hours;

(b) if so, whether the participants in the seminar also expressed the apprehensions of the employees about the prevailing trend of job security; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to make the labour laws more suited to enhance

competitiveness without sacrificing the safety and welfare of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the seminar discussions were held on the issue of social security relating to contractual and fixed term employment.

(c) Review and updation of labour laws is a continuous process to bring them in line with the prevailing needs of the economy while also ensuring that workers' interests are protected.

Market for Organic Agricultural Produce

3012. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether organic agricultural produce offers excellent opportunities of export with better realization; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to capture the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following measures are taken by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce, to promote the export of Organic Products:

- Awareness programmes were organized in different States where there is potential to grow and export organic products;
- To facilitate information on the availability of certified organic products to traders, APEDA has taken the initiative to prepare a data bank on the producers of organic farms.
- To disseminate information regarding the availability of certified organic products to the traders and exporters, buyer-seller meets are organized by APEDA every year.
- To promote Indian organic products for export, Ministry of Commerce organized an international conference to facilitate interface between producers and buyers.
- To create insight of the potential of various organic products available in India, a documentary film was prepared in the year 2002.

- APEDA has taken the initiative to train eligible domestic agencies interested in setting up certification programmes which plays an important role for recognition in the global market.
- On behalf of the Ministry of Commerce, APEDA has taken the initiative to open a dialogue with European Commission for establishing an equivalency agreement pertaining to National Standards.

Protection of Monument

3013. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of heritage monuments at Mehrauli included in the list of protected monuments;

(b) the details of monuments there which are not yet protected by ASI;

(c) whether a new heritage site has been identified for protection in Mehrauli;

(d) if so, whether any private land or buildings are included in the newly identified site; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to remove illegal occupation and construction therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The list of 24 monuments declared as of national importance under Archaeological Survey of India, in Mehrauli is at Statement-I.

(b) The list of 195 monuments based on the list published by INTACH in Mehrauli which are not yet protected, is at statement-II.

(c) Yes, Sir. Lal Kot, Jahanpanah Wall, Balban's Tomb, unprotected portions of fortification wall of Qila Rai Pithora, Quli-Khan's Tomb, and monuments/ruined structures located inside the D.D.A. Heritage Park, have been identified for declaration as monuments of national importance.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement

List of Monuments Under Central Protection in Mehrauli, Delhi

1. Bastion where a wall Jahan Panah meets the wall of Rai Pithora Fort.

2. Ramp and Gateway of Rai Pithora's Fort.
3. Jahaz Mahal in Mehrauli.
4. Shamsid Tallab together with platform entrance gates.
5. Moti Masjid.
6. Old place of Bahadur Shah II *alias* Lal Mahal in Mehrauli.
7. The Qutb Archaeological Area as now fenced in, including the mosque, Iron Pillar, Minar of Qutb, unfinished Minar, all colonnades, screen arches, Tomb of Illutmish, College buildings of Aluddin, Tomb of Imam Zamin and all carved stones in the above area with gardens, paths and water channels; and all gateways including the Alai Darwaza, also allgraved in the above area.
8. Tomb of Adham Khan (Rest House).
9. Tomb & Mosque of Maulana Jamili Kamali.
10. Wall Mosque of Mehrauli.
11. Wall of Lal Kot and Rai Pithora's Fort from Sohan Gate to Adham Khan Tomb including the ditch where there is an outer wall.
12. Walls of Lal Kot & Rai Pithora's Fort at the point where they meet together.
13. Wall of Rai Pithora's Fort including gateway and bastion.
14. Mandhi Mosque 11/160.
15. Rajon-ki-Bainwith Mosque & Chhattri.
16. Badayun Gate, K.No. 412, Kh. No. 22/27 & 23, Hauz Rani.
17. Gateway of Lal Kot 400 feet to the west of Delhi Qutb Road, K.No. 143.
18. Gateways of Rai Pithora's Fort K. No. 481, 514.
19. Wall of Rai Pithora Fort & Jahan Panah at the point where they meet together.
20. Baoli known as diving Wall (locally known as Gandakoki-Baoli).
21. Enclosure containing to tomb of Alam II and Akbar Shah II.
22. Hauz Shamsi with Central red Stone pavilion situated at Mehrauli field in field No. 157-81, 1586-97, 1614 & 1624
23. Iron Pillar Hindu
24. Azim Khan Tomb.

*List of Heritage Buildings/Monuments not yet Protected
by Archaeological Survey of India (Based on List
Published by Intach)*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Qutub Rest House | 30. Residence |
| 2. The Farmhouse restaurant | 31. Original Gateway of Dargah Sharif |
| 3. Metcalfe's Folly 1,2 | 32. Residence |
| 4. Colonial Building | 33. Noori Masjid |
| 5. Mosque | 34. Dilkusha Mosue |
| 6. Chaumukha Darwaza | 35. Chaumachi Khan's tomb |
| 7. Lalkot Excavations | 36. Residence |
| 8. Anang Tal | 37. Residence |
| 9. Lalkot | 38. Residence |
| 10. Residence | 39. Residence |
| 11. Mosque of Wafati Shah | 40. Well |
| 12. Mehrauli Public Library | 41. Residence |
| 13. Haveli | 42. Residential Street |
| 14. Residence | 43. Residence |
| 15. Temple of Jog Maya | 44. Residence Gateway of Mohalla |
| 16. Priest's Residence | 45. Residence |
| 17. Residence | 46. Residence |
| 18. Baradari At Jog Maya temple | 47. Residence |
| 19. Primary School | 48. Residence |
| 20. Residence | 49. Chowk |
| 21. Residence | 50. Residence |
| 22. Prachin Sidh Shri Hanuman Mandir | 51. Residence |
| 23. St. John's Church Complex | 52. Residence |
| 24. Adham Khan's tomb | 53. Residence |
| 25. Mosque of Quazian | 54. Shops cum Residence |
| 26. Primary Health Centre | 55. Chaupal |
| 27. MCD House Tax Office & Vocational Training Centre | 56. Sarai Wali Masjid |
| 28. Wall Mosque | 57. Shops cum Residence |
| 29. Gateway | 58. Gateway Leading to Residential cluster |
| | 59. Gateway |
| | 60. Residence |
| | 61. Residence |
| | 62. Commercial cum Residential street |

- | | |
|---|---|
| 63. Haji jamal-ud-din Building | 95. Mosque |
| 64. Residence | 96. Grave and Mosque of Motamad Khan |
| 65. Gateway | 97. Tomb of Maulana Fakhruddin |
| 66. Huron Ka Khaqah | 98. First Gateway of Farrukhsiyar |
| 67. Shop cum Residence | 99. Inner Gateway of Farrukhsiyar |
| 68. Veterinary Clinic | 100. Dargah of Khawaja Qutubuddin Bakhtiar Kaki |
| 69. Kali Chand Building | 101. Tomb of Khwaja Abdul Aziz Bastami |
| 70. Mosque | 102. Mazar of Hazrat Qazi Hameeduddin Nagauri |
| 71. Tomb | 103. Mosque and Grave of Zabita Khan |
| 72. Dargah of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Haq Muhaddis Dahlvi | 104. Mosque of Qutub Sahib |
| 73. Dalan Adjacent to Grave of Sayyid Niyaz Muhammad | 105. Baoli of Qutub Sahib |
| 74. Naalbandon-ki-Masjid | 106. Majlis Khana |
| 75. Godown | 107. Graveyard |
| 76. Sarai of Shaikh Inayatullah | 108. Gateway |
| 77. Tomb | 109. Grave of Murad Bakht |
| 78. Hauz-i-Shamsi | 110. Tomb |
| 79. Two Mosques | 111. Entrance Gateway |
| 80. Tomb | 112. Gultashi Wali Masjid |
| 81. Auliya Masjid | 113. Gateway |
| 82. Jharna | 114. House of Mirza Babar |
| 83. Pankhe Wali Mosque | 115. Walled Garden |
| 84. Building (unnamed) | 116. Tomb Enclosure |
| 85. Mosque of Maulana Jamali | 117. Tomb |
| 86. Mosque and Tomb | 118. Tomb of Shaikh Sulaiman |
| 87. Mosque | 119. Tomb |
| 88. Mosque | 120. Gateway |
| 89. Tomb and Mosque of Makhdum Samauddin | 121. Gateway |
| 90. Gateway/Tomb | 122. Quli Khan's Tomb |
| 91. Northern Gateway of Dargah of Qutub Sahib | 123. Metcalfe's Boathouse |
| 92. Dargah And Mazar of Saika Baba | 124. Gateposts |
| 93. Gateway of Maulana Fakhruddin | 125. Well |
| 94. Residence | 126. Well |
| | 127. Unknown Structure |

- 128. Tomb
- 129. Tomb
- 130. Mosque
- 131. Mosque
- 132. Walled Enclosure
- 133. Two Arched Dalans
- 134. Colonnade
- 135. Mosque
- 136. Mosque and Tomb
- 137. Mosque
- 138. Mosque
- 139. Mosque
- 140. Enclosure
- 141. Arched Dalan
- 142. Wall Mosque
- 143. Canopy
- 144. Wall Mosque
- 145. Ruins
- 146. Tomb
- 147. Dalan
- 148. Tomb
- 149. Wall
- 150. Tomb Enclosure
- 151. Tomb of Khan Shahid
- 152. Stables
- 153. Mosque
- 154. Building (Unknown)
- 155. Arched Dalan
- 156. Tomb
- 157. Tomb
- 158. Mosque of Maulana Majduddin
- 159. Guard Houses
- 160. Domed Building

- 161. Ashoka Mission
- 162. Baghichi ki Masjid
- 163. Mosque
- 164. Plinth of Wall Mosque
- 165. Takya of Kamli Shah
- 166. Gateway
- 167. Mosque and Domed Building
- 168. Mosque
- 169. Mosque
- 170. Chihaltan Chhalman
- 171. Tomb
- 172. Enclosure
- 173. Sohan Burj
- 174. Mosque and Domed Gateway
- 175. Plinth of Mosque
- 176. Mosque
- 177. Idgah
- 178. Tomb
- 179. Tomb of Shaikh Shaikhabuddin
- 180. Platform
- 181. Chillagah
- 182. Mosque
- 183. Metcalfe's Folly 3
- 184. Baoli
- 185. Dadabari Jain Mandir
- 186. Ruin of Arch
- 187. Saubate Tomb
- 188. Enclosure Walls
- 189. Mosque
- 190. Gateway
- 191. Enclosure
- 192. Wall Mosque
- 193. Ruins
- 194. Embankment
- 195. Baoli

Occupancy in Indian Airlines

3014. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the occupancy percentage of Indian Airlines on Delhi-Mumbai-Delhi has failed to achieve the target;

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

(c) whether Indian Airlines' fare is too high; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to reduce the fares of Indian Airlines to make it competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Indian Airlines does not have a system of fixing target for sector-wise occupancy.

(b) Does not arise

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Functioning of NDDB and Mother Dairy

3015. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) had imported 10,000 MT milk powder to meet milk shortage in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Agriculture had verified that the NDDB and Mother Dairy did not keep adequate stocks of milk powder to meet the shortage of milk for past few months and also deliberately refusing to buy milk powder from the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation during the said period;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to conduct any inquiry into the functioning of NDDB and Mother Dairy as reported in 'The Hindu' dated October 10, 2003; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. NDDB has placed order for import of about 9460 MT milk powder under Tariff Rate Quota to augment domestic supplies after receiving request from some of

the state dairy federations, Mother Dairy and Delhi Milk Scheme.

(b) On the basis of information received both from NDDB and Mother Dairy, the supply of liquid milk by Mother Dairy during the past one year had remained as per demand barring a few days in the 2nd fortnight of August 2003. Mother Dairy & NDDB had placed order during August 2003 with Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation for supply of 2000 MT & 300 MT milk powder respectively during September 2003. Against these orders, GCMMF had supplied 1850 MT to Mother Dairy & about 1825 MT to NDDB till Nov, 2003.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

New Helipad in Mumbai

3016. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pawan Hans and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) are considering to develop a new helipad in South Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether some sites have been considered;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether preference will be given to site suggested by Navy;

(e) if so, the details regarding the proposals; and

(f) by when the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir. However, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL), a Public Sector Enterprise under the Government of India, has plans to introduce helicopter services between Chhatrapati Shivaji airport and the City Centre near Nariman Point in Mumbai.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) It is too early at this stage to arrive at a decision on the proposal of Indian Navy to develop a helipad on the decommissioned ship INS Vikrant.

(f) It is not possible to give any definite time frame at this stage.

Deemed University Status for Research Institutes

3017. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to accord Deemed University status to the leading Research Institutes under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of research institutes which have already been accorded the Deemed University Status and the institutions taken up for consideration now;

(d) the details of the funds allocated for the research institutes during the last three years and the major projects or works completed by these institutes during the said period;

(e) the measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representation to the OBCs in these research institutes;

(f) whether the Government has the detailed reports from the various research institutes regarding the current status of OBC representation in Group 'A', 'B' and 'C'; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) to (c) The following leading Agricultural Research Institutes have been accorded Deemed University Status:

- Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi.
- Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar.
- National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal
- Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai.

No institution is being taken for consideration now for according Deemed University Status.

(d) The details are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(e) The Council follows Government of India instruction to give adequate representations to the OBCs in its research institutes.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The details are given in statement-II enclosed.

Statement I**Plan funds allocated to ICAR Institutes having Deemed University Status**

(Rupees in Lac)

Institute	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
IARI, New Delhi	700.0	1236.6	600.0
IVRI, Izatnagar	392.8	432.7	443.0
NDRI, Karnal	600.8	650.0	700.0
CIFE, Mumbai	488.3	805.4	1277.9

Major works completed at the ICAR Institutes having Deemed University Status:

Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi

- Eighty Scientists Apartments, New Delhi
- Water Technology centre lab, New Delhi
- Type I to type III quarters, New Delhi
- Third Wing of Division of Mycology and Plant Pathology, New Delhi
- Phytotron Building, New Delhi
- Guest House at Karnal and Katrain
- Staff Quarters at Karnal and Katrain

Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar

- International Trainees Hostel, Izatnagar
- Ladies Scientist Hostel, Izatnagar
- Academic cum Administrative Block, Izatnagar
- Type-I to Type-V Quarters, IVRI Eastern Regional Station, Kolkata
- Laboratory Building, IVRI Eastern Regional Station, Kolkata.

National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal

- Director Residence, Karnal
- International Hostel, Karnal
- Boundary Wall of Farm Section, Karnal

- Toilets 24 numbers in Type A Quarters
- Stadium for students, Kamal

Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai

- Main Academic building.

Statement II

Details of Current Status of OBC representation in ICAR Institutes having Deemed University Status

Institutes	OBC Category		
	Group-A Pay Scale (Rs. 8000/-& Above)	Group-B Pay Scale (Rs. 5500-9000 to Rs. 7500-12000)	Group-C Pay Scale (Rs. 2750-4400 to Rs. 5000-8000)
IARI	—	—	36
IVRI	20	02	32
NDRI	02	01	18
CIFE	01	—	03

Construction and Upgradation of Fishing Harbours in Orissa

3018. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the Government of Orissa to provide funds for construction and upgradation of fishing harbours in the state: and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proposals for construction of six fishing harbours at Gopalpur, Dhamra stage-I, Naugarh (Astrang), Dhamra stage-II, Chandipur, Bahabalpur and a proposal for upgradation of fishing harbour at Dhamra stage-I have been received from the Government of Orissa.

Of these, all the fishing harbours except Dhamra stage-II, Chandipur and Bahabalpur have been completed and put to use. As regards to Dhamra stage-II, 86% project work has been completed. The final proposals together with confirmation of availability of land,

environmental clearance and availability adequate budgetary provisions in case of Chandipur and Bahabalpur are to be submitted by the State. The State has also been asked to submit details proposal for upgradation of Dhamra stage-I.

Besides, a major fishing harbour at Paradip has been constructed in the State with 100% Central assistance.

Market Share of IA

3019. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines increased its market share to 41.9% in September, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps Indian Airlines propose to take to improve its departure procedures at various airports in the country; and

(d) the steps taken to improve services at the check-in counters for baggage handling etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) AS per information available, Indian Airlines market

share went up from 39.8% in April, 2003 to 41.9% in September, 2003.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines has provided computerized check-in facility at 22 domestic stations. During the year 2004, Indian Airlines proposes to gradually provide the facility of computerized check-in at 33 more domestic stations.

With the introduction of Departure Control System at the above stations, Indian Airlines has planned to extend the following facilities to passengers:

1. Automated Boarding Card
2. Advance Seat reservations
3. Return Check-in
4. Tele Check-in
5. Through Check-in.

Cancellation of Flights

3020. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of international flights cancelled by Air India during the past five years from Nedumbassery Airport;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to restore all the cancelled Air India flights from Trivandrum to various international sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Air India commenced operations from Nedumbassery Airport in Kochi in June 1999 with 9 international flights. Presently, Air India is operating 22 international flights from Nedumbassery airport. In addition to this, Air India is also operating hub and spoke/code share flights.

A total of 15 flights have been cancelled ex-Trivandrum during the last five years. However, with the

commencement of operations from Nedumbassery Airport at Kochi in June 1999, certain flights from Trivandrum were shifted to Kochi, but the total flights out of Kerala remained the same. Subsequently, flights have been enhanced from Trivandrum. Presently, Air India is operating 15 international flights from Trivandrum to Dubai, Daman, Riyadh, Bahrain/Doha and Abu Dhabi/Muscat. In addition to this, Air India also operates four direct flights to Kuwait in code share with Kuwait Airways.

Disinvestment of Majority Stake of Steel Plant of SAIL

3021. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to disinvest majority stake in some plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL);

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

(c) whether the Government has also decided to reduce manpower to one lakh by 2005; and

(d) if so, the details of employees presently working and also the number out of them to be reduced, plant-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The financial and business restructuring package for Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) that was approved by the Government in February 2000, *inter alia*, envisaged divestment of following non-core assets:

- Captive Power Plants at Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL), Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP), Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) & Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP).
- Oxygen Plant-II of BSP.
- Salem Steel Plant (SSP), Salem.
- Alloy Steels Plant (ASP), Durgapur.
- Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISP), Bhadravati.
- Fertiliser Plant at Rourkela.

- Conversion of IISCO into a joint venture with SAIL holding minority share holding.

This was done with a view to provide SAIL with the long term competitiveness in its core business of carbon steel and to separate activities, which are ancillary to the main business.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. SAIL entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government to achieve this level of manpower for the company as a whole and not unit-wise. Efforts are on to achieve the targeted level.

Number of employees in SAIL steel plants/units as on 31.10.2003 are as under:

Plant	No. of employees
Bhilai Steel Plant	37907
Durgapur Steel Plant	17301
Rourkela Steel Plant	24227
Bokaro Steel Plant	36738
Alloy Steels Plant	2813
Salem Steel Plant	1350
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant, Bhadrawati	2932
Raw Materials Division	5527
Central Marketing Organisation	2860
Other Units	2318
Total	133973

Irregularities in Appointment in IGNC

3022. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports of irregularities in appointments to senior posts in the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts have been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether persons having adverse C.R. remarks are being preferred over genuine claimants to the posts;

(d) if so, the number of such instances reported during the last three years, till date;

(e) whether any probe has been conducted into this state of affairs;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof;

(g) the action taken against those found guilty in this regard; and

(h) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent the recurrence of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The government has not received any report of specific irregularity in appointments in the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

(b) to (h) Does not arise.

Air Link for N.E

3023. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether North Eastern Council has signed any agreement with alliance Air for augmenting North Eastern regional air links;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of additional regional flights in the North Eastern region introduced under the agreement;

(d) whether some new aircraft have been procured or inducted for serving the region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Alliance Air has inducted four ATR aircraft on dry lease for a period of 5 years for exclusive operations in and to/from North East. The induction of turbo-prop aircraft by Alliance Air, a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines, has been sponsored by the Central Government through the Department of Development of North-Eastern Region. A list of existing operational schedule of ATR-42 aircraft worked out in consultation with the Department for Development of North East is enclosed as statement-I

Statement-II showing the number of flights operated to/from and within North-East by Alliance Air before and after induction of ATR aircraft is attached.

Statement I

Airline Allied Services Limited
(A wholly owned Subsidiary of Indian Airlines Limited)
Winter Schedule 2003-2004

ATR Schedule

Effective 10th November 2003

1	2	3	4	5	6
	CD-7701		CD-7702		
	13567		13567		
	0740	D Kolkata A	1705		
	0945	D Dimapur D	1805		
	CD-7703		CD-7704	CD-7704	
	2487		246	7	
	0800	D Kolkata A	1605	1105	
	0915	A Aizwal D	1440	0940	
	CD-7705		CD-7706		
	Daily		Daily		
	0800	D Kolkata A	1850		
	0730	A Silchar D	1510		
CD-7707	CD-7707		CD-7708	CD-7708	
1467	2		2	1467	
1230	1155	D Silchar A	1325	1400	
1305	1230	A Imphal D	1250	1325	
	CD-7709		CD-7710		
	2		2		
	1000	D Kolkata A	1620		
	1135	A Silchar D	1345		
	CD-7711		CD-7712		
	135		136		
	1000	D Kolkata A	1350		

1	2	3	4	5	6
	1145	A Shillong D	1205		
	CD-7713		CD-7714	CD-7714	
	135		1	35	
	0750	D Silchar	1210	1450	
	0840	A Agartala D	1120	1400	
CD-7727	CD-7717		CD-7718	CD-7728	
2345	12467		12487	2345	
1830	1730	D Kolkata A	2000	2100	
1935	1835	A Agartala D	1855	1955	
	CD-7729		CD-7730		
	Daily		Daily		
	1830	D Kolkata A	2000		
	1800	A Guwahati D	1820		
CD-7752	CD-7752		CD-7751	CD-7751	
24	13567		13567	24	
0855	1005	D Dimapur A	1446	1056	
0945	1055	A Guwahati D	1356	1006	
	CD-7783		CD-7784		
	357		357		
	1115	A Guwahati D	1335		
	1215	A Lilabari D	1235		
	CD-7758		CD-7758		CD-7758
	135		1		36
	0900	D Agartala A	1100		1340
	0950	A Guwahati D	1010		1250
	CD-7765		CD-7766		
	246		248		

1	2	3	4	5	6
	1100	D Guwahati A	1300		
	1150	D Agartala A	1210		
	CD-7767		CD-7768		
	1		1		
	1115	D Guwahati A	1335		
	1215	A Aizwal D	1235		
CD-7757	CD-7757		CD-7758	CD-7758	
35	246		246	35	
1010	1320	D Guwahati A	1040	1230	
1110	1420	A Aizwal D	0940	1130	
	CD-7790		CD-7789	CD-7789	CD-7789
	2467		2	4	67
	0750	D Aizwal A	1440	1200	1045
	0835	A Guwahati D	1355	1115	1000
	CD-7781		CD-7782		
	28		28		
	1115	D Guwahati A	1335		
	1215	A Imphal D	1235		

Statement-II*Capacity Deployment in North East*

(Per Week)

Sector	Prior to Induction of ATR			As on Date		
	B737	ATR	Total	B737	ATR	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Guwahati/Agartala	3	—	3	1	6	7
Guwahati/Lilabari	2	—	2	—	3	3
Guwahati/Silchar	2	—	2	—	4	4
Guwahati/Imphal	—	—	—	—	2	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Guwahati/Kolkata	—	—	—	—	7	7
Guwahati/Aizwal	—	—	—	—	6	6
Guwahati/Dimapur	—	—	—	—	7	7
Kolkata/Aizwal	3	—	3	3	4	7
Kolkata/Imphal	5	—	5	6	—	6
Kolkata/Shillong	—	—	—	—	3	3
Kolkata/Agartala	9	—	9	8	9	17
Kolkata/Dimapur	4	—	4	2	5	7
Kolkata/Jorhat	2	—	2	2	—	2
Kolkata/Silchar	6	—	6	2	8	10
Kolkata/Tezpur	2	—	2	2	—	2
Kolkata/Dibrugarh	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tezpur/Dimapur	2	—	2	1	—	1
Tezpur/Jorhat	—	—	—	1	—	1
Silchar/Imphal	2	—	2	—	5	5
Silchar/Agartala	—	—	—	—	3	3
Aizwal/Imphal	3	—	3	3	—	3
Dimapur/Jorhat	2	—	2	1	—	1
Delhi/Guwahati	3	—	3	3	—	3
Delhi/Imphal	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	50	—	50	35	72	107

Monuments Destroyed In Gujarat

3024. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some protected monuments were damaged or demolished during the course of Gujarat Disturbances in 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extent of damage caused in each case;

(c) whether the ASI has since repaired/restored those monuments; and

(d) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Three centrally protected monuments viz., Gumte Masjid at Isanpur; Muhafiz Khan's mosque at Gheekanta and tomb of Sayed Mubarak at Sojali were damaged in the disturbances in the State of Gujarat during 2002.

(1) **Gumte Masjid:** Portions of the walls of Gumte Masjid were damaged and the restoration would be attended at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 lakhs.

(2) **Muhafiz Khan's Mosque:** A portion of compound wall and window is damaged and the repair work would be taken-up at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.5 lakhs.

(3) **Tomb of Sayed Mubarak:** Damaged stone jails have already been restored as per original at a cost of Rs. 1.92 lakhs.

Post of Reservation Managers

3025. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to abolish the post of Reservation Manager in Indian Airlines keeping in view computerisation of air travel;

(b) if so, whether any alternate job allocation has been proposed for persons holding the post of reservation manager; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Subsidiary Companies Under NDDB

3026. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names and dates of incorporation of all the subsidiary companies promoted by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB);

(b) the amounts invested in each of these companies;

(c) whether the Government has granted permission to said companies to make joint venture with cooperatives; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) The names and dates of incorporation of subsidiary companies promoted by the NDDB as under:

S.NO.	Name of Subsidiary	Dated of Incorporation
1.	Indian Dairy Machinery Company (IDMC) Ltd.	September, 1992
2.	Indian Immunologicals Ltd. (IIL)	October, 1999
3.	Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Ltd. (MDFVL)	March, 2000
4.	Dhara Vegetable Oil & Foods Company Ltd. (DOFCO)	December, 2000

(b) Details of funds released to these companies:

(i) As units of NDDB before incorporation

(Rs. in Crore)

Subsidiary	As Units of NDDB			
	Fixed Asset	Loan	Grant	Total
IDMC	3.96	2.69	0.00	6.65
IIL	9.74	11.44	0.00	21.18
MDFVL	55.92	273.02	0.00	328.94
DOFCO	25.87	98.88	30.00	154.75
Total	95.49	386.03	30.00	511.52

As companies of NDDB on Date of incorporation:

Subsidiary	As subsidiaries of NDDB on date of incorporation			
	Equity	Loan	Grant	Total
IDMC	1.50	5.15	0.00	6.65
IIL	9.00	12.18	0.00	21.18
MDFVL	75.00	253.94	0.00	328.94
DOFCO	50.00	94.75	30.00	174.75
Total	135.50	366.02	30.00	531.52

(c) and (d) According to the provisions of the NDDB Act, approval of the Central Government is required if NDDB considers it necessary to form one or more companies either.

(i) By self

(ii) Or in conjunction with any of its subsidiaries.

Since the Joint Venture with the cooperatives is being formed not by NDDB but Mother Dairy Foods Limited, a subsidiary of Mother Dairy Fruits & Vegetables Ltd. Government permission is not required.

For the four companies that NDDB has formed government permission has been taken.

[Translation]

Setting up of Milk Power Plant in Bihar

3027. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Bihar for assistance for setting up of a milk powder plant in the Tirhut Milk Cooperative Committee Dairy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development had received a special Project under "Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY)" for establishing 10 Metric Tonnes per day capacity Milk Powder Plant in Mujaffarpur district of Bihar with a total cost of Rs. 460.00 lakh. The project was not found to be as per guidelines of the SGSY as no direct benefit was flowing to the beneficiaries.

Accordingly, the State Government has been requested by them to revise the proposal.

[English]

Deemed University Status to Research Institutes

3028. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to accord Deemed University status to the leading Research Institutes under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of research institutes which have already been accorded the Deemed University status and the institutions taken up for consideration now;

(d) the details of the funds allocated for the research institutes during the last three years and the major projects or works completed by these institutes during the said period;

(e) the measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representation to OBCs in these research institutes;

(f) whether the Government has the detailed reports from the various research institutes regarding the current status of OBC representation in Group 'A', 'B' and 'C'; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) The Deemed University status to any organisation is accorded by Ministry of Human Resource Development on the recommendations

of the University Grants Commission. The Forest Research Institute, Dehradun has been accorded 'Deemed University' status in 1991. Presently, there are no other proposals for according Deemed University status to

leading research institutes under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(d) The details of funds allocated to research institutes during the last three years are as below.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Organisation	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun	5983.00	5770.19	4781.45
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	725.32	672.14	881.69
GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Pantnagar	595.00	544.00	600.00
Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore	248.00	189.00	303.70

The details of major projects completed during the last three years are as follows:

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun

- (i) Forest-Community Interface—A study on the impact of participatory forest management on the status of forests and on socio-economic development of rural people in Dehradun district of Uttaranchal.
- (ii) Studies on natural durability and efficacy of preservative in treated bamboo and plantation grown wood species.
- (iii) Regeneration, mortality and species diversity in Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forests of Uttar Pradesh.
- (iv) Micropropagation and tissue culture studies on selected tree species including procedure for hardening, weaning and out planting.
- (v) Resource enhancement & processing of cane & bamboo species suitable for handicrafts.

G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development.

- (i) Development of a Village Environment Action Plan (VEAP) manual (in Hindi) and training of field staff and support organizations on the execution of VEAP.
- (ii) An optimal fodder and fuel wood resource use model for Mandakini sub-watershed has been developed using RS and GIS.

- (iii) Standardization of improved vegetative propagation techniques of highly valuable medicinal plants on farmers' fields to increase the acreage and yield.

- (iv) Assessment of hill slope instabilities along roads network in Sikkim Himalayan on RS/GIS platform to suggest remedial measures.

- (v) Development of microbial inoculants for selected plant species.

Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bangalore

- (i) Manufacture of higher grade plywood from plantation timber—silver oak.
- (ii) Development of technology for production of various products from chair pine.
- (iii) Development of technology for manufacture of laminated veneer timber from plantation timber.
- (iv) Application of finger jointing technique on products development using plantation timber.
- (v) Development of technology for manufacture of bamboo wood (laminates).

Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

- (i) Management of forests in India for biological diversity and forest productivity—A new perspective.

- (ii) An ecological study for the conservation of the biodiversity and biotic pressures in the Great Himalayan National park Conservation Area—An ecodevelopment approach.
- (iii) Ecological studies on Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve: an ecodevelopment approach.
- (iv) Impact of landuse pattern changes on habitat and ecology of Saras Cranes in the Indo-Gangetic flood plains.

- (v) The relationships among large herbivores, habitat and humans in Rajaji-Corbett National Parks.

(e) Directions have been issued to the institute to follow the guidelines issued by Government for reservation for the OBCs.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The current status of representation of OBC in Group 'A', 'B' & 'C' is as follows:

Organisation	Group 'A'	Group 'B'	Group 'C'
Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun	16	—	56
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	01	—	02
GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Pantnagar	01	01	01
Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore	01	—	02

Smuggling of Star Tortoises

3029. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of sudden spurt in smuggling of Star Tortoises to South East Asian Nations during the last two years;

(b) if so, the number of consignments of Star Tortoises seized during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken to check illegal trade of Star Tortoise in several parts of the country especially in North-West and South-East India?

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During last two years, 10 consignments comprising 6708 Star Tortoises have been seized at the airports of Chennai, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

(c) The State Governments of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and

Kerala have been directed to strengthen their protection machinery at the field level. The Custom Authorities and the Wildlife officials at Chennai and Mumbai are coordinating to check smuggling of Star Tortoises out of the country.

Sanction of Grants-in-aid for FP Units

3030. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation has submitted any proposal for sanction of grants-in-aid for food processing units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals received and approved so far;

(d) the number of proposals lying pending; and

(e) the reasons for pendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has provided on 15.2.2002 a grant of Rs. 200 lakhs being first instalment in respect of one Food Park project being implemented by Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation at Khurda, Orissa.

(d) No other proposal has been received from Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation.

(e) Doesn't arise.

Setting up of Reception Offices and Centres at Airports

3031. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open reception offices and centres for tourists at all airports in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government would give priority to training people rather than investing funds in the offices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Department of Tourism already have Tourist Information Centres at Major International/Domestic Airports.

(c) and (d) Training manpower in the Tourism Trade is most essential to ensure efficiency and better service. In order to provide trained guides for tourists, Department of Tourism organizes guide training courses at regional level. In addition, Department of Tourism has launched a comprehensive scheme "Capacity Building for Service Providers" for providing training to the tourism service providers consisting of small hotels, Dhaba, Restaurants etc. in the unorganized sectors. For this purpose, an amount of Rs. 2 crore has been provided in the year 2003-04.

Import of Coal and Iron Ore by Public Sector Steel Companies

3032. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector steel companies have to import huge amount of coal and iron ore for their use;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such companies are also having their own coal and iron ore mines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Public sector steel companies i.e. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) have to import coking coal to bridge the quantitative and qualitative gap between their requirement and indigenous availability. These companies do not import iron ore.

(b) Coking coal imports by SAIL and RINL during 2002-2003 was 7.54 million tonnes and 3.00 million tonnes respectively.

(c) and (d) RINL has no captive coking coal/iron ore mines. SAIL has captive iron ore mines but no coking coal mines. IISCO, a subsidiary of SAIL, has both coking coal and iron ore mines. The details thereof are given below:

I. Captive Iron Ore Mines

Sl.No.	Name of Mine	Location
1	2	3
A. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)		
1.	Kiriburu	Jharkhand
2.	Meghahtuburu	Jharkhand
3.	Bolani	Orissa
4.	Barsua	Orissa
5.	Kalta	Orissa
6.	Rajhara Mechanised Mine	Chhattisgarh
7.	Dalli Mechanised Mine	Chhattisgarh
8.	Jharandalli Mechanised Mine	Chhattisgarh
9.	Dalli Manual Mine	Chhattisgarh
10.	Mahamaya Manual Mine	Chhattisgarh
11.	Kemmangundi	Karnataka

1	2	3
B. IISCO		
1.	Gua	Jharkhand
2.	Chiria	Jharkhand
II. Captive Coking Coal Mines of IISCO		
1.	Chasnalla	Jharkhand
2.	Jitpur	Jharkhand
3.	Ramnagore	West Bengal

Desilting Gandak River in Bihar

3033. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gandhak River in Bihar is heavily silted as a result of which water is flowing only through 3 spans rather than 14 spans of Dhumaria Ghat Bridge on the said River;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to desilt the Gandhak river on priority basis; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) As per available information there are in all 15 spans in the Dhumariaghat bridge out of which water is flowing through four spans during the lean season, as there is some siltation in other spans. However in high discharge, Gandak water flows through all vents of Dhumariaghat bridge.

(b) and (c) As informed by Government of Bihar, there is no proposal with the State Government to desilt river Gandak. However, the Dhumariaghat bridge site was jointly inspected by the officials of Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar, Ganga Flood Control

Commission and Central Water & Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune to look into the problem during which CWPRS suggested some short term measures to be tried before the monsoon 2003. Subsequent to the above joint visit, a Committee of Technical Experts from the Government of Bihar also visited the site. The Government of Bihar has informed that based on the suggestions made by these experts, various anti erosion measure were taken by the State Government before the monsoon of 2003. In order to evolve long term solution, the CWPRS has suggested to the Government of Bihar to take up mathematical model study.

Indian Workers Abroad

3034. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) the number of Indian workers working in various countries of West Asia, country-wise;

(b) the percentage of migration from various states of the country of major foreign countries reported during the last three years;

(c) whether the Indian Missions, posts in these countries have adequate number of officers and staff to deal exclusively with the problems they face and to mediate when necessary with the employers and the authorities;

(d) if so, the strength of such staff, mission/post-wise; and

(e) if not the steps being initiated to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Country	Number of Indian workers	Percentage of migration from various states of the country	Strength of staff, mission/post-wise
	Part (a)	Part (b)	Part (d)
1	2	3	4
1. Bahrain	70,000 (estimate)	65%-Kerala 35%-Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab (estimates)	1-First Secretary/ Second Secretary 1-Attache 1-Local staff

1	2	3	4
2.	Kuwait	3,50,463	Information not available.
3.	Oman	2,78,630	60%-Kerala 20%-Other Southern States 20%-from rest of India (all estimates)
4.	Qatar	1,40,000 (estimate)	Not available
5.	Saudi Arabia	11,50,000	40-50%-Kerala Andhra Pradesh 20%-Tamil Nadu 15%-20%-Other States (all estimates)
6.	United Arab Emirates	Not available (No Census has been conducted by the Government of United Arab Emirates since 1982). However the number of Indian is one million.	Not available (No Census has been conducted by the Government of United Arab Emirates since 1982).

Wine Industry

3035. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign wine companies are eyeing the huge Indian market when the indigenous industry is still in infancy in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps the Government proposes to take to protect the Indian industry and push exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) The Government is not aware of any significant impact of foreign wine companies on the Indian market so far. The steps taken for promotion/protection of Indian Wine Industry and to promote exports by the Government of India include the following:

- (i) Appropriate import tariffs are levied on imported wine;
- (ii) Plan schemes provide for grant of financial assistance for setting up/modernization of wine units;

- (iii) Financial assistance is provided under the Plan schemes of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for quality development, Research and Development and for market development of Indian wine in major international trade fairs.

Contract Labour Act

3036. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government proposes to exclude some of the services from the purview of Contract Labour Abolition Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government has also decided to exclude IT related works and works relating to special economic zones from the said Act; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) A Group of Ministers has been set up to examine the proposal for amendment to the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. One of the proposals relate to amendment in provision regarding prohibition of employment of contract labour with a view to allow engagement of contract labour by establishments in certain supportive or peripheral activities including IT related works and works relating to special economic zones.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes to Develop Tourism

3037. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been undertaken in North Eastern States for development of tourism; and

(b) if so, the details of schemes sanctioned and assistance released to the State Governments for implementation of such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism, Government of India has undertaken development of tourism in the North East Region under its schemes for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits

and product, Infrastructure & destination Development. Besides, the Department of Tourism also provides assistance for tourism promotional activities of the North-East Region. Details of projects sanctioned to North-East Region during 10th Five Year Plan so far, are as follows:

State	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released (Rs. in Lakhs)
Assam	923.59	773.91
Arunachal Pradesh	198.84	154.40
Manipur	87.68	27.35
Meghalaya	71.85	22.40
Mizoram	347.01	115.21
Nagaland	816.50	460.23
Tripura	258.34	82.94
Sikkim	896.74	449.01

Refurbishment of Monuments

3038. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the monuments refurbished during the last three years, State-wise particularly in the States of Gujarat and Kerala;

(b) the amount allocated and actually spent thereon;

(c) the details of the monuments identified for refurbishment during the last three years, State-wise particularly in the States of Kerala and Gujarat; and

(d) the steps taken for the conservation of the said monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (c) The state-wise number of monuments including those in Kerala and Gujarat and expenditure incurred in conservation, chemical preservation and development works thereon during the last three years are given at statement-I and II respectively.

(b) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Statement I

S.No.	Name of State	Number of Monuments conserved during the year		
		2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29	42	54
2.	Assam	20	27	27
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	1
4.	Bihar	9	12	11
5.	Delhi	35	35	79
6.	Daman & Diu	6	6	3
7.	Goa	8	10	10
8.	Gujarat	60	55	36
9.	Haryana	12	11	9
10.	Himachal Pradesh	16	19	5
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	15	25	17
12.	Jharkhand	—	—	1
13.	Karnataka	82	96	72
14.	Kerala	10	7	2
15.	Madhya Pradesh	42	48	25
16.	Maharashtra	23	42	29
17.	Manipur	1	1	1
18.	Meghalaya	2	2	2
19.	Nagaland	1	1	1
20.	Orissa	24	25	24
21.	Pondicherry	—	3	1
22.	Punjab	9	9	5
23.	Rajasthan	40	52	31
24.	Sikkim	—	5	4
25.	Tamil Nadu	25	35	12
26.	Tripura	5	5	5
27.	Uttar Pradesh	78	85	93
28.	West Bengal	20	41	12
29.	Uttamachal	5	10	9
Total		578	710	582

Statement II

Rs. in Lakhs				
S.No.	State/Union Territory	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1.	Andhra Pradesh	136.29	114.39	417.16
2.	Assam	120.18	99.58	89.49
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	1.80	0.39
4.	Bihar	134.00	86.48	112.21
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	16.70	5.75
6.	Delhi	219.96	277.14	996.75
7.	Daman & Diu	15.00	23.61	15.69
8.	Goa	39.77	50.61	82.57
9.	Gujarat	100.67	99.59	35.36
10.	Haryana	60.00	91.85	141.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	80.00	91.11	44.45
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	112.60	145.03	121.23
13.	Jharkhand	—	4.33	8.07
14.	Karnataka	248.13	476.19	1143.68
15.	Kerala	79.50	75.12	18.26
16.	Madhya Pradesh	1.64	250.51	317.31
17.	Maharashtra	153.00	828.49	308.05
18.	Manipur	0.50	1.42	0.27
19.	Meghalaya	2.00	4.94	4.44
20.	Nagaland	3.00	5.67	12.92
21.	Orissa	56.03	114.73	1021.69
22.	Pondicherry (UT)	15.00	3.30	1.63
23.	Punjab	23.00	57.92	40.14
24.	Rajasthan	174.69	235.00	240.22
25.	Sikkim	20.00	27.60	32.99
26.	Tamil Nadu	110.80	187.79	233.20
27.	Tripura	5.00	17.05	20.05
28.	Uttar Pradesh	297.11	385.13	710.64
29.	Uttaranchal	—	36.52	64.13
30.	West Bengal	80.70	146.13	260.18
Total		2388.61	3955.73	6499.92

Liberalisation of Civil Aviation Sector

3039. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI BHASKAR RAO PATIL:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the slow pace of liberalisation of the Civil Aviation sector has adversely affected the tourism sector in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sub-Committee on Jute Industry

3040. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government had set-up a sub-committee on jute industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the committee has submitted its report within a stipulated period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a Sub-committee on Jute Industry was constituted on 13.11.2003. It comprises of a representative each from the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Textiles, State Government of West Bengal and two representatives each from the Employers' and the Workers' Organisations.

(c) to (e) The Sub-committee has, so far, met once on 27.11.2003.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table. Item No. 2.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Where is the DMK Minister Shri Baalu? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Prime Minister has authorised Km. Mamta Banerjee...

[English]

For item No. 2, Kumari Mamta Banerjee has been authorised.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, of course, the two Ministers belonging to the DMK have resigned. They should come before this House and say as to why they have resigned. This is a question of propriety. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If they would seek permission, I will grant them.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8648/2003]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pollution Control Board, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Pollution Control Board, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8649/2003]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Narmada Control Authority, Indore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8650/2003]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8651/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House:

- (1) A copy of the Employee's Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 430 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 2003 under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8652/2003]

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- (3) A copy of the Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in

Notification No. G.S.R. 300 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd August, 2003, under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8653/2003]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2492 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 2003 specifying materials management as a subject field in engineering and technology as designated trade, for Graduate and Technician Apprentices, issued under section 2 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8654/2003]

- (5) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) of the ILO Instruments—Protocol of 1995 to the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 82nd Session, and Protocol of 2002 to the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981; Recommendation No. 193 concerning Promotion of Cooperatives; and Recommendation No. 194 concerning the List of Occupational Diseases and the Recording and Notification of Occupational Accidents and Diseases adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 90th Session held in Geneva.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8655/2003]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Instructional Media Institute, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Instructional Media Institute, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8656/2003]

- (7) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employee's State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (8) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employee's Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8657/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8658/2003]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the MSTC Limited including its subsidiaries Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the MSTC Limited including its subsidiaries Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8659/2003]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Manganese Ore (India) Limited, Nagpur, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Manganese Ore (India) Limited, Nagpur, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8660/2003]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and

comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8661/2003]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8662/2003]

(f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mecon Limited, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Mecon Limited, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8663/2003]

(g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Steel Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Steel Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8664/2003]

(h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8665/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 43 of the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994:

(i) The Airports Authority of India (Travelling Allowance and Daily Allowance) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. AAI/PERS/EDPA/REG/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 2003, together with an explanatory note.

(ii) The Airports Authority of India (Leave Travel Concession) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. AAI/PERS/EDPA/REG/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 14th July, 2003, together with an explanatory note.

(iii) The Airports Authority of India (House Building Advance) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. AAI/PERS/EDPA/REG/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2003, together with an explanatory note.

(iv) The Airports Authority of India (Gratuity) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. AAI/PERS/EDPA/REG/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2003, together with an explanatory note.

(2) Four statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8666/2003]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8667/2003]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8668/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ch. Vidyasagar Rao, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8669/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House:

(1) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) Annual Report of the West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8670/2003]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Uttar Pradesh State Agro Industrial Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) Annual Report of the Uttar Pradesh State Agro Industrial Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8671/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks of Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8672/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Labour Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Labour Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8673/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8674/2003]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks'

Federation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8675/2003]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Bank Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8676/2003]

- (8) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8677/2003]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and

comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8678/2003]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8679/2003]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8680/2003]

- (11) A copy of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 738 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2003 under section 97 Protection of the Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8681/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House.

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts

and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8682/2003]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8683/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Bhavnaben D. Chikhaliya, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the M.P. Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the M.P. Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8684/2003]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Dony Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Dony Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Dony Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Dony Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item Nos. (b and c) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8685/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8686/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Culture Fund, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Culture Fund, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8687/2003]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8688/2003]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday, the 15th December, 2003 adopted the following Motion in regard to the Committee on Public Accounts:

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one Member from Rajya Sabha, to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Lok Sabha for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri C.P. Thirunavukkarasu retired from the Rajya Sabha and do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee".

- 2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above Motion Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi, Member, Rajya Sabha has been duly elected to the said Committee.'

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Fifty-eighth, Fifty-ninth and Sixtieth Reports

[English]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2003-2004):

- (1) Fifty-eighth Report of PAC [13th Lok Sabha] on "Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (2001-2002)"
- (2) Fifty-ninth Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken on Thirty-third Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) on "Acquisition of SU-30 Aircraft".
- (3) Sixtieth Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken on Twenty-ninth Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) on "Aircraft Accidents in Indian Air Force".

12.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Twenty-eighth Report and Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I present the 28th Report (Hindi and English Version) of the Committee in regard to the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs (Department of Expenditure—Banking Division) regarding the Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 24th Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in respect of the policy of recruitment of employees in various nationalized banks after disbanding Banking Service Recruitment Boards, and the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee thereto.

12.05 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Seventeenth Report

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of the Committee (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Violence Against Women During Riots'.

12.05½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Action Taken Statements

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following

Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women:

- (1) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Tenth Report on the Action Taken on Second Report of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Functioning of National and State Commissions for Women';
- (2) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report on the Action Taken on Fifth Report of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Functioning of Family Courts'.
- (3) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report on the Action Taken on Fourth Report of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Health and Family Welfare Programmes for Women'.

12.06 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Fifty-fourth to Sixty-fourth Reports and First Study Tour Report

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology:—

- (1) Fifty-fourth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Twenty-sixth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Complaints/Grievances redressal machinery in DoT/BSNL/MTNL relating to the Department of Telecommunications.
- (2) Fifty-fifth Report on Working of directorate of Field Publicity (DFP) relating to Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- (3) Fifty-sixth Report on Working of National Informatics Centre (NIC) relating to Department of Information Technology.

- (4) Fifty-seventh Report on Working of Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) relating to Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- (5) Fifty-eighth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Forty-first Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Procurement of WLL equipment relating to the Department of Telecommunications.
- (6) Fifty-ninth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Forty-seventh Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) relating to the Department of Information Technology.
- (7) Sixtieth Report on Implementation of Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme relating to Department of Information Technology.
- (8) Sixty-first Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Thirty-second Report on Entry of Foreign Print Media and Foreign Direct Investment in Print Media relating to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- (9) Sixty-second Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Forty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) relating to the Department of Posts.
- (10) Sixty-third Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Forty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) relating to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- (11) Sixty-fourth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Forty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) relating to the Department of Telecommunications.
- (*12) First Study Tour Report on the study visit of the Committee to Srinagar, Jammu, Chandigarh and Shimla from 18 to 24 June, 2003.

*Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Chairman of the Committee, presented the Study report to the Hon'ble Speaker when the House was not in session under Direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker and orders for printing, publication and circulation of the Report was also obtained from the Hon'ble Speaker under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

12.06½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Fifty-fifth Report

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Fifty-fifth report on Credit Flow to Agriculture—Crisis in Rural Economy and Crop Insurance Scheme (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance.

12.07 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE

Thirty-eighth Report

[English]

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (Nominated): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Thirty-eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on 'The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2003'.

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Laying of papers on the Table of the House is still going on. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

12.08 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

One hundred-thirtieth to One hundred-thirty seventh Reports

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Industry:

- (1) 130th Report on Credit Flow to SSI Sector in Himachal Pradesh (Ministry of Small Scale Industries);

- (2) 131st Report on Constraints in Industrial Development of North Eastern Region (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises);
- (3) 132nd Report on MoU performance in respect of PSUs of Power Sector (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises);
- (4) 133rd Report on Action Taken by the Government on Recommendations contained in the Committee's 117th Report on Demands for Grants (2003-04) (Ministry of Small Scale Industries);
- (5) 134th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Committee's 119th Report on Demands for Grants (2003-04) (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises);
- (6) 135th Report on Action Taken by the Government on Recommendations contained in the Committee's 120th Report on Demands for Grants (2003-04) (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises);
- (7) 136th Report on Action taken by the Government on Recommendations contained in the Committee's 127th Report on MoU performance in respect of PSUs of Shipping Industry, (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises); and
- (8) 137th Report on Action Taken by the Government on Recommendations contained in Committee's 122nd Report on Demands for Grants (2003-04) (Ministry of Steel).

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Muslim University issue is very important. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, the Session of the House will be over tomorrow. It is a serious issue. Could we know whether the Minister would definitely make a statement on the issue? ...*(Interruptions)* The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayashree Banerjee has laid papers before the House. Please sit down.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is all right. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Can you not look that side? You please sit down. Banerjee ji is on her legs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Calling Attention is going to start now. After that you can raise the point you want to. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after that no time will be left with the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Minister is sitting right here in the House. Please ask him to make a statement on Haj Yatra. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, yesterday, you had made a statement in the House. I am just asking the hon. Minister about the Haj Yatra. You were to go before the Cabinet to get a decision from the Cabinet as early as possible. The hon. Members are anxious to know what has happened in the Cabinet, could you tell them?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Cabinet has done nothing. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please let me know what he has to say. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Minister had given a commitment in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Sir, if you correctly recall, when the issue was raised by hon. Members regarding the deferment of the conditions

imposed for *Haj* this year, I had said:

"We have taken up the matter again. We shall be taking it to the Cabinet for consideration."

I never said that it was a decision. If you very well recall, I said that this was a proposal which had to be taken to the Cabinet. There were three conditions imposed this year for the *Hajis* who have to travel for the *Haj* pilgrimage. There were three conditions. Number one was that it would just be permitted once in a lifetime for a *Haj* to be availed on subsidy. The second was that they should stay on the arrangement made by the *Haj* Committee. The third was that he should not be an income tax-payee. This was decided by the Cabinet, sometime, in September that all those *Hajis*, who wish to go on *Haj* Pilgrimage, will have to file an affidavit declaring that these conditions are abided by.

So far, out of 72,00 *Hajis*, who have to go out, we have already received around 55,000 affidavits. But since, it was a matter raised by the hon. Members and directed by you, we took the issue with the Cabinet. The Cabinet felt and reiterated its decision that the conditions of fulfilment of filing of affidavits should continue because it would be discriminatory against those 55,000 people who have already filed their affidavits. In that procedure, we have also decided now to continue with that decision. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can complete your reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not fair from any standard.

MR. SPEAKER: You asked your question and hon. Minister is giving reply, so you should at least, listen to him first.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not heard, it is not completed as yet. Let the Minister's reply come.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, it was also said that problem is being felt, in filing the affidavits, because of which probably many people will not be able to submit the affidavits. Therefore, the *Haj* Committee has decided that the applicants who have not been able to submit affidavit, they can submit the affidavit at the time of

check-in and. Notary is being called there and then they can proceed on this journey. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not question hour, the hon. Minister has given the reply.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is for the first time that the Government has come out against the *Haj* Prigrims in this manner. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, this is the first time that the Government of India came out heavily against the *Haj* Pilgrims in this fashion and manner. We, from our side, strongly condemn the conduct of the Government in this matter. Sir, in matters of pilgrimage, never their *bonafide* or integrity was questioned. This is the first time they are doing it. They have a right to go on pilgrimage any number of times, how can they decide it as one time or second time. This is absolutely improper in a country like ours. ...(*Interruptions*) It should be condemned. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): If they want to go for the second or third time then they should not take subsidy from the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have given permission to Alviji, please sit down.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: We fully condemn this step of the Government. Hon. Minister himself has said that 55 thousand affidavits have been submitted where as 72 thousand people had applied for it and 17 thousand people have not submitted affidavit so far. Think about it as to what will happen to 17 thousand out of 72 thousand people?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker Sir, this is a very condemnable decision of the Government. It is a very unnecessary, unwarranted, unsatisfied encroachment upon the rights to perform religious functions. ...(*Interruptions*) We condemn this decision of the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The Government has taken a decision and they have conveyed the decision to the House as promised in the earlier meeting. The matter is over now.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, you may have difference of opinion with the Government.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the decision taken by the Government in September in highly impractical. The hon. Minister had committed in this House, the Government would withdraw the decision which discriminates against Haj Pilgrims.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This subject cannot be discussed now. The hon. Minister has replied.

Now, we go to the Calling attention notice. Shri Ramesh Chennithala to start.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: (Kanpur): It's a gross injustice, the biased decision taken by the Government will be strongly protested.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Therefore, a formal reply should come first regarding this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Please make your submission on Calling Attention Notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You gave the notice, I asked the hon. Minister to reply and that was replied by the hon. Minister. Though, there was no Zero Hour, yet, I gave you permission to speak. How can you do like this?

...(Interruptions)

12.15 hrs.

(Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other hon. Members then left the House)

MR. SPEAKER: Alright you drew the attention. The hon. Minister will give statement now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 17 thousand such Haj Pilgrims who could not be able to go to Haj. Therefore, we also walk out. ...(Interruptions)

12.15½ hrs.

(Shri Rashid Alvi and some other hon. Members then left the House)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Is the hon. Member, who is calling my attention, also walking out?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please read out your reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not fortunate enough that he should stage walk out on your statement.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Please record our walk-out. We, from the Muslim League, also walk out against the decision. Please record it.

MR. SPEAKER: Everything is recorded in the House.

12.16 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri G.M. Banatwalla and another hon. Member left the House.)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Do they grant subsidy to the pilgrims of any other religion. Do they give subsidy to the Pilgrims of Badrinath and Amarnath?

...(Interruptions)

12.17 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Reported: Need for speedy implementation of
various ongoing Railway Projects in the
State of Kerala**

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Speaker Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Railways

to following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The need for speedy implementation of various ongoing Railway Projects in the State of Kerala."

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Railways have undertaken large number of projects for development of rail infrastructure throughout the country. The projects have been taken up not only on operational considerations but also for providing rail infrastructure in the backward, hilly and remote areas of the country including Jammu & Kashmir and the North-East Region. The endeavour of the Ministry of Railways is to provide better rail connectivity to various parts of the country expeditiously but, at the same time, there are limitation of resources.

The projects, all over the country, have been given a thrust in the past few years and in Kerala also, the project implementation has expedited. There has been a unanimous demand from all the Members of Parliament of Kerala for doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore line. I am happy to state that out of total of 307 km. of doubling of this line, 211 km. has already been completed and another 30 km. is targeted for completion during 2003-2004. It is hoped that the entire doubling would be completed by 2004-2005.

Another popular demand has been of doubling of Ernakulam-Kayankulam lines both via Alleppey and Kottayam. Doubling of these lines has already been taken up and is being sanctioned in phases. Till now, work is in various stages of progress on 50 km. length out of total 215 km. on the two routes. The work of new lines from Angamali to Sabarimala, Kottayam to Erumeli and coastal line from Tanur to Guruvayoor has also been taken up. The gauge conversion of Quilon-Tenkasi-Tirunelveli is also in progress. Difficulties are being faced in finalising the alignment of Angamali-Sabarimala and Kottayam-Erumeli new lines. There have been court cases and stiff resistance from the people of the area as some of the habitated areas are getting affected. recently, State Government has advised that the Estimates Committee (2001-2004) of the Kerala Legislative Assembly has recommended that the proposed new Sabari Railway Line may be terminated before the forest area as railway line through the forest area would be a threat to the wildlife. Keeping this in view, the line may have to be terminated short of forest area.

At present, Erode-Shoranur-Ernakulam route is electrified. to extend the electrified operations, work of

electrification beyond Emakulam up to Trivandrum (320 route km.) is already in progress and is likely to be completed during 2004-2005.

There have been repeated demands for introduction of new trains from/to Trivandrum. The existing coaching terminal is becoming a constraint. The remove the terminal bottlenecks, the work of additional terminal at Kochuveli has already been taken up.

The completion of the ongoing projects would add to 488 km. of Broad Gauge lines and 285 km. of electrified lines.

As regards funding of projects, it is mentioned that 2002-2003 onwards funds are being allocated State-wise based on a rational formula. According to this formula, a weightage of 15 per cent each has been considered for the area and population of a State and a higher weightage of 70 percentage has been accorded to the throw-forward of Railway projects in the State. Accordingly, Rs. 93.82 crore were allocated to various projects in the State during 2002-03 i.e. Rs. 10.02 crore under new lines, Rs. 68.79 crore under Doublings and Rs. 15.01 crore under Railway electrification. Against this, an expenditure of about Rs. 120 crore was incurred. During 2003-04, an allocation of Rs. 100.48 crore has been provided for various projects in the State i.e. Rs. 15 crore under new lines, Rs. 63.51 crore under Doublings and Rs. 21.97 crore under Railway Electrification.

There is a heavy throw-forward of over Rs. 44,000 crore of projects, spread in all the States in the country, as on 1.4.2003. The need for expediting the progress of ongoing projects have been felt and in the last two years concerted efforts have been made through various initiatives to generate additional resources other than normal budgetary support. These include public/private partnership, participation of State Governments and Ministry of Defence and additional project specific funds for national projects in Jammu and Kashmir and funds through National Rail Vikas Yojana. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire opposition has walked out ...(*Interruptions*). The Government is turning deaf ear to this ...(*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This issue is over.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Railway Minister's Statement.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not given you permission. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: With all these initiatives, the funding of projects has increased considerably and it is expected that the ongoing projects may get completed in a timeframe of about 10 years.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Chennithala, you can ask only clarificatory questions from the Minister.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, Railways have undertaken various projects for better connectivity in the State of Kerala. My only appeal to the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, is that time bound and speedy implementation of the projects would only give result to the people.

Sir, a unanimous decision of all the Members of Parliament from Kerala had been taken in the Tenth Lok Sabha regarding the doubling of Mangalore-Shoranur railway project and I was a Member in the Tenth Lok Sabha. We unanimously resolved and given the proposal to the Railway Minister for the doubling of Mangalore-Shoranur railway line. Sir, the hon. Minister in his answer is saying that by 2004-05 this doubling project will be completed. I think, Sir, this is a long period and unnecessary delay is there in implementing this project. When a project is delayed, cost overrun will be there and huge amount will be spent unnecessarily. So, time bound programme should be there for the completion of each and every project on time. Sir, 14 years had gone in regard to this project. Still, this project is not completed. Shoranur-Mangalore line doubling is very important.

Sir, Konkan Railway came into existence and the benefit of Konkan Railway will get to the people of Kerala only when this doubling project is completed. Inordinate delay in execution of this project should be avoided. Concrete measures must be taken by the Government. That is number one.

Secondly, all the 20 Members of Parliament from Kerala, cutting across Party lines, had resolved and given a proposal to the hon. Minister for earmarking sufficient funds in regard to doubling of Kayamkulam to Ernakulam via Kottayam and Allepey. The Railway Minister was kind enough to allot some amount for this project but that amount is not sufficient to complete this project. Within three or four years, this whole project should be completed. For that, sufficient funds should be provided.

Sir, along with the doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore line, electrification work should be taken up simultaneously.

Sir, doubling and electrification of Trivandrum-Kanyakumari line is a long standing demand of the people of South. This also should be included in the new project.

Sir, more funds should be provided for Kolam-Punalur gauge conversion. A very few amount has been earmarked for this. Shri K. Suresh has been arguing for this right from the beginning and adequate funds should be provided for this project.

The second coaching terminal at Kochuveli in Trivandrum is very much needed because of overcrowding of trains. If any train has to come to Trivandrum, it comes through Kochuveli. So, the second terminal at Kochuveli should be developed. First phase of this project is over. More funds should be provided for the second phase of this project.

Sir, allotment of more funds for Angamali to Sabarimala line and Kottayam to Erumeli line is a must. Of course, there are certain bottlenecks regarding land acquisition and the State Government is expediting this matter. So, more funds should be provided for these projects. Sanction may be accorded to the new railway line Edapalli-Tirur, which is a coastal line and it is a longstanding demand from the people of Kerala.

Sir, I would like to conclude by citing a very important and vital issue, which is agitating in the minds of everybody, and that is regarding funds allotment. After Shri Nitish Kumar became a Minister of Railways, he has earmarked funds for every State, and 2002-03 onwards funds have been allotted to the State Governments on a formula, under which a weightage of 15 per cent each has been considered for the area and population of a State. Sir, Kerala is a State which is strictly following the family planning programmes and population is drastically coming down. Sir, we are vigorously following these programmes and we should not be punished for this. The Railway Minister is

*Not Recorded.

earmarking funds on the basis of population. We are religiously following the family planning programmes. So, we should not be punished for this. This is a national concern. The issue of family planning is a major issue before the nation. We are religiously following that. Unfortunately, Railways are also following the same standard. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I will conclude within a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Chennithala, I want to allot some time for 'Zero Hour' also. So, please conclude. Only clarificatory questions can be asked in this debate. No speech is allowed. Please co-operate.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Now, I come to the last point.

For that, Kerala should not be punished. Only a weightage of 15 per cent each has been considered for the area and population of a State.

In 2002-03, Rs. 93 crore were allocated. In 2003-04, Rs. 100 crore were allocated. I request the hon. Railway Minister to earmark more funds to the State of Kerala even though population of Kerala is coming down drastically. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. Now, Shri E. Ahamed.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: ROBs should be given more priority.

Sir, Kayamkulam, Mavelikara, Changanur and Thiruvalla stations must be developed. So, more funds should be given to Sabarimala pilgrims and also construction of shelters for the Sabarimala pilgrims must be done in Changanur Station.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed, you can ask only clarificatory questions.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, I would like to substantiate what my dear friend, Shri Ramesh Chennithala has said.

Sir, I am speaking about an area in Kerala, where there was a century old railway line, and that is the Malabar area. When the railway started, this was covered. I would like to point out that the estimated amount for doubling Calicut-Shoranur railway line was Rs. 179 crore. Up to March 2003, only Rs. 94 crore had been released. Out of the balance amount of Rs. 85 crore, for 2003-04,

Railways had released only Rs. 7.5 crore. A sum of Rs. 78.5 crore remains to be released. If this is the place of development, which the Government would like to have, how will you be able to complete this project? This is the most important problem.

Sir, on that side, most important railway stations are there and only Feroke railway station has got some development. Parappanangadi, Kuttipuram, Tanur, Tirur. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask only clarificatory questions. No speech is allowed in this debate.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, this is the only time when I will be able to mention all these.

There are no developments in regard to Parappanangadi, Kuttipuram, Tirur and Tanur stations. Sir, if there is no railway, there will be survey. That is the policy of this Government because Tanur-Guruvayoor line has not been taken up so far.

Edapalli-Tanur line has not been mentioned at all. Again, Malabar Express and all the other trains running from Mangalore to Trivandrum do not have the sufficient number of coaches. There are only 17 to 18 coaches. Why are we being punished?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed, please co-operate. Please sit down. Now, Shri Jos.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Is it only because we are travelling and we are being punished? The Railways should rethink, review and rearrange all these things. Only because we are progressive and we following the Government policies, we are being punished. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, hereafter, only whatever Shri Jos says would go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: I want to take up the 'Zero Hour' also in the House.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Sir, I totally agree with the points raised by Shri Ramesh Chennithala as well as Shri Ahamed. I am reiterating again the importance of doubling Mangalore-Shoranur line. As per the Minister's statement, 211 kilometres will be completed. Sir,

*Not Recorded.

[Shri A.C. Jos]

57 kilometres more are to be completed, and for that money is to be allotted.

Sir, you know Kerala is a lengthy, a straight line State. Unless the doubling from Sherman, Mangalapuram to Trivandrum is not completed, all the benefits will not be there. So, our request is that there should be a special consideration. I do not attribute any motive, but we are the only people who really pay for our travelling on the trains. In many States, the ticketless travels are mounting. So, we are the only State where all the people take tickets, and the revenue from the travelling public is much more than any other State. So, more consideration is to be given for us, for doubling of the tracks.

I have to request you another thing, that is, about the Tanur-Guruvayur line. There is some confusion regarding the alignment. My request to the hon. Minister is to give instruction to go through the least habitable area because Kerala is a densely populated area. There are a lot of complaints coming from Tanur and Guruvayur. I have written to the hon. Minister. So, again that survey has to be looked into and instructions may be given that it may go through the least troubled area so that it can be completed early.

I have two more things to say. The weekly Mangalore-Trivandrum, Mauviel Express may be converted into a daily express. Now, there is one weekly express, and that may be converted into a daily express.

Kerala is known for its tourism. In Rajasthan, there is a train in the name of Place on Wheel. We do not need any Place on Wheel. At least a bungalow may be given to us, to the people of Kerala.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): I support that.

SHRI A.C. JOS: We all support it. So, a tourism train may be given to Kerala connecting Hyderabad, Chennai, Cochin, etc. It is a novel scheme. It is a beautiful idea. That can be done. Another thing is that a Calicut-Goa Shatabdi Express may be introduced to promote tourism. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, you can start speaking.

SHRI A.C. JOS: The Tanur-Guruvayur line may be going through the less troubled area. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only clarificatory question is to be asked.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will be recording only your statement.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I would like to call the attention of the hon. Minister to the following urgent issues that the Kerala people are facing. The first and the foremost thing that I would like to request the hon. Minister is to substitute the old and dilapidated compartments that are now available in plenty in Kerala. During rainy season, we cannot travel in the railway compartments because the entire rainwater will be inside the compartments. That is the position. So, you must do it immediately and remove all those dilapidated and old compartments.

Secondly, a new railway station at Nedumbassery will have to be started because an international airport is there.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask questions to the Minister.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Thirdly, I would like to request him to extend the Sabarimala railway line via Punalur and Nedumangad reaching Trivandrum. There is already a survey which has been conducted. The Sabari train must come to Trivandrum. Otherwise, it is meaningless. It must also pass through Nedumangad, Punalur and Kilimanoor. All these places can be covered by an extension. It will be a profitable project on commercial basis.

Now, there is a long-standing demand of the people of Thiruvananthapuram for a new terminus but work has not started on that. The work has to be started forthwith. Otherwise the difficulties faced by the travelling public would increase manifold. Though the work was taken up, it is moving at a very slow pace. This is why I am putting this important matter before the hon. Minister.

The Guruvayoor Express is not provided with first class coaches. This train should be provided first class coaches.

Another demand of the people of Kerala relates to the early completion of the Nilambur Road-Nangangud railway line where the work is going on in a very slow manner. Hereafter, the hon. Minister should show some mercy in respect of demands of the people of Kerala.

There is an attempt to bifurcate the two railway divisions in Kerala. The Thiruvananthapuram division is proposed to be bifurcated and a new division is proposed

to be formed so that the Thiruvananthapuram division could be eventually closed. The Palakkad division is also sought to be bifurcated. The hon. Minister should not do it. Otherwise, he would be inviting a serious agitation from the people of Kerala because these two railway divisions would disappear. On no account should he take the decision to bifurcate the existing two divisions of Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad. They have to be maintained as they are. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Sir, I may be allowed to ask one question. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, one Member whose name figures in the list is absent. So, you may permit him.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, I may also be given a chance. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: There are issues related to developmental projects and the Government is not taking them seriously. That is why all hon. Members are concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh, I will allow you to put a straight question. I would not allow any speech.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: All right.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Premajam, I would permit you also provided you too ask a straight question.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, this is regarding gauge conversion from Kollam to Punalur and from Punalur to Tenkasi. I would like to know when work would be taken up on these sections and it would be completed.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for this opportunity.

There is a dearth of funds in the Railways. I have given Rs. 60 lakh for two projects under the MPLADS. It is with the Ministry of Railways for two years. I would specifically like to know what is the objection in accepting my MPLADS funds for railway projects where the Ministry has not provided any budget.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut): Sir, please allow me also to ask only one question.

MR. SPEAKER: No more questions please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: I would just like the hon. Minister to mention about the electrification of the Shoranur-Mangalore line.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may respond to this also.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Will there remain something for other States after fulfilling all these demands?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Please ask this from Rameshji who is sitting beside you.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have replied to most of the supplementary questions asked by the hon. Members, in answer to the original question. So far as the railway projects are concerned, two-three points need to be explained in that. A question was raised by him that the policy which we have made for the year 2002-2003 according to which we will distribute the available resources among all the states. We have prepared a formulae for that I had submitted that while presenting the rail budget for the year 2002-2003. We have made 15 percent allocation each on the basis of population and area and while making 70 percent allocation, weightage has been given to all pending railway projects in that state which require funds for completing them. Population alone has not been given weightage.

This has been said here in Parliament and Standing Committee has also considered that. All these things have been done. Now that has stabilised, Area has been taken into it but the major part relates to throw forward. The maximum of 70 percent weightage has been given for the completion of sanctioned projects in any state. Therefore, there should not be any problem in it. For example, I would like to say that the share of Kerala for the year 2002-2003 was Rs. 93.82 crore but we spent Rs. 120 crore there i.e. expenditure exceeded the share. You are talking of population but even if this is ignored, your share will not come to this level. The reason for it is that the project which we consider sanctioned, the work is going on the doubling project which is from Soranur to Maigalur, remaining works have been completed. We are allocating funds for that. This time 30 Kilometers will be completed and next year this project will be completed. We have made it time-bound and we are committed to complete the projects of entire country in a time-bound manner.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, Kerala is not.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: How can I answer this question? He meets me regularly. He gets his problems sorted out. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you need not answer to his question. You can complete your reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: This doubling project will be completed, because it is a time bound project. Secondly hon'ble members have mentioned about doubling of Kotayam-Allepey line. Railway assumed that since lines are operational on two routes so these lines have been treated as doubling. But the hon'ble members from Kerala do not think so and they have demanded that both the lines should be doubled. Two lines are operational between Ernakulam-Kayankulam and both are being doubled. I also visited the area under Parliamentary Constituency of the hon'ble member. Foundation stone had been laid and the work has been started. Work of doubling is being undertaken one-by-one. Everybody knows very well about the attention being paid by me towards this work. Work is being done keeping in view their feelings. Work of electrification is also in progress and sanctioned work of electrification will be completed by the year 2004-2005. I am paying attention towards all the projects. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: His constituency people must know that he is raising the question. So, there is nothing wrong in raising that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: He is well within his rights.

[Translation]

Hon'ble members have raised the question about gauge conversion. Earth work is going on in Quilon to Punalur line.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Only earth work is going on. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: yes, earth work will take place. First of all, what will you do? How can you do anything without earth work and bridge work? The primary work is earth work. We have already taken up the work. So, he must be satisfied. If he is not satisfied, then I am ready to go along with him to his constituency to see how the work is progressing. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

When all works are going on smoothly then is it necessary to raise this question here?

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Only partially some earth work is going on and RoB work has not been taken up. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Quilon to Punalur work has been taken up, but Quilon to Tenaksi work has not been taken up. ...(Interruptions) That portion is ghat section. You are also aware of it. That is a very difficult terrain. Final location survey has already been ordered. What we have to do is the Ghat section. You are aware of it. ...(Interruptions) It is a difficult terrain. You are all aware of it. It will take time. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, there is no need to reply the questions which are being asked intermittently. Please give your reply.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: By accepting this calling attention you have opened the Pandora's Box. You are supreme, and I am ready to reply to question for which you will allow me.

So far as Angamali-Sabarimala is concerned, the government of Kerala have stated that there is a problem in passing the line through forest area we will take a decision in this regard and terminate this line at Ajutha. Work of finalisation of location has been completed. All things are being done. Due to these reasons, progress of work was delayed, but now on the request of the government of Kerala, matter has been resolved. Besides this we need cooperation of the hon'ble members, particularly for acquiring land. There is a problem of land acquisition in some habited areas. I request you to use your influence to get this work done.

I want to inform the hon'ble members regarding tourist trains they mentioned. We are going to start a Deccan Oddissi train with the cooperation of Department of Tourism of Maharashtra Government; as Palace-on-wheel is being run in Rajasthan. Hon'ble Prime Minister is going to inaugurate it on 16th January. An agreement with Government of Karnataka is in the final stage. A tourist train will be started with their cooperation. If the government of Kerala want to have such arrangement then it should send a proposal. We will consider it. We have three models. One is Palace-on-wheel in Rajasthan, second is Deccan-Oddissi in Maharashtra and third with the government of Karnataka which is in the pipeline. If the Government of Kerala want to go in this direction, it may initiate it by holding discussions.

Smt. (Prof.) A.K. Premajam has given a proposal to use the funds of MPLADS in Railway projects. The projects where funds under MPLADS can be used is decided by the Ministry of Programme Implementation.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has already given sanctioned for my proposal.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: If it is agreed to, railway will feel happy that it is getting funds. We are working with the state governments in partnership. work is being done in Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Maharashtra with the cooperation of their respective governments. Ministry of Defence is also cooperating. Many more state governments are participating in it. We have partnership with private sector also. We want to mobilise funds from other sources also. We have taken non-budgetary initiatives also. We have formulated National Railway Development scheme. Railway Development Corporation has been constituted to mobilise external funds for important projects having Golden Quadrilateral and Port connectivity. We want to borrow funds. We are doing everything possible to complete the projects of all the states within the prescribe time-limit. To complete these projects, funds are being mobilised from other sources also. Project of Kashmir is a national project for which we are getting funds separately. In this way, we have taken these initiatives. We are also making efforts to increase the budgetary support to expedite work and to complete railway Projects in time.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give chance to members one by one. Therefore, there is no need to standup.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want go speak about Aligarh Muslim University. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister will come and tell about it. Since the Minister is not here, there is no need to stand up.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak when I call you. Please do not argue, It is not good to argue about everything.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak when I call you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

12.48 hrs.

Regarding need to fix the minimum Support price for Sugarcane—Cont.

[Translation]

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI (Haridwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is predominantly an agricultural country. 80% of our population live in villages and do farming. I feel pained to say that support price of sugarcane has not been fixed so far, for the sugarcane growers who work very hard, while the half of the season has passed. Central Government as well as state government are silent in this matter. I have been elected from the Haridwar constituency of Uttaranchal. There are three sugar mills in my constituency and all of them are in worse condition. Iqbalpur sugar mill has been closed. Farmers have not received their dues of the last season and the prices

[Shri Harpal Singh Sathi]

have not been fixed for the current season also which is matter of great concern. By doing so farmers are being harassed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Reply has already been given in the House, in this regard.

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SAATHI: Please implement it immediately. Paddy crop has been harvested but it is lying unsold so far. Uttaranchal government have not opened its procurement centres. Please make necessary arrangements immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the law and order situation deteriorating in Uttar Pradesh. The incidents of murder, loot and Kidnapping are taking place almost every day. There is no law and order in my constituency Varanasi. The law and order situation has deteriorated. Day before yesterday an MLA Mundu Yadav was murdered on road in broad day light. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your colleagues are not allowing you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: On 20th December itself some robbers looted two lakh rupees from former Minister of UP Shri Parmeshwar Pandeya and fled with the money. ...*(Interruptions)* The incidents of murders have become order of the day. Union Government should intervene in this matter and ask for a report on it and inform the House about it and take action thereon.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I give the floor to Shri P. Mohan.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, when I gave the notice of an Adjournment Motion, it is not just for the sake of giving a notice. It is a serious issue that I wanted to raise. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker Sir, You said that Minister would reply on the matter of Aligarh. But Minister is not here so what will happen tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Alviji, other member has also a right to speak. He is speaking. Please sit down. What has happened to you today. It is not expected from you.

[English]

The Member is standing on his legs and he is speaking.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to bring to your notice an important problem that is being faced by both the public and the public representatives. We the Members of Parliament, the representatives of the people, used to forward to the Prime Minister's Office the petitions from the public especially the poor and the under privileged section of the society who would like to have some monetary assistance for medical treatments especially open heart surgery which is beyond the reach of many. Till recently we the Members of Parliament were forwarding such requests from the public with our recommendation to the office of the PM so that some funds are released from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. But nothing is moving now and people are left in the lurch to fend for themselves as no such funds are forthcoming from PM's National Relief Fund.

Poor people who are going in for critical surgeries like open heart surgery used to apply for some financial relief from PM's Office. It used to be forwarded through MPs with their recommendations. This year none of the 29 cases recommended by me have been acceded to and no funds have been released so far. Similarly the District Collector of Madurai District has also forwarded some such cases which have not been responded to so far. In the case of Virudhunagar District Collector he had forwarded the case of 64 children, all students and young boys who had undergone surgical treatment for heart ailments. But even those young children have been denied any financial relief by the PMO from PMNRF.

I earnestly took it to the notice of the PMO writing to them and I even went to PMO in person if only to understand from them that they could not give relief fund to the needy for want of funds. This is a human help which needs to be attended to. But unfortunately no step is being taken to replenish the fund which would really be reaching the real needy.

Hence I urge upon the authorities concerned in the Union Government to ensure adequate funds are there in the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund so that the

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

needy poor can get the benefit. So many of my colleagues in Parliament may be recommending cases like this and may not be getting the necessary help. Till last year within 15-20 days there used to be a response from PMO and there will be information about the extending of financial assistance which will be subsequently followed by release of funds. But this year none of our requests has been considered or conceded to.

Hence, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Prime Minister to ensure the continuance of this yeoman help forthcoming from the PMO so that open heart surgery patients from the poor sections of the society are greatly benefited.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER; Shri Mohan, please sit down. During 'Zero Hour', you have to make your point in two minutes time and not more than that. Now, I give the floor to Shri Radhakrishnan.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have to raise a very important matter before the House.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan, you are aware that you cannot read your statement during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

12.53 hrs.

Re: Order Issued to all Central Schools to observe Christmas holidays in the month of January

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): The Human Resource Development Minister recently issued an order saying that the Christmas holidays must be observed in the month of January and not in December. This order was issued recently. Are we living in a fool's paradise or are we living in a devil's paradise? We are asked to celebrate Christmas holidays in the month of January whereas Christmas is celebrated on 25th of December every year throughout the world. The Human Resource Development Minister issued an order to all

Central Schools in the country directing them not to give any holidays during Christmas, but they should be given only in the month of January. ...*(Interruptions)* This has created a very serious situation. It is a discrimination against a minority community and it is a discrimination against world faith and Christianity. The Minister has given a direction not to observe any holidays in the month of December and that the schools can observe the holidays in the month of January. This order should be withdrawn. It is a very serious matter and the Government should withdraw this order without any further delay.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): We associate with him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will associate your names with what he has stated. I give the floor to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. Your names will be associated.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): We agree with him. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here. It is a very serious matter and an immediate decision, in this context, is necessary because today is 22nd.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut): Sir, why did they give the directions to all Central Schools and changed the holidays from December to January? It is a various serious issue.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Today is 22nd December and the orders have to be issued immediately. May I ask Madam Sushma Swaraj to respond?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Sushma Swaraj has taken note of the issue.

SHRI A.C. JOS: It is a very wrong decision.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to draw your attention to a very important subject that Hindi is our national language. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Why has the Central Government issued an order changing the holidays from December to January?

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here. Today is 22nd December and, that is why, we are urging the Government to issue orders within three days.

MR. SPEAKER: She is reacting.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker Sir, I will convey the feelings expressed by the Hon'ble Members to Hon'ble Human Development Minister and apprise of his reaction to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Just two day ago Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Ram Vilasji, please sit down. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to introduce a Bill. If the House agrees, the Minister will introduce it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 22 of the List of Business—Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

12.56 hrs.

CENTRAL SALES TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Sales Tax Act 1956.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956."

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 22.12.2003.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: I introduce* the Bill.

12.57 hrs.

THE SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 22A of the Supplementary List of Business—Shrimati Sushma Swaraj.

[Translation]

MINISTER OF HEALTH FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move that the leave be granted to introduce a bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954."

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been repeatedly requesting, and there have been suggestions, that these matters should be decided through a different procedure instead of Members coming to the House and deciding for themselves what should be their perquisites, emoluments, etc. A lot of criticism is made outside on this. Therefore, it was felt that it should either be left to the Presiding Officer or some formula should be adopted on the basis of the cost of living index, or something like that.

At the moment I am not objecting to this *per se*. However, I appeal to the hon. Minister that this matter, which has been pending for a long time, be looked into. It is a matter of principles. I would request you, Sir, to take a view on this. I would request the hon. Minister to consider this.

*Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 22.12.2003.

MR. SPEAKER: I do agree with you. I will see if some method can be found.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may introduce the Bill now.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker Sir I introduce** the bill.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Please get it passed now.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: We will pass it later ...(*Interruptions*). It has been numbered after ICWA, how can I get it passed now.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Yes, please get it passed right now.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: We will pass it after ICWA.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: This bill may be passed now.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: You want to take up bill on ICWAC or this one.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to take it first.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: If the members want to do it, we can do it right now also.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have to make a small observation.

Hon. Members, before I call Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to move the motion for

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

consideration of the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2003, I have to inform the House that I have received a letter dated 19th December, 2003, from Shrimati Sushma Swaraj intimating that the President, having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, has recommended its consideration under clause (3) of article 117 of the Constitution.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that:

"A Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 be taken into consideration."

First of all, I would like to convey my reaction to the point made by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. He has given a very good suggestion, that instead of holding frequent discussion on the issue, it would be better if we find other way such as deciding it on the basis of cost of living index or it should be brought at par with what Secretaries get. It will save us from criticism and being biased on the issue. This is a good suggestion. But unless it is implemented this is the only way. That is why I have to introduce this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you are aware that there is a Joint Committee to discuss and recommend on salary and allowances of Member of Parliament. All the proposals are being introduced on the recommendation of this committee, I will take them up one by one in brief. First proposal is that provision should be made for minimum pension for all the former MPs. As per the existing provision the Members who have completed four years term or have been elected twice as an M.P. are eligible for pension. There are approximately 764 M.Ps of Lok Sabha and more than 200 MPs of Rajya Sabha who are not getting even minimum pension. Minimum pension is only three thousand rupees per month. It has been their long pending demand that they should be given pension as it is not their fault if after being elected the Lok Sabha dissolved pre-maturely.

So every Member of Parliament should get pension irrespective of duration. This is the first recommendation that every Member must get pension irrespective of duration.

The second provision is that there is annual increment of Rs. 600. So if 9 months period is completed it should be rounded off to one year, this is second provision.

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

The third provision in this bill is that if any sitting Member of Parliament expires then as per family pension provision his family gets Rs. 1000 per month for next five year, now this amount is being enhanced to Rs. 1500.

The fourth provision is about air Travel. So far we were permitted to travel only in Indian Airlines, but now it includes private Airlines also. Earlier it had been noticed that Private Airlines were more suitable to timings but we were not permitted. Now permission is being granted in Indian Airlines as well as in Private Airlines. One more provision provides us facility to travel 32 times in a year by air, where our spouses or copassengers were allowed but many a times it has been noticed that MP has fallen sick and wife has to come but she can not come alone or if MP has to go anywhere from here itself and wife or copassenger has to join but they can't join. Now provision is being made that 8 out of 32 air travels MP can travel alone and for rest of the travels spouse or co-passenger can join.

There was one more demand regarding north-east that they get road mileage or station but not for Airport. At some places airports are far away. Likewise MPs from the adjoining areas of Delhi can travel only by train and not by road. Now those from the adjoining areas of Delhi and those from North-East can avail the allowances for road travel upto airport, the provision has been made accordingly.

There was demand regarding concession for the use of telephone calls. Let there be 1.5 lakh calls on any number of telephones, Government must pay for only three telephones, this one was the demand. There was one more demand to carry forward the remaining calls to next year if 1.5 lakh calls are not completed within one year. This demand has been conceded by telephone department.

There was one more demand relating to railways. Minister of Railways has left the House. Those who are ex-MPs they were allowed in AC two tier along with one companion so far. They wanted to be allowed to travel in ACI if alone. The Ministry of Railways has agreed to the above mentioned demand also.

These all provisions are based on the recommendations of Parliamentary Committee which I am moving in the Bill and I understand that there is much expenditure involved. I request the Members of this House to pass it unanimously.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That 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. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"that clauses 2 to 9 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clauses 2 to 9 were added to the Bill.*

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed"

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me a chance to speak on a serious matter for which I have been giving notice for two days.

There is a Public School named Carmel Residential School in Ranchi, Jharkhand. A boy named Shubham was injured by beating because he was talking in Hindi with his friends.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me read out some Press cuttings for you. Shubham has told to Police in his statement that on that particular day he was talking to his friends in Hindi, listening the talk some teachers and warden came over there. After the arrival of teacher his friends started talking in English but he himself continued in Hindi. The teacher started beating him with stick and made him to crawl on concrete path of school. His knee started bleeding then also teacher did not have pity on him and the teacher asked him to climb the stairs on knees. ...*(Interruptions)* when his condition started deteriorating the matter was resolved through the intravation of manager and Principal of the school. ...*(Interruptions)* After that boys stopped going to that school. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on one side Prime Minister is repeatedly asking about the promotion of Hindi and national language and on the other side English culture is flourishing in which English medium schools are developing ferociously. Not to talk of school and class but the child was punished for talking in Hindi with his friends and he was injured Sir, does a poor man's child has the right to study in his mother tongue or not in this country? I don't think there can be a greater insult to the national language. Sir, this is a very serious matter so you much have an observation on the subject. The Government should initiate on enquiry into this matter and the guilty must be punished irrespective of his status. Public Schools are not beyond the jurisdiction of the constitution. The name themselves as public school and they work as elite class.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say through you that from the very beginning we have been supporting this language. I have never opposed English. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very serious matter and is related to national language. So I shall ask the Minister to give statement on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would ask the hon. Minister to come here.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister should atleast write a letter to us in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of Aligarh University is very important. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sumanji, I have made submission, you know it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, this is a very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I, therefore, had given you permission to speak in the beginning.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want, what should I do in this regard?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have this circular with me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

13.07 hrs.

[English]

Re: Need to regularise unauthorised colonies in Delhi and to allow Members of Parliament to utilize the MPLAD funds for development of such colonies

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BEHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is due to non-regularisation of approximately 1600 unauthorised colonies inhabiting 25 to 30 lakh people that they are forced to lead a hell like life. The Government had expressed its desire to regularise all the colonies which came in existence till March 31, 2002 but these have not been regularised as yet, as a result, the people living there are deprived of civic amenities like electricity, water, sewerage, road, hospital, schools etc. Even the elected representatives like Members of Parliament and M.L.As. who get elected on their votes can't get any development work done from their funds. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform you that a statement was given by the Government in Lok Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)* in which it was said that for solving these problems amendment would be made in law and these colonies would be regularised. ...*(Interruptions)* In this

[Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari]

regard, no progress has been made so far.
...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we can't use our funds for those who vote us to elect. ...(Interruptions) We cannot go ahead with the scheme of their development. ...(Interruptions) How should we place our stand before them.
...(Interruptions)

Sir, please direct the hon'ble Minister to give it's reply so that the people of our country know about the arrangements being made by the Government to make law and provide civic amenities to them. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGAWAR): Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development has not come here due to fog. ...(Interruptions) He has informed that he would acquaint the hon. Minister with it.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are the custodian of the House. In the Parliamentary system, there should be reciprocity between the Opposition and the Government on vital matters.

Sir, you may recall that in this House four pertinent issues had been raised from the Opposition side. There was an understanding, and there was a direction from you to the Government that appropriate statements would be made in regard to them.

1. In regard to the West-Asian situation and post-Saddam arrest situation in Iraq.
2. Prime Minister's own statement on his visit to Tazakistan, Syria and Russia. This is very vital.
3. I had raised the issue of successful operation of Bhutan Government—for which we all had appreciated the Bhutan Government—the ultimate repercussion, threat to Bhutanis life, threat to various parts of North Bengal, Cooch Behar and Assam.

In your presence, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister had said that the would communicate it to the Deputy Prime Minister for an appropriate statement. Nothing has been complied with. Today, I gave a notice of the Adjournment Motion pertaining to the serious issue for

which the entire Academic Council of Aligarh, professors and teachers, is here. The solemn Act of Aligarh University was passed by the Centre in 1920 and amended in 1981. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, you are aware.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I will conclude in two minutes. You can then give your direction and I will obey it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The whole thing is to be repeated again when the Minister comes in the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I have received your notice and you have also given a notice.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you must give a direction that the Minister must come to the House. The Government cannot give scant respect to the Opposition. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that the Minister will come either today or tomorrow. He will make a statement whenever he comes to the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, tomorrow is the last day of the Session. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): The Minister has gone abroad. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Time for 'Zero Hour' is also over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can understand that this is a very serious issue. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister should take a serious note of it. I request the Minister to make a statement either today or tomorrow. He can come to the House either during 'Zero Hour' or at any other time.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we want the withdrawal of this order. This pertains to the 7th of November, 2003. Suddenly an order changing the entire procedure, regarding admission of students in Aligarh Muslim University, was issued by the University Grants Commission. The Academic Council has rejected it. The law does not provide for it. The law is contrary to it.

Giving admission is entirely the jurisdiction of the University. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER; Shri Somnath Chatterjee, realising the importance of the matter only, I have said that this requires urgent attention.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Therefore, they should come out with proper redressal. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue. ...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Act of Aligarh Muslim University has been passed in Parliament. On every issue this Government is trying to malign the prestige and dignity of Parliament. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He is quite right.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The same thing happened in the case of HPCL and BPCL also. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You speak when the hon. Minister comes.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, their decision is to dismantle the minority character of Aligarh Muslim University and to make unnecessary interference. This Government want to saffronise education. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, please let your neighbour speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: This is the undue interference of this Government. The Government should withdraw the U.G.C. circular.

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, do they want to supervise the Aligarh University?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should be withdrawn today itself.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER; I have agreed to it and have already issued instructions. I am sure the statement will be made by the Minister either today or tomorrow. The Minister can make a statement at his convenience.

The House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet again at 1400 hours.

13.14 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at three minute past fourteen of the clock

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Fifteenth Report

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I present the 15th report (Hindi and English version) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

14.03½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) **Need to look into the demands of Santhali Bhasa Morcha and JDP for the welfare of Adivasis**

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj): The Adivasis of Jharkhand, Assam, Orissa, Bengal and Bihar

*Treated as laid on the Table.

assembled in Delhi on 8/9.12.2003. Under the banner of Santali Bhasa Morcha and JDP, they met President of India and Leader of Opposition and appealed for recognition of Santhali, Ho, Munda, Kurukh languages. Adoption of Santhali as Rajbhasa of Jharkhand, scheduling of Adivasis in Scheduled Tribe list of Assam. The Central Government and the Parliament should urgently take up these issues.

(II) Need to re-open Regional Centre of National Savings Organisation, Ahmedabad

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B.THAKKAR (Vadodara): As a part of restructuring exercise of National Savings Organisation, the Ahmedabad Regional Centre has been closed down. Gujarat is a leading State in small saving activities and ranking second in the country in the net small savings collection. In the absence of the services of regional centre, the small saving activities will be affected adversely.

I urge the Central Government to continue/restart the Ahmedabad Regional Centre at the earliest.

[Translation]

(III) Need to lay a new railway line connecting Ujjain-Agar-Jhalawar

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, prior to independence and upto the year 1975 a railway line existed from Ujjain to Agar Malwa in Madhya Pradesh and Passenger trains and goods trains used to run on this rail line. But, during emergency, this line was uprooted at the end of the year 1975. The people of this area as well as the adjoining area of Madhya Pradesh have been demanding to lay rail line from Ujjain-Agar to Jhalawar in public interest. A survey for this line has been conducted as per the order of the Minister of Railways and the survey report has been submitted to the Ministry of Railways in April 2000. So, I request the Minister of Railway to grant the requisite sanction for laying the above-mentioned line in public as well as Railway's interest.

(IV) Need to provide halts at Bharuch and Ankaleshwar railway stations in Gujarat for trains coming from the North

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ankaleshwar Industrial Area situated in Bharuch Parliamentary Constituency is the largest industrial area in Asia where people from various states of the country are working-people from Rajasthan, Bihar

and Uttar Pradesh have to go to Baroda or Surat to get trains for their native states as the trains for those states stop only at the above mentioned stations. The trains going to Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh pass through Bharuch and Ankaleshwar situated in my Parliamentary Constituency but only a few trains stop at these stations. It causes a lot of difficulties for those people. If arrangements are made for stoppage of Surya Nagri Express, Ajmer-Bangalore Express and Ranekpur Express and some important trains coming from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar either at Ankaleshwar or Bharuch, it will be very beneficial for thousands of people from those states.

It is requested that stoppage of trains coming from Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh should be provided at Bharuch and Akaleshwar railway stations.

(V) Need to release funds for building high power T.V. transmission centre at Radhanpur in Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, sanction was granted for a high power T.V. transmission centre at Radhanpur in my Parliamentary Constituency, Banaskantha, but the sanctioned amount of Rs. 9 crore 56 lakh has not been released till date due to which the work has not been started. In the area adjoining Radhanpur, Pakistani T.V. programmes are viewed and efforts are being made to generate anti-India feeling among the people and it strengthens anti-India activities in North Gujarat. From some experiences, it can be said that many steps, especially transmission through T.V. centre will help in generating awareness among local people for the purpose of checking Pakistani infiltration and smuggling of drugs and arms. So the installation of the above mentioned T.V. centre is essential.

(VI) Need to set up a new Regional Rural Bank at Kottarakkara in Quilon District under State Bank of Travancore

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): In Kerala, southern districts like Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kotayam were not covered by rural development banks under Ministry of Finance, Government of India. At the same time in Kerala, Malabar area there are two rural regional banks which are south Malabar and North Malabar Gramin Bank functioning since long. The farmers from Southern part of Kerala are not getting any benefits from the Rural Bank. The people of

southern part of Kerala are agriculturists by profession. There are a number of problems faced by farmers due to inability of nationalized and scheduled banks in providing loans under Government of India's sponsored schemes. There is a long pending demand before the Government of India to set up a new Regional Rural Bank at Kottarakkara in Quilon district under the State Bank of Travancore which is one of the leading nationalized bank in Kerala.

I request the Union Government to look into the matter.

(vii) Need to take suitable measures to check circulation of counterfeit currency and other Government documents

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): To ensure the security and integrity of bank notes, passport and similar documents, public role in the fight against currency counterfeiting is uppermost. The consequences of the menace go beyond financial aspect of the profit. It is cited as the second largest source of income to organized crime after drugs with proven links between counterfeit products and terrorist organisations.

In view of this, I request the Government to take suitable measures to check this malice.

(viii) Need to approve the proposal of the Government of Karnataka for providing regional reservation in the State by amending article 371 of the Constitution

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur): The Karnataka Government had sent a proposal to the Government of India to amend the Constitution of India for providing Regional Reservation in Karnataka under DPAR 17 PLX 98, dated 22 October, 2001. The Government of India in its letter dated 3 December, 2001 had sought some information necessary for examining the proposal for amending the Constitution of India to make special provisions of Article 371 to make reservation in favour of different regions in educational institution and employment. The information sought by Government of India was sent on 27th April, 2002. The Deputy Prime Minister had sought copy of the report of the committee, set up by the Karnataka Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa. The report has been sent to the Government of India.

Sir, as the proposal is pending with the Government of India for a long, I urge upon the Government to kindly

consider the proposal of Karnataka Government for providing regional reservation in Karnataka by amending Article 371 of the Constitution.

(ix) Need to introduce cellular/mobile phone services in Tripura

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura West): I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to the introduction of Cellular Mobile services in Tripura and other North-Eastern States. The Members of Parliament from the North-Eastern States had been pursuing for long for the same. The Government had announced in the House in 2002 that appropriate measures would be taken to introduce the services in the region. Subsequently the Government also assured that BSNL would make all efforts to start the service by August/September, 2003 progressively covering all the North-Eastern States. But it is regretted that the progress of work in Tripura is in the abyss of despair. It is also learnt that about 6000 Mobile connections are sanctioned in Tripura. The population in all the North-Eastern States and also the huge demands. The State of Tripura deserves to have the minimum fifteen thousand Mobile connection in the first place. Further, one BSC is required to be given to Tripura immediately for the Mobile Services in the same line of justification as have been allotted to other States in North-East. I would urge the Government to take suitable steps to complete all the activities to start Cellular Mobile services in Tripura at the earliest.

(x) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for restorative work in the cyclone affected areas of the State

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): The severe cyclonic storm in Andhra Pradesh left a trail of destruction as it crossed the coast near Machilipatnam around mid night on 15th December, 2003 claiming 49 lives rendering about 8000 families homeless and damaging vast tracts of crops and public utilities.

While Krishna District faced the brunt of the fury, crops of banana, betel and tobacco were damaged extensively in other districts like Guntur, East and West Godavari districts. The State Government rose to the occasion and 413 special teams were deployed for restoring power on war footing and repairing damaged roads. The State Government has also taken timely action for evacuation which could save many lives.

As the cyclone has left trail of mass destruction the effort of State Government alone would not suffice. I

therefore, request the Government of India to come to the rescue to the State Government and assist to the maximum extent possible on humanitarian ground and provide maximum financial assistance as well as paddy to restore normalcy in cyclone affected districts.

- (xi) **Need for gauge conversion on Bareilly-Lakhimpur-Sitapur-Lucknow metre gauge railway line**

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a need to converge metre gauge line from Bareilly to Lucknow via Pilibhit, Lakhimpur, Sitapur into broad-gauge line under North-Eastern railway. The foothill spreads on this route which is lagging behind from the development point of view as it is isolated from the main stream. This area is very rich in flora and fauna and it is very important in the era of globalization. A Special Expert Zone is being set up by the Uttar Pradesh Government in the entire foothill. This area is going to play an important role in the economic development of the country in near future. So, through the House, the government is requested to undertake. The work of broad-gauge conversion on Bareilly-Lakhimpur-Sitapur and Lucknow railway line on priority basis.

- (xii) **Need to construct high dams on rivers causing floods and erosion in Khagaria, Bihar**

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you are aware of the fact that my Parliamentary Constituency Khagaria (Bihar) is facing from the problem of flood and erosion. Every year, the river Ganges causes soil erosion in various village like Khairpur, Athganwa, Nawada, Raghupur, Alalpur, Pulkia, Kamlakund, Bindtoli, Ramnagar Kelawari, Katari Tintanga, Babu Tola, Budhuchak of Navagachia sub-division and the river, Koshi causes soil-erosion in Kaluchak, Chaurhar, Bispuria, Dhoria, Shripur, Punama, Milki, Sakucha villages etc. Due to water logging in the inner area of Ganga Prasad dam, standing crops in thousand of acres of area get damaged every year.

So, construction of high dams is essential on the two rivers mentioned below to save crops worth hundreds of crore rupees and to save villages from soil erosion—construction of ring dam from Pakra Kathidhar dam to Parvatta border, construction of dam from Kashipur Butni Dhar dam to Madhepura border via the western side of Pakra Vasa, repair and increase in the height of Ganga Prasad dam in Gopalpur block, increasing the height of

Laxmipur Salempur Ganga basin dam, increasing the height of Lattipur Narkatia dam and repair of the dam from Karari Tintanga to Tintanga basin.

So, it is my personal request that the implementation of the above mentioned schemes should not be left to be done by the State authorities, but it should be done by Central authorities.

- (xiii) **Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Orissa to restore creek irrigation in Kendrapara and areas close to Bay of Bengal coast**

[English]

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (Kendrapara): I had raised the subject matter of creek irrigation under Rule 377 on 18th April, 2001. In reply, the Minister of Water Resources assured that Creek Irrigation in Aul, Rajkanika, Rajnagar, Mohakalpara and Pattamundai Blocks of Kendrapara District can find 100% financial assistance. The assurance remains unfulfilled till today.

There has been all round scarcity of irrigation in the State of Orissa. The situation is aggravated in the face of drought when agricultural land turns arid and standing crops resultantly succumb to lack of rainfall, rendering the small time agriculturists penniless and exposed to starvation. While not denying the Ministry of Water Resources approving the scheme for arresting salinity ingress through ground water recharge in the districts of Bhadrak, Kendrapara and Puri in Orissa, nevertheless small time farmers are facing starvation in Rajkanika Block of my district, Kendrapara. Although detailed estimated for renovation of creeks with its plan showing creek irrigation project in Rajkanika Block was submitted to Ministry in July, 2001, the proposal, so far remains shelved.

I request the Central Government to provide financial assistance to Government of Orissa to restore Creek Irrigation in areas close to the coast of Bay of Bengal and inclusion of Rajkanika, Rajnagar, Pattamundai and Mohakalpara Blocks in Kendrapara District for creek irrigation.

- (xiv) **Need to provide monthly allowance to registered unemployed youths in Maharashtra and other parts of the country**

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Since Independence of our country, i.e. more than 50 years, India is still reeling under the problem of unemployment.

Every year the problem of unemployment is growing. The number of educated youths, technical and non-technical, professional and non-professional is increasing every year and they are not getting any placement either in Government or private sector.

In Maharashtra, lot of unemployed youths have registered their names with Employment Exchanges after completing their studies. They are not getting any jobs even after 5 or 7 years. If their age exceeds the age limit the age limit fixed by the employer, they never think about any job both in Government and private sector. Their future becomes dark.

I request the Government that those educated unemployed youths who are registered with the employment exchange all over India and could not obtain employment after lapse of two years of registration may be provided Rs. 2000 per months as unemployment pension until they get the suitable job. I urge upon the Government to implement the scheme and provide/create new/additional job as early as possible.

(xv) Need to bring the working of CBI and other intelligence agencies within the purview of a Parliamentary Committee

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): I wish to draw the attention of our Parliament that last week the role of the CBI was again discussed in the Parliament. I think this is undesirable as it brings these institutions into disrepute, as some of the allegations are superfluous, imaginary and also made with an ulterior motive.

I, therefore, recommend that all organisations like intelligence agencies, whether internal or external, the CBI, the National Security Advisor, the Nuclear Command and Control agency and others, whether operating in secrecy or otherwise created by the Government of India after 1947 be brought within the purview of a Parliamentary Committee, to oversee their working, procedures, finances and spending, whether secret or un-auditable so that they become accountable to Parliament.

I would also recommend this very Parliamentary Committee oversees the Government of India's duties which are placed upon it by virtue of Article 53 of the Constitution. There is not provision in our Parliament to oversee all this work.

14.04 hrs.

THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No. 24.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to amend the Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001, be taken into consideration:

CLAUSE-2

1. That at page 1, *after* line 9, the following be *inserted*, namely:
 - (ii) in clause (b), for the words "to be nominated by the Council", the words, brackets and figure "to be nominated, in the first instance by the Council constituted under sub-section (1) and thereafter by the Council constituted under this sub-section" shall be substituted.
2. That at page 1, line 10, *for* the brackets and Roman numeral "(ii)" the brackets and Roman numeral "(iii)" be *substituted*.
3. That at page 1, *after* line 11, the following be *inserted*, namely:
 - (iv) in clause, (e), for the words "to be nominated by the Council", the words, brackets and figure "to be nominated, in the first instance by the Council constituted under sub-section (1) and thereafter by the Council constituted under this sub-section" shall be substituted;
 - (v) in clause (f), for the words "to be nominated by the Council", the words, brackets and figure "to be nominated, in the first instance by the Council constituted under sub-section (1) and thereafter by the Council constituted under this sub-section" shall be substituted;
4. That at page 1, line 12, *for* the brackets and Roman numeral "(iii)" the brackets and Roman numeral "(vi)" be *substituted*.
5. That at page 2, line 1, *for* the brackets and Roman numeral "(iv)" the brackets and Roman numeral "(vii)" be *substituted*.

[Shri Digvijay Singh]

6. That at page 2, for the brackets and Roman numeral "(v)" the brackets and Roman numeral "(viii)" be *substituted*.

CLAUSE 3

7. That at page 2, for lines 7-8, the following be *substituted*, namely:

"(1) There shall be a Director-General of the Council who shall, before a Council is constituted under sub-section (2) of section 7, be appointed by the Council constituted under sub-section (1) of that section and thereafter during the tenure of a Council constituted under sub-section (2) of section 7, by that Council.

(1A) Every appointment of the Director-General under sub-section (1) shall be made from a panel of at least two names recommended by the Government of India in the Ministry of External Affairs."

8. That at page 2, line 9, for the brackets, figure and alphabet "(1A)" the brackets, figure and alphabet "(1B)" be *substituted*.
9. That at page 2, line 10, for the brackets, figure and alphabet "(1B)", the brackets, figure and alphabet "(1C)" be *substituted*."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill has already been passed in this House earlier. After that it was sent to Rajya Sabha. All political parties had consensus on this Bill. But it was slightly amended in Rajya Sabha. After having been passed in Rajya Sabha, it has again been brought for passing in this House where taking approval for this is necessary.

I think there is no need to have a lengthy discussion on this Bill as it has already been discussed Comprehensively. I would like to dwell on the Council Bill for two minutes as to why this Bill has become necessary today and what was this institution in real sense. This is an institution which was formed by the nation builders themselves. The persons who formed this institution and who were associated with it included Dr. Sarvapalli Radha Krishnan, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr. Shri Zakir Husain, Shri Hridayanath Kunjru and Shri Tej Bahadur Sapru and so on. Unfortunately, these persons who had formed it, had no idea that it future this body would be misused. Perhaps, keeping it in view three standing committees of Parliament had suggested

that the Government should take over this institution. On these lines, both the Houses had jointly passed this Bill for which this House also gave its approval. We had also received approval from Rajya Sabha, which passed the way for passing of this bill. However, some people had doubts in their minds that perhaps the Government wanted to take hold of this institution completely under the guise of this Bill. But we have no such intentions. That is why, we immediately agreed to the proposal when it was moved in Rajya Sabha because we believe that Governments will come and go, but the institutions like Indian Council of World Affairs which have continuously been helping and assisting in formulation of foreign policy of the country for the last 55 years, and which have dedicated their full energy in giving the right direction, should exist. Prior to India getting its freedom, in March, 1947 this very Indian Council of World Affairs had organised an Asian Conference on India's Foreign Policy and its relations with Asian Countries. At that time, it had played a greater role in it. All the renowned personalities in world politics had expressed their views in their respective lectures in this conference. That is why hon. Justice of Supreme Court in his latest judgement has stated that by taking over such an institution the Government have taken a right decision. Now, this institution will consist of the Prime Minister, Leader of opposition, and Vice-President, who is also the Chairman of Rajya Sabha and who had been appointed the chairman of the Committee. The leader of opposition in this House and the Leader of Opposition in the other House will be the members of the Governing Council to be formed. I think is little scope of discussion on this Bill. This House stands witness to the fact that there might have been small differences among us with regard to foreign policy but we have always taken decision on our foreign policy unanimously and we have presented all the voices of the country as one voice before the world. Therefore, I hope and believe that the House will pass this Bill unanimously.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I rise to support this amending Bill. There is no need to many a long speech on this. This Bill had earlier been passed by the Lok Sabha. There was also a comprehensive review of the clauses of this Bill by the Rajya Sabha and they have already made certain suggestions. The Government also had consulted the other parties in order to make this institution leak-proof.

My only submission to the hon. Minister would be that, in the light of what has been stated by him just

now, since the drawn of Independence till today, India's foreign policy matters have been extremely well-managed by this House, namely, the Sapru House. Pandit Nehru accepted the guidelines to formulate India's foreign policy on Asia. Of course, we may have difference on foreign policy with the present day Government since we find certain deviations from the earlier declared foreign policy, particularly in regard to our approach to West Asia. But I would not like to go into such things here. This is not the occasion to do so. I would only request the hon. Minister to protect the employees who have served this institution for a long time. May be, the management have been right or wrong, but the employees have done no wrong. I would also like to request the hon. Minister to see that the library is protected well because it is very precious for the research scholars on international relations and it once upon a time used to be envied by many other libraries of the world.

Sir, with these words, I commend that the Bill be passed. It is because we all support this Bill and it also deserves our support. I am thankful to the Government for their taking into consideration the views of all the political parties.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when this Bill was moved in Lok Sabha it was passed as Mr. Minister has just informed this House. After presentation in Rajya Sabha, it was amended there. It has again been brought here for approval. During freedom struggle all the nation builders and freedom fighters, from Dr. Radha Krishnan to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Tej Bahadur Sapru, all came together and formed an organisation in order to formulate the foreign policy of the country as we know that a lot depends upon the foreign policy. In those days when the freedom struggle was going on, the foreign policy was decided by Dr. Lohia and this policy of non-alliance was adopted therein that we would not support any of the powerful alliances and would remain non-aligned and lead all poor and developing countries by uniting them.

All this history is available in the World Council. But, the maintenance of the library continued to be neglected with the passage of time the condition of that library went on deteriorating and no care was taken for its proper maintenance. Therefore, I am of firm view that those races which remember its ancestors can never be ruled over and crushed down. Our ancestors who struggled for freedom, their guidelines on the foreign policy are all stored in this library. This is the uniqueness of this country

that the ruling party and the opposition, keep on fighting and struggling on various policies but when it comes to decide the foreign policy, unanimous decision is taken thereon.

So is this context the institution is still relevant and it is necessary to strengthen it. Our ancestors had given us guidance as to what type of foreign policy we should have with our neighbouring countries and with other countries of the world. In that policy the interest of our country should remain above all things. Our country always gives the message of world peace. We have been adopting these policies since the period of Lord Gautam Buddha and Lord Mahavir. Our teachings have been or world peace and we follow the concept 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. This was the policy of our freedom fighters and it still exists even now that we should have friendly relations with our neighbouring countries. All institutions and this old institution should remain in existence. But now the hon. Minister claims that the Government have not taken it over yet. Both the leaders of opposition in this House as well as in the other House, will be in that committee and take care of its organisation. The Hon. Mr. Minister must assure us that this Government will also work keeping in view the objectives and liveliness of that institution and the contribution given by our great ancestors, and there shall be no scope for manipulations as well as frauds. As these people always manipulate, the hon. Mr. Minister must assure us that this Government will go by the guidance it has received so far and it will follow the policy appropriate to the country in the present circumstances. Only then we will get this Bill passed. Otherwise, we are not going to pass it.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I am grateful to Shri Raghuvansh Babu and Dasmunsi for expressing their opinions about it. Through the Chair, I would like to assure the House that we have never tried to express any opinion about foreign policy which stands chance of confrontation. We have tried to formulate only that policy which take into account the concerns and the interests of the country upto the maximum level. Dasmunsi, I want to tell you that today it is our government. But, if you become a part of the government tomorrow, you can not promote those policies which are detrimental to the interest of the country. Whichever government might come into power, it can not run without keeping the interests of the country above all. That is why, you must have seen that on many occasions when. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, may I interrupt him for a minute? I did not want to enter into

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

a discussion on foreign policy. But he has provoked me. What has been the approach of this Government in regard to Golan Heights? When Israel is constructing ...*(Interruptions)* this Government is keeping silence. This Government has not made any protest in any forum. ...*(Interruptions)* You provoked me. What has been the approach of this Government on the post-Iraq situation? This Parliament passed a Resolution saying that the Coalition Forces should be handed over to the United Nations. Did your Government agree to that? What has been the action of the Government? ...*(Interruptions)* Why are you provoking me? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am ready to answer any query if the House decides to have a separate discussion on foreign policy. But, the present bill is. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Please do not provoke me.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I would like to add only one thing here that no government can take a separate stand on that particular issue that the interests of the country are above all. So far as the point made by Raghuvansh Babu about take-over of Council by the government is concerned, I want to say that an institution which has the Vice-President of India as its Chairman, the Members of Parliament to decide the formation of its governing body and which has the leader of opposition and the Prime Minister in it, can not be taken over at all and to have any apprehension in this regard is unnatural. We only want that its lost glory be regained and their cooperation in the foreign policy continues to be there. That is what we want and I hope that this House would agree to it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to amend the Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001, be taken into consideration:

CLAUSE-2

1. That at page 1, *after* line 9, the following be *inserted*, namely:

'(ii) in clause (b), for the words "to be nominated by the Council", the words, brackets and figure "to be

nominated, in the first instance by the Council constituted under sub-section (1) and thereafter by the Council constituted under this sub-section" shall be substituted.

2. That at page 1, line 10, *for* the brackets and Roman numeral "(ii)" the brackets and Roman numeral "(iii)" be *substituted*.
3. That at page 1, *after* line 11, the following be *inserted*, namely:
 - (iv) in clause, (e), for the words "to be nominated by the Council", the words, brackets and figure "to be nominated, in the first instance by the Council constituted under sub-section (1) and thereafter by the Council constituted under this sub-section" shall be substituted;
 - (v) in clause (f), for the words "to be nominated by the Council", the words, brackets and figure "to be nominated, in the first instance by the Council constituted under sub-section (1) and thereafter by the Council constituted under this sub-section" shall be substituted;
4. That at page 1, line 12, *for* the brackets and Roman numeral "(iii)" the brackets and Roman numeral "(vi)" be *substituted*.
5. That at page 2, line 1, *for* the brackets and Roman numeral "(iv)" the brackets and Roman numeral "(vii)" be *substituted*.
6. That at page 2, *for* the brackets and Roman numeral "(v)" the brackets and Roman numeral "(viii)" be *substituted*.

CLAUSE 3

7. That at page 2, *for* lines 7-8, the following be *substituted*, namely:

"(1) There shall be a Director-General of the Council who shall, before a Council is constituted under sub-section (2) of section 7, be appointed by the Council constituted under sub-section (1) of that section and thereafter during the tenure of a council constituted under sub-section (2) of section 7, by that Council.

(1A) Every appointment of the Director-General under sub-section (1) shall be made from a panel of at least two names recommended by the Government of India in the Ministry of External Affairs."

8. That at page 2, line 9, *for the brackets, figure and alphabet "(1A)" the brackets, figure and alphabet "(1B)" be substituted.*
9. That at page 2, line 10, *for the brackets, figure and alphabet "(1B)", the brackets, figure and alphabet "(1C)" be substituted."*

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

CLAUSE-2

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

- "1. That at page 1, *after* line 9, the following be *inserted*, namely:
 - (ii) in clause (b), for the words "to be nominated by the Council", the words, brackets and figure "to be nominated, in the first instance by the Council constituted under sub-section (1) and thereafter by the Council constituted under this sub-section" shall be substituted.
2. That at page 1, line 10, *for the brackets and Roman numeral "(ii)" the brackets and Roman numeral "(iii)" be substituted.*
3. That at page 1, *after* line 11, the following be *inserted*, namely:
 - (iv) in clause, (e), for the words "to be nominated by the Council", the words, brackets and figure "to be nominated, in the first instance by the Council constituted under sub-section (1) and thereafter by the Council constituted under this sub-section" shall be substituted;
 - (v) in clause (f), for the words "to be nominated by the Council", the words, brackets and figure "to be nominated, in the first instance by the Council constituted under sub-section (1) and thereafter by the Council constituted under this sub-section" shall be substituted;"
4. That at page 1, line 12, *for the brackets and Roman numeral "(iii)" the brackets and Roman numeral "(vi)" be substituted.*

5. That at page 2, line 1, *for the brackets and Roman numeral "(iv)" the brackets and Roman numeral "(vii)" be substituted.*
6. That at page 2, *for the brackets and Roman numeral "(v)" the brackets and Roman numeral "(viii)" be substituted.*

The motion was adopted.

CLAUSE-3

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

- "7 That at page 2, *for* lines 7-8, the following be *substituted*, namely:

"(1) There shall be a Director-General of the Council who shall, before a Council is constituted under sub-section (2) of section 7, be appointed by the Council constituted under sub-section (1) of that section and thereafter during the tenure of a Council constituted under sub-section (2) of section 7, by that Council.

(1A) Every appointment of the Director-General under sub-section (1) shall be made from a panel of at least two names recommended by the Government of India in the Ministry of External Affairs."
8. That at page 2, line 9, *for the brackets, figure and alphabet "(1A)" the brackets, figure and alphabet "(1B)" be substituted.*
9. That at page 2, line 10, *for the brackets, figure and alphabet "(1B)", the brackets, figure and alphabet "(1C)" be substituted."*

The motion was adopted

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I beg to move:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

The motion was adopted.

14.16 hrs.

CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003

[English]

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): I beg to move:

"That the Bill father to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

[Translation]

This Bill has been moved by a committee which had members from almost all the prominent parties. The NRIs have been demanding for years that amendment should be made in the Constitution of India to include the provision of dual citizenship. Their aspirations have been met by this Bill. This Bill was moved in Rajya Sabha and after that it was referred to a Joint Standing Committee of Parliament. The Cabinet accepted almost all the recommendations of the Standing Committee. The Bill incorporating the recommendations of the Standing Committee was sent again to Rajya Sabha by the Cabinet. It was unanimously passed by Rajya Sabha in the last week. I request that Lok Sabha should also pass it unanimously.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That Bill further to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, this particular Bill which was first conceived in the Rajya Sabha and was well delivered upon in the Standing Committee followed by wider range of discussion by all the political parties is now brought before the Lok Sabha for approval.

The main thrust, as the Deputy Prime Minister has rightly stated, is to ensure certain commitment made by the Government in the last Diaspora Conference at Delhi which will again commence from 5th to 9th January, 2004. As such, we do not find any specific objection to the text of the Bill and I would like to read out certain conditions which have been made in Section 7B (2).

"An overseas citizen of India shall not be entitled to the rights conferred on a citizen of India—

- (a) under article 16 of the Constitution with regard to equality of opportunity in matters of public employment;
- (b) under article 58 of the Constitution for election as President;
- (c) under article 66 of the Constitution for election of Vice-President;
- (d) under article 124 of the Constitution for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court;
- (e) under article 217 of the Constitution for appointment as a Judge of the High Court;
- (f) under section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 in regard to registration as a voter;
- (g) under sections 3 and 4 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 with regard to the eligibility for being a member of the House of the People or of the Council of States, as the case may be."

A similar thing is found in sub-sections 'h' and 'f'. It has been stated clearly to clear all the apprehensions from the minds of the *bona fide* citizens of India as per the spirit of the Constitution.

Sir, I fully subscribe to the views of the Government and to the views of the distinguished leaders of the Rajya Sabha who have deliberated on this and have sent it back to the Lok Sabha for its approval. What I am now saying is not relevant to the Bill, but it has some link.

It was the solemn commitment given by the Government of India to accommodate the overseas citizens of this specified nation, as has been marked in schedule, to enjoy the opportunities to a great extent which I think is an objective view that they should take care to share the intellectual achievements of this country, technological developments of this country to improve the investment climate of this country and to jointly associate and participate in the ultimate economic growth of the country.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, I would like to know from the hon. Deputy-Prime Minister as to what had happened since the last Diaspora meeting to this meeting in this direction. We understand we have an Ambassador-at-Large working in Washington. It has created a lot of confusion. I am told he is looking after this particular desk. I am not going to discuss his political background. But what I am saying is that investment climate of a country by the NRIs as such has to be ensured and determined by the Government priorities. They should come as per the Government priorities.

I know many great scientists of India who have settled outside India for a long time. They, on their own, took the citizenship of other nations. They often come to India, give lectures, give us advice as to how to do, what to do and what not to do. But in order to achieve eight per cent growth in the Tenth Plan, as proclaimed by the hon. Prime Minister, was there any clear interaction of the Government with those NRIs as to which are the areas of the Indian economy where they can effectively penetrate and participate?

I think this Bill is not merely a Bill to give them a message that we have heard what you have said and we are accommodating your views as per our law. This Bill has a particular purpose of taking the Indian economy to greater heights. In the field of atomic research, in the field of scientific research, I can tell you—the Deputy Prime Minister must have more information—that a large number of Indian scientists who later on became the NRIs or settled in the United States and got the Green Card or later on became American citizens, whom I know personally, who are great scholars, are contributing to NASA and to its space research in the United States. Will some of them contribute in our nation's space research programme, ocean development programme? Taking advantage of this Bill, taking the ambit of this Bill, you can give them all the opportunities that you can offer them.

I can name one scholar. His name is Mr. Mani Bhowmic. In the last twenty years, India has not produced such a great scholar. His scientific innovation, is being taken advantage of by the Europe. I recommended his name to the Prime Minister for a distinction. He is a great friend of the President of India. His contribution is enlightening the entire Europe and the United States. Why should India be deprived of his intellect and his contribution?

Taking advantage of the main objective of this Bill, the Government should take a great step forward to take our economy to great heights in the Tenth Plan as well as our scientific achievements, our trade promotions, our technological advancement. Then, it would be a great help to the nation. It would justify the whole purpose.

In the field of sports, when I enquired as to how Jamaica came to World Cup in soccer, and as to how Surinam performed so well, they said that eighty per cent of those boys are of Indian origin.

Having everything in India, they have grown up and they are developing in the United States of America, France and London. Now, they are shining there. I said: "Can we take you to our country for this purpose because you are of Indian origin?" He said: "If you are having Dual Citizenship Act, we can take advantage of the situation." I found that the Dual Citizenship Bill is coming shortly. I can tell you that many people of Indian origin, who later on settled abroad, started contacting me and asking when the amendment would be passed.

Then, I got into another problem with regard to the sports body of the world. They said: "If they take part in your national programmes and sports, they may have to renounce their earlier citizenship and should apply for the full citizenship of this country and that would help matters." Many professionals are also agreeing to this point. We are getting a new opportunity for this. I think that way it will serve a greater purpose for our sports and games.

So far as trade, scientific development and economic development are concerned, I want to know from the Government whether they have a wider interaction both at the diaspora and other levels also through our Ambassador-at-Large. What are the immediate benefits that India will get? If the hon. Deputy Prime Minister takes this House into confidence to share his understanding of the issue, we shall be too happy.

I had also another fear when the Bill was brought forward. I was talking casually. Will those, who are born outside India before Independence, have any problems? I put this question because I know that the fate of Shri Advani and myself was the same. We were born in undivided India. Tactfully, those place are placed in Pakistan. So, later on, I gathered the whole text of this Bill. I discussed with my leaders Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Dr. Manmohan Singh. They said that there is no fear and nothing of the kind of things is going to happen at all; it is just to accommodate the overseas Indian citizens. I read the Bill thoroughly. I appreciate the wisdom of the Standing Committee, the Government in this regard.

I thank the Government for bringing forward this Bill. I have strong confidence that this Bill would contribute to take India to greater height in terms of our economy and technological achievements.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this bill was referred to the Standing Committee for consideration. It was sent back by the Committee with its recommendation and was moved in the other House to provide dual citizenship to NRIs. NRIs are really industrious people of our country. There are three categories of sons—First is 'Lauha Putra', second is 'Pairvi Putra' and the third is 'Dravya Putra' 'Lavha Putra' are those who are born in this land, who are meritorious and who go abroad and earn their livelihood through business by virtue of being industrious. There are 20 lac people of Indian origin living in America and they are employed in business sector or who are engineers, professions or doctors or veterinary doctors. So, there are these four types of people who have migrated from India. Their number was 13 lac in the year 1995 but now there are 20 lac NRIs. We can neither help them nor are in a position to help them. These people establish themselves in foreign countries by virtue of their talent and hard work and they contribute to the earning of our country. This is their uniqueness.

Sir, in the same way there are further two types of people living in other countries also. They are people of Indian origin who have migrated to other countries. Their ancestors were transported through ships to work in those countries as labourers and they settled down there. Their numbers have increased a lot since then, but they still remember their motherland. These people live in Fizi, Guyana and Mauritius. In Mauritius, we feel like being in our own country. A committee under the Chairmanship of L.M. Singhvi was constituted in this regard. I want to know about the fate of recommendations of that committee, the government should take initiative to look after and protect the interests of all those people of India origin who are spread all over the world.

The second point is that the NRIs communities have made their mark because of their industriousness and talent. Now, the emigration rules become more stringent in various other countries. The countries are formulating more stringent emigration laws. It will not be proper on our part to frame more stringent laws to match the laws of other countries. So, the issue of providing dual citizenship is a genuine one. These people were born and brought up in this country, they were educated here and enhanced their learning by migrating to other countries. There are eminent persons and Nobel laureates like Dr. Khurana and Shri Amartya Sen who made India proud and we proclaimed with pride that they were Indians.

People of India have earned a name for themselves in the field of education, talent, science and Dr. Khurana achieved distinction in Botany. They were all NRIs, they

were uprooted from here and settled down there. Due to the facility of dual citizenship, they will remain a citizen of the country where they were born. Our country will get benefited by their talent and capital investment. So dual citizenship is a good step.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, NRIs will also get accommodation here. I have heard the foundation stone has been laid for a building in the name of NRIs. Those who come here from an alien country, will get an accommodation here, especially in the current month when many visit this country. There are cold countries. I went to Finland. There is two month's night in the month of December and two month's day in June. I thought that I might not come across any Indian there. But I met with one Mr. Verma from Bihar who is a shopkeeper there. No one is idle. In the hardest possible geographical and natural atmosphere of any country in the world, also our people are working and moving ahead of others by dint of hard work. There is 20 lakhs Indians in USA. There are every type of people—first class, second class and third class but those who belong to the better economic category, are people from this country. People from Bihar are going abroad, it is said that they will be doing menial jobs there. But there is no menial jobs in USA. They are there in number one slab. Someone is doing business there, some one is working as a Professor, someone as a doctor, Veterinary doctors are of great importance there. There are separate doctors for small and big animals. Doctors from our country are showing their talent in Britain also. Indian doctors are so talented that they have surpassed the British doctors. So the dual citizenship being facilitated to NRIs is right step. So this bill should be passed.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. I am a Member of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs. We have elaborately discussed this Bill in the Committee.

Sir, this is a welcome measure and through this Bill, the countries which have adopted dual citizenship system have been given reciprocal acceptance by India. Earlier, there were eight countries in this list and now we have added eight more countries. Though Indians are spread all over the world, especially in the United States of America, they are in very good positions. In those days, people used to say that there is brain drain in the country. Now, it is not so. Our people are there in the United States of America and all over the world and they make

new discoveries. India has made a market in the United States of America in the field of computer technology through our sons of the soil, and without Indians America could not have advanced much in the field of computer technology.

Sir, last month I visited Tokyo and I found Indians there also. Our Ambassador said that the Japanese depend on Indians for development in computer technology.

As I just now said, the Americans are looking forward to getting help from Indians of eminence in engineering also since we are toppers in the field of engineering in the whole world. This bill facilitates our sons of the soil to have dual citizenship rights.

Sir, though they have migrated to foreign countries, like the United States of America and other countries, they have not forgotten India because they have been brought up and educated in our country. They are helping our country in earning a lot of foreign exchange. In that respect, though the NRIs are not citizens of India and they work in foreign countries, they help our country to earn a lot of foreign exchange. Everyday they make new discoveries and make new achievements in the fields of computer technology and other fields of science. They are at the top in the field of medical science also and in hospitals of America, people look towards Indian doctors for treatment. They fare better than American doctors there.

This Bill acknowledges the achievements of our sons of the soil who are settled abroad and it provides for dual citizenship rights to them. So, I support this Bill.

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude towards Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi Ji, Shri Raghuvansh ji and Dr. Pandian who have welcomed this Bill by expressing the unanimous opinion of the House to pass this Bill. They have supported this Bill.

Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I think that behind the reputation earned by India throughout the world today, the respect earned by Indians, one main reason is NRIs, who are spread all over the world and who by dint of their talent have served the countries in which they reside

now and have continuously got themselves connected culturally with India and have shown the eagerness to serve for the upliftment of India, the way it can be.

I know it for years that whenever I went abroad, as a Member of Parliament then in some of the countries demand was made to provide the system of dual citizenship. Then one committee was formed comprising representatives from all the parties. That Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Singhvi suggested this and gradually we have come to this stage and today it has become necessary to accomplish this as to when NRIs from all over the world arrive here on 9th January on the occasion of PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIWAS then we can say to them that we have fulfilled the promise we made to you last year, I hope that the Indian dream to be included in the developed countries of the world, that target can be achieved with the help of this bill and Indian's and man of Indian Origin will make India one of the leading countries of the world.

Some questions have been raised by Priya Ranjan Dasmunshiji and it has been mentioned by Raghuvanshji also, we will make progress gradually towards that. With these words I express my gratitude to the House and urge to pass it unanimously.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 19 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 19 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as you are aware, in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee held on 19th December, 2003, it was decided that the voting on the Constitution (One-hundredth Amendment) Bill, 2003 will be taken up at 3.30 p.m. today. Due to fog, many morning flights were delayed and many Members have been unable to reach Delhi. The Bill being a Constitution Amendment Bill, a minimum number of Members are required, under the Constitution, for passing of the Bill. Therefore, if the House agrees, we may first take up the consideration and passing of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) No. 2 Bill, 2003 and take up the Constitution (One-hundredth Amendment) Bill, 2003 thereafter. The time of the voting will be announced shortly.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Right Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Item Nos. 26th and 27th will now be taken up together.

14.42 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:
DISAPPROVAL OF INDIAN TELEGRAPH
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

AND

INDIAN TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT) NO. 2
BILL, 2003

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No. 7 of 2003) promulgated by the President on 5 November, 2003."

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF

DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph act, 1885, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, this Parliament is quite aware that the constitutional provision to bring an Ordinance is an extraordinary situation and compulsion of the Government as and when things so happen.

I do agree that the text of the Bill and spirit of the Bill is linked with certain urgent compulsions. But what was that compulsion in this House? For the first time this has happened, possibly—I do not know the earlier instances; if there is a precedent, the hon. Minister can cite the example. So long, it has been the normal practice, wherever this House plans to amend the Rules Book, to refer every Bill to a Standing Committee, whenever it is introduced, for wider discussions and to guide the Ministry for its collective wisdom and opinion.

The moment a Bill is introduced in the House, it becomes the property of the House. The moment a Bill is referred to a Standing Committee, it becomes not merely a property, it becomes an accountability of the Standing Committee to submit the report to the Parliament and to get the direction as to which path the Government is proceeding to consider the passing of the Bill. It happened earlier also.

Just now, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister got one Bill approved. After it was introduced in Rajya Sabha, it was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee's wider discussions gave lot of room to the Government to consider and accommodate different views. Then, finally, the Government came out with a comprehensive objective of the Bill. This is how our Parliament Functions.

Sir, telecommunications being one of the largest key sectors of the country, I think, the Government came with all careful consideration and approach, to introduce a Bill. The hon. Speaker, in his own wisdom, referred that matter to the Standing Committee and the Standing Committee was deliberating on that issue just to give a report at the earliest to the Parliament. The Government, in the meanwhile, without informing the Standing Committee, without informing the hon. Speaker, who is the custodian of the House, rushed to the Rashtrapati Bhavan saying that an Ordinance was required to meet the urgency.

And *Rashtrapati*, in accordance with the Constitution of India, is always guided by the Council of Ministers even to apply the Constitutional provision of Ordinance. The Government did so and *Rashtrapati* also acted.

We are surprised this Government is in a habit now to ignore the Parliament in all possible manners to justify their accountability. The High Court, the other day, very strongly observed that the legislation passed by this House should not be altered outside in the name of disinvestment. The matter is now before the Supreme Court in the case of HPCL and BPCL. This House many times argued that in the matter of Ordinance, justification of urgency not only should be complied with but also should satisfy the Parliamentary process. I can understand the justification. You can argue the point. Would Parliamentary process be satisfied where the process is one another Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Standing Committee? This is a deliberate attempt to assault the very Parliamentary procedure and practice and to throttle the Standing Committee's deliberation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I charge the Government why before bring the ordinance, they did not inform the Standing Committee? It is because the Standing Committee's Members came. Their TA/DA were paid from the Consolidated Fund of India. It was an expenditure for a particular purpose which could have been avoided if the Government could have informed in time. The Government, in order to meet the anguish of the House, did withdraw the Bill just to satisfy the cause and got another Bill, by pressing for it.

I, therefore, strongly feel that the Minister of Communication, who is known to be a famous journalist, is possibly not known to be a famous Parliamentarian, knowing fully the business and practice of the House. I think, the Government should not behave in this fashion in future. While bringing any legislation in terms of introduction, he should twice take care what is the progress of that in the Standing Committee. With folded hands, the Minister should have apologised both to the Speaker and to the Chairman of this Standing Committee saying: "Sorry Sir, I will not repeat this thing." This should be the tradition of this House. I think we cannot compromise with this practice. Therefore, Sir, I stick to say disapproval Notice.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has made a valid point as he had been kind enough to make this point earlier also when the permission was being sought to withdraw the previous Bill.

Sir, I would plead with him and I would assure him that there was not even the slightest possibility of disregarding or showing slightest disrespect to the Standing Committee. When the matter was brought to my attention—I had received the Notice that Shri Somnath Chatterjee had written to the Speaker—I at once wrote to the Speaker.

On your point about going with folded hands, if I may say so, I had explained in the letter itself the circumstances leading to the promulgation of the Ordinance and I had said that if you direct, if the Speaker feels this is the case, I will seek the indulgence of the Standing Committee to attend the next meeting and personally assure them in this regard.

Sir, the matter was taken up by the Speaker in his graciousness and the Chairman of the Standing Committee also participated in the meeting. We went through the circumstances completely and it was in obedience with the decision taken there, by agreement, that the Bill was withdrawn and a new Bill was brought.

But, I completely agree with Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi that given his vast experience in Parliamentary Affairs, I have a great deal to learn in these matters. I assure him that as far as our Department is concerned, we do not bring Bills frequently, so that this kind of a thing would not happen.

May I just mention the reason, why this happened, why this ordinance was brought about? In the last Session, as you will recall, this particular Bill was listed for introduction and taken up on five consecutive days. But, for circumstances which are well-known to the House, it could not be taken up.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: How can it be taken up? It was supposed to be referred to the Standing Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am coming to that.

It is the Standing Committee itself which had been urging that rural telephony is very important and it had been admonishing the Government to hurry up with the creation of the Fund. So, it was in fulfilment of the desire of all the Members of this House and the strong admonitions of the Standing Committee itself that we recommended to the President an Ordinance to be passed so that the Fund may be created. The circumstance should be understood.

[Shri Arun Shourie]

Since 1999, this levy is being put on the adjusted gross revenue of operators and Funds are being collected. For two years now, five per cent of that is to be earmarked for use in rural telephony. Sir, if you see, what happened is that in this period, last year Rs. 1653 crore were collected for rural telephony under this Fund. In this year, we anticipate that Rs. 2,203 crore will accrue for rural telephony by that five per cent of the levy. But last year, because the Fund had not been created, the Department was given only Rs. 300 crore for rural telephony. This year, we are now with almost three quarters of the year over and with Rs. 2,200 crore liable to accrue but it has been possible for the Finance Ministry to allocate only Rs. 100 crore for this particular purpose. This is the situation. We have not been able to use even that Rs. 100 crore yet because the Fund has not been created. For that reason, the Ordinance was promulgated to create the Fund and go back to Parliament.

Sir, I absolutely assure the House that it is in obedience to the urgings of the Standing Committee and also urgings from the Members of all sides of this House that we took this particular step. I myself wrote earlier against the promulgation of Ordinance etc. It was an exceptional circumstance and it was only for that reason that we issue the Ordinance. Therefore, I would like to tell Shri Dasmunsi that these facts have been put to the Chairman of the Standing Committee, they have been put to the Speaker, Sir I think, they have been kind enough to appreciate the circumstances. If you permit me, then I will proceed with this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Go ahead.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, on the question of the Bill itself, it is well known that the whole telecom sector is one of the great achievements of the country for the last several years. I think, we are probably the fastest growing telecom market in the whole world. In mobile telephone alone, we are now getting 1.3 million new customers every month. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): It is with the same infrastructure. That is the problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Excuse me, Madam. I am coming to that. Actually, infrastructure is being improved because I look after the Information and Technology.

It will surprise you to know that in fibre network, for instance, we have installed in the country about 5,00,000 kilometres of fibre optic network in just four or five years.

It is a world class achievement. I am not claiming this side or that side. It is a great achievement for the country as a whole and for this particular reason. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, three-fourths of the Indian villages are yet to be connected by the optic fibre network. I can give a classic case of my own area. I have been hearing it for the last three years but till today three-fourths of my own area has not been covered by optic fibre. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, things would not happen overnight. We are proud to be an entire continent. I think, we should not focus only on that which has not got done. Everything does not reach everywhere instantly. It is the direction of progress and the scale of progress of which we can be greatly proud of. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I would like to just make a submission. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Madam, I will conclude it in five minutes. The Bill has to be passed before we go to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

An aspect of this is that the rates, as you know, have completely come down because of the new policies of the Government which have been approved by the House, discussed in the House, and today the rates which used to be Rs. 13 or Rs. 14 a minute are Rs. 1.70 per minute. And at two to three cents a minute, we have today the lowest and the cheapest rates of telephony in the whole world. It is a great achievement for the country.

An aspect of this is that in rural telephony, we must make great strides. In fact, it is not that two-thirds have not been connected by optical fibre. Certainly, the fact of the matter is that of 6,00,000 villages, 5,17,000 villages has now got telephony. It is again a world class achievement. There is not any other country, not China which can boast of this kind of telephony coverage in the world. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): What about the tribal areas in the North-East? There is no single optical fibre connection in my tribal area. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Now that peace is returning because of such distinguished Parliamentarians as my dear friend, I am sure that we will be able to expand telephony there.

Sir, as you know, it has not been possible even to extend the mobile service in the North East because of security considerations. It is because of the efforts of this Government, of the Home Minister and of the Defence Minister that all security clearances have been given and the Prime Minister inaugurated just a few weeks ago mobile service even in Nagaland which could not be thought of just till a year ago. Sir, we are very conscious of this.

Sir, in rural telephony itself, the tele-density has increased by three times in four years—three times better than it was earlier. It used to be 0.5 just in 1999. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VISHNU PADA RAY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no telephone facility in the tribal villages in down South of Nicobar. ...*(Interruptions)* there are more than 70 such villages. No one has even heard the name of optical Fibres there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Arun Shourie, you finish your speech. There are three speakers on this Bill. We will have to conclude it now. There are other items to be taken up.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I will complete my speech within a minute.

We require for this programme in the coming three years Rs. 27,000 crore. In this particular Fund, by that five per cent levy we can get about Rs. 10,000 crore during the Tenth Plan by contrast to Rs. 27,000 crore, which are required for rural telephony which is to be done, namely, by BSNL. The Tenth Five Year Plan leaves only one crore per year to BSNL. So, we have only three crore. We require 27,000 crore and that comes only from the creation of this Fund. That is why, I commend this Bill. Other details are there. I will come back to them if the Members so desire.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No. 7 of 2003) promulgated by the President on 5 November, 2003."

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, please be brief.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): In rural areas, even WLL is not working. ...*(Interruptions)* They have also discontinued the work of laying cables there ...*(Interruptions)* cable is being laid nowhere. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You will get opportunity to ask questions while giving reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mobile services may be started in my constituency also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Ramdasji, please wait you will also get an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat. I have already called Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to speak.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, it was in the year 1999 that the Government through its new Telecom Policy committed itself to provide access to all people for basic telecom services at affordable and reasonable prices.

It is further described in the new Telecom Policy as to what the Government meant by "Universal Service Objectives". I would refer to only one of the three, that is, to provide voice and low speed data services to the remaining 2.9 lakh uncovered villages in the country by the year 2002.

15.00 hrs.

We are coming to the end of the year 2003. I suppose whatever may have been the progress, the hon. Minister referred to the fact that the rural tele-density today is 1.5. Statistics, as we all know, can be deceptive like human faces. The fact remains that today half of the villages in the country are without telephones. As many as 94,000 villages are even without the village public telephones. That was one basic minimum thing required.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

If I were to distinguish the word used by the Government, that is, 'access', it would only limit itself to providing access to the common services. What we have to really strive for is to ensure universal service, and not universal access. Universal service cannot be achieved till the time you provide telephone to anyone across the country on demand, including all the villages. Having said that, I would like to say, as the hon. Minister himself has also pointed out, that the delay in implementing the universal service obligation and the Fund has, to an extent, impeded our efforts in increasing our tele-density.

So far, the entire burden of providing telephone services to the people who are even in the remote and inaccessible areas, had been left to the Department of Telecommunications, and thereafter to the BSNL. The BSNL has had to perform a very difficult task. After the corporatisation of the Department into the BSNL, the help or the assistance which should have been extended by the Government of India—I am not referring to the particular Ministry—particularly the Ministry of Finance was not forthcoming. As such, the BSNL was also in a way handicapped in performing the responsibilities which it was charged with.

The Minister had told us that during the last year, there was realisation of Rs. 1,653 crore and this year Rs. 2,200 crore on account of universal service fund and I think a major part of this—he would agree with me—has been contributed by the BSNL. I think over Rs. 1,100 crore a year has been contributed by the BSNL alone to fulfil its obligations.

Regarding obligations, actually the responsibility is so far of only the BSNL. When the private operators were given the licences, they were under an obligation to provide a small number of VPTs in the uncovered villages. I would be grateful if the hon. Minister were to tell me as to how many of them have really fulfilled their obligations so far in the last many years. A year back, out of stipulated 95,000 or so, only 8,000 or so VPTs have been provided by the private operators. They only want the cream. They want the best of both the worlds. When it comes to fulfilling a social responsibility of providing telephones in the backward, inaccessible and rural areas, they could not care less. The Government has not been able to, or rather it did not have the will or the desire to enforce those obligations on them. I know the Minister will say that "we encashed the bank guarantees." That is not enough. We would like to know what steps you have taken against the private operators in ensuring that they fulfil their obligations.

From this, I come back to the point I was making that since this responsibility has primarily been with the BSNL, the BSNL in order to meet its obligations required as much as Rs. 2,839 crore in this running year.

As the hon. Minister had himself told us, the Government has provided only Rs. 1 crore. The BSNL needed around Rs. 3,000 crore to spread its net wide across the country in providing telephones to the people in the rural area. When I say telephones, I do not mean just the VPTs and I am not talking about just one telephone somewhere but I am talking about the direct exchange line. The figure is indeed a disappointing one.

The hon. Minister would say that they have enhanced the capacity, DELs, etc. multifold in the last two years. That was because of the basis laid down ten years ago when the country then dreamed of and when the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi talked of the country entering the 21st century. At that time, he was being laughed at but today they are standing up to say that this is the achievement they have made. I welcome that but we would want it to be rather enhanced and multiplied.

There is an example which is not a very good example but a very pertinent example on the same side within the jurisdiction and domain of the hon. Minister in the Department of Posts where not more than twenty New Post Offices have been opened in the country. This is the dismal performance of this Government. Nevertheless, I welcome the achievement and the success registered in increasing our teledensity.

The overall teledensity targets were that it was in increase from 3.1 to seven by the year 2005 and to 15 by the year 2010. I would only like to be assured by the hon. Minister that we would meet these targets before time because of the progress that we are now making.

The rural teledensity, as the hon. Minister has informed us, is 1.5 at the moment. I would like to know the target from him. If I am not mistaken the target for rural teledensity was fixed by him earlier at three, to be achieved by 2007. I would like to be assured by him that we would be able to meet this target and rather exceed this target. But this is where I have my doubts because this means the provision of 14.72 million direct exchange lines. This is the number of direct private telephones that the Government has to provide to the rural folk to achieve this target of teledensity. In terms of investment, I am sure the hon. Minister would know that much more than Rs. 44,000 crore would be required. I have the figures

from his Ministry and the precise requirement is of Rs. 44,160 crore but do we have that kind of money available? Even in just bringing these proposals before Parliament two years have been knocked off. By the end of the Tenth Plan, I suppose, all that they would be able to collect through the universal service levy would not be more than Rs. 20,000 crore. Out of that, at least Rs. 5 crore would go to meet the operational charges of VPTs and a part of the capital and other charges for facilities, leaving us with only Rs. 15,000 crore. So, there would be a yawning gap. Is the Government going to meet that? If so, to what extent?

The Government has fixed the universal obligation which everybody wants. This has become a universal practice all over the world. We would like to know what are the concrete steps the hon. Minister proposes to take and what is the roadmap for the future. By what time would the targets fixed earlier be met? I would like to know when we are going to reach the teledensity target of three per cent in the villages.

I suppose, out of the 26,000 and odd "Short Distance Charging Areas" that we have, they are going to cover only about 500 for the rural areas. Only about 500 which are the Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) fall within the rural areas. ...*(Interruptions)* Well, I would like to be guided by you on that. If that is the number, then this is grossly inadequate. Sir, let us not go in for these sorts of definitions, which only are an indication of some sort of complacency on our part. We have to have realistic targets. It is all right, but it should be ambitious one also and if we just pat ourselves in the reflected glory of what little achievements have been made, then this would be grossly inadequate. I would like to know from the hon. Minister by what time—it is a specific query that I would like to have—are you going to provide VPTs in all the villages covering these 94,000 villages?

Your second objective was that where the population of the village was more than 2,000 you would provide additional VPTs. In how many villages have you provided additional VPTs and in how many villages you intend providing additional VPTs in the coming period? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude as we have to take up the Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, do you want me to conclude? ...*(Interruptions)* I hope you do not take this Bill as a filler only. This is an important Bill which

we have to discuss. ...*(Interruptions)* Besides the villages, what we are required to be doing is that another 40 lakh Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) in 20 per cent of the SDCAs are required. What are your plans in this regard?

Sir, I am going by your wishes. I want to conclude but would only refer to one provision of the Bill. As I find that though you had floated the Fund, the entire amount was going to the Consolidated Fund of India and for that reason perhaps you were handicapped in utilising that, though there was nothing barring this Government whatever to make adequate allocations under the Budget, to provide that fund to the BSNL, to carry out these functions which we term as the 'Universal Service Obligation'. Be that as it may, even today when we are through with this piece of legislation in Parliament, you want to set up this Universal Service Fund.

I find in Clause 9B that the Fund shall be first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India, and the Central Government may, if Parliament by appropriations made by law in this behalf so provides, credit such proceeds to the Fund from time to time for being utilised exclusively for meeting the Universal Service Obligation. Why is it so? I could not understand it. At the same time, I must admit that subsequently in this Clause 9D you have certainly provided that this Fund shall be utilised exclusively for meeting the Universal Service Obligation. Therefore, I do not doubt your *bona fide* and I do not doubt the intention because that is further cleared in Clause 9D, sub-clause (2) that this Fund has to be used exclusively for this purpose. But then why do you take it to the Consolidated Fund of India? Do you want to still continue with the same old bureaucratic style? Once you have got the authority from the Parliament, why should that Fund not be a separate well-identifiable Fund from which the Administrator of the Fund has the authority to contribute according to the guidelines provided, which we would, of course, be clearing under the rules? That would knock off certain delay which would otherwise crop in. I would like to know about it.

Then, further, when I refer to the 'access' and 'service', you would be satisfied by only providing basic service telephones to the people. Is that your only objective because that is what the definition here says? Your definition under your new Telecom Policy and the definition of Universal Service Object under the Bill differ. I had read from the Telecom Policy. I would only like to quote from the Bill clause 2, sub-clause (1A):

"Universal Service Obligation" means the obligation to provide access to basic telegraph services to

people in the rural and remote areas at affordable and reasonable prices”.

It talks of basic telegraph services and ends there, whereas the Telecom Policy referred to other things like ‘achieve internet access to all districts and headquarters by the year 2000’—which is already over—and ‘achieve telephone on demand in rural and urban areas by the year 2002’. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why these are not included in the definition of the Universal Service Obligation?

Sir, there is no denying the fact that creation of Universal Service Fund is a desired thing. We do look forward to improving tele-density in our country, particularly in the rural and remote areas, but at the same time, as I said, we have to think beyond that. You should not just provide the basic services; you must now be able to provide all the services, even value-added services, of course, which would not be part of the service to be taxed for this purpose. About Universal service obligation, Hon. Finance Minister began his introduction to the Bill by saying that ‘it is the fastest moving sector in the world today and in India’. If you really mean that, then you must please include all the services under the definition of universal service obligation. That is all I would like to say.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill because we all do agree with the spirit of the legislation and we also appreciate the Government’s commitment to provide rural telephony service and perform the universal service obligation, but at the same time, I would like to say that the arguments put forth by the hon. Minister about promulgation of the Ordinance are not very convincing.

I would just present before the House the chronology of the events in relation to this particular issue. The National Telecom Policy was announced in 1999. This Bill was introduced in the last August, to be very precise on 4th of August, 2003 during Monsoon Session. Then, the Bill was sent to the concerned Standing Committee, but in the meanwhile, the Ordinance was also promulgated on 7th of November, 2003. I do not want to go into the details. All the arguments have already been presented by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, but I would like to say using the minimum words that the whole issue had been dealt with in a very shabby manner. Actually, this should not have happened. It is circumventing the democratic procedure, which is relating to the parliamentary procedure.

Regarding the Universal Service Obligation Fund, as already Shri Bansal has pointed out that it is finally going to be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India, I would suggest in this context that it should be a dedicated Fund which can be exclusively used for the particular purpose and not having to undergo the procedural formalities which will take a long time. When the Ordinance was promulgated, the hon. Minister had tried to convince that it was done to avoid a delay and establish this Fund at the earliest and then utilise the Fund for the purpose for which this Fund was going to be established.

Regarding rural telephony service, of course, the hon. Minister had made very great claims. I do agree that we have gone very far ahead as far as technology is concerned, but at the same time, the ground reality, as far as rural telephony is concerned, is far from what the hon. Minister had claimed to have achieved because I know that as a result of certain decisions taken on the basis of the Census of India, in the rural areas, certain areas within *Gram Panchayats* had been declared to be urban areas. On the basis of the classification, you have a contradictory position of having a rural area and an urban area in the *Gram Panchayat*. As far as development is concerned, *Gram Panchayats* are having only the *Panchayati Raj* set up and not the municipal arrangement. There is a lot of difference between the development that is taking place in the *Gram Panchayats* and the municipal area. Within the *Gram Panchayat*, as a result of the policy adopted by the Telecom Department on the basis of the Census, some areas or some wards within the *Gram Panchayat* are considered urban for the telecom service purpose and the remaining part is considered rural. Not only that, this is actually bring disadvantage to the rural people, who have no extra development. The tariff is increased; the rental is increased from Rs. 220 to Rs. 360. Along with that, the number of free calls is reduced from 250 to 150. This is the kind of development which is taking place now.

I do have great respect for the hon. Minister, but still, I have to say that there is a lot of difference between what the hon. Minister has said or claimed to have achieved in the rural telephony and also the actual reality on the ground or the actual achievement on the ground. Therefore, this matter has to be looked into, while this Fund is going to be utilised. This particular point I have raised in the House several times that this classification should be done away with because it is discrimination. It

is not going to do justice to the rural people, who have no extra development, once they are termed as 'urban' on the basis of the Census classification. I am not going into the details.

I also would like to add that when it is specified that it would be basic telephony service, all the facilities which are available in the rest of the country should be made available to them instead of making it available in certain areas where there is full-fledged development or the benefit of that development has reached the people. Whatever benefit the metropolitan cities and other cities are having in the telecom area should be brought within the reach or access of the rural people. It is only then that the actual purpose of this particular legislation will be achieved.

I again make a request that instead of crediting the fund to the Consolidated Fund of India, it should be made a dedicated fund.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Hon'ble Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank you for granting me permission to speak in support to Telegraph Amendment Bill, 2003. I would also like to thank the hon'ble Minister for stating in the objects of this Bill that this USO Fund has been created to provide telephone facilities to rural and remote areas.

Sir, hon. member Shri Bansal ji has stated so many things here. I support some of the things and do not want to go in to detail as you have already instructed me in the beginning to be brief. Therefore, I will try to conclude in short.

Sir, I think that this type of USO Fund was essential and I hope this will certainly prove to be significant in extending this type of facility to such remote and rural areas. As far as the expenditure of funds allotted under USO is concerned, I have got some information in this regard. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister through you that if my information is not correct, he should guide me, and positively give explanation to my points. Or else, he should not take my points otherwise.

Sir, it has been said that USO Fund would be spent in two phases. In the first phase, it has been said that the uncovered revenue villages will be provided with VPTs on priority basis. According to 1991 census, the number of such villages was 6,07,491. At that time, it was decided to provide VPTs to all these villages by 31.3.2002. Some

of this work was entrusted to BSNL and some to private sector companies. This provision has also been made that wherever VPTs facility has been provided, no money on account of capital expenses will be given from USO Fund and no reimbursement will be made. But money will be released for operative expenses from USO Fund. The point have arises, as hon. Bansal ji has also stated, that as far as private sector companies are concerned, as per my knowledge no such company is there which has achieved its target. But BSNL deserves it. The jobs assigned to private companies were completed by them. My simple question is that wherever VPTs have not been provided, and are being provided now and you have said that operative expenses would be provided. But where BSNL have already provided the VPTs, though it was not their job, instead it was the job of private companies, they will get deprived of this money.

Sir, as far as the capital expenses are concerned I would like to know the numbers of such VPTs awarded to private sector and not provided on its own and if not provided, why they were not penalised and let go with a nominal penalty to end the matter. Why were they not black-listed? It seems that BSNL has done a good job in this field. At least they are not going to be benefitted out of it. Only private companies will get its benefit. This is my apprehension. I hope that the hon'ble Minister will remove this apprehension of mine.

Sir, one more thing has been stated that in such new revenue villages that have been covered on the basis of the latest census of 2001, reimbursement will be made for both operative as well as capital parts. This is a good step. In the 'B' part of it, it has been stated that where the population of a village exceeds 2000, it will be provided with additional VPT. These villages will also have such provision. I would like to make it clear about 'B' part that no village, under hilly areas in particular, would get its benefit. Where such revenue villages of a population of 2000 are here in the country! It means that only few villages will be benefitted out of it. Even 'B' class cities in the country will be benefitted out of it as our geographical condition is different and our population is scattered.

Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister through you that the criteria of a population of 2000 needs to be relaxed. I suggest that instead of revenue village, you should consider inhabited village. As the Prime Minister Gramin Sadak Yojana had to be revised, VPTs should be provided in the villages of a population of 500 or less also. Only then the rural areas will be benefitted

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

otherwise where will we find a village of a population of 2000 and how will we get an addition VPT. This is the problem which will continue. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, one of the hon'ble members is telling me that perhaps we will have to increase the population and if we increase the population we will be reprimanded here. Therefore, a provision may be made. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If we increase population then also we will be in trouble.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is stated in Part 'C' that the MARR provided before 2002 would be replaced and it might be replaced by WLL. WLL is nothing else but a mini mobile.

WLL is going to fail in the same manner like mobiles which do not work in the hills. Hon'ble members of Uttaranchal who are sitting here, will agree with me. USO fund should be utilised to consider those remote areas where WLL can not work. Only when any village can get its benefit.

Sir, in the end I will conclude after speaking about my area.

The latest policy of BSNL specifies that a telephone exchange will be provided to a village where there is a waiting list of atleast 80 applicants and in addition, there should be no local cable beyond the radius of 2.5 kms. But, where from 80 applicants should be brought? Time is short and I would like to submit that this issue should be discussed under Rule 193. I also gave the notice for calling attention motion which could not be adopted. I am concluding in just 2 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You should give a notice for discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: I have already given the notice which is under your consideration but it is never taken up. Calling attention notice is also under consideration.

There are rural and tribal areas where MCPC reached and took buildings on rent but the whole machinery was withdrawn after the BSNL policy was introduced. If the Hon'ble Minister wants an example, I can give the names. There were two exchanges in Darcha and Tingrit in Mandi

district under tribal area of Lahaul Spiti which were approved. All the necessary material was sent there but it got rejected due to new policy. At another place in Kaza in Lahaul Spiti we had even completed the waiting list of 80 applicants. This is also a tribal area. Even the MCPC has arrived and there are 80 applicants and the radius is also less than two and a half kilometre, even then we are not provided the exchange. This too should involve expenditure from the USO fund so that even the remote areas can get telephone facility.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and take my seat.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I can see the impatience of the hon'ble minister. It seems from the gist of the Telegraph Bill that they are very eager to provide telephones to the rural people. But what is the reality, I will disclose just now.

The hon'ble Minister has claimed that a new telecommunication policy was adopted in 1999 under which they are going to create a Universal Service Obligation Fund so that rural people can get the telephone facility. According to the telecommunication policy, the Bill was introduced on 4th August, 2003 in which it was mentioned that there will be a provision for Universal Service Obligation fund from retrospective effect i.e. w.e.f. April 1, 2002. The budgetary provision for that was made in 2003-2004. You wanted to get the bill passed but this could not happen. Therefore, it was introduced after 2-3 years in the form of an ordinance. They were so keen and wanted it immediately. Here, everyone is telling that the demand for telephones has increased very much. There is no single member who does not meet 2-4 people in Delhi and 10-20 people in his constituency everyday saying that they want a telephone connection and have deposited the money. People are running here and there and the amount was deposited 3 years back. Every member has people waiting and they want to tell the situation after going through papers. "Tu Kahata kagad ki Ikhi, Main kahata Akhin ki Dekhi." Whatever I am facing the other hon'ble members are also facing. People come to us for no other work but to recommend for a telephone connection for them. I am describing the pain of all the members. What is this?

It is said that we have a quota for 100 telephone connections but these telephone connections are not being given. You should monitor the quota and tell us if even our work is not done then whose work will be done? All

the rural people are facing much problem due to the increased demand for telephones. Even we people do not get connection. I do not have a mobile and people find it surprising. I still do not belong to this culture and the way all people have become modern but I will have to act according to the people. There is much awareness among the people regarding the need for a telephone and they have deposited the money.

I do not know how you have divided the rural and urban areas. An area which is totally rural has been marked as urban and as a result, there will be higher fee for that area.

High telephone charge is the problem for the public. They have also deposited the amount but their officer says that they have been asked not to set up exchange and lay cable wire therefore, opt for W.L.L. Now, as all hon. Members are aware that W.L.L. is not successful. Is it working well anywhere? People are totally averse to the idea of opting for W.L.L.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what telecom policy he has made that favours the closing of exchange, obstructs setting up of new exchange, not to expand the capacity of an exchange, not to increase cable and stop laying cable further-in such conditions, how the telephone would be installed? I would like to know about the waiting list from the hon. Minister? I know about one State. There are more than one lakh applicants in the waiting list in Bihar. This waiting list is lying pending for the last two-three or four years. What is the national average teledensity and statewise teledensity?

Now, it is being said that we have made great development because the boys of our country are working everywhere on information technology and internet. Our boys are talented, therefore, the people of the world search and take them to their countries. I would like to ask what is the condition in our country? What is the teledensity of China and what is our teledensity and state level teledensity? You will have to ponder over all these issues.

Now, the hon. Minister is saying that he wants to sanction Rs. 100 crore for rural telephony. He wants to give telephone connection to rural people. What are you giving to the rural people? The people of rural area are not sure whether they will get telephone connection or not. They have deposited amounts two-three years earlier. The officers there say there is no wire, phone-set and tower which causes delay. As a result, the rural people

are restless. The hon. Minister is claiming but I would like to ask as to what would happen with Rs. 100 crore? they are formulating policies influenced by rich men, multi-nationals and private operators. There is much burden on B.S.N.L. They would be benefited by private operators. Now, there are many names like Reliance, they get the law, rule changed whenever they like, get any law passed, get any policy formulated. How will this go? Rural people are restless to get telephone connection. They have deposited money. I would like to ask as to what would happen to them? All the people in rural areas are in trouble. When I go to Patna, I am asked to get a reservation. We have five works to do. First, to get reservation in a train, get people admitted in hospitals, get students enrolled in schools and universities, when I go to my village, house, while in headquarters people come to me and ask to write of telephone. When I ask them as to when they deposited money, they tell me that they have done so two-three years back. Has the hon. Minister ever monitored this? I have written a letter in this regard as to why you are not increasing exchanges, why have you got this work stoped, why aren't you getting the cable laid? He writes that he is examining and will inform thereafter. Please state how much time it will take?

The hon. Minister has said that he would deposit Rs. 100 crore as Universal Service Obligation Fund for rural telephony. Through this, the hon. Minister is giving message to the people that he is worried about rural people but are you really worried about rural area or they are subject to negligence because they are not getting anything. Now, rich people are moving with cellular phones but the rural people who want to avail telephone facility are not getting telephone connection. I want to express their agony. In my constituency Vaishali. ...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about all rural people. His party people cannot speak anything because they are not to get opportunity to speak anything. Therefore, I am raising the point here cherished by all. I am narrating the problem of the people.

I am giving an example. The headquarter of Vaishali Parliamentary constituency is Hajipur. That is not in our town area. There are four Assembly Constituencies in Muzaffarpur. Vaishali Parliamentary Constituency is made of rural area. There is no cellular connectivity there. There is one tower in Hajipur and another in Muzaffarpur. They fall in urban area. We were told that they would provide us Garud and Dolphin phones. I asked what use it would be of? they said that it would be connected up to five kilometers in Delhi. Whether we are running a factory here that we would talk to anyone within five kilometers?

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

I said that we live in rural area and if the rural people want to tell their problems they can tell the same to the collector or the concerned officer from there. Cellular mobile which is known by different names which shows photograph, news, different technologies have been developed, these technologies should be used in rural areas. They are providing us with Garud. ...*(Interruptions)* I have heard that it does not work well. If private cellular operators make B.S.N.L. roaming, people can talk in the country and abroad. I have been enquiring about it from mobile users. If the people tell us about their problems during our visit to rural areas, we can suggest from there to install better phone connections and towers in rural areas. Cellular and mobile services are out of range in our areas. When I enquired about the installation of the tower in writing, you promised to examine the matter. Two months have passed since then. Directions should be issued to increase the number of exchanges, their capacity and to lay cable lines there. The matter regarding depositing of money by the people should be monitored in every state. Suppose there is a case in which a Member recommends in writing to give telephone connection but when the needy person goes to the department for that connection, he is told that connection can not be given as the quota has been exhausted. People get annoyed if we do not recommend their applications, but they are refused connections by your officers. We are facing such type of problems. Please look into the matter. You never contested an elections. you are a learned person who was elected while working in a newspaper. But, we are those persons who got elected after feeling the agony of the common man. We should understand the problem of common man. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Only the problems faced by the people are raised in this House.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Lakshadweep is cut off from the country as it is surrounded by water from all sides. ... there is sea-route to the place. ...*(Interruptions)* Each and every place, especially remote areas and rural areas should be well connected with telephony. In every family, some members and relatives live away from their homes. They want to communicate through telephone but they face a lot of difficulties in getting themselves connected telephonically with their family members. They can talk to their friends and relatives if they get telephone connections, when we go to the villages then people tell us about their problems. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, you please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Only hundred crore rupees in the budget for the year 2003-2004 will not be adequate for telegraph sector. You will deposit that money in Universal service obligation fund. If we had prior information about it, we would have told you to increase that fund.

With these words. I would like this bill to be passed but the hon. Minister should answer the questions raised by me.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): I thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. The Indian Telegraph Act is sought to be amended on the basis of the recommendation of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. It has been stipulated that universal access levy would be a part of the licence fee. With a view to implement the new Telecom Policy, it has been decided to establish a Fund with effect from 1st April, 2002 to be called as the Universal Service Obligation Fund.

Sir, it indicates that the Bill is an enabling legislation. Sir, already the Convergence Bill comprising 94 clauses is there. That intends to repeal existing we have the Telegraph Act of 1885, Wireless Telegraph Act 1994, and TRAI Act 2000. Now, the Communication Commission of India is going to be established. The hon. Minister could have included another clause for this fund so that he might not have faced such kind of predicament now.

Firstly, everybody must appreciate that still IT access is not affordable to the common people of India. In so far as VPT is concerned, it has performed dismally. The target of VPT has not been achieved and the Ministry had always attributed it to non-selection of technology and non-receipt of equipment. It has been proposed that MARR system will be replaced. But how many villages have so far been provided with even MARR system? Short distance charging area will be excluded from this Fund. It is a sheer mismatch and sheer discrimination against the rural area. The Ministry has already made a cable curtailment which was earlier five kilometres from the exchange and now it has been reduced to two and a half kilometres. Beyond two and a half kilometres, the Government is proposing WLL facilities. But the Government must know that in so far as the power scenario in India is concerned, it is hardly possible for any State to supply adequate and reliable power so that WLL system could function.

However, the internet telephony which has already been opened to the private sector may contribute a lot.

The PC percentage of our country is very much poor. May I suggest the Government to provide internet telephony at the village level so that we can create knowledge-based society because the potential benefit of globalisation is access to there information and knowledge. India must secure its access to the information and knowledge world because in this globalised scenario, we cannot afford ourselves to be lagged behind. If the benefit of the globalisation will have to accrue, we have to have adequate information technology facilities. Furthermore, we tried to have more infrastructure development because the IT enable services in the rural village can only be ensured by he development of infrastructure facilities. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to expedite the process of internet telephony. Furthermore the only natural resource which the Indian can enjoy is 'em' spectrum, that is, radio spectrum. If we are able to converge radio and internet then in every village they will be able to create a knowledge based society which will ensure the prosperity of India.

Sir, due to the time constraint, I cannot extend my argument.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I just want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the tribal areas of the country and the areas where the telecommunication is very difficult.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I also forcefully agree with you. I also come from such an area.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Second thing is that a lot of VPT instruments are required but they have not been purchased by the Government. As a result, those areas have remained disconnected. I would request him just to see that these instruments are purchased in time and supplied to the Chief General Managers of various parts of the country, especially Gujarat.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through the Chair I want to inform the hon. Minister of Communications that a large-scale black marketing of sim cards is taking place due to unavailability of sim cards, which are used in mobile services. In this context, I would like to request to ensure supply according to the demand so that black marketing can be checked. This is the feelings of all members of the House.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Sir, the Kerala circle is facing shortage of cables. There are three lakh persons who have been wait-listed. I would like to know whether the Government is taking urgent steps to sort out the problem of shortage of cable in the State. ...*(Interruptions)* More than three lakh persons are wait-listed. ...*(Interruptions)* What is the problem? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): At many places, people had deposited money two or three years ago to get connection of W.L.L. Service, but they have not get connections as yet, although the government had promised to give them that facility.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are right that people have deposited money long ago but they have not got this facility so far.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing, except what the hon. Minister is saying, would go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We have to take up the Constitution Amendment Bill. The Bill has to go to the Rajya Sabha as well. Let him reply now.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: I want to know about the time by when these facilities would be made available to those persons who have deposited money two or three years ago.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has listened to your views and I have also said him about it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please keep this in mind.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER; This is not Question Hour. The Minister will give his reply now. He has heard your views and he will reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing, except what the hon. Minister is saying, will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I am very grateful to all the hon. Members, from all sides of the House, who have pointed out important things that needs to be done in future and also to those, from all sides of the House, who have endorsed the need for establishing this Fund and also for passing this Bill.

Sir, if you permit me I would take five minutes to complete my reply to the debate and answer the queries that have been raised.

Sir, one important point that was made by three Members was the point that Shri Bansal emphasised and that was as to why not to put it as a separate fund outside the Consolidated Fund of India. Actually that is not the method of accountability for Parliament. The method of accountability is the Consolidated Fund of India, its review in the Budget and its voting by the Parliament and taking its sanction through it. It is the essential instrument for parliamentary accountability and control. Secondly, to assure the hon. Members I would like to submit that this will be a separate head in the Budget and the amount will be shown as 'Transferred to the Universal Service Obligation Fund'. There will be a separate administrator, a separate regulator and a separate licencer. I hope, we have an occasion to discuss this in the Parliament also. Setting it up outside the Consolidated Fund would not solve any extra purpose in this. It would actually amount to diluting the parliamentary control and accountability.

I completely agree that there is a misunderstanding of the word 'basic services'. It does not mean just elementary service and nothing else. There are different kinds of services provided. People with original licences like BSNL, MTNL, who are providing fixed line service, are called Basic Operators. Now, you have a new instrument where you will see that in the new fixed line instruments facilities like E-mail and caller identification has come and that will go with the fixed line services.

Out intention is to provide this. I do plead with the House to recognise it as one of the country's achievements. I completely endorse what was said by my Congress friends that Shri Rajiv Gandhi looked into the future and by his guidance, persons like Mr. Sam Pitroda contributed a great deal to initiating this Telecom Revolution and we all owe them great respect in the regard. And I am the first to acknowledge it that good work has been carried forward by many persons, as the Hon. Members have mentioned, specially by the staff of the BSNL.

Shri Bansal asked as to what was the assistance that was given to the BSNL. Sir, actually, the complaint to me has been the opposite. The cellular operators have come to me—and I can share this information with the House—and complained that the autonomy, the freedom and the concessions that we have given to the BSNL will actually kill them. It is because BSNL is able to run so fast that, for instance, in just one year, they have acquired 43 lakh cellular customers. They have not done this in bigger cities where other private operators are concentrating. But they have done it really outside of them, in smaller towns and this achievement has been possible. The licence fee and the spectrum charges of about Rs. 2300 crore are exempted and reimbursed to them. They used to and they are required to pay a dividend to the Government. That was first slashed by 50 per cent but now, with my own urging, the Group of Ministers has recommended to the Cabinet and the Cabinet has approved the BSNL will not be required to pay any minimum dividend and it is the Board of the BSNL which will decide this completely. In the last two years also, the licence fee as well as the spectrum charges have been reimbursed to the BSNL in this regard. it is the cause of complaint by others.

One virtue that we will see is that, of this Universal Service Obligation Fund, for instance, Rs. 300 crore which given last year, 99 per cent of what was given went back to the BSNL. it is by competent bidding. We ensured that the bidding was so competent that in the areas in which they were present and other operators were not present, of those Rs. 300 crores, 99 per cent went back to the BSNL. This is one of the main instruments not just for rural telephony but also something which will ensure financial health of the BSNL itself.

I completely agree with Shri Bansal on one point. If there was time available, I would have given the figures that the private operators did not live up to the obligations which had been specified. There had been occasions to point it out earlier also. The letter of intent was issued

*Not Recorded.

in 1996 and licence was given in 1997. I do not want to go into who were the Ministers at that time and which Governments were there at that time. But the result was that in the licence condition. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: When did it fail in non-performing it? In 1996-97, licences were given. When did the performance and non-performance begin?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Non-performance has been a continuing feature. It was not a yearly obligation that they have to meet those obligations. The only penalty which was provided was Rs. 4 crore if you do not meet the rural VPT targets and Rs. 4 crore if you do not activate the network on time. All those Rs. 8 crore have been collected from each of the private operators. Then, I myself made an inquiry under that Licence Agreement and extra penalty could be taken. The only thing which you can come up and ask for is higher performance guarantee. We asked those private operators and four or five of them agreed to deposit that amount. In the case of HFCL of Punjab, they said, "No. But BSNL has covered all the areas. So, we have no further obligations in VPTs." In the case of Shyam Telecom of Rajasthan, it went to the court and got a stay even on giving the extra performance guarantee. So, this loosely worded Licence Agreement is not a good idea to go into these things.

There are many other points which are being made. I will come only to one point and then conclude with your endorsement. Various figures have been cited about SDCAs. It is a misunderstanding. It is just tehsil in general and that is how the amounts are being calculated.

15.59 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I understand that point. But is it a fact that you are confining only to 500 SDCAs?

16.00 hrs.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: That is a misnomer. ...*(Interruptions)* Not at all. That figure of 487 was a construct of the Group of Ministers about the roll out obligations to be lviied. That has been given up. In fact, there was a discussion in the House two or three Sessions ago. The rural definition of the census has been adopted and has been continuing. This figure has been completely abandoned.

I will just give one figure and end. Of the total number of revenue villages of 6,07,491, villages with VPTs today are 5,17,814; villages which are de-populated and which have a population of less than 100 are 27,000; naxalite-affected and insurgency-affected are almost 6,000 villages; those which are so remote, as Shri Maheshwar Singh was saying, that have to be covered by satellite media are about 25,668. The remaining are about 30,000 villages.

My effort is to first concentrate on these remaining villages and do that completely. It is because to try and go on saying that we will cover naxalite-affected villages and insurgency-affected villages is an impractical target. It may be an ambitious target, but as you said, it is not a realistic target.

Therefore, please believe me, because of your desire and because of the importance of the matter, the Government is focusing on rural telephony. This is the instrument of doing it.

I thank hon. Members from all sides for endorsing the Bill.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Villages need additional VPTs. It is because villages have only one VPT and they require more. We need to have STD facility in the VPTs.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: First, we should try to get the staple service to everybody. Definitely one of the objectives in the second phase of the Universal Service Obligation Fund is to provide that extra or second VPT, that is Village Public Telephone.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as for as VPTs are concerned, the villages with a population of 2000 people will be covered under it. But, it is impossible to find a village in hilly areas where 2000 people live. So, through you I want to know from the hon. Minister that whether he would make provision for inhabitant villages with a population of 500 people instead of revenue villages on the pattern of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

[*English*]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: That is a very important suggestion. There is a very good precedent in the Prime Minister's *Gram Sadak Yojana*.

MR. SPEAKER: You can consider it in due course of time.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will certainly do my best to consider it. I commend the Bill for passing.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, your right to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No more questions on this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is a Constitution (Amendment) Bill which has to be taken up. There is some other important business also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, though I am not convinced by the arguments put forth by the hon. Minister for promulgating the ordinance, but in view of the fact that since the hon. Minister had acknowledged the contribution made by the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, our beloved former Prime Minister in the telecom revolution on the record, I withdraw my disapproval notice.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I have not permitted any question.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*Not Recorded.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 5

Establishment of universal service obligation Fund

Amendment made:

Page 2, line 26,—

omit "No. 2" (2)

(Shri Arun Shourie)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Amendment made: Short Title and commencement

Page 1, line 2—

omit "No. 2" (1)

(Shri Arun Shourie)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.07 hrs.

DRUGS AND COSMETICS (AMENDMENT) BILL*, 2003

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is the second Supplementary List of Business—two Bills to be introduced.

First, I would request the hon. Minister Shrimati Sushma Swaraj to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Hon'ble, Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I introduce the Bill.

16.08 hrs.

PATENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL,* 2003

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazette of India extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 22.12.2003.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I introduce the Bill.

16.09 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

RE: Discussion on ATR of Report of JPC on Stock Market Scam

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Discussion regarding Action Taken Report on the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto, laid on the Table of the House on the 9th May, 2003 has been admitted in the names of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and Shri Vilas Muttemvar. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has requested the hon. Speaker to allow Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar to raise the discussion on his behalf. The Chair has acceded to the request of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

Should we start the discussion?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: First, we should take up the Constitution (Amendment) Bill and then we will start the discussion on the ATR.

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, we take up the Constitution (Amendment) Bill first.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: After the passage of the Bill, we will take up the Discussion under Rule 193.

16.10 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (ONE-HUNDREDTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003

(Amendment of Eighth Schedule)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up item no. 23.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

[Shri L.K. Advani]

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this Bill, by itself, is confined to amending the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution which lists the recognised languages. The amendment seeks to include Bodo language also in the Eighth Schedule. There has been a demand for the inclusion of this language and also for the inclusion of several other languages in the Eighth Schedule, including Santhali.

As far as the inclusion of other languages is concerned, I would like to say a few words here. But so far as Bodo is concerned, the inclusion of Bodo language in the Eighth Schedule is in pursuance of a very valuable Memorandum of Settlement arrived at between the representatives of the Bodo community, the Government of Assam and the Government of India some time back. As a result of it, only a few days back there was a massive gathering in Assam in which the Chief Minister of Assam was present and those who are Members of the Autonomous Council set up under that settlement were also sworn-in there. The feeling of joy among all was so widespread among the people present there. The Bodo militants laid down their arms, handed over their arms and there was a feeling that peace has come to the area and harmony has come to the area.

Sir, a part of the settlement was also that the Government of India would consider inclusion of Bodo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Then, two senior Members from the Opposition parties, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni and Shri Basu Deb Acharia gave notice that Santhali also should be included in the Eighth Schedule. The Government considered the whole thing and we have accepted to include three other languages namely, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri and an official amendment to this effect will be moved very shortly. But at the present moment, so far as this Bill is concerned, it refers to the inclusion of Bodo language and I commend this Bill for unanimous acceptance of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

I would like to inform the hon. Members that we have to take up another important discussion at 4.30 p.m. So, I would request the hon. Members to speak as briefly as they can on this Bill so that we can take up voting on this Bill at 4.30 p.m.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH (Shillong): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that we welcome the inclusion of Bodo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, as it has been agreed upon in the Tripartite Agreement signed by the Government of India, the Government of Assam and the leaders of the Bodo community.

It is a good augury for the North-East Region where we expect that this agreement will pave the way for the larger peace, harmony and tranquillity in this turbulent area. So, we welcome this Amendment Bill for the inclusion of the Bodo language, which is for the North-East. We have the Assamese language, the Manipuri language and now the Bodo language in the 8th Schedule.

There have been demands over the years for the inclusion of Khasi language, which is a language which comes under one of the major languages group of India, that is Austro-Asiatic. It is an aesthetic language. Khasi language belongs to Man-Khmer stream and it is the language which is being spoken in Cambodia and Myanmar. Over the hundreds of years, this Khasi language has developed into a language of its own personality. It was specially recognised by the Calcutta University in 1900 in its Entrance examination. In 1919, it was recognised by the Calcutta University at a degree level at that time.

Sir, later, in 1948, Guwahati recognised it as a BA language. So, today we have the North-Eastern University. It has opened up and offers M.A., M.Phil, Ph.D. in the level. This language is one of the richest tribal languages in the country which is being spoken in my State, in Meghalaya, in Assam as well as in parts of Bangladesh. It is very important that this language is considered objectively to be included in the Eighth Schedule. Rarely a tribal language is recognised by three Universities.

In fact, the other day I had a discussion with the Minister of State, Shri I.D. Swami and I was given a hint that this matter would go to the Expert Committee. We do not mind that so long as the basis of the case is recognised. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: This language is one of the richest languages, no doubt about it. Even the *Sahitya Sabha* has recognised this language. I would request the Speaker and the Government to take note of Khasi language because it is one of the few tribal languages

which is deserving. You will get all the facts. I have written a letter to Shri Swami only the other day giving all the facts.

So, while welcoming this Constitution (Amendment) Bill for the inclusion of Bodo language in the Eighth Schedule, we request the Government to consider the inclusion of Khasi language in the Eighth Schedule.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a welcome move to include the Bodo language in the Eighth Schedule. As has been indicated, it is the Memorandum of Settlement which has brought about peace in Assam and particularly in Bodoland.

Shri Biswamuthiary, who had been championing the cause, is the person who had taken lots of steps in this regard and the Deputy Prime Minister had started this thing. Now, Sir, there is peace and harmony in that area.

Sir, as the Deputy Prime Minister has said, other languages are to be included in the Eighth Schedule. When the Constitution was drafted, 14 languages were taken but the objective reason for which those 14 languages had been taken in had not been indicated. At a later stage, four languages were taken. Now, it is necessary that other languages also should be taken in like the Bodo language which has come now. The Santhali language has to be taken in because it is a very rich language with a script of its own. Pandit Raghunath Murmu from Mayurbhanj district of Orissa had started this thing and there are lots of people in Orissa, Jharkhand and West Bengal who speak Santhali language. It is a very rich language for that matter.

You would kindly appreciate that the Santhals are a proud and good people. You will find mention of the Santhals in *Harshcharitra* of Banabhatta. Long back, it had been indicated there. They deserve some consideration now. The Bodo language, which had been in the Devnagri script, is a very good innovation and it is necessary. I would suggest that whichever languages are being taken up now in the Eighth Schedule should be in the Devnagri script because that would be a cementing bond for all the people of India. I support this Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for calling me to speak on this Bill. I rise to support this Bill.

Actually this is a simple Bill, but I do not support the way the Government has brought this Bill. The Government has first entered into an agreement with the Bodo extremists. In this way, they have brought this Bill.

They are encouraging terrorism in this way. I do not support this.

There are many developed and rich languages in the country. They should also be included. My senior colleague, Shri Kyndiah has also mentioned here that Khasi language should be included in the Eighth Schedule. Not only Khasi, but also in Tripura, there are Kok Barak languages which are spoken by indigenous tribal people of Tripura. The majority of the tribal people speak Kok Barak language. Among some of them, it is known as Kau Bru also. This is now used as an official language there.

As per my information, the Bodo language is not an official language of Assam. It is used by a portion of the people of Assam State. Their numbers may be a few lakhs. But in our country there are several languages which are spoken by lakhs and crores of people, but their languages are not considered to be included in this Eighth Schedule. Including them in the Eighth Schedule is necessary to develop the languages. It is necessary to get funds. It is necessary for other purposes. It encourages to develop their culture and language. So it is necessary. I support this good thing. ...(*Interruptions*) Please give me two more minutes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have a very old demand regarding Rajasthani Language. ...(*Interruptions*) Its name does not figure, any where in this Bill ...(*Interruptions*) We have been making demand for it not from today onward but for years. We have made a demand in the Assembly too. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is on his legs.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Earlier, there was a Linguistic Minority Commission. They had made certain recommendations. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: We are very much agitated about that. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: In one of the recommendations, it was said that for the people belonging to the minorities, their language should be the medium of instruction in the school if the number of students may be 40 or so. So, this type of concession

[Shri Baju Ban Riyan]

should be there. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government should think how these minority languages should be included in the Eighth Schedule.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on this very important Bill viz: "Constitution (one hundredth Amendment) Bill, 2003" which has been moved by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani so as to help facilitate the inclusion of 'Bodo Language' in the eighth schedule to the Constitution.

At the initial stage of my deliberation, I would like to thank the entire NDA Government, particularly Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and other allies of the NDA Government for having taken such a bold decision to accommodate 'Bodo Language' also in the eighth schedule to the Constitution.

And at the same time, I salute all the learned Members of this august House for their helping hand and co-operation in getting this important Bill passed in this august House on this most significant and historic day. Today, indeed, I personally feel highly honoured and the entire Bodo people of the whole world also do surely feel so. It was long overdue and today, undoubtedly, it is going to be fulfilled. It is a welcome move.

The Bodo language is a very rich and ancient language. It belongs to the great Sino-Tibetan linguistic family. In the entire country about 90 lakh Bodo people speak the Bodo language and throughout the whole globe about ten million Bodo population speaks the Bodo language. So, it is a great honour for the entire Bodo people of the whole world. For this, I again thank the present NDA Government.

[Translation]

I am very much thankful to the present Government for the bold steps taken to include Bodo Language in the eighth Schedule of the Constitution. I heartily congratulate particularly to Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs Shri I.D. Swami, Shri Chinmayanand Swami and all other allies of the NDA Government from my side and on behalf of Lakhs of Bodo citizens. I thank all Members of Parliament on behalf of Bodo people.

With these words I fully support this Bill and thank you all once more for thousand times on behalf of Bodo people.

[English]

I salute you all for having extended your unequivocal support to passing this Bill.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I welcome the inclusion of Bodo Language in eighth schedule but I express my concern also that if you look forward to the art and culture of Rajasthan and other developmental aspects of Rajasthan, then the language of Rajasthan has also been a rich language in which history has been written and which has also get a rich literature. We have made a number of appeals to the Union Government to include Rajasthani language in the eighth Schedule but as our friends were just telling that Rajasthani language has always been neglected. So I appeal on behalf of all historians and literature that Rajasthani language should also be included in the eighth schedule of the constitution.

SHRI V. DHANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had one demand. The matter relating to Tulu language has been pending since long and Shri I.D. Swami had promised in the House that a commission has been set up. The matter will be looked into after the receipt of the commission's report. I request to Deputy Prime Minister to include Tulu language in the Eighth schedule.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The voting has to take place at 4.30 p.m. Before that, the hon. Minister has to give his reply to the debate. It is already 4.29 p.m. How can I allow everybody to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak. I express my gratitude towards hon. Prime Minister from my side and on behalf of 4.5 crore people of Mithila who has brought a proposal to include Maithili language also in the eighth schedule. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): Sir, I thank the Government for bringing forward this Bill to include the Bodo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Government has taken note of it. Please taken your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Mithila has been an ancient, historical and cultural place. King Janak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You just give your suggestion in one sentence. There is no time for other things.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Everybody talks about Ayodhya, once I have get a chance, please given me one minute to finish. I shall be very brief. I strongly support the proposal brought by Hon'ble Prime Minister. I say emphatically that Mithila and Maithili had been a great importance historically as well as religiously. Maithili language has its own script. Even the script used in Bengali language belongs to Maithili. The only difference is in Aa, Ba and Ra. Mithila is such a place where Adi Shankaracharya was defeated by Mandan Mishra in olden days. There is no more time left to speak. I want to express my gratitude. Everyone says to express gratitude. I want to express my gratitude in Maithili language. I pay my gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister. I would like to thank Hon'ble Prime Minister in Maithili language. I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister on behalf of all the people residing in Mithila.

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of all the Santhal and tribal people of India, I express gratitude to the Prime Minister and Deputy-Prime Minister of India and this House. Today in an historic day as 18 languages were given recognition in the Constitution of India but none of the tribal languages was included in it. Today it is for the first time that the Bodo and Santhali languages, the two tribal languages, are getting recognition. Recognising them will lead to promotion of education among the tribals and the drop-out rate will decline which will give them an opportunity to progress. Recently, we have met the President of India and the Leader of Opposition and now I want to thank the Parliament by speaking in Santhali language. On behalf of Santhali people, I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Today on behalf of the entire Santhals of India, I express my gratefulness to this Parliament and to this Government for bringing this Constitutional Amendment. I once again salute and thank them for taking this step.

*Translation of Speech originally delivered in Santhali.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now I have to go for voting.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Please allow him. It is his own mother tongue. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I support the Bill introduced for inclusion of Bodo and three other languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

The hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu had written one letter to the hon. Prime Minister and to the hon. Deputy Prime Minister. It is our earnest desire that Telugu language also be given the status of national official language. It is already there in the Eighth Schedule. We have to amend article 351 of the Constitution.

Now, our language is spoken by about 14.5 crore of people in the country. Shri Krishna Devaraya, the popular Vijayanagaram Emperor, hailed Telugu as the best of languages. The renowned Tamil poet Shri Subramanya Bharathi was deeply impressed by the richness and sweetness of the language so much so that he called it 'Sundara Telugu'. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It will depend on the composition of the next House. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: So, that is why, on this occasion, I am requesting the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Deputy Prime Minister to amend the article 351 to give the status of national official language to Telugu language. This is my humble request. On the 28th August, 2002, the hon. Chief Minister had addressed the letter to the hon. Prime Minister. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATERJEE: It will be in the next House. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 18 languages are already there in the eighth schedule and now four languages viz. Dogri, Maithili, Santhali and Bodo have been included today, making it 22. How is it that Bhojpuri which is an international and a rich language which is very popular both within and outside the country left out? I am unable to understand

[Dr. Raghuvaran Prasad Singh]

it. What kind of negligence took place in the case of Bhojpuri language. Shri Thakur was the Kalidas of Bhojpuri. Bhojpuri, Angika, Bichika and Maithili are all famous languages. The Government should consider all these facts and include the Bhojpuri language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU (Jhargram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was a long standing demand of our people to include Santhali language in the eighth schedule. The Government has accepted it and for this I thank the Government. Now, I will speak in Santhali language. 'Tanhen din da aithasik din Kana, Bharat disham ren santhal ka aadi ka raska aina. Noubad kana. International bhasha Nepal se, Bangladesh re han Santhal mane: Kya Unka ha ka rasha aina. Ana khatir sarkar dhanyavada in aimaya Kana.

MR. SPEAKER: Tell me what you have said.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, translation should be introduced retrospectively now. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: It means that all the Santhali people of India as well as those living abroad are happy. For this, I thank the Government.

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf to my party DMK, I welcome this amendment. Our leader, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister on so many occasions saying that all these languages which are there in the Eighth Schedule should be declared as official languages and particularly, Tamil must be declared as a classical language.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Sir, I also join.

MR. SPEAKER: Your name will also be associated.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while thanking Prime Minister for the Bill introduced today. We would like to make a request. A calling attention motion was moved in this very House in the reply of which the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs had said that a committee is being

constituted which will decide about the regional languages to be included in the eighth schedule. Out of 20 crore Bhojpuri speaking people 16 crore live in India. After all, on what basis languages are included in the eighth schedule of the Constitution as 16 crore people speak Bhojpuri language in the country and 20 crore worldwide. They feel uncomfortable that you are going to include 4 languages in the Schedule but Bhojpuri has been left out. Hon'ble Deputy-Prime Minister may kindly tell whether Bhojpuri language, which is spoken by 16 crore people in the country, will also be included in the eighth schedule.

[English]

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR (Panskura): Sir, while supporting this Constitution (Amendment) Bill, I congratulate the Deputy Prime Minister for having brought this amendment. At the same time, I would say that from the All India Trinamool Congress, we had been requesting for inclusion of Santhali and Maithili languages in the Eighth Schedule. Now, that has been done. I am very happy about it. So far as North Bengal is concerned, Rajbongshi is another important language and this should also be considered for inclusion. I also support that Bhojpuri should also be included.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will finish my speech in a sentence. I welcome this step of the Government and urge the Government that Urdu is already there in the eighth schedule and a large section of India speaks Urdu language. Therefore, Urdu should be given the status of second official language and the Persian should also be included in the eighth schedule.

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): Sir, associate with him.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I support this amendment which the Government has brought after our prolonged persuasion and struggle outside this House. There was a demand from the West Bengal Government also and a unanimous resolution was passed by the West Bengal Assembly two years back. An all-party delegation also met Prime Minister as well as deputy Prime Minister. My party is the only national party which had demanded inclusion of Santhali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, our party also demanded for its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, this is one of the oldest languages and its rank is counted among the Indian languages.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has already agreed to it and he had already said that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Today, I thank the Government for bringing forward this Amendment to include the 'Santhali' language in the Constitution, though it is a belated move by the Government. It is a language which is spoken by about one crore Santhali tribal population, which fought for the freedom of our country. Sidu-Kanu, who belong to this Santhali community, went to gallows for the freedom of our country. Today, their language is now being recognised and being included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

I thank the Government for this action. I congratulate the people who struggled for inclusion of the 'Santhali' language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill for including four new languages in the 8th Schedule. The various other languages and dialects demanded by the members to be included in the 8th Schedule, should also be included in the 8th Schedule. We all know that Bundeli has got its history and literature. Bundeli should also be included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. I would like to request the Government through you that a Committee should be constituted in this regard so that there is no dispute. Keeping in view the demand and requirement of the dialects and languages in various parts of the country, the Committee should contemplate and conduct a holistic study in this regard and the languages found practically fit to be included in the 8th Schedule should be decided together to include them in the 8th Schedule.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Shiv Sena, I support the Bill brought by hon. Advaniji. Thanks for the justice done to Bodo language. Recently, hon. Prime Minister has made a statement on Hindi. That should also be discussed in detail. Hindi is the main language of the country, hence it should also be discussed.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): While speaking on this Amendment, I take this opportunity to demand that

Tamil should be declared as a 'classical language' and it should be included as an official language. Tamil is the oldest language. It has got the richest tradition and rich literature. It is three thousand years old: '*Thirukkural*' and the Tamilians are the oldest people, according to the ancient Tamil Sangam literature. It is being spoken by about 10 crores of people in Tamil Nadu and all over India. On this score, my leader, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Jayalalithaa has submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister and to the Deputy Prime Minister that Tamil should be declared as a classical language. I would request the Prime Minister to declare it now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, I support the Government for including 4 more languages, in addition to 18 languages in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. Hon. Prime Minister belongs to Braj region but Braj language has not been given justice. Braj is the region where Krishna was born, and Braj is a rich language. That region is very beautiful and crores of people speak that language. Raskhan has mentioned, "Manas ho to wahi Raskhan basan Braj Gokul gaon Ke gwalan, jo pashu ho to Kaha basu mero charo mit Nand Ki dhanu manjharam." The language of the region Prime Minister hails from i.e. Braj should be included in the 8th Schedule. It will be a justice to the people of that region.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill, but I also want the Pahadi language to be included in the Eighth Schedule from Himachal Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Island): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Nicobar tribal language and Karen language are being spoken for the last hundred years. I request that both of these languages should be included in the 8th Schedule.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak. This language is spoken by crores of people and it should have been included in the 8th Schedule long back. I thank the Government very much. Dogras have raised the prestige of the country during war times. The Government have honoured all those sacrifices by

[Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta]

including this language in the 8th Schedule. I thank the Government for that.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, I congratulate the Government on behalf of all Dalits. It was a long pending demand to include these languages in the 8th Schedule. At present, you have been successful in three states, that is why you are happy. Bush is the President of USA and our Atalji is very happy. The decision you have taken in a happy state of mind, is a very good one. I again congratulate the Government on behalf of Dalits. Similarly, Konkani language is already there in Maharashtra, and Malbani should also be included. The Government should consider to include this language.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I welcome this Bill. Some more languages should also be included in this Schedule. Moreover, I have to state that the Government should pay more attention to the spread and promotion of the languages which are already included in the 8th Schedule. Otherwise it will end up as a sentimental discussion. The Government should take initiative in this regard. Persian should also be included. Urdu should be included in the official languages. A Bill in this regard has been moved under Private Member's Business.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I now go to the consideration stage.

Before I put the motion for consideration of the Bill to the vote of the House, I may inform the House that this being a Constitution (Amendment) Bill, voting has to be by division.

I would request the hon. Minister to speak before we start voting.

[Translation]

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND INCHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the House for supporting this important bill unanimously. Whatever view points have been expressed here about the bill all carry weightage. I would like to tell the House that in 1950 when the original constitution came into force there were 14 languages in the 8th schedule which were recognized. Similarly in 1967 one more language was added to the schedule for which considerable contribution was made by Vajpayee ji, Jai

Ram Das ji and Daulat Ram ji. This language was sindhi language. In 1992 three more language were added to the 8th schedule. These languages were Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali. I think that on all the three occasions all the members supported the inclusion of these languages but always expressed regret for not including so and so language in the schedule. Likewise I am hearing the same thing about Khasi, Bhojpuri, Brijbhasha, Tulu, Maghai, Dundeli, and Nicobari languages.

SHRI MANIK RAO HODALYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Bhil language.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have gone through the list of other languages also. There are 33 language for which there have been demands to include them in Eighth schedule. I believe that sooner or later they will also find place in the eight schedule.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to the Members who have supported the inclusion of these four languages.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: So, I proceed with the voting.

Let the lobbies be cleared—

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet now. You cannot say this, if I become straight.

Now, we are waiting for the lobbies to be cleared. As soon as the lobbies are cleared, we will start the voting process.

I have permitted maximum Members to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no enmity against the Members from Assam Please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let your Party give your name and I will permit you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): I gave his name. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am telling him about the next occasion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Shri Rajbangshi's name has been given. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted four hon. Members of your Party to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You have called the Member whose name I did not give. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think, there is any necessity of following the procedure of 'declaring the procedure of voting' again. Therefore, we will go for voting now.

Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

The Lok Sabha divided:

DIVISION NO. 9 AYES Time: 16.56 hrs.

A. Narendra, Shri

Abdullakutty, Shri A.P.

Acharia, Shri Basu Deb

Adhi Sankar, Shri

Aditya Nath, Yogi

*Adsul, Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Advani, Shri L.K.

Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar

Alvi, Shri Rashid

Ambedkar, Shri Prakash Yashwant

Ananth Kumar, Shri

Angle, Shri Ramakant

Argal, Shri Ashok

Arya, Dr. (Shrimati) Anita

*Voted through slip.

Athawale, Shri Ramdas

Atkinson, Shri Denzil B.

Azad, Shri Kirti Jha

Baalu, Shri T.R.

'Bachda', Shri Bachi Singh Rawat

Badnore, Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh

Bainda, Shri Ramchander

Bais, Shri Ramesh

Banatwalla, Shri G.M.

Banerjee, Kumari Mamta

Banerjee, Shrimati Jayashree

Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar

Barwala, Shri Surendra Singh

Basavanagoud, Shri Kolor

Basavaraj, Shri G.S.

Basu, Shri Anil

Bhadana, Shri Avtar Singh

*Bhagat, Prof. Dukha

Bhagora, Shri Tarachand

Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal

Bhatia, Shri R.L.

Bhuria, Shri Kantilal

Bind, Shri Ram Rati

Bishnoi, Shri Jaswant Singh

Bose, Shrimati Krishna

Brar, Shri J.S.

Bwiewmuthiary, Shri Sansuma Khunggur

Suguna Kumari, Dr. (Shrimati)

Chakraborty, Shri Ajoy

Chakravarty, Shrimati Bijoya

Chandel, Shri Suresh

Chatterjee, Shri Somnath

*Voted through slip.

Chaturvedi, Shri Satyavrat
Chaubey, Shri Lal Muni
Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai
Chaudhary, Shri Ram Raghunath
Chaudhary, Shri Ram Tahal
Chaudhri, Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai
Chauhan, Shri Nandkumar Singh
Chauhan, Shri Shriram
Chennithala, Shri Ramesh
Chikhalia, Shrimati Bhavnaben Devrajibhai
Choudhary, Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram
Choudhary, Shri Nikhil Kumar
Choudhary, Shrimati Reena
Choudhry, Shri Padam Sen
Chouhan, Shri Nihal Chand
Chouhan, Shri Shivraj Singh
Chowdhary, Shri Adhir
Chowdhary, Shrimati Santosh
Chowdhury, Shri Bikash C
Chowdhury, Shrimati Renuka
Das, Shri Alakesh
Das, Shri Khagen
Das, Shri Nepal Chandra
Dasmunsi, Shri Priya Ranjan
Dattatraya, Shri Bandaru
Delkar, Shri Mohan S.
Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari
Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan
Dhikale, Shri Uttamrao
Diler, Shri Kishan Lal
Diwathe, Shri Namdeo Harbaji
Dudi, Shri Rameshwar

Elangovan, Shri P.D.
Fernandes, Shri George
Gadhavi, Shri P.S.
Galib, Shri G.S.
Gamang, Shrimati Hema
Gandhi, Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal
Gandhi, Shrimati Maneka
Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia
Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar
Gautam, Shrimati Sheela
Gavit, Shri Ramdas Rupala
Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram
Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand
Ghatowar, Shri Paban Singh
Goel, Shri Vijay
Gogoi, Shri Dip
Gohain, Shri Rajen
Govindan, Shri T.
Gudhe, Shri Anant
Gupta, Prof. Chaman Lal
Hamid, Shri Abdul
Handique, Shri Bijoy
Haque, Mohammad Anwarul
Hussain, Shri Syed Shahnawaz
Jadhav, Shri Suresh Ramrao
Jag Mohan, Shri
Jagannath, Dr. Manda
Jain, Shri Pusp
Jaiswal, Dr. M.P.
Jaiswal, Shri Shankar Prasad
Jaiswal, Shri Shriprakash
Jalappa, Shri R.L.
Jatiya, Dr. Satyanarayan

Javiya, Shri G.J.

Jayaseelan, Dr. A.D.K.

Jos, Shri A.C.

Kaliappan, Shri K.K.

Kannappan, Shri M.

Kashyap, Shri Bali Ram

Kaswan, Shri Ram Singh

Katara, Shri Babubhai K.

Kataria, Shri Rattan Lal

Kathiria, Dr. Vallabhbbhai

Kaushal, Shri Raghuvir Singh

Khaire, Shri Chandrakant

Khan, Shri Abul Hasnat

Khan, Shri Hassan

Khan, Shri Sunil

Khandelwal, Shri Vijay Kumar

Khandoker, Shri Akbor Ali

Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C.

Khanna, Shri Vinod

Khurana, Shri Madan Lal

Kriplani, Shri Shrichand

Krishnamraju, Shri

Krishnan, Dr. C.

Krishnaswamy, Shri A.

Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh

Kumar, Shri Arun

Kumar, Shri V. Dhananjaya

Kuppusami, Shri C.

Kusmaria, Dr. Ramkrishna

Kyndiah, Shri P.R.

Lahiri, Shri Samik

M. Master Mathan, Shri

Mahajan, Shri Y.G.

Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra

Mahale, Shri Haribhau Shankar

Mahant, Dr. Charan Das

Maharia, Shri Subhash

Mahato, Shri Bir Singh

Mahto, Shrimati Abha

Makwana, Shri Savshibhai

Malhotra, Dr. Vijay Kumar

Malyala, Shri Rajaiah

Mandal, Shri Brahma Nand

*Mane, Shri Shivaji

Manjay Lal, Shri

Manjhi, Shri Ramjee

Mann, Sardar Simranjit Singh

Mann, Shri Zora Singh

Meena, Shri Bherulal

Meena, Shrimati Jas Kaur

Meghwal, Shri Kailash

Mehta, Shrimati Jayawanti

Mishra, Shri Ram Nagina

Mishra, Shri Shyam Bihari

Mistry, Shri Madhusudan

Mohan, Shri P.

Mohite, Shri Subodh

*Mohitepatil, Shri Pratapsinh

Mollah, Shri Hannan

Mookherjee, Shri Satya Brata

Moorthy, Shri A.K.

Munda, Shri Kariya

Muni 'Lall, Shri

Murmu, Shri Rupchand

Murmu, Shri Salkhan

*Voted through slip.

Murugesan, Shri S.
*Nagmani, Shri
Naik, Shri Ali Mohd.
Naik, Shri Ram
Naik, Shri Shripad Yesso
*Narah, Shrimati Ranee
Nayak, Shri Ananta
Nitish Kumar, Shri
Ola, Shri Sis Ram
Oram, Shri Jual
Osmani, Shri A.F. Golam
Pal, Dr. Mahendra Singh
Pal, Shri Rupchand
Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.
Panda, Shri Prabodh
Pandey, Shri Ravindra Kumar
Pandeya, Dr. Laxminarayan
Pandian, Shri P.H.
Panja, Dr. Ranjit Kumar
Passi, Shri Raj Narain
Paswan, Dr. Sanjay
Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar
Patel, Dr. Ashok
Patel, Shri Chandresh
Patel, Shri Dahyabhai Vallabhbbhai
Patel, Shri Deepak
Patel, Shri Prahlad Singh
Pathak, Shri Harin
Patil, Shri Annasaheb M.K.
Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe
Patil (Yatnal), Shri Basangouda R.
Patil, Shri Bhaskarrao

Patil, Shri Danve Raosaheb
Patil, Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad
Patil, Shri Prakash V.
Patil, Shri Uttamrao
Patwa, Shri Sundar Lal
Ponnuswamy, Shri E.
Potai, Shri Sohan
Prabhu, Shri Suresh
Pradhan, Dr. Debendra
Pradhan, Shri Ashok
Pramanik, Prof. R.R.
Premajam, Prof. A.K.
Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala
Raja, Shri A.
Rajbangshi, Shri Madhab
Rajukhedi, Shri Gajendra Singh
Ram Sajivan, Shri
Ram, Shri Braj Mohan
Ramaiah, Dr. B.B.
Ramachandran, Shri Gingee N.
Ramshakal, Shri
Rana, Shri Kashiram
Rana, Shri Raju
Rao, Shri Ch. Vidyasagar
Rao, Dr. D.V.G. Shankar
Rao, Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana
Rao, Shri Y.V.
Rashtrapal, Shri Pravin
Rathwa, Shri Ramsinh
Rau, Shrimati Prabha
Ravi, Shri Sheesh Ram Singh
Rawale, Shri Mohan
Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh
Rawat, Shri Pradeep
Rawat, Shri Ramsagar

*Voted through slip.

Ray, Shri Bishnu Pada
Reddy, Shri A.P. Jithender
*Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana
Renu Kumari, Shrimati
Riyan, Shri Bajju Ban
Rudy, Shri Rajiv Pratap
Sahu, Shri Anadi
Sahu, Shri Tarachand
Sai, Shri Vishnudeo
Sanadi, Prof. I.G.
Sanghani, Shri Dileep
Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh
Sar, Shri Nikhilananda
Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmed
Sarkar, Dr. Bikram
Saroj, Shri Tufani
Sathi, Shri Harpal Singh
Sayeed, Shri P.M.
Sengupta, Dr. Nitish
Sethi, Shri Arjun Charan
Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dr. Dhani Ram
Shanmugam, Shri N.T.
Shanta Kumar, Shri
Sharma, Capt. Satish
Sikdar, Shri Tapan
*Singh Deo, Shri K.P.
Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari
Singh, Capt. (Retd.) Inder
Singh, Ch. Tejveer
Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad
Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhan
Singh, Kunwar Akhilesh

Singh, Shri Bahadur
Singh, Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan
Singh, Shri Charanjit
Singh, Shri Chhatrapal
Singh, Shri Digvijay
Singh, Shri Khel Sai
Singh, Shri Lakshman
Singh, Shri Maheshwar
Singh, Shri Prabhunath
Singh, Shri Radha Mohan
Singh, Shri Ramanand
Singh, Shri Ramjivan
Singh, Shri Rampal
Singh, Shri Th. Chaoba
Singh, Shri Tilakdhari Prasad
Singh, Shrimati Kanti
Singh, Shrimati Shyama
Sinha, Shri Manoj
Sinha, Shri Yashwant
Solanki, Shri Bhupendrasinh
Somaiya, Shri Kirit
Sorake, Shri Vinay Kumar
Srikantappa, Shri D.C.
Subba, Shri M.K.
Sudarsana Natchiappan, Shri E.M.
Suman, Shri Ramji Lal
Sunil Dutt, Shri
Suresh, Shri Kodikunnil
Swain, Shri Kharabela
Swami Chinmayanand, Shri
Swami, Shri I.D.
Thakkar, Shrimati Jayaben B.
Thakor, Shri Punjaji Sadaji

*Voted through slip.

Thakur, Dr. C.P.
Thakur, Shri Chunni Lal Bhai
Thirunavukkarasar, Shri Su
Thomas, Shri P.C.
Tiwari, Shri Lal Bihari
Tiwari, Shri Sunder Lal
Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand
Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran
Tripathi, Shri Ram Naresh
Tripathi, Shri Prakash Mani
Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore
Tur, Shri Tarlochan Singh
Vaghela, Shri Shankersinh
Vajpayee, Shri Atal Bihari
Varma, Shri Ratilal Kalidas
Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai D.
Veerappa, Shri Ramchandra
Venkataswamy, Dr. N.
Venkateswarlu, Shri B.
Venkateswarlu, Prof. Ummareddy
Venugopal, Shri D.
Verma, Dr. Sahib Singh
Verma, Prof. Rita
Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash
Vijayan, Shri A.K.S.
Virendra Kumar, Shri
Vyas, Dr. Girija
Wanaga, Shri Chintaman
Yadav, Dr. (Shrimati) Sudha
Yadav, Dr. Jaswant Singh
Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad
Yadav, Shri Hukumdeo Narayan
Yadav, Shri Sharad

Yerrannaidu, Shri K.
Zahedi, Shri Mahboob
Zawma, Shri Vanlal

NOES

Nil

MR. SPEAKER: Subject to correction*, the result of the division is:

Ayes: 335

Noes: Nil

The motion is carried by a majority of the total membership of the House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2

Amendment of Eighth Schedule

Amendment made:

At page 1, for line 5-7, substitute—

(a) existing entry 3 shall be re-numbered as entry 5, and before entry 5 as so re-numbered, the following entries shall be inserted, namely:

"3. Bodo.

4. Dogir.";

(b) existing entries 4 to 7 shall respectively be re-numbered as entries 6 to 9;

(c) existing entry 8 shall be re-numbered as entry 11 and before entry 11 as so re-numbered, the following entry shall be inserted, namely:—

"10 Maithili.";

(d) existing entries 9 to 14 shall respectively be re-numbered as entries 12 to 17;

*AYES: 335+ Shri Anandrao Vitthoba Adsul, Prof. Dukha Bhagat, Shri Savshibhai Makwana, Shri Shivaji Mane, Shri Pratapsinh Mohitepatil, Shri Nagmani, Shrimati Ranee Narah, Shri Basangouda R. Patil (Yatnal), Shri N. Janardhana Reddy and Shri K.P. Singh Deo recorded their votes through slips=345.
NOES: Nil

(e) existing entry 15 shall be re-numbered as entry 19 and before entry 19 as so re-numbered, the following entry shall be inserted, namely: "18. Santhali."

(f) existing entries 16 to 18 shall respectively be re-numbered as entries 20 to 22. (4)

(Shri L.K. Advani)

MR. SPEAKER: There is an observation regarding amendment nos. 1 and 2 to clause 2, given notice of by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and Shri Basu Deb Acharia have also tabled notices of two identical amendments to clause 2. Their amendments seek to include Santhali language to the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. With the adoption of the Government amendment no. 4, the object of the Members to get the Santhali language included in the Eighth Schedule has been achieved. I am, therefore, not, calling the Members to move their amendment nos. 1 and 2.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I am thankful to the Government for accepting the amendment. Since you did not give me a chance to speak, I will only request the hon. Home Minister to consider this. He is taking care of the national security. There is an ethnic passion among the Rajbangshi community of North Bengal in which Kamthapuri movement is going on and people have been shouting day in and day out. I request the hon. Home Minister to contain the agitation and also to please consider that. If the House is not dissolved before the next Session, he may kindly consider the matter of the Rajbangshi community and its language, in its merit.

So, my only humble submission is this. I represent that region; people are threatening every day. Why should the hon. Home Minister not consider this matter? I humbly appeal to the hon. Home Minister to consider this.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. The Lobbies are already cleared.

The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Lok Sabha divided:

DIVISION NO. 10 AYES Time: 16.58 hrs.

A. Narendra, Shri

Abdullakutty, Shri A.P.

Acharia, Shri Basu Deb

Adhi Sankar, Shri

Aditya Nath, Yogi

Adsul, Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Advani, Shri L.K.

Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar

Alvi, Shri Rashid

Ambedkar, Shri Prakash Yashwant

Ananth Kumar, Shri

*Angle, Shri Ramakant

Argal, Shri Ashok

Arya, Dr. (Shrimati) Anita

Athawale, Shri Ramdas

Atkinson, Shri Denzil B.

Azad, Shri Kirti Jha

Baalu, Shri T.R.

'Bachda', Shri Bachi Singh Rawat

Badnore, Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh

Bainda, Shri Ramchander

Bais, Shri Ramesh

Banatwalla, Shri G.M.

Banerjee, Kumari Mamta

Banerjee, Shrimati Jayashree

Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar

Barwala, Shri Surendra Singh

Basavanagoud, Shri Kolar

Basavaraj, Shri G.S.

Basu, Shri Anil

Bhadana, Shri Avtar Singh

*Voted through slip.

Bhagat, Prof. Dukha
Bhagora, Shri Tarachand
Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal
Bhatia, Shri R.L.
Bhuria, Shri Kantilal
Bind, Shri Ram Rati
Bishnoi, Shri Jaswant Singh
Bose, Shrimati Krishna
Brar, Shri J.S.
Bwiswmuthiary, Shri Sansuma Khunggur
Suguna Kumari, Dr. (Shrimati)
Chakraborty, Shri Ajoy
Chakravarty, Shrimati Bijoya
Chandel, Shri Suresh
Chatterjee, Shri Somnath
Chaturvedi, Shri Satyavrat
Chaubey, Shri Lal Muni
Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai
Chaudhary, Shri Ram Raghunath
Chaudhary, Shri Ram Tahal
Chaudhri, Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai
Chauhan, Shri Nandkumar Singh
Chauhan, Shri Shriram
Chennithala, Shri Ramesh
Chikhalia, Shrimati Bhavnaben Devrajibhai
Choudhary, Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram
Choudhary, Shri Nikhil Kumar
Choudhary, Shrimati Reena
Choudhry, Shri Padam Sen
Chouhan, Shri Nihal Chand
Chouhan, Shri Shivraj Singh
Chowdhary, Shri Adhir
Chowdhary, Shrimati Santosh

Chowdhury, Shri Bikash C
Chowhury, Shrimati Renuka
Das, Shri Alakesh
Das, Shri Khagen
Das, Shri Nepal Chandra
Dasmunsi, Shri Priya Ranjan
Dattatraya, Shri Bandaru
Delkar, Shri Mohan S.
Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari
Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan
Dhikale, Shri Uttamrao
Diler, Shri Kishan Lal
Diwathe, Shri Namdeo Harbaji
Dudi, Shri Rameshwar
Elangovan, Shri P.D.
Farook, Shri M.O.H.
Fernandes, Shri George
Gadhavi, Shri P.S.
Galib, Shri G.S.
Gamang, Shrimati Hema
Gandhi, Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal
Gandhi, Shrimati Maneka
Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia
Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar
Gautam, Shrimati Sheela
Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya
Gavit, Shri Ramdas Rupala
Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram
Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand
Ghatowar, Shri Paban Singh
Goel, Shri Vijay
Gogoi, Shri Dip

Gohain, Shri Rajen

Govindan, Shri T.

Gudhe, Shri Anant

*Gupta, Prof. Chaman Lal

Hamid, Shri Abdul

Handique, Shri Bijoy

Haque, Mohammad Anwarul

Hussain, Shri Syed Shah Nawaz

*Jadhav, Shri Suresh Ramrao

Jag Mohan, Shri

Jagannath, Dr. Manda

Jain, Shri Pusp

Jaiswal, Dr. M.P.

Jaiswal, Shri Shankar Prasad

Jaiswal, Shri Shriprakash

Jalappa, Shri R.L.

Jatiya, Dr. Satyanarayan

Javiya, Shri G.J.

Jayaseelan, Dr. A.D.K.

Jos, Shri A.C.

Kaliappan, Shri K.K.

Kannappan, Shri M.

Kashyap, Shri Bali Ram

Kaswan, Shri Ram Singh

Katara, Shri Babubhai K.

Kataria, Shri Rattan Lal

Kathiria, Dr. Vallabh bhai

Kaushal, Shri Raghuvir Singh

Khaire, Shri Chandrakant

Khan, Shri Abul Hasnat

Khan, Shri Hassan

Khan, Shri Sunil

Khandelwal, Shri Vijay Kumar

Khandoker, Shri Akbor Ali

Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C.

Khanna, Shri Vinod

Khurana, Shri Madan Lal

Kriplani, Shri Shrichand

Krishnamraju, Shri

Krishnan, Dr. C.

Krishnaswamy, Shri A.

Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh

Kumar, Shri Arun

Kumar, Shri V. Dhananjaya

Kuppusami, Shri C.

Kusmaria, Dr. Ramkrishna

Kyndiah, Shri P.R.

Lahiri, Shri Samik

M. Master Mathan, Shri

Mahajan, Shri Y.G.

Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra

Mahale, Shri Haribhau Shankar

Mahant, Dr. Charan Das

Maharia, Shri Subhash

Mahato, Shri Bir Singh

Mahto, Shrimati Abha

*Makwana, Shri Savshibhai

Malhotra, Dr. Vijay Kumar

Malayala, Shri Rajaiah

Mandal, Shri Brahma Nand

Mane, Shri Shivaji

Manjay Lal, Shri

Manjhi, Shri Ramjee

Mann, Sardar Simranjit Singh

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

Mann, Shri Zora Singh
Meena, Shri Bherulal
Meena, Shrimati Jas Kaur
Meghwal, Shri Kailash
Mehta, Shrimati Jayawanti
Mishra, Shri Ram Nagina
Mishra, Shri Shyam Bihari
Mistry, Shri Madhusudan
Mohan, Shri P.
Mohite, Shri Subodh
*Mohitepatil, Shri Pratapsinh
Mollah, Shri Hannan
Mookherjee, Shri Satya Brata
Moorthy, Shri A.K.
Munda, Shri Kariya
Muni Lall, Shri
Murmu, Shri Rupchand
Murmu, Shri Salkhan
Murugesan, Shri S.
*Nagmani, Shri
Naik, Shri Ali Mohd.
Naik, Shri Ram
Naik, Shri Shripad Yesso
Narah, Shrimati Ranee
Nayak, Shri Ananta
Nitish Kumar, Shri
Ola, Shri Sis Ram
Oram, Shri Jual
Osmani, Shri A.F. Golam
Pal, Dr. Mahendra Singh
Pal, Shri Rupchand
Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.

*Voted through slip.

Panda, Shri Prabodh
Pandey, Shri Ravindra Kumar
Pandeya, Dr. Laxminarayan
Pandian, Shri P.H.
Panja, Dr. Ranjit Kumar
Passi, Shri Raj Narain
Paswan, Dr. Sanjay
Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar
Patel, Dr. Ashok
Patel, Shri Chandresh
Patel, Shri Dahyabhai Vallabhbhai
Patel, Shri Deepak
Patel, Shri Prahlad Singh
Pathak, Shri Harin
Patil, Shri Annasaheb M.K.
Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe
Patil (Yatnal), Shri Basangouda R.
Patil, Shri Bhaskarrao
Patil, Shri Danve Raosaheb
Patil, Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad
Patil, Shri Laxmanrao
Patil, Shri Prakash V.
Patil, Shri Uttamrao
Patwa, Shri Sundar Lal
Ponnuswamy, Shri E.
Potai, Shri Sohan
Prabhu, Shri Suresh
Pradhan, Dr. Debendra
Pradhan, Shri Ashok
Pramanik, Prof. R.R.
Premajam, Prof. A.K.
Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala
Raja, Shri A.
Rajbangshi, Shri Madhab

Rajukhedi, Shri Gajendra Singh

Ram Sajivan, Shri

Ram, Shri Braj Mohan

Ramaiah, Dr. B.B.

Ramachandran, Shri Gingee N.

Ramshakal, Shri

Rana, Shri Kashiram

Rana, Shri Raju

Rao, Shri Ch. Vidyasagar

Rao, Dr. D.V.G. Shankar

Rao, Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana

Rao, Shri Y.V.

Rashtrapal, Shri Pravin

Rathwa, Shri Ramsinh

Rau, Shrimati Prabha

Ravi, Shri Sheesh Ram Singh

Rawale, Shri Mohan

Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh

Rawat, Shri Pradeep

Rawat, Shri Ramsagar

Ray, Shri Bishnu Pada

Reddy, Shri A.P. Jithender

Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana

Renu Kumari, Shrimati

Riyan, Shri Baju Ban

Rudy, Shri Rajiv Pratap

Sahu, Shri Anadi

Sahu, Shri Tarachand

Sai, Shri Vishnudeo

Sanadi, Prof. I.G.

Sanghani, Shri Dileep

Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh

Sar, Shri Nikhilananda

Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Sarkar, Dr. Bikram

Saroj, Shri Tufani

Sathi, Shri Harpal Singh

Sayeed, Shri P.M.

Sengupta, Dr. Nitish

Sethi, Shri Arjun Charan

Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dr. Dhani Ram

Shanmugam, Shri N.T.

Shanta Kumar, Shri

Sharma, Capt. Satish

Sikdar, Shri Tapan

Singh Deo, Shri K.P.

Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari

Singh, Capt. (Retd.) Inder

Singh, Ch. Tejveer

Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhan

Singh, Kunwar Akhilesh

Singh, Shri Bahadur

Singh, Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

Singh, Shri Chhatrapal

Singh, Shri Digvijay

Singh, Shri Khel Sai

Singh, Shri Lakshman

Singh, Shri Maheshwar

Singh, Shri Prabhunath

Singh, Shri Radha Mohan

Singh, Shri Ramanand

Singh, Shri Ramjivan

Singh, Shri Rampal

Singh, Shri Th. Chaoba

Singh, Shri Tilakdhari Prasad

Singh, Shrimati Kanti
 Singh, Shrimati Shyama
 Sinha, Shri Manoj
 Sinha, Shri Yashwant
 Solanki, Shri Bhupendrasinh
 Somaiya, Shri Kirit
 Sorake, Shri Vinay Kumar
 Srikantappa, Shri D.C.
 Subba, Shri M.K.
 Sudarsana Natchiappan, Shri E.M.
 Suman, Shri Ramji Lal
 Sunil Dutt, Shri
 Suresh, Shri Kodikunnil
 Swain, Shri Kharabela
 Swami Chinmayanand, Shri
 Swami, Shri I.D.
 Thakkar, Shrimati Jayaben B.
 Thakor, Shri Punjaji Sadaji
 Thakur, Dr. C.P.
 Thakur, Shri Chunni Lal Bhai
 Thirunavukkarasar, Shri Su
 Thomas, Shri P.C.
 Tiwari, Shri Lal Bihari
 Tiwari, Shri Sunder Lal
 Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand
 Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran
 Tripathee, Shri Ram Naresh
 Tripathi, Shri Prakash Mani
 Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore
 Tur, Shri Tarlochan Singh
 Vaghela, Shri Shankersinh
 Vajpayee, Shri Atal Bihari
 Varma, Sh. Ratilal Kalidas
 Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai D.
 Veerappa, Shri Ramchandra

Venkataswamy, Dr. N.
 Venkateswarlu, Shri B.
 Venkateswarlu, Prof. Ummareddy
 Venugopal, Shri D.
 Verma, Dr. Sahib Singh
 Verma, Prof. Rita
 Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash
 Vijayan, Shri A.K.S.
 Virendra Kumar, Shri
 Vyas, Dr. Girija
 Wanaga, Shri Chintaman
 Yadav, Dr. (Shrimati) Sudha
 Yadav, Dr. Jaswant Singh
 Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad
 Yadav, Shri Hukumdeo Narayan
 Yadav, Shri Sharad
 Yerrannaidu, Shri K.
 Zahedi, Shri Mahboob
 Zawma, Shri Vanlal

NOES

Nil

17.00 hrs

MR. SPEAKER: Subject to correction*, the result of the division is:

Ayes: 337

Noes: Nil

The motion is carried by a majority of the total membership of the House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

*AYES: 337+ Shri Shri Ramakant Angle, Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta, Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav, Shri Savshibhai Makwana, Shri Pratapsinh Mohitepatil, Shri Rupchand Murmu, Shri Nagmani, Shri Basangouda R. Patil (Yatnal) and Shri Sunder Lal Patwa recorded their votes through slips = 346.
 NOES: Nil

Clause 1*Short Title**Amendment made:*

page 1, line 3,—

*For "one-Hundredth"**Substitute "Ninety-second" (3)*

(Shri L.K. Advani)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.**The Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The Lok Sabha divided:***DIVISION NO. 11 AYES Time: 17.02 hrs.**

A. Narendra, Shri

Abdullakutty, Shri A.P.

Acharia, Shri Basu Deb

Adhi Sankar, Shri

Aditya Nath, Yogi

Adsul, Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Advani, Shri L.K.

Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar

Alvi, Shri Rashid

Ambedkar, Shri Prakash Yashwant

Ananth Kumar, Shri

Angle, Shri Ramakant

Argal, Shri Ashok

Arya, Dr. (Shrimati) Anita

Athawale, Shri Ramdas

Atkinson, Shri Denzil B.

Azad, Shri Kirti Jha

Baal, Shri T.R.

'Bachda', Shri Bachi Singh Rawat

Badnore, Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh

Bainda, Shri Ramchander

Bais, Shri Ramesh

Banatwalla, Shri G.M.

Banerjee, Shrimati Jayashree

Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar

Barwala, Shri Surendra Singh

Basavanagoud, Shri Kolar

Basavaraj, Shri G.S.

Basu, Shri Anil

Bhadana, Shri Avtar Singh

Bhagat, Prof. Dukha

Bhagora, Shri Tarachand

Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal

Bhatia, Shri R.L.

Bhuria, Shri Kantilal

Bind, Shri Ram Rati

Bishnoi, Shri Jaswant Singh

Bose, Shrimati Krishna

Bwiswmuthiary, Shri Sansuma Khunggur

Suguna Kumari, Dr. (Shrimati)

Chakraborty, Shri Ajoy
Chakravarty, Shrimati Bijoya
Chandel, Shri Suresh
Chatterjee, Shri Somnath
Chaturvedi, Shri Satyavrat
Chaubey, Shri Lal Muni
Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai
Chaudhary, Shri Ram Raghunath
Chaudhary, Shri Ram Tahal
Chaudhri, Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai
Chauhan, Shri Nandkumar Singh
Chauhan, Shri Shriram
Chennithala, Shri Ramesh
Chikhalia, Shrimati Bhavnaben Devrajibhai
Choudhary, Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram
Choudhary, Shri Nikhil Kumar
Choudhary, Shrimati Reena
Choudhry, Shri Padam Sen
Chouhan, Shri Nihal Chand
Chouhan, Shri Shivraj Singh
Chowdhary, Shri Adhir
Chowdhary, Shrimati Santosh
Chowdhury, Shri Bikash C
Chowdhury, Shrimati Renuka
Das, Shri Alakesh
Das, Shri Khagen
Das, Shri Nepal Chandra
Dasmunsi, Shri Priya Ranjan
Dattatraya, Shri Bandaru
Delkar, Shri Mohan S.
Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari
Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan

Dhikale, Shri Uttamrao
Diler, Shri Kishan Lal
Diwathe, Shri Namdeo Harbaji
Dudi, Shri Rameshwar
Elangovan, Shri P.D.
Farook, Shri M.O.H.
Fernandes, Shri George
Gadhavi, Shri P.S.
Galib, Shri G.S.
Gamang, Shrimati Hema
Gandhi, Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal
Gandhi, Shrimati Maneka
Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia
Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar
Gautam, Shrimati Sheela
Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya
Gavit, Shri Ramdas Rupala
Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram
Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand
Ghatowar, Shri Paban Singh
Goel, Shri Vijay
Gogoi, Shri Dip
Gohain, Shri Rajen
Govindan, Shri T.
Gudhe, Shri Anant
Gupta, Prof. Chaman Lal
Hamid, Shri Abdul
Handique, Shri Bijoy
Haque, Mohammad Anwarul
Hussain, Shri Syed Shahnawaz
Jadhav, Shri Suresh Ramrao
Jag Mohan, Shri
Jagannath, Dr. Manda

Jain, Shri Pusp	Kuppusami, Shri C.
Jaiswal, Dr. M.P.	Kusmaria, Dr. Ramkrishna
Jaiswal, Shri Shankar Prasad	Kyndiah, Shri P.R.
Jaiswal, Shri Shriprakash	Lahiri, Shri Samik
Jalappa, Shri R.L.	M. Master Mathan, Shri
Jatiya, Dr. Satyanarayan	Mahajan, Shri Y.G.
Javiya, Shri G.J.	Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra
Jayaseelan, Dr. A.D.K.	Mahale, Shri Haribhau Shankar
Jos, Shri A.C.	Mahant, Dr. Charan Das
Kaliappan, Shri K.K.	Maharia, Shri Subhash
Kannappan, Shri M.	Mahato, Shri Bir Singh
Kashyap, Shri Bali Ram	Mahto, Shrimati Abha
Kaswan, Shri Ram Singh	*Makwana, Shri Savshibhai
Katara, Shri Babubhai K.	Malhotra, Dr. Vijay Kumar
Kataria, Shri Rattan Lal	Malyala, Shri Rajaiah
Kathiria, Dr. Vallabhbai	Mandal, Shri Brahma Nand
Kaushal, Shri Raghuvir Singh	Mane, Shri Shivaji
Khaire, Shri Chandrakant	Manjay Lal, Shri
Khan, Shri Abul Hasnat	Manjhi, Shri Ramjee
Khan, Shri Hassan	Mann, Sardar Simranjit Singh
Khan, Shri Sunil	Mann, Shri Zora Singh
Khandelwal, Shri Vijay Kumar	Meena, Shri Bherulal
Khandoker, Shri Akbor Ali	Meena, Shrimati Jas Kaur
Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C.	Meghwal, Shri Kailash
Khanna, Shri Vinod	Mehta, Shrimati Jayawanti
Khurana, Shri Madan Lal	Mishra, Shri Ram Nagina
Kriplani, Shri Shrichand	Mishra, Shri Shyam Bihari
Krishnamraju, Shri	Mistry, Shri Madhusudan
Krishnan, Dr. C.	Mohan, Shri P.
Krishnaswamy, Shri A.	Mohite, Shri Subodh
Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh	*Mohitepatil, Shri Pratapsinh
Kumar, Shri Arun	Mollah, Shri Hannan
Kumar, Shri V. Dhananjaya	

*Voted through slip.

Mookherjee, Shri Satya Brata

Moorthy, Shri A.K.

Munda, Shri Kariya

Muni Lall, Shri

Murmu, Shri Rupchand

Murmu, Shri Salkhan

Murugesan, Shri S.

*Nagmani, Shri

Naik, Shri Ali Mohd.

Naik, Shri Ram

Naik, Shri Shripad Yesso

Narah, Shrimati Ranee

Nayak, Shri Ananta

Nitish Kumar, Shri

Ola, Shri Sis Ram

Oram, Shri Jual

Osmani, Shri A.F. Golam

Pal, Dr. Mahendra Singh

Pal, Shri Rupchand

Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.

Panda, Shri Prabodh

Pandey, Shri Ravindra Kumar

Pandeya, Dr. Laxminarayan

Pandian, Shri P.H.

Panja, Dr. Ranjit Kumar

Passi, Shri Raj Narain

Paswan, Dr. Sanjay

Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar

Patel, Dr. Ashok

Patel, Shri Chandresh

Patel, Shri Dahyabhai Vallabhbbhai

Patel, Shri Deepak

Patel, Shri Prahlad Singh

Pathak, Shri Harin

Patil, Shri Annasaheb M.K.

Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

*Patil (Yatnal), Shri Basangouda R.

Patil, Shri Bhaskarrao

Patil, Shri Danve Raosaheb

Patil, Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad

Patil, Shri Prakash V.

Patil, Shri Uttamrao

Patwa, Shri Sundar Lal

Ponnuswamy, Shri E.

Potai, Shri Sohan

Prabhu, Shri Suresh

Pradhan, Dr. Debendra

Pradhan, Shri Ashok

Pramanik, Prof. R.R.

Premajam, Prof. A.K.

Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala

Raja, Shri A.

Rajbangshi, Shri Madhab

Rajukhedi, Shri Gajendra Singh

Ram Sajivan, Shri

Ram, Shri Braj Mohan

Ramaiah, Dr. B.B.

Ramachandran, Shri Gingee N.

Ramshakal, Shri

Rana, Shri Kashiram

Rana, Shri Raju

Rao, Shri Ch. Vidyasagar

Rao, Dr. D.V.G. Shankar

Rao, Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

Rao, Shri Y.V.
Rashtrapal, Shri Pravin
Rathwa, Shri Ramsinh
Rau, Shrimati Prabha
Ravi, Shri Sheesh Ram Singh
Rawale, Shri Mohan
Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh
Rawat, Shri Pradeep
Rawat, Shri Ramsagar
Ray, Shri Bishnu Pada
Reddy, Shri A.P. Jithender
Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana
Renu Kumari, Shrimati
Riyan, Shri Baju Ban
Rudy, Shri Rajiv Pratap
Sahu, Shri Anadi
Sahu, Shri Tarachand
Sai, Shri Vishnudeo
Sanadi, Prof. I.G.
Sanghani, Shri Dileep
Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh
Sar, Shri Nikhilananda
Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmed
Sarkar, Dr. Bikram
Saroj, Shri Tufani
Sathi, Shri Harpal Singh
Sayeed, Shri P.M.
Sengupta, Dr. Nitish
Sethi, Shri Arjun Charan
Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dr. Dhani Ram
Shanmugam, Shri N.T.
Shanta Kumar, Shri
Sharma, Capt. Satish

Sikdar, Shri Tapan
Singh Deo, Shri K.P.
Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari
Singh, Capt. (Retd.) Inder
Singh, Ch. Tejveer
Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad
Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhan
Singh, Kunwar Akhilesh
Singh, Shri Bahadur
Singh, Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan
Singh, Shri Chhattapal
Singh, Shri Digvijay
Singh, Shri Khel Sai
Singh, Shri Lakshman
Singh, Shri Maheshwar
Singh, Shri Prabhunath
Singh, Shri Radha Mohan
Singh, Shri Ramanand
Singh, Shri Ramjivan
Singh, Shri Rampal
Singh, Shri Th. Chaoba
Singh, Shri Tilakdhari Prasad
Singh, Shrimati Kanti
Singh, Shrimati Shyama
Sinha, Shri Manoj
Sinha, Shri Yashwant
Solanki, Shri Bhupendrasinh
Somaiya, Shri Kirt
Sorake, Shri Vinay Kumar
Srikantappa, Shri D.C.
Subba, Shri M.K.
Sudarsana Natchiappan, Shri E.M.
Suman, Shri Ramji Lal

Sunil Dutt, Shri
 Suresh, Shri Kodikunnil
 Swain, Shri Kharabela
 Swami Chinmayanand, Shri
 Swami, Shri I.D.
 Thakkar, Shrimati Jayaben B.
 Thakor, Shri Punjaji Sadaji
 Thakur, Dr. C.P.
 Thakur, Shri Chunni Lal Bhai
 Thirunavukkarasar, Shri Su
 Thomas, Shri P.C.
 Tiwari, Shri Lal Bihari
 Tiwari, Shri Sunder Lal
 Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand
 Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran
 Tripathee, Shri Ram Naresh
 Tripathi, Shri Prakash Mani
 Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore
 Tur, Shri Tarlochan Singh
 Vaghela, Shri Shankersinh
 Vajpayee, Shri Atal Bihari
 Varma, Sh. Ratilal Kalidas
 Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai D.
 Veerappa, Shri Ramchandra
 Venkataswamy, Dr. N.
 Venkateshwariu, Shri B.
 Venkateswarlu, Prof. Ummareddy
 Venugopal, Shri D.
 Verma, Dr. Sahib Singh
 Verma, Prof. Rita
 Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash
 Vijayan, Shri A.K.S.
 Virendra Kumar, Shri

Vyas, Dr. Girija
 Wanaga, Shri Chintaman
 Yadav, Dr. (Shrimati) Sudha
 Yadav, Dr. Jaswant Singh
 Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad
 Yadav, Shri Hukumdeo Narayan
 Yadav, Shri Sharad
 Yerrannaidu, Shri K.
 Zahedi, Shri Mahboob
 Zawma, Shri Vanlal

NOES

Nil

MR. SPEAKER: Subject to correction*, the result of the division is:

Ayes: 338

Noes: Nil

The motion is carried by a majority of the total membership of the House and by a majority of not less than two-third of the Members present and voting.

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We now go on to the next item. Before I call upon Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar to start the debate, hon. Members, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has requested me that the Half-an-hour Discussion listed for today may be postponed to 23rd December, 2003. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar who was to raise this discussion has also agreed to this. The Half-an-hour Discussion would be listed on 23rd December, 2003. I hope the House would agree to it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (*Mayiladuturai*): Sir, may I request the House be brought in order.

*AYES: 338+Shri Savshibhai Makwana, Shri Pratapsinh Mohitepatil, Shri Nagmani, Shri Raj Narain Passi and Shri Basangouda R. Patil (*Yatnal*) recorded their vote through slip =343.

NOES: Nil

MR. SPEAKER: Those Members who want to go out may go out. Let the House be in order. An important debate is going to start now. I would request the Members to keep silence now.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, where is the Finance Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister is present in the House.

17.04 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Action Taken Report on the Report of Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam and Matters Relating Thereto

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the JPC Report, read with the ATR. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Sir, the hon. Finance Minister is not present. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Hon. Prime Minister is present, here.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the JPC Report, read with the ATR raises issues of constitutional jurisprudence, parliamentary propriety and political morality. Sir, I am particularly pleased that the hon. Prime Minister is present with us today because all these three issues of constitutional jurisprudence, parliamentary propriety and public morality were admirably summed up by him, as the Leader of the Opposition, when he spoke in this House on the previous JPC Report on the 29th of December, 1993.

I would like to remind the hon. Prime Minister and other Members of the House of what Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the then Leader of the Opposition, said in 1993 in respect of the previous JPC. Hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said:

[*Translation*]

"A new culture is developing in the country and that is the lack of responsibility. Whether any improvement

can be brought in this direction and if the state can do its duties in such an environment; How did this culture develop? The Finance Minister is not ready to take responsibility. He is not ready to accept that his projections were wrong and that he has made a mistake. He is not ready to repent" Further, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said: "I am not making an allegation that the Finance Minister has got any monetary benefits from it, I have no doubts about his authenticity." But, Shri Vajpayeeji has said, "He is the Finance Minister and he must take moral responsibility for the failure of the Finance Ministry for the failure of R.B.I. and for the failure of the whole system which has got rotten."

[*English*]

My only request is that the JPC Report presented last year be looked at by the Government and of course, by the Opposition on exactly the same principles of constitutional jurisprudence, parliamentary propriety, and political morality that none other than the then Leader of the Opposition, who is today the hon. Prime Minister of India placed before this House and placed before this country. At the same time, I take the liberty of reminding the House of how the Finance Minister of that age, Dr. Manmohan Singh responded to the statement made by the present hon. Prime Minister, that is, the then Leader of the Opposition, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The following day, that the 30th of December, 1993, Dr. Manmohan Singh responding of Shri Vajpayee said:

"I accept full constitutional responsibility for the actions or events which pertain to the areas of responsibility entrusted to the care of the Ministry of Finance. There are various interpretations of ministerial responsibility. But I am not going to take shelter under constitutional niceties. I do accept that as Finance Minister I have a responsibility to this House, to the Prime Minister, and to the people of this country and whatever punishment this House chooses for me, I will gladly accept that."

So in addition to the principles adumbrated by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, if we could add the response given then by Dr. Manmohan Singh, I think we have the basis on which, by consensus, the House can agree on what should be done with regard to the question of "moral responsibility"? What should be done with regard to the "Ministry of Finance"? What should be done with regard to the Finance Minister Whose estimates were wrong? What should be done by the Prime Minister's own Office since he is in charge of the CBI and the Department of

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

Company Affairs, both of which have been indicated in the JPC Report?

[Translation]

Are you ready to repent? I am not levelling any allegation against Shri Yaswant Sinha ji. I believe that he has neither got any monetary benefit, nor am I casting any doubts on his authenticity, but I want to say to Yaswant Sinha ji and especially to the Prime Minister that Shri Yaswant Sinha ji was the then Finance Minister I want to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether his Finance Minister is ready to take responsibilities for the failure of Finance Ministry, R.B.I. and the failure of the whole rotten system?

[English]

Sir, I have just given to you the reaction of the Finance Minister then. What did this Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha say as soon as that report came out 368 days ago? He was asked, 'what is your reaction to the demand of the Opposition that you resign?' he said, 'why should I resign? It is the job of the Opposition to demand my resignation. I am not going to accept it'. So, we know that Shri Yashwant Sinha did not live up to the traditions set by his predecessor. All I want to know is the hon. Prime Minister ready to live up to the traditions set up by the hon. Leader of the Opposition of 1993? The two persons are exactly the same. But the stand Shri Vajpayee took here is one thing and the stand that he has taken over the last 368 days is another thing. All I want the hon. Prime Minister to do is to say that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander and what he wanted the Finance Minister of 1993 to do, is he ready that the Finance Minister, who is responsible for the stock market and the UTI scams, should also suffer exactly the same punishment which Dr. Manmohan Singh said, 'I will gladly accept.'

Sir, the JPC defined both the scam and the period of the scam. It defined the scams at para 2.7 by saying, 'there has to be persistent and pervasive misappropriation of public funds and this must involve issues of governance'. Having so defined the scam, it sets out the periodicity of the scam in para 3.1 where it says, 'the events that culminated in the exposure of the scam in March 2001 started approximately 18 months earlier'. What is 18 months before March, 2001? It was October, 1999. What great events took place in October, 1999? Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the Prime Minister again. He once again appointed Shri Yashwant Sinha as his Finance Minister. The period of the scam, as defined by the JPC is exactly co-terminus with the first 18 months

in office of the 1999 Government that assumed charge under the Prime Ministership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Sir, what was the nature of the scam? The nature of the scam, as reported by the JPC involves the following elements: the involvement of a bewildering number of banks, brokers and corporates in exploiting every available loophole left gaping open by Government regulators; next, rampant irregularities in all major stock exchanges. Then, persistent irregularities in several banks, notwithstanding RBI inspection report and the failure of the RBI to take follow up action on its own reports. I remind the hon. Prime Minister of what he said: The Finance Minister have to take responsibility for the failure of R.B.I. Then comes the nexuses between the banks, brokers and corporates. Sure, there was the Ketan Parikh malfeasance. For 14 years that man has been banned from the Stock Exchange now. But when everyone in this country knew the name of Ketan Parikh, when every financial newspaper was building him up as the next Big Bull, this Government did nothing except allow him to continue without examination, without investigation of what he was doing. Today you have done '*prayaschitta*' but in the meanwhile when you should have taken action, did you or did you not take that action?

Sir, finally, this I stress, the JPC report says, that at 'the heart of the scam the swindles that took place in two urban co-operative banks'.

One of these is the Madhavpura Mercantile Co-operative Bank which is located in the hon. Deputy Prime Minister's home State of Gujarat which is next to his own constituency of Gandhinagar with a lot of depositors in Madhavpura being residents of Gandhinagar. The second epicenter of the scam was the City Co-operative Bank located in the hon. Prime Minister's constituency of Lucknow. The epicentres of this scam were in the constituencies of the hon. Prime Minister of India and the hon. Deputy Prime Minister of India. And the Prime Minister has said nothing about the *nethic zimmewari* of an MP. It is his constituency, Sir.

Then, there was a payment crisis on the Kolkata Stock Exchange and the misuse of the Mauritius route. The Report has also pointed out that there were unregulated flows from abroad running to thousands and thousands of crores of rupees. An amount of Rs. 15,000 crores was there from the Mauritius route alone and the Government did nothing about even checking on what is happening, leave alone formally regulating the route. There was absolutely no follow-up on RBI's inspection reports.

There was very careless regulation by SEBI and the DCA. There was very poor performance on the part of the CBI which falls directly under the Prime Minister, and a huge mismatch between stagnation in the primary market and the boom in the secondary market which we are seeing once again just now. The hon. Finance Minister, or shall I say the absent hon. Finance Minister—actually, it is better that he sleeps outside than when he sits here when I speak—has circulated a mid-year Review this year. It says that between April and September, 2003, the total turnover in the primary market is only Rs. 1300 crores whereas he says, in the same sentence, that the mutual funds alone have poured Rs. 33,300 crores into the stock market. The FII's are booming. I do not know how many tens of thousands of crores of rupees have come into India from Foreign Institutional Investors.

But what is happening in Foreign Direct Investment? There is a mismatch between the primary and the secondary market. That was a major cause identified by the hon. General Prakash Mani Tripathi, the Chairman of the JPC, who was unanimous with all of us. And the same thing is happening once again because no Minister was punished and no Minister cares. After all this, I would quote what the JPC has said.

"Nor was adequate attention paid in Government circles particularly the Ministry of Finance as the custodian of the financial health of the economy.

Not having ensured concerted mutual interaction between Government and Regulators which could have signally contributed to effective pre-emptive and corrective action to forestall or moderate the scam by the early detection of wrong-doing"

It is the JPC and it is General Prakash Mani Tripathi and his colleagues among whom I have the honour to belong who said:

"Dissonance in the approach to issues of regulation and good governance."

It has manifested itself in this way.

"When stock markets were rising, there was general lack of concern because all concerned were stoking the 'feel good' factor but when the markets went into a steep fall, there was a sudden concern all over."

They were not interested in the integrity of the market. They wanted congratulations because the *sensex* was crossing 6000 and then suddenly when the Finance

Minister presented what he thought was a good Budget, the market reacted adversely, the everybody got into the act of trying to discover what went wrong. Is this good governance? Is this good regulation? Or is this *chrony capitalism*?

Sir, it is utterly shocking to see what the then hon. Finance Minister, Shri Jaswant Sinha, said on the 13th March, 2001, after the question of a scam had been raised in this House and the other House, in reply to a Calling Attention Motion.

He said: "There is no big scam". In March, 2001 when everybody who was a player, everybody who was a commentator, everyone who is involved in the governance of this country knows that there is a huge scam unfolding, the hon. Finance Minister tells the country through Parliament, the Upper House, that there is no big scam. All right, the Finance Minister of India of that time may have been an incompetent man and I hope the Prime Minister will see to it that he is dropped from the Council of Ministers at least now. The new Finance Minister has presented an ATR in this House in which he has said—this is in response to paragraph 2.7, I would request the hon. Chairman of my Committee who is happily with us now to note that the ATR says in respect of our basic finding that there is a huge scam—that irregularities do not reveal any systemic weakness. This is what they have said. After we presented a 700-page Report, they cannot find any systemic weakness. It further says: "this whole problem is basically a violation of RBI norms and involve transactions of a fraudulent nature by a few private cooperative banks".

I ask the hon. Chairman of the JPC to confirm to this House when he speaks and I hope he speaks, that this was exactly the bogus excuse trotted out before the Committee by the Governor of RBI who is now an hon. Member of Parliament. The JPC rejected this argument. We said that there are huge numbers of systemic weaknesses that should have been addressed, that need now to be addressed.

With this casualness, with this contempt for a Committee of Parliament, for a Parliamentary miniature, these people say: "No problem, we will sort it out. There is just a little bit of fraud in a few banks". I want to remind the hon. Deputy-Prime Minister of India of today, who was then the Deputy—Leader of the Opposition—unfortunately he is not with us just now—Shri L.K. Advani of what he said with regard to the previous JPC Report on 27th July, 1994 in this House. Shri L.K. Advani said: "A Parliamentary Committee, after all, is Parliament in

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

miniature". He then quoted Kaul and Shakder and said the recommendations of a Parliamentary Committee are normally accepted and implemented by the Government and went on to add, "I would think it is contrary to all the established conventions of the House that the Government rejects it. They cannot, in the name of giving a Report, reject the Parliamentary Committee's Report. The Parliament has been insulted". This, said Shri L.K. Advani, is an insult to Parliament.

Is this Report that the Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government has presented, through the *Kar Kamalon* of Shri Jaswant Singh, not an insult to Parliament? How can the country possibly accept that the most fundamental finding of the JPC, which is that there were huge systemic weaknesses, be rejected in this cavalier fashion by a mere Minister of Finance, parroting the old RBI Governor, whose mistakes have caused so much of this trouble, ...*

I do not think that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the then Leader of the Opposition, or Shri L.K. Advani, the then Deputy-Leader of the Opposition has been given any *mann samman* by the Prime Minister called Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and by the Deputy-Prime Minister called Shri L.K. Advani or by their Finance Minister, the hon. the Jaswant Singh, who was a member of the previous JPC, and imposed a lot of not only his thoughts but also his rather heavy language upon that JPC.

The most important institutional innovation put in place by Dr. Manmohan Singh, after the last scam, which was reported in both the ATRs through this House in 1994, was the establishment of a High Level Coordination Committee for Capital Markets, normally called HLCC. It is normally called the HLCC. It was set up under the Chairmanship of the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. In the ATR that was given to us in 1994, it was stated by Dr. Manmohan Singh that the mandate of the HLCC included "to regularly review the position regarding financial and capital markets". This was the main job given to this HLCC. Our Committee, General Prakash Mani Tripathi's Committee, found unanimously at paragraph 13.50 of the Report that the HLCC "has not carried out its mandate to regularly review the position regarding financial/capital markets". We have all written it together. They have not done it. Moreover, in the same paragraph, we have said:

"The Ministry of Finance, on its part, has not referred such crucial issues to the HLCC."

Neither has the HLCC taken up a review of the financial market nor has the Minister of Finance asked them to do

*.....*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

so. So, what is the point of having a High Level Coordination Committee—with no one other than the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, the highest financial and monetary authority of this country as Chairman—without doing it? Every single Chairman of every single Regulatory Authority is represented on that Committee with all the senior officers of the Ministry represented on that. The Committee is mandated to review the financial and capital markets. The Minister is authorised to refer any issue of concern to him, to the HLCC. The HLCC did not once, through the entire period of the scam from October 1999 to March 2001, hold a single meeting where it reviews the financial and capital markets. What were these people put together for? Is it to eat *pakoras*, to munch sandwiches and to drink tea? Or, is it to review the financial and capital markets?

Before I come to the ATR, I would like to say that the JPC has then said what that these people did not look into. General Prakash Mani Tripathi and Shri Kirit Somaiya are as committed to this sentence as I am. I quote:

"Had these issues", that is the issues relating to capital and financial markets, "been taken up by the HLCC periodically, it would definitely have helped in minimising, if not averting altogether, the irregularities which have surfaced in the present scam."

Dr. Manmohan Singh put the HLCC in place. What does the ATR say in response to this? It is most shocking and amazing. The NDA's ATR says:

"As per the present terms of reference, the HLCC is expected to consider only divergences in policies."

It is amazing! Dr. Manmohan Singh set up the HLCC. He then brought the mandate of the HLCC before the Parliament. They said that they did not want the ATR of July 1994 and walked out of the House for 13 days. They forced Dr. Manmohan Singh to bring another ATR in December 1994. The poor man obliged. His chief innovative mechanism is the HLCC. It has everybody of significance in it. Then, it never met to discuss the most important part of its mandate. Instead of accepting that we made a huge mistake, instead of saying *neithic zimmedari*, instead of saying *Pradhan Manthri ji-prayaschit*, what did they say? I quote:

"As per the present terms of reference, the HLCC is expected to consider only the divergences in policies."

Why did they do that? Do they really feel that the HLCC is not required to keep financial and capital market under

review? Then, there is no wonder that Ketan Parekh came and made money. How can they amend it? I ask this question. How can they amend the Parliament's approved terms of reference of the HLCC without either informing or consulting Parliament?

Sir, I want to know as to how they reconcile this with the statement made by the Deputy Prime Minister as the then Deputy Leader of the Opposition that the JPC is Parliament in miniature, its report cannot be rejected and that to reject amounts to insulting Parliament.

Sir, the ATR insults Parliament. The ATR saying that they had unilaterally amended the terms of reference of the HLCC to take the review of capital markets out of the purview of the HLCC. This is an insult to Parliament, apart from being the prime collaborator with Shri Ketan Parekh and all the other who have been indicated for their malfeasance. So, we have no alternative but to hold the then Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha, both accountable and responsible to Parliament.

Sir, in the JPC Report—I hope the mathematics of Gen. Tripathi will confirm my counting abilities—according to my count, the Finance Ministry has been indicated in, at least, 52 places, one indictment per week of the year. Every week, on an average, the Finance Ministry was falling flat on its face, but our friends on the Treasury Benches say that it is the Ministry that is indicated, not the Minister. Sir, have you ever heard of a Ministry without a Minister?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): There is a Minister without a Ministry.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Yes; we have heard of Ministers being there without a Ministry, like Kumari Mamata Banerjee. But have you ever heard of a Ministry without a Minister?

There is no Minister who is accountable for these mistakes. I want to remind—unfortunately he is not here now—Shri Jaswant Singh, who was then Deputy to the then Deputy Leader of the Opposition sitting on the front benches here and I was sitting where Shri Bikram Keshari Deo is sitting now, as to what he said at that time. On 27th July, 1994, he said:

"The unanimity of voice of the Committee is the LCM of its findings. It is the lowest common denominator of what we could find as the wrong-doing. It is not the HCF, the highest common factor." ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this type of mimicry should be stopped. This is not proper at all. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he cannot do like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, I agree with the hon. Members. Please do not try to mimicry.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I will go back to my voice.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, we were listening to him with rapt attention. Why should he do like this? This kind of parody should not be done. He has to apologise for that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I told him and he has agreed that he will not to do it again.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, Shri Jaswant Singh further said:

"If we gave a unanimous report, it is the LCM of our findings. On that lowest common denominator, this Action Taken Report is an insult both to this Parliament and to our concerns."

Now, I ask Shri Jaswant Singh, in his absence: Is the ATR that he has given us, which rejects the most fundamental findings of our Committee, not an insult to Parliament and not an insult to our concerns?

Sir, as Shri Jaswant Singh told us then, as Shri L.K. Advani told us then and as Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee told us then, constitutional jurisprudence, parliamentary propriety and political morality cannot be based on the LCM of consensus. They have to be based on the HCF, the highest common factor of the Constitution of India, of parliamentary practices in the Indian Parliament as evolved over half-a-century and, of course, *neithik zimmewari*, political morality, in the immortal phrase of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who is both the Prime Minister of India and a renowned poet.

Where is your moral responsibility. Sir, in his capacity as the Finance Minister of the Scam, Shri Yashwant Sinha, has to take the following four types of responsibility.

First, he has to take the responsibility for what he himself said about the stock market UTI scams in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th of March, 2001 and in the Lok

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

Sabha and Rajya Sabha in July and August of that same year.

Secondly, Shri Yashwant Sinha cannot escape personal responsibility for communications between himself as the Finance Minister and counterpart Finance Ministers abroad such as the hon. and very distinguished Finance Minister of Mauritius who wrote to Shri Yashwant Sinha in March, 2000 offering to discuss with India any recent concerns. Shri Yashwant Sinha, as per the unanimous JPC Report, did not take up the offer of discussing even recent concerns and it was not until Shri Yashwant Sinha was removed from office and Shri Jaswant Singh became our Finance Minister that at long last conversations took place between India and Mauritius, which have resolved this. The Mauritians in March, 2000 offered to discuss matters with us. The then Finance Minister of India decided that there were no recent concerns although Rs. 15,000 crore had come into the market from Mauritius, and everybody knew—the market knew, the regulators knew, RBI knew, even a backbencher called Gen. P.M. Tripathi knew just as another backbencher MP, Mani Shankar Aiyar knew that this is unregulated. It is one-third of the money pouring into India. Out of Rs. 45,000 crore, Rs. 15,000 crore are coming from Mauritius. All of us knew that given the nature of their Act, the Mauritius Act, there was huge scope for abuse. All that abuse has now been discovered. I congratulate the Government on having plugged many of those loopholes now. I congratulate the Government on having brought in regulations which will prevent Indian money from going out as black money and returning from Mauritius into our market as white money. But if they could do it now, what stopped them from doing it then? That is my only question.

When the going was good, in what terms? Was it for Ketan Parikh? Was it good for the small investors? Then the Finance Minister says: 'Oh, close my eyes, close my ears and close my mouth, total Gandhian.' Now, when there was a trouble, they talked to Mauritius and sorted out their problem. Therefore, he cannot escape personal responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How much more time do you require?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I need another ten to fifteen minutes. Please allow me that much time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have no problem. Every Part has been allotted time. There are two speakers from your Party who want to speak. Okay, you can take another ten minutes.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the third matter for which we believe that Shri Yashwant Sinha must take responsibility is his constructive responsibility for acts of omission and commission committee by his Ministry. You cannot have a Ministry without a Minister.

Finally, he has to take responsibility for the mistakes of his regulators, even for his statutory regulators and even for his independent regulators for two reasons. One was given by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in December 1993, RBI. The Finance Minister has to take responsibility for the failure of R.B.I. If RBI as a statutory regulator in 1993, was the responsibility of the Finance Minister. He has to take the responsibility then, surely even today the same rule applies that for other statutory regulators like SEBI, which has since become a statutory regulator, for their acts of omission and commission only the Minister can be responsible and accountable to this House.

It is because the Chairman of SEBI cannot be called to this House just like in Shri Vajpayee's time as the Leader of the Opposition, you could not call the Governor of the RBI here so, we always hold the Minister responsible.

Sir, there are four types of responsibility—responsibility for what Shri Sinha said, responsibility for communications addressed personally to him, responsibility of a constructive nature for the mistakes of his Ministry and responsibility to Parliament as the only authority. Now, in our parliamentary system, he is responsible to parliament for even the acts of the statutory regulator. Yet, what was his performance on these fronts? There are three matters on which we specifically charge Shri Yashwant Sinha, namely, first the Mauritius route, second, the UTI US-64 scheme and third, the Calcutta Stock Exchange payment crisis, where every single word I am now going to utter comes directly from the unanimous JPC Report.

The facts are from the JPC Report. I have already given you the conclusion which is that a responsible Member of Parliament in this highest forum of our democracy, responsible and accountable to the people of India, we cannot have a Minister who says that he is not responsible. Let me come to first the Mauritius route. Our JPC says at paragraph 8.97 that the "Committee are particularly disturbed to note that notwithstanding the offer made to the Finance Minister by the Mauritius Finance Minister in March 2000 to address Indian concerns of recent origin, little or nothing was done by the Ministry or by the Minister to raise these issues with Mauritius." If a Minister cannot take up an offer of dialogue from a really friendly country, the most friendly country we have in the world, then what is this Government doing?

The Report says at paragraph 8.79 and I quote:

"The Ministry of Finance did not adequately address itself to issues relating to the Mauritius route."

It says at paragraph 8.97 as follows:

"Misuse of this route appears to have been significantly responsible for market manipulations during the boom of 1999-2000 which led to the bust of 2001. There was no regulatory framework put in place by the Ministry."

There was no regulatory framework put in place by the Ministry. With the result, the SEBI said that regulation is RBI's responsibility. The RBI said, "No, that is not our responsibility." The Governor, RBI said, "Of course, we could regulate it provided the Ministry had set in place a regulatory framework." Rs. 15,000 crore of largely bogus money from characters like Ketan Parekh comes into this country and instead of regulating that inflow, the Minister throws up his hands and says there is a statutory regulator, and I am not responsible. Can this House accept it?

With regard to the UTI, the Chairman of the UTI, Shri P.S. Subramaniam was sacked. In my view, he should never have been appointed. So, I welcome the fact that you have sacked him. But on what grounds? According to the Finance Minister, speaking in the Rajya Sabha, he said that he was "repeatedly assured" that all was "hunky-dory". Now, let me repeat it. The Finance Minister says that file he has been repeatedly assured by the Chairman of the UTI that all is hunky-dory. What has our examination of the file shown? The Finance Minister denied that file to us in the JPC until everybody's testimony was in. So, we could not question the Minister on it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): I just want to ask one thing. We had the JPC. Because of all these arguments which are coming just now, the JPC was constituted. Now, we are discussing the ATR and not the JPC nor the indictment of the Finance Minister.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am not yielding because I know the question. He has the opportunity to refute it.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Here, we are not discussing the indictment of the Finance Minister. That did not come. It is the ATR we are

discussing.

MR. SPEAKER: If he is not yielding, how can I permit you? Please sit down.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: He is going back. That is why, we had exactly the JPC.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Sir, we are discussing the ATR. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am responding.

MR. SPEAKER: He is concluding his speech. So far, you have listened to him quietly. Why are you disturbing him now?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: The unanimous Report does not indict the then Minister of Finance. The indictment was not made by the JPC. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The Minister of Finance sacked the Chairman of the UTI for repeatedly assuring him that all was 'hunky dory'. The file that we got shows that even the file on the subject was started after the JPC was constituted. ...(*Interruptions*) It contains no noting. It contains no assessment. It contains no analysis of the market situation. The only communication sent on 18th May, 2001 by the Chairman of the UTI to the Minister of Finance was put on one side. Apart from that, the JPC has established that there were no telephone calls, there were no one-on-one meetings and the Minister of Finance did not care to call the Chairman of the UTI. ...(*Interruptions*) If there is no repeated talk, how can there be repeated assurances. Repeated assurances could come only through repeated talk. Since there was no repeated talk, there could not have been repeated assurances. ...(*Interruptions*)

Secondly, far from saying that all was 'hunky dory', in that solitary communication of the 18th May, 2001, the Chairman of the UTI had said that they would be able to maintain their dividend on US-64 only if—and two conditions were mentioned—the Sensex went up by the end of June to the 4,300 mark. It took another two years for it to reach the 4,300 mark. He also said that the dividend could be maintained if the Sensex rose by 20 per cent to 25 per cent, as the other condition. Against

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

'4,300 mark, an officer of the Ministry has put a question mark. ...*(Interruptions)* This is all in the JPC Report.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, he has not yielded. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kirit Somaiya is going to speak on this. He would respond to these points. Please sit down.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may please be allowed to speak. This is very important.

MR. SPEAKER: I know, this is important and, therefore, it is going undisturbed.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, it has taken 368 days for us to find the time to submit this Report. Please allow me to conclude. This is an important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

On the file—and all of this is in the JPC Report—against '4,300 mark', there is a question mark and against '20 per cent to 25 per cent rise', there is a question mark and also an exclamation mark but also on the paper is the signature of one Y. Sinha. All he has done is to sign it. Neither are the papers put up to him on file; nor does he ask for an examination of this. The Chairman of the UTI is pleading that all is not hunky dory and the Minister of Finance, instead of immediately undertaking an emergency exercise, just allows that file to lie.

When I asked him in the JPC—it is given in the Report—'What did you think of this?', he said, 'I saw nothing fairly unusually dramatic about it'. Here is a stock market collapsing. Here is a UTI US-64 scheme which has 75 per cent of its assets invested in the stock market. The market has collapsed from 6,000 points to 3,000 points but instead of asking to find out what happened the Minister of Finance allows the report to go from his table with just a signature. He does not enquire why that file is not being put up to him.

When the Minister of Finance in the JPC was asked—and this entire conversation is repeated in the Report—about the UTI's autonomy, he said, 'We proactively pursued this question of the health of the US-64'. This is the case made before our Committee. then, he was asked how was it that he proactively pursued it and still he remained in the dark, to which the Minister of Finance of that time replied to us, 'It is because repeatedly we were told by the UTI Chairman that there

was no problem.' This could be found in para 17.22 of the Report. Now, he said it in Rajya Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Now, let him admit that there was a turnaround in the UTI and there a turnaround in the sensex. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I admit. ...*(Interruptions)* Now, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has admitted.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: He said it in the Rajya Sabha in July-August, 2001 that he was repeatedly assured. He comes before us in November, 2002 and repeats that he was repeatedly told and the entire evidence shows that he could not have been repeatedly told or repeatedly assured because they did not repeatedly ask. They were never in contact and this was the defence put up by the Finance Secretary and his colleagues that we were not informed and here is the hon. Minister of Finance saying repeatedly, he asked his officers. Now, what sort of a Minister is this who repeatedly ask his officers and his officers do not repeatedly ask the Chairman and then tell the Minister when he is going to the House and before the JPC and saying that it has been repeatedly assured and to claim that it is all hunky-dory. No wonder the JPC has concluded, Maj. Gen. Tripathi has concluded, and Shri V.P. Singh has concluded and I have concluded.

Now, I am quoting from paragraph 17.22 of the Report:

"Even if Chairman UTI did indeed keep everybody in the dark, as FM told the Rajya Sabha, the Committee find that the Ministry did little to bring itself out of the darkness."

Please tell me how can we act as a responsible Parliament in Shri P.S. Subramanian losing his job but Shri Yashwant Sinha keeping his? When Subramanian goes for keeping Sinha in the dark, the JPC says that Sinha did nothing to pull himself or his Ministry out of the darkness.

And the third issue is the Kolkata Stock Exchange. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Sir, are we discussing the scam or the JPC or the ATR? He is

going back to why the JPC was formed. There is a turnaround in the sensex and there is a UTI's turnaround. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow him to continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you have to conclude. Now, the time of your Party is also exhausted and your time is also exhausted. Please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I told you that three issues. I finished two issues and the last one I am now on.

With regard to Calcutta Stock Exchange, the JPC says. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can go ahead. You can continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the JPC says. ...*(Interruptions)* This is very wrong. He will get his opportunity. It is coming just now. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, with regard to the Calcutta Stock Exchange, the JPC. ...*(Interruptions)* I need your attention. With regard to Calcutta Stock. I would like to quote paragraph 6.19:

"The Committee are of the considered view that, at bottom, the payments crisis on CSF arose because the SEBI in consultation with the Ministry of Finance had permitted resumption of badla without arranging for curbing or regulating rampant off-market internal badla."

I further quote:

"....that no one was interested in intervening when the going was good."

Now, I come to the Finance Minister's reply on this issue to the Rajya Sabha Calling Attention Motion where three sentences are there. I am quoting what Finance Minister spoke in Rajya Sabha on 13.3.01. He says:

"As far as the payments problem is concerned, there has been no payments problem so far."

The JPC has found that there was a payments problem and that it had already arisen. His next sentence is:

"There was just a delay because of the fact that some banks were closed etc., there was a delay of one day."

The JPC has found that the delay was not of one day and that it was not because some banks were closed etc. The delay was on account of the unravelling of a conspiracy between crooked brokers colluding with dodgy bankers, dodgy promoters, dodgy broker-directors on CSE and a criminally culpable public sector mutual fund, UTI, for which especially US-64 the Minister was directly responsible to Parliament.

Sir, UTI quite illegitimately purchased Rs. 25 crore worth of dud DSQ shares in order to bail out a defaulting broker on the Calcutta Stock Exchange and thus obscured or attempted to obscure the payments problems. I charge the Finance Minister of that day with this that UTI's intervention was common market knowledge. It was confirmed to the Press by none other than the UTI's Executive Director in Mumbai and, I wish to underline this, it was reported that UTI had bought these Rs. 25 crore worth of dud shares in the newspaper *The Business Standard* of 11th March, 2001, that is, two days before.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Please have some patience. I am coming to end.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want to mention, but your time was over long back. Since you are making important points, I have allowed you to continue.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, my time is over, but what should be over is the time of this Government.

MR. SPEAKER: That public will decide. How can you decide?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The Finance Minister was informed by the Press of this two days before he spoke in the Rajya Sabha. It was, therefore, necessary for him to do so to Parliament.

Sir, I am not able to finish my speech, but I will come to my last sentence. In view of all this and in view

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

of what you have prevented me from saying on otherwise, we place before this House, we place before this Government, through you, three demands. Our demand number one is the submission of his resignation from the Council of Ministers by Shri Yashwant Sinha, and action thereon by the hon. Prime Minister, consistent with the stand which he took in Lok Sabha on the 19th of December, 1993. Our second demand is *prayaschit* by the Department of Company Affairs. If you had given me the time, I would have explained how terribly badly, according to the JPC, they have performed their regulatory function, the *prayaschit* by the Prime Minister's Office under which the CBI falls, for the JPC discovered that ten years after the CBI registered 72 cases after the Harshad Mehta scam, 25 had not even been taken to the courts and of the 47 that were in the courts, only six had been brought to a conclusion, of which only three had resulted in conviction. That is the extent to which the PMO was negligent. So, we want *prayschit*, the word used by the Prime Minister, by the DCA and by the PMO. Finally, we demand the submission of another ATR, as they demanded in 1994, which accepts Government's responsibility on the basis of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Doctrine for the failures of governance set out in the JPC report.

MR. SPEAKER: Before I announce the next name, I would like to bring to the notice of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar that time for your party was 24 minutes and I have given you 55 minutes. This is only for your record. I do not want you to think that I have done any injustice to you.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, you have always been very kind to me. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: I am just extending the time of the House till the debate is over.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Prime Minister is present here. I would like to repeat something again which I had told last week as it has become official today.

[English]

India hit one more century. This time it is not in cricket but in foreign exchange reserves.

[Translation]

Under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister, India has crossed the target of 100 billion dollars of foreign exchange reserve.

18.00 hrs.

Now we are at par with Japan, China and South Korea, last time. I and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar both were of the same view. Now after hearing Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar I would like to see this A.T.R. and this debate from a different angle.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, both of us are from Mumbai and we know it very well that small investors are in the capital market. In fact, the purpose of these kind of debates or A.T.R. is to emphasize that either system or individuals do mistakes. But in our discussion we should focuss more on strengthening the capital market in the background of A.T.R. by taking corrective steps for reforms. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has mentioned very good things. The arguments of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar which I and others heard for one and half year have been heard by us today again. I am happy for reminding me the said period by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Your memory has been refreshed.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: He has just reminded us about his speeches made during JPC discussions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a saying in Marathi. "Jo thamla so sampola" it means that if one becomes static he has no future. One can argue that firstly capital market should be developed, regulatory network should be made fool-proof or all the regulators should have been made accountable. The policy makers sitting here as well as in state Legislatures should be given more powers and the small investors should have been more educated. And after doing all this, Shri Manmohan Singh ji should have opened capital market in the year 1991. But there is a saying in Gujarati 'PANI MA PARASO TO TARATA SIKHO' which mean that you learn swimming only when your jump into the water. Just now some will say that since, there has been scam in the share market from 1991 to 2000, it should be wound up. Can anybody do it? On the other hand anyone can also say that yes, we have to learn, we have to correct and we have to try to make a more foolproof system.

As I have said at that time Shri Manmohan Singh ji had given this argument. Whenever it appeared that we

should start privatisation, disinvestment, liberalization and de-licensing, it was observed that first of all we should strengthen PSUs. Then it was being argued that first start, then learn slowly and gradually we will strengthen the system. That is what the JPC, JPC's Report and actually meant for. Then we decided. JPC continued to discuss about UTI file for one and half years.

As I have said right now that I get afraid of. If you are afraid of jumping into the water you cannot learn swimming which you wanted to learn. Actually I would like to say. The main basic issue is of governance in every segment of the life, and in every segment and section of the system. Now-a-days, we are talking about good governance, and corporate governance. However, governance is needed in every segment of the economic section. We want governance and corporate also. We constituted one more SEBI committee. It is given in this ATR. We set up one DCA committee. Both of them have suggested the ways to establish good governance in corporate with your limited rights.

I feel that if any time ATR is to be discussed, the subject matter should be. How we can evolve a system to have good governance in the corporate sector? Today there are good companies in corporate sector. Our companies have entered in Fortune 500. There are bad companies also but we have to see that those companies which are good companies should be strengthen more, and more and more capital market doors should be opened for them. So that the money received from small investors to capital market should flow towards those companies, The companies should utilize it for industrial expansion so that the total production may increase, turnover may increase so as to offer more employment and then economic cycle may progress in positive direction. Those companies with bad governance, for them corporate governance, principal should be decided. There is the issue of governance of regulators. I certainly appreciate a debate on governance of the regulators. I would urge hon. Shri Shivraj Patil that there should be a debate in the society on the governance of regulators. We had a discussion on it. We keep on appointing regulators one by one. We have one more bill regarding Petroleum Authority. We are about to develop a regulator. We have Telecom Authority and many other authorities. I do not know whether we have discussed the accountability and good governance among regulators.

18.07 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

Mr. Aiyar was talking about the accountability of regenerators. I too have figures. I can also read. They were talking about ATR. The same is given in JPC.

[English]

Paragraph 2.18 of the Report says:

"The Committee feels that after the presentation to Parliament in August and December, 1994, of the Action Taken Report..."

I think, after August and December, 1994 also that Government lasted for more than 12 months. I think, Lok Sabha elections were held in 1996.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, who is going to reply to this debate? ...*(Interruptions)* Chairman does not reply to debate.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The Cabinet Minister is sitting over here and he must be taking notes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: There is no one from the Ministry of Finance sitting in the House. Who is going to reply to this debate? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur): He is just coming.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, this is what I meant by the cavalier treatment. Neither the Minister of Finance nor his Deputy is here. This is the contempt in which they are holding this House. This is an insult to Parliament. This is an insult to the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The Minister of State for Finance has been sitting here and taking notes. Just now I think he has gone out for a minute or two.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Which Minister of State for Finance?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul was sitting here. He heard the whole of your speech. He has just gone out.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Kirit Somaiya.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not Recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing has gone on record. Kindly Resume your seats. Shri Kirti Somaiya, you please continue.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Sir, he must apologise to the hon. Member for the sarcasm used. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing has gone on record.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I just welcomed him. ...*(Interruptions)* I just said that there is no representative of the Ministry of Finance to reply to the debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Sir, he must apologise. ...*(Interruptions)* This is insulting to a Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please resume your seats. Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Badnore, please take your seat.

Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Kirti Somaiya.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, who would be replying to the debate?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I have not permitted you to speak. By permission of the Chair only, one should speak. ...*(Interruptions)* Moreover, he has not yielded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us hear the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me first give reply to Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal

*Not Recorded.

as to who would be replying to the debate, Finance Minister Shri Jaswant Singhji would be replying to the debate. That's why I said this would calm the atmosphere. Jaswant Singh Ji had to go for a lecture. He told us that Mr. Adsul, a Minister of State in his Ministry will stay here, take notes and he himself will be present for debate. When I informed Prime Minister about this he told that if Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar will deliver the opening Speech, he himself will reply for Minister of Finance. It has never happened before. Prime Minister himself sat down here for the whole period. He paid full attention to Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar's speech. I do not know it Adsul ji is missing for two minutes for a short break. He has made the alternative arrangement duly by replacing Minister of State. Already two Cabinet Ministers are sitting here. As soon as I am apprised of the situation by watching TV, I hurry up because I never go out of this complex. Two cabinet Ministers are already sitting here. He must be returning. He has said that Minister of Finance, Shri Jaswant Singh himself will reply to the debate and, Mr. Adsul will be available in the House in his absence. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I was talking about the corporate governance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Sir, he must apologise because he has insulted him. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It does not make any difference. No one insulted. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): The way he spoke. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: No problem. Leave it, the way we have taken, that is also a point. ...*(Interruptions)* Please do not take it as sarcasm. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Whose fault is there in it? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: No problem. There is no point in making delay. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Sir, gracefully, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar must apologise. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, he must apologise
...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Leave it.
...(Interruptions) is it necessary to make everything an
issue of integrity? Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: The
hon. Member feelings are hurt. He is also a Member of
Parliament. ...(Interruptions) He must apologise.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please take your
seats. Let Shri Kirit Somaiya continue his speech.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Kirti, please speak.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if
my welcome to you has caused insult to you.
...(Interruptions) I beg your pardon. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I was talking about
corporate governance. I appreciate Shri Mani Shankar
Aiyar's concern about the ATR or about the functioning
of the Regulator or about the functioning of the Executive.
He is correct.

I would like to quote the same paragraph which he
has also quoted, which is from the JPC Report. I would
like to quote from paragraph 2.17, at page 9.

"The Committee feel that after the presentation to
Parliament in August and December 1994 of the
Action Taken Reports on the scam relating to
irregularities in securities and banking transactions,
the will to implement various suggestions of the
previous Committee petered out."

When was the JPC-ATR presented? It was in 1994. When
did this Government take over? I recollect that Shri
Manmohan Singh retired somewhere in 1995 or 1996.

I would like to add one more thing. It is also stated
in the same JPC report at page 11 that:

"The Special Cell constituted by the Ministry of
Finance in June 1994 to investigate the nexus
between brokers and industrial houses in pursuance
of the recommendation of the previous Committee
having gone defunct since 22 May 1995."

At that time, whose Government was there? It did not
stop there. I do not want to score political points here.
What I want to bring to your notice is about the
functioning, the system of accountability, the system of
governance, etc. What is mentioned in the ATR of
December 2003? In paragraph 2.17, it states:

"Out of 273 individual items of observations,
conclusions, recommendations listed in the Report of
the JPC set up in 1992 to inquire into the
irregularities, only 107 items have been identified by
the Government."

In the latest report, the RBI has reported that
Departmental action is still pending against 22 persons.

Sir, we will have to discuss the governance among
the regulators some time. We have to discuss corporate
governance among the industrialists, among the promoters.
We have also to discuss about good corporate
governance system among parliamentarians. There is a
need to discuss the system of governance, system of
accountability of regulators. It was recommended in 1992.
lacked political will otherwise it was not possible. In this
Government, Shri Jaswant Singh became the Finance
Minister after 1998. But what happened till 1998? Who
was in power prior to 1998? Again, I would say that I do
not want to score any political points.

One more thing which is needed here is governance
among the members of the Judiciary.

[Translation]

In 1992-1993 cases were framed against Harshad Mehta.
Harshad Mehta expired in 2002. Till now charge sheet is
not filed in any case. If charge-sheet is filed hearing
does not take place. When hearing takes place,
proceedings go on. I do not want to pass any comment
about the Judiciary. But certainly, I would like to express
my concern about its status. If we have to discuss ATR
today, if we have to further strengthen capital market, we
will have to develop such system that if there is any
scam immediately nail down the guilty and he should be
punished within six to twelve months. In western or other
developed countries whenever any scam take place it is
investigated into immediately. They do not look at them
with a political angle. Governments come and go. Mani
Shankarji has said that one ATR has come in IX month.
I welcome his this view. This is another ATR that has
been given. Our Government and the hon. Finance
Minister will thus keep on giving third, fourth, fifth, sixth,
seventh and tenth ATR after every six month. Do you
accept it, I think you accept it.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

I would also like to draw your attention to one more thing. At some times, I think as to why we are this much afraid of capital market in 1991 and there after Harshad Mehta, NBPC, CR Bhansali, Plantation Companies, Vanishing Company and Ketan Parikh scams took place. Plantation, non-Banking and then a double the money scam took place in Mumbai. Many companies of unorganised sector come in the market and vanish after looting public money. We have to learn the lesson. We have to correct the system. One thing has been said in ATR and I would like to bring in the notice of hon. Minister that in investor protection chapter of ATR it has been said that S.N. Mitra Committee was appointed and that committee had expressed concern which the JPC Members had also shared. Scams take place here and money is misappropriated and if the first scam is of 500 crore, the next scam is of one, two, four thousand crore but the investor does not get a single paisa.

[English]

Can we evolve a system where at least a small investor will get something?

[Translation]

It will not matter if he does not get interest or dividend but get at least he should get his principal amount back. Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha has passed the Investor Protection Act where there is a provision of right to attach the property for a crime falling under the Act and the 'investors' money will be returned by selling the property.

[English]

There will be a Special Investor Court. We have suggested in the JPC that all the State Governments must be motivated to implement that Act and simultaneously the SEBI Act may be corrected to that extent.

[Translation]

I have got the information that the RBI and SEBI have moved such an amendment by accepting its recommendations through this ATR. The State Governments will need to be motivated because according to my information.

[English]

Tamilnadu has passed the Investors Protection Act. In total seven States have passed this Act and out of them you are implementing it. We must concentrate more on that.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Adsul ji, who is an authority on Co-operative Sector, is sitting here, I would request him that it is written in this ATR that

[English]

what is the fade side of the cooperative banking system, particularly, urban banking system? There may be a far persons.

[Translation]

Not only in the times of Harshad Mehta and C.R. Bhansali but even now these gangsters succeed in manipulating the cooperative banks whether it is Madhopura Cooperaitve Bank or any other bank. Thereafter, Home-Trade scam took place and few banks got closed down but depositors have not get back their money.

[English]

The State Government has to inform RBI.

[Translation]

that these cooperatives have closed down.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: From your party three more members are to speak. The time allotted to your party was 55 minutes.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I was interrupted by the Members for ten minutes. That time must be adjusted.

[Translation]

While cooperative banks are being discussed then there are many banks which are not recommended by the State Government and there is no implementation by the RBI. The Deposit Insurance Guamatee Corporation of RBI has a balance of more than Rs. 4000 crore. But these cooperative banks run hardly for 6-12 months or 2-4 years and then they run away after duping Rs. 50-60-80 thousand of depositors, army personals, widows who do not get back their money.

[English]

The Government of India should come out.

[Translation]

You have written in the ATR that

[English]

You are planning to come out with a Bill.

[Translation]

Secondly, I would like to say that

[English]

What is much needed in our system, along with the corporate governance, is educating, empowering and enrichment of the small investors. It is called three 'Es'.

[Translation]

I will not give you the names but I met some Members here in the gallery who say that Kirit Bhai my husband has retired and earlier we had invested Rs. 1,50,000 of Provident Fund and Gratuity in National Saving Certificate which has come back. Now where should that be invested? The Government investment yields 8-10-12 percent interest while in private it is around 15-18-20 percent.

[English]

What is needed is education.

[Translation]

Small investors are attracted by paying 2-4 percent higher interest. But in reality what to speak of interest, even the principal amount is not returned. It just evaporates. This very Government has set up the Investors Education Protection Fund.

[English]

It is good and I Congratulate this Government.

[Translation]

The undistributed dividend of any company

[English]

after seven years it will be transferred to Investor Education and Protection Fund.

[Translation]

It started functioning 2 years back but it is under DCA which does not have a system.

[English]

The JPC unanimously recommended that this fund should be handled over to SEBI.

[Translation]

because SEBI has a system. SEBI and National Stock Exchange have started the investor education drive. That fund is not being used and the money keeps lying there.

[English]

I would urge the Finance Minister that he must announce in this House that it will be completed. I would like to add that the ATR has said that the process has already been completed.

[Translation]

DCA has the provisions for listed companies while some other provisions are with other regulators or with the SEBI, therefore,

[English]

we have suggested that all should be combined, should be transferred, and handed over to SEBI.

[Translation]

Therefore, through you, I urge the Government to take some steps in this direction.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I would like to invite Mr. Minister' attention towards small investor protection. JPC has made a mention in this regard also. Just now, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has said that market was again rising. FII has launched very good issues in the capital market. The Finance Minister was also requested in this regard that this subject should be discussed in Parliament. If FII comes up with 30 thousand crore rupees and market valuation goes up by 3 lakh rupees,

[English]

we will have to develop a system to balance and we will have to sit together.

[Translation]

Today, if 30 thousand rupees come, market valuation goes up by 3 lakhs rupees. This can create imbalance as to money comes where from the SEBI has studied the disciplinary note very well.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

I want to say one thing about IPO financing. JPC has also written in this regard. At page No. 44 of JPC Report, it is mentioned.

[English]

We have suggested regarding CSF securities that they tried to align with the Ketan Parekh.

[Translation]

and about CT Group, it is mentioned that they are violating. We need FII and FD money. If regulator bypasses,

[English]

We have come out strictly. If the same institution is repeating the same mistake the Government of India should act tough. That is my urge to the SEBI and to the system.

[Translation]

I want to say one more thing about IPO financing.

[English]

I do not understand why SEBI and RBI are silent on IPOs.

[Translation]

IPOs, approximately 22 thousand rupees are coming from companies. You must have noticed, "Aaj Tak" IPO was over subscribed four times. Indraprastha Gas has also come up with good issue. But the trend is followed by some bogus companies also. Page 25 of the Report says about IPO finance-

[English]

At that time, some banks borrowed 90 per cent finance.

[Translation]

It should be looked into.

[English]

My colleague made a mention regarding UTI.

[Translation]

I do not want to go in detail in this regard. I have said that it has been debated upon. At US-64 on Page No. 372 and 373 of Vol. I of JPC Report, it is mentioned.

[English]

In the financial years of 1995, 1996 and 1997 the Unit Trust has drawn a reserve to maintain a high dividend rate.

[Translation]

Should we discuss it again now? Mani Shankar ji makes a mention of Sinha ji's letter. I would further read out.

[English]

Debt-equity composition of the scheme portfolio has undergone a sea-change over the years reversing from the predominately debt portfolio with a debt equity portfolio. It was 79:21 in 1996 and

[Translation]

When our Government came in power in 1998,

[English]

it was 36:63.

[Translation]

It transferred like this. Shall we again debate here? Will Parliament turn into JPC? What was the performance of the equity ratio at that time?

[English]

I do not want to discuss UTI here.

[Translation]

Who made a mistake in it, who did what we need a political will.

[English]

Here we need to create a conducive atmosphere. We learned a lot in equity. Market, capital market. From Harshad Mehta Scam to Ketan Parikh Scam, we have corrected. It is happening trade to trade today. The SEBI, the NSE, the regulators take action.

[Translation]

Such is the system today that we have transferred 1500 scripts in non-category script. In 1993-94, people would

come to us with the complaint that his or her dividend bond was stolen, shares sent for transfer not received back. They used to be stolen in transit.

[English]

We have developed the Demat system which is the best in the world. It was developed during the Congress Government and subsequently other Governments.

[Translation]

We paid more attention to that. It was after Harshad Mehta stock scam that we learned that there was monopolistic stock exchange system that we had created and it had to be counter balanced. We developed National Stock Exchange.

[English]

It is a correction that we have learnt.

[Translation]

During the crisis suffered by NSC last time, not a single case of default in payments was noticed. Both Mumbai Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange were not closed even for a single day. We have to concentrate on our mistakes and learn as to what we can do for improving. We have to show such a confidence to the people, economic market and small investor. Today, if we discuss ATR here, throw mud at each other and say you went in capital market, mutual fund, bank, all will end up and not a single penny will be realised.

[English]

What will happen to our economic system?

[Translation]

Today, the economy is improving.

[English]

We must bring to the notice of the society, the Government and the regulator.

[Translation]

You have done a good job by separating the electronic transfer system. Now it is being done in postal service which is a very good step but it is still needed to discontinue the preferential allotment route. We should

continue such good things and attract attention to shortcomings.

Finally, I would say that

[English]

we have one of the best developed markets in the world and that is the capital market.

[Translation]

Capital market attract investment in such a way that economic growth will increase. Today, small investor has started to study and understand the market. We should try to make him more aware. We should educate him, develop a system of awareness, try to enrich it.

[English]

I will conclude with one sentence. We need a wealthy capital market but it should be a healthy market.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are two speakers from our party. Hon. Mani Shankarji's speech was full of queries and it correct that he took his time. My name is also there in this discussion. I should get ten minutes at least to speak.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Mani Shanakrji took one hour time.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important subject.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you ten minutes.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, the decade of economic and financial reforms in India has been marked by worsening economy, rapid growth in joblessness and widening gap between the rich and the poor. The period is also marked by unprecedented incidents of corruption, frauds, scams of different magnitude involving some persons holding high offices and the questionable role of the regulators. The two major scams between 1992 and the beginning of 2000. Only emphasise how this Government and the regulators have miserably failed to perform. Now, in the ATR, we find that the political will to act adequately, properly and timely is lacking.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

I am disappointed going through the ATR. Many hon. Members of Parliament have put in their hard labour. For hours they have discussed, taken evidence and made some recommendations. One of the areas of concern expressed by this Committee was, had the recommendations made by the earlier JPC been taken seriously and implemented, the second scam of the Ketan Parekh variety could have been avoided. Now, after going through the ATR, I feel that there is a serious apprehension that another scam is impending.

I shall confine myself to two or three points. Even while the second JPC was continuing its deliberations, we had noted to our satisfaction that some important steps had been taken by some regulators and also by the Government. They could have been taken earlier. But they had taken these measures while we have been deliberating before we came to the conclusion. There is a reason behind why I say that there is an apprehension of an impending scam. Even yesterday, the SEBI Chairman said that SEBI is keeping an eye on bull run. He says that they have brought down the subterfuges, raised the level of margins, transferred the companies from regulatory rolling settlement cycle from trade to trade and even initiated investigations in some cases. I am disappointed because the steps taken or even proposed to be taken are too little and too late.

I am trying to concentrate on one major area. In paragraph 7.54, the Report says:

"The Committee holds that even as there are valid reasons to believe that corporate houses, brokers, banks and FIs nexus played havoc in the Indian capital market for quite some time now through fraudulent manipulation of prices at the cost of small investors, this Committee was severely handicapped in the matter of making any purposeful recommendations because of the non-availability of required support."

The Committee did not get support. The regulatory bodies did not provide any information about the involvement of the corporate houses. We waited for months together. But they did not provide us with information. Now also, we find that the corporate houses and the top companies have been absolved.

Shri Kirit Somaiya was mentioning about the Participatory Notes. What is a Participatory Note? What is happening in the market? What did the Committee say about Participatory Notes? In para 8.81, it says:

"SEBI has expressed suspicion that some of the Indian promoters have purchased shares of their own

companies through Participatory Notes issued by sub-accounts of FIs. This mechanism enables the holders to hide their identities and enables them to transact in Indian Capital Market. The Committee note that SEBI has since directed FIs to report about details of the Participatory Notes as and when issued by them. The Committee suggest that failure on the part of FIs to report about issue of PNs should be viewed seriously and should entail stringent punitive action. It should also be ensured that this instrument is not misused in any way to manipulate the Indian Securities Market."

It is still continuing. I am not saying that. It is the admission of SEBI. According to SEBI, as on 15th September, out of the total of 509 registered FIs, 12 entities or their sub-accounts have issued Participatory Notes. The number is only twelve. But what is the amount that is involved? The total value of outstanding PNs, as on that date, was Rs. 15,520 crore. it was just for a few days. What is happening in the Participatory Notes? Citi Group and Goldman Sachs have issued Participatory Notes to banned entities such as CSFD and overseas corporate bodies. What is the reply? Let the hon. Minister reply. Is it not true that Participatory Note holders are not disclosing their identity and Indian promoters have taken back their own money through the Mauritius route? What has happened to the Mauritius route? The Report talks about the Mauritius route and the OCBs.

We had recommended that Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement is disastrous. Hundreds and thousands of FIs are operating through the Mauritius route only. It is all hot money. Any moment it can be withdrawn causing disaster, as it has happened with some other countries.

So, the Committee said:

"The Committee finds that the exact amount of revenue loss due to Residency Clause of the Treaty cannot be quantified. But taking into account the huge inflows and outflows, it could be assumed to be substantial."

By investing one dollar, thousands of dollars have been taken away. That was the recommendation That came in the evidence. When the Committee seriously recommended that this needs to be looked into, what does the Government say? The Government says: "Wherever necessary, we will decide". It is necessary. It has been repeatedly said by the Press and other that it is necessary.

The Government says:

"Wherever necessary to check the misuse of the Residency Clause, the Income-Tax Department will carry out required investigations with the help of Mauritius authorities."

We know the story. We know whether the former Finance Minister or the Finance Ministry, whatever you call it, had given the instructions to the Income-Tax Department or not. We know the whole story. After knowing all these things, the Committee had recommended that it needs to be looked into.

It is not being looked into. The SEBI says like this. It is not my admission. It is the admission of the SEBI. The SEBI says:

"About 31 entries which appear to be OCBs have subscribed to the PN issued by some of the above Fills' sub-account."

What have they done? The names of the companies have been referred to the RBI. There lies the story. Whose responsibility is it? The RBI said that it was not a police agency and it was not its responsibility. The SEBI said that it was not its responsibility. We had asked whose responsibility was it. Here, the issue of coordination comes. The High Level Coordination Committee says that it is for forewarning, for advance warning signals that it is setting up a Technical Committee. Is that the proper reply? Is it enough? The report says that you have opened up the market through the process of liberalisation. Whether we support it or not is a different issue. The independent role of a regulator is more vital in a market economy. Wherever there has been a failure of the regulator, be it in the United States recently or elsewhere, it has caused havoc to the economy. That apprehension is there. Are the promoters bringing back their own money? The SEBI said it had already taken some steps. What is it? It is about the preferential allotment of equity. For six months, a promoter will not be allowed to sell his preferential shares. This is splitting up the shares. They say that they have taken this step. The main question is whether the instrument of Participatory Note is being misused or not. What is happening in the capital market today? Is the volatility artificial as a result of manipulation or not? That is our apprehension.

I am giving you one example of insider trading because I have got time constraint. I think in May-June, there was a news item saying that the public sector banks' scrips were going up and up in the capital market. It

was found that one day a very important official of the Finance Ministry had made certain comments about the buy-back of the public sector banks. The next day another Joint Secretary had made another public observation about the same buy-back system. Meanwhile, the shares of the scrips of the public sector banks went up. There was insider trading by the involvement of very high officials in the Finance Ministry. When it was made public by the media, when the issue was raised, the Finance Ministry said: "We have instituted an inquiry by the SEBI." The SEBI has submitted the report. What step has this Government taken about the high officials' involvement in the insider trading who are instrumental in artificially jacking up the prices of the public sector banks at the cost of the small investors? I ask this question. What steps has this Government taken? He might have gone elsewhere. He is a big guy in the Finance Ministry. He may now be holding some other very high office.

It is being said about corporatisation and demutualisation. There is a Bill pending with the Standing Committee on Finance. It is all right. But what about the probe about the companies involved in this? It is not only the managing company or the plantation company but also even big names have been involved in this about whom it was said by a former bureaucrat that PMO is always affected by the RH factor.

Sir, do you know what it means? How did they manipulate the market? How was the OCB route used? But no action has been taken. It is said that they are under examination, under consideration and now they propose to do this and that. But, to tell you frankly, nothing is being done.

Sir, what about the Reserve Bank of India? The RBI, of course, should not be guided only by the dictates of the Finance Ministry. Has the RBI performed this role? Repeatedly, paragraphs after paragraphs, observations and recommendations have been made about the failure of this important regulator and it has been mentioned by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar also.

What about the inspection system? What about the irregularities in banks like the Nedungadi Bank. They say that they are setting up some group of outside experts. Why should they set up a group of outside experts? Do they not have enough competent officials to look into it? This is another way of avoiding this issue and that is what is being done by this Government.

Sir, some important names are involved. Why was the UTI Chairman put in that high office? Of course, he

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

has now been booked and put behind the bars. But what punishment has been given to all those high individuals, now only of corporate houses, indulging in gravest offences against our countrymen, against our investors and against the capital market? They have been spared.

What about short selling? We have repeatedly raised this issue. They say that B.D. Shah Committee is looking into it. What about cooperative banks like the Madhavpura Cooperative Mercantile Bank and how was it misused? Now, it belongs to the constituency of a very important political personality holding a very high office. Instead of being punished, they are being patronised and they are being encouraged.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am concluding.

Now, about the main offenders it has been said that they have been disqualified for 14 years and such and such people have been punished. But what about those people who have played a role from behind the scenes, in the North Block, in Mumbai and from the offices of the corporate houses? Their names are known and even after so many months of investigation, no document was made available to this Committee.

Sir, the same observation was made by the 1992 JPC in 1994 when they submitted their recommendations. The involvement of the corporate houses and the nexus was pointed out, but the culprits have not been punished. They have been absolved. We can call it a 'No Action Taken Report'. It is not an 'Action Taken Report'; it is a 'No Action Taken Report' and this is very unfortunate.

Sir, what is happening in the case of merger of banks? What is happening in the case of risk management system? So many good things are being said like international commitment, GATT, best banking practices, etc., but what is happening behind the scene? Somewhere, the Minister is saying something, but the operators, who have been waiting, start the operations. I just want to ask one basic question. Are they serious about deficit? Are they serious, at all, to take necessary steps to salvage this poor country from the hands of these, what should I say, sharks? How are they looting public money continuously? We should seriously look into it.

Sir, you also must be very concerned about the role of this Government. I do not accept the ATR. No progress has been made. It is just dilly-dallying tactics, protecting

the offenders and only some cosmetic steps have been taken. Mostly it is said that the matter is under consideration. This is no action. I would earnestly submit to the former Chairman of the JPC—he is sitting here—that we have all worked together. It is a unanimous report; it is not that it belongs to the Congress Party or the CPI (M) or to any particular section of this House.

It was a unanimous report and it was done earnestly in the country's interest, in the interest of the capital market and in the interest of the small investors, who just fled from the market after burning their fingers. What is happening now is that daily news is coming. There is an apprehension of the wide section of the Indian public that another scam is impending. What is happening now is, Sensex is rising and rising. It is well spread, feel good factor. Monsoon and all these have no relation with the fundamentals. It is all the contribution of FII's.

So, I oppose this Government's role and demand a better, fruitful, purposeful and meaningful report, which the Government should bring forward as quickly as possible.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Sir, we are discussing the JPC Report and mainly the Action Taken Report of the JPC. I wish we had confined ourselves to the issues of omissions in the ATR because throughout we worked pretty hard on this Report. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar's contribution, Shri Rupchand Pal's contribution, Shri Akhilesh's contribution and Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh's contribution are immense on this Report. Never in the history of JPCs, there has been another unanimous Report without any clarification, without any dissent and without anything, I do not take the credit for it; the credit goes to the members.

One of the major issues throughout was to keep it an economic document, not a political document. This is an economic document of 452 pages and I must say that today what Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has said—he is my good friend and was of great help to me in the JPC—was totally one-sided. His quotations were totally selective and it had a slant which was not there when Shri Rupchand Pal was speaking.

Yes, there are deficiencies in the ATR and we must stick to those deficiencies. We must not make the same mistakes as the ATR of 1993 did, and that was to politicise the document. We are talking about the economic well-being of the Stock Exchanges, of the monetary market in our country, and we must be very seriously thinking as to how we should avoid this thing.

Some of the point that have been brought out by the Members positively need a re-consideration. I would like to read here what exactly was the intention of this Report. One of the major faults that we found was of implementation of the last Report. The Report of 1992 is relevant to us only to teach us what went wrong after the 1992 Report and we went into a great deal of detail for that.

Sir, you were a member of that Committee and you were well aware about this but only to the extent that those mistakes should not be repeated. The biggest mistake that was found was in implementation of the Report of 1992.

19.00 hrs.

I kept on harping on this point and all the Members agreed with this point that the implementation should be of a very high quality. The Government has brought in the ATR well in time. Also, it has taken action away from the ATR. Certain actions had been taken about the overseas corporate bodies, about the various legislation and so on. It is an on-going process. But here what I wrote was that the Government should present their ATR on this Report within six months of the presentation of the Report. It was presented. But we ended up by saying that every six months, the Government should present to the Parliament a report of progress, an ATR, on the recommendations of the JPC until action on all the recommendations has been fully implemented to the satisfaction of the Parliament.

There was a fear for this, that is, left to the bureaucrats, left to the Department, what happens is that after a while, the momentum peters out. Again and again we come back to our scam of 2001. It must be understood that scam happened in the time of a certain Government. But when you saw it from 1994 to 2001, various actions, commissions and omissions had resulted in a cumulative effect in seven years so that this kind of a scam surfaced. In the middle of our query, the UTI case was also added to the whole thing.

When one went into the details of that, one found that again the UTI had become hallow, not in one day, not in two days, not in the term of one Finance Minister but in the term of successive Finance Ministers. When you are talking of again responsibility and *neithik* responsibility, who do you blame? It is over a span of eight years that this has happened.

Even the Mauritius route, the OCBs and the coming in, we have gone through every file in great detail. At

that time, there was not one concern that we addressed, which had not been addressed four years back or five years back or in the time of Shri Manmohan Singh or in the time of his Secretary. All this is on the file. So, when you are talking of *neithik* responsibility, what my suggestion is that this six months period of coming back to the Parliament every time will have meaning if you put specific questions about the progress of the ATR like my friend has done. He has asked why this has not happened. I am also going to put certain queries like why this has not happened. It should be put. We must correct it. If another ATR is required, which seems to be the demand all over, another updated ATR of the action taken in these six months must be brought here. That is the power of the Parliament. That is within the prerogative of the Parliament.

But if you are going to talk like you referred to the old record, this has been going on. I cannot fathom Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar's love for Shri Yashwant Sinha and Shri Jaswant Singh, and love is blind. It is so blind that for the last one year he has done nothing but the whole thing hinges on one fulcrum, that is, Shri Yashwant Sinha, Shri Jaswant Singh and the Prime Minister. This is not a document of that. This is the document looking at the future.

I might say that he has another disadvantage. I might say that he was a member of 1992 scam committee also. So, that predominates his thinking. 2001 scam was not 1992 scam. There was a world of difference. In 1992 scam, the Government had tremendous amount of responsibility.

The regulators were not in place. If they had started, they were not matured. They have been there for ten years. There can be any amount of debate as to how independent the regulator should be. The Government must not appoint the Chairman of the UTI. The Government must not interfere with the affairs of SEBI. How should it appoint the SEBI? What should the SEBI do, what should be its powers and how much the Government should ask the SEBI? Should it be in Delhi-contact with the SEBI or should it be in Delhi-contact with the UTI or should it leave them free? UTI has got a very good infrastructure. It is a big thing. All these things distanced the markets from the Government in ten years' time. Therefore, if we keep on going back and say that 'in the year 1993 Dr. Manmohan Singh resigned and his resignation was not accepted and he did this and he did that, and why does not Shri Yashwant Sinha do the same', then we will be on a futile bush chase.

[Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi]

I would want to say that there is not any connection with specific responsibility of the Minister or any such persons. We have accepted this systemic failure and the system have failed. But let me tell you that the amount of hype that is being created about the effects of these scams must be measured very well. We have this problem of how bad the scam was, how much we want to a divertise it and also the problem of scaring the stock market, caring the financial advertise it and also the problem of scaring the stock market, scaring the financial institutions and putting our own country into a feeling of financial disappointment. When a crisis occurs, we must take it in a proper measure. What happened? What was the scam? The scam was characterised by only two incidents. One was Madhavpura Cooperative Bank payment and the another was CSF payment. Nothing else showed that the stock markets elsewhere were affected and there was a market crash. The main worry of the Joint Parliamentary Committee was that in these things, the small investor suffers the most and how do we bring in systems, bring in checks and balances and as to how the small investor is protected.

I want to quickly go through some of the things that I also feel must be revised before talking generally about the whole thing. As I said, I have touched implementation.

Now, with regard to the Action Taken on Ketan Parekh case, action has been taken against the various people who were with him and who were involved with him. He has been denied 14 years of any kind of work in the stock exchanges. He cannot play the stock exchange, but there is a big question and that is that the other bit of action, which is the judicial bit, must be completed.

Today only, there is a good article in *the Indian Express* by Shrimati Sucheta Dalal saying: 'Is this 14 years *vanwas* enough?' I agree with her and that concerted action must be taken against these offenders and this was discussed in great detail in our Joint Parliamentary Committee meeting also. An impression gains ground that no action seems to get completed for these offenders, they do not go to jails and their children continue to go in the air-conditioned cars, they do not have to dislodge the money.

The various machineries involved in getting this done make him feel the pain of his fraud is not there. For this, a very co-ordinated action is needed and something, which Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar pointed out that HLCC, can be debated. What was its role? What did it not do? Why did it not co-ordinate? But there must be a very important

co-ordinating agency functioning, which must see the work right up to the end, right up to time that they have gone behind the bars and thus, it would be a completed action. This is also applicable, I might say, because in our Report we have said that neither the 1992 scam could find the nexus between the brokers, the corporate bodies and the banks and we were also not able to give a very clear direction on that. We were, for this purpose, dependent on what was supplied to us by SEBI. They delayed the matter and they also got bad mouths on this aspect. We did not have enough time to go into such detail as to pass a judgement on these people and it would have been unfair, and it was agreed by everybody, to pass any judgement before listening to them, and listening to them was a must.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): What is the use of having a JPC if you are not going to get information on those people who have manipulated and who have deprived the small investors? Their names are not mentioned and the action which should be taken against them is also not mentioned. That happened in the first Report and this is happening in the second Report also.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: No, Sir, It has not happened in this Report.

SHRI SHIRVAJ V. PATIL: You yourself are saying that information was not available. This Parliament is not helpless to get information of this nature from SEBI.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: No, it is not at all helpless. We were also not helpless. There was no problem provided we had more time.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You are yielding and I thank you, but I am sorry to say where is the question of time. I did not open my mouth, but in both the Reports, this is the thing. If the man who has actually deprived the small investor of his money, who has damaged the institution and if we are not having the time or we are not having the information or if we are not suggesting the steps against him, what is the use of having these JPCs?

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: I disagree with you completely.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You explain it. You do not disagree with me.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: I disagree with you completely on this aspect. we had enough indication

that a thing like this has happened, but detailed investigation about the culpability of these people, the specific mistakes they have done is not possible for the JPC. It cannot be done.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That will be decided by the judiciary.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: It was not possible, but what was done was to say that we have seen that such and such people were involved. I am bringing this out to repeat this. This is quite clear. We have further said that investigation in the matter must be done and it must be done to a logical conclusion and people must be punished for it. But to sit like a court and to take evidence of these corporate bodies, who have got so much of money, so much of word power, we would have spent five years including Sundays and we would have never got anywhere. So, let us be practical about it. This is not the job of the JPC to sit like a court, but our direction has been, I want to repeat this, that we will like to see the progress of this by relevant agencies, which is the CBI and the SEBI and we will keep an eye on this matter very clearly. That is as far as we can go, and we cannot be a court of judgement.

With regard to the banks, certain actions have been taken. The main culprits were the multi-state cooperative banks. There were other banks involved, but these were the main culprits. Even in that, two main culprits were there, that is, the Madhavapura Cooperative Bank, and the City Cooperative Bank, Lucknow. They have been identified and we would like to see specifically in your report as to how these people are being brought to book, and what is the progress. Every time you come, we want to know about the progress you are making on this.

In Calcutta Stock Exchange, the rot was very old. It was the direct responsibility of SEBI. It cannot be that a stock market or a particular stock exchange can be seen by anybody as above SEBI. There is a proper failure. Not only that, whatever improvement had been done in the CSE was not good enough.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Tripathi, how much time you will take?

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: I just need another five to seven minutes time, and I would not take more than that.

We want to know how specific people had been punished. I mentioned about the OCBs and the Mauritius route. I would not go over this point much more excepting

to say that definitely some rules were made to bring in money from outside, that there is a definite evidence that it was misused, and that there is a definite evidence that it was not only misused then but it was also misused earlier. We also found reasonable evidence, not definitive evidence, that the outgo was more than the incoming money. This is what we had accepted. Since then, OCBs had been stopped and various actions had been taken, but this is a continuous process and we would like to know about that.

About the responsibility, I just want to touch one or two points. One is, I have already mentioned that there has been a sea-change, as far as accountability of the Ministry of Finance is concerned. In 1992, the Controller of Capital Issues Act and Security (Contract Regulation) Act prescribed direct responsibility on the part of the Ministry of Finance including in matters like pricing, quantum, manner of issue of shares, the working of stock exchanges, taking action against the brokers, stock exchange, companies etc. By 2001, the scenario had completely changed. The SEBI Act provided full powers to the regulators. The powers over stock exchanges under the SERA were taken away from the Ministry of Finance and given to SEBI. Even the power of appeal under the SEBI Act, which was earlier with the Government, had been transferred to the new Securities Appellate Tribunal. Powers under the Depository Act were also given to SEBI. Thus, while in 1992, all the powers over the capital market, whether direct or indirect, whether original or appellant, were with the Ministry of Finance, in 2001, these powers were with the regulators or appellate bodies created by the Acts of Parliament. This point was brought out by Shri Chidambaram also during his tenure.

At one time, the procedure to regulate the business was the job of the Government. It raises a question which I would like to pose to the Parliament for its consideration, and I have no particular views on it.

That is, "How independent should be the regulator?" Should it act independently; do its own job; make its own mistakes; and be responsible for them? I am only talking about money market, the stock market and the other financial institutions. Or, should the Ministry of Finance oversee it; be responsible for it; regulate the regulator; and be a super regulator? What should be the shape? If they are to be absolutely independent, as pointed out by Mani Shankarji, in our jurisprudence it is the Finance Minister who has to come to Parliament and answer questions. How much should he be personally responsible for that answer? We all want a strong

[Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi]

regulator, a mature regulator, but an independent regulator.

[Translation]

In the committee questions such as the number of telephone calls from Prime Minister's residence to U.T.I. and the number of telephone calls from the Finance Minister to SEBI were asked. What does it mean? Whether they should make telephonic call or not and whether they should regulate or not? Why the Government is brought in picture when we actually intend to bring an independent regulator? This is a matter where Government does not play any role. A few days ago, I was in America. The same problem was being faced by the S.S.C. of the country but no one was talking about the role of the Government. They were talking about the regulator. You should understand this matter very clearly. I think, the Finance Minister had nothing to do with this matter very clearly. I think, the Finance Minister had nothing to do with this matter in the year 2001. When we found that there was some important letter which was received on Friday but was not sent to the Finance Minister even by Monday, we mentioned it in the report. But we found no co-relation with the scam of 1992 and the scam of 2001. I would like to conclude with just one point.

[English]

As I said, for the first time we have a unanimous report. It is a matter of interpretation. Everybody is entitled to his view.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Actually, the last report was also unanimous. This is the second unanimous report.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: It may be the second unanimous report. It is a matter of great satisfaction for us that we were united. The Government should take it seriously and by taking into account all the important points and by looking into and updating the old ATR, it should be brought in Parliament again for a longer discussion because the future depends heavily on this action. It has rightly been told by Rupchand Pal ji. I would like to say it again that the dynamix of stock market should not be slackened. Its momentum should increase and more and more money should come into play. Even today, the stock market is not broad. I would again like to congratulate all the Members of the committee for giving such a good report by dint of their hard work. Now, it is for the Government to take action in this regard.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion being held on the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto.

Sir, Mani Shankar Ji, Rupchand Pal Ji, Kirti Somaiya Ji and hon. Tripathi Ji have expressed their views just now. From the report of the Joint Committee on Stock Market Scam and Matters Relating Thereto, it is crystal clear that it is due to system failure. It is clear that there is system failure in the department. If the department is responsible for something, the head of that department can not absolve himself from his responsibility. So, the head of the department is the culprit. I want to emphasize it because all of us have made a lot of efforts on a continuous basis which resulted in the report which was laid on the table of the House by the Minister of Finance on 19th December, 2002. Now, more than a year has elapsed. The first Action Taken Report was laid on the table on 9th May by the Finance Minister. While speaking on the subject he had said that through these amendments the power of SEBI to act against those defaulters and brokers and companies indulging in inside trading and manipulating the prices of various scrips has been increased. He thanked us for our recommendation to increase the powers of SEBI. Further, he said that another division has been set up to inspect the Securities and Exchange Board of India and its changes and follow-up action is being taken to implement the recommendations. There was not any perceptible change in the situation of stock market despite all his assurances. I am pained to say that Home Trade Scam took place when our Committee was investigating this scam. That scam was highlighted during Zero Hour but at that time neither the Government nor the Finance Ministry paid attention to it. Shreyam Securities was found guilty in Home Trade Scam in the report of the investigation officer of SEBI as well as in the follow-up report of the Chairman. Later on, SEBI renewed the license of Shreyam Securities during this period. Like Home Trade, Shreyam Securities indulged in circular trading. It should have been investigated but it was not done even by the Income Tax Department.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there was a fall of 60 per cent in the shares of Maswik company when the report was presented in April and The Asian Age apparently published the news about it.

On the basis of this report, I wrote letters not only to the Minister of Finance but to the Chairmen of UTI and SEBI also. But I am pained to say that no action was taken in that regard. Shrayam Securities and Finance

Ltd. changed its name to Sharaul Securities Ltd. I request the Minister of State to consider this matter seriously because my allegation is clear that these corrupt people are being protected openly. Shrayam Securities and Finance Ltd. had cheated Banks, Financial Institutions and mutual funds. It is also apprehended that they misused their approach and they have embezzled crores of rupees of small investors, Banks and Financial Institutions. To enact this embezzlement they influenced the public issues of FFL and SSL tactfully. I do not want to name anyone but the aim to follow public issue market was to do undue favour to a particular company. Though, small investors were already ruined, yet they were forced to suffer more. I wrote a letter to the Minister of Finance on 14.7.03 and to the Chairmen of UTI and SEBI on 24.7.03. I have received those acknowledgments. But I am pained to say that no action has been taken in this direction so far. I want to say that somewhere Government is protecting this issue.

19.29 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have presented the report in Lok Sabha on 19th December 2002. After that on 3rd January, 2003, orders regarding shares of Global Trust Bank were issued on 13.12.02 under Section-II and 11B of SEBI Act in which 50 persons including Ketan Parekh were associated with it. Nearly one year is going to elapse but so far even investigating officer has not been appointed in this matter. This is obviously a fraud with the investors and insidious effort of Ketan Parekh.

I want to apprise you of the fact that situation is not confined to this only. Had you gone through the report of the Joint Committee on Stock Market Scam and Matters Relating Thereto. You would have been aware of the facts. We have said in Para No. 21.5 that Committee notes that Mr. Ketan Parekh, who was found deeply involved in this scam, received a lot of money from Banks and Corporate bodies when sansex was nosediving. That's why committee believes that there existed a nexus between Ketan Parekh, Banks and Corporate bodies, yet no logical decision could be established to support this idea for want of time. And Committee recommends that one more Committee should be constituted to make in depth study in this regard. For the said objective. We had recommend to constitute one more Committee but you have just reverted the things in your Action Taken Report. You have asked for an investigation by Department of Company Affairs. You just see your Action Taken Report, we have recommended to constitute

another Committee, so that Committee can find out truth in the whole matter by thorough investigation but you have observed yourself in your Action taken Report by recommending that the matter may be handed over to the Department of Company Affairs.

Not only this, I would like to make it clear that you have tried to save corporate sector also in a tactful manner. The first name suggested by our Committee from amongst Corporate Sector is Adani Export Ltd. It is clearly mentioned in that. According to SEBI, at para No. 7.12, there seems to be close relations between the companies of Adani Group and Ketan Parekh Group on the basis of following facts. Transaction of crores of rupees took place between these two companies without any interest. It was found in the investigation that Adani Group has lent Rs. 340 crore to Ketan Parekh Companies and have received approximately Rs. 208 crore from them. Second, fact is that promoters of Adani Export have sold shares through the Broking Companies of Ketan Parekh Group and all these shares have been purchased by other companies of Ketan Parekh Group as investors. Third fact is that Ketan Parekh Group was the main share holder group of Adani Group Ports Ltd. Whose share holding capacity as on 19.12.2000 was 32 lakh shares. These were the results based on the finding of SEBI, in our report. But the action taken by you is a direct step to save this company. One year has lapsed but no action has been taken against it. I am also a member of the Estimate Committee of Parliament. Last time when I was on tour to Gujarat and we reviewed the income tax department there, then it was found that there are crores of rupees as income tax due to Adani Export. Income Tax Commissioner told in his reply that the whole tax due has been waived off in the appeal. I asked him if he knew that the Joint Parliamentary Committee has presented a report against Adani Export Ltd. Where this company is found guilty of crores of rupees of financial embezzlement. Have you ever tried to club it with that. Then those Income Tax officials kept mum. I would like to say that your income tax department also does not know the names of those companies found guilty in share market scam and if they finalise their income tax appeal how can they justify the matter. I live it all to you.

[Translation]

My categorical allegation is that officers of the Income Tax Department have saved crores of rupees.

Not only this if you go through the action report in respect of CBI enquiry conducted on Cyber Space Infosys Limited it has been mentioned in the conclusion of the

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

enquiry report that a case has been registered against former chairman Shri P.A. Subramanian, and the then Executive Director Late M.M. Kapoor, Executive Director Shri S.K. Basu, General Manager Smt. Prema Madhu Prasad. Later on during the cause of investigation charges also been levelled on a share broker Rakesh Mehta. Rakesh Mehta was undoubtedly responsible for the increase in prices of share of Cyber Space Company. He had been the Director of Cyber Space Company as well as partner of Arun Johari. Under this brokerage shares of Cyber Space Company were sold at a very high price to UTI, LIC, GIC and other banks. It is a matter of surprise why the property of this person have not been confiscated and why this persons have not been arrested.

Not only this in our report against one more company Lupin Laboratories we have stated that in August 1999 companies related to Ketan Parekh earned about Eight lakh fifty thousand shares directly from Lupin Laboratories Limited by violating Securities Contract Regulation Act.

In another report, it has been said that in September-December, 1999 companies related to Ketan Parekh created an artificial market for shares and earned money through unscrupulous activities. After that companies and promoters belonging to Ketan Parekh group sold the large number of shares at artificially higher rates. It was came into notice that during November-December 1999 promoters reduced their holdings of those shares by 48 lakh and most of these shares were sold to foreign institutional investors at artificially higher rates.

Sir, in 7.36 SEBI told in its written reply that judicial action are being undertaken against the companies related to Ketan Parekh for Prima-facie violation of SEBI regulations but what was the result. It is not mentioned in the present action taken report. I don't know whether the company is related to him or not but a matter came to my knowledge on 29 July-Lupin Limited, probably the another name of Lupin Laboratories. This year in January 2003 after Report was presented, there was City Banks scam and due to this the rates of shares were increased by manipulation. As per my knowledge SEBI is giving protection to Lupin directly in this matter also.

Sir, I want to humbly request that the economic offences which have weakened the economy of the country and looted the small investors of the country. If they are living luxurious life, who is responsible for it? Whether the people of this country or Ministry of Finance or the Institutions working under your Ministry of Finance is responsible. You must reply this question clearly. You

see para 1.76 ED used orders to OCBs, of these three OCBs were managed by the Ketan Parekh and penalty in crores were imposed on them. Whether the penalties have been realised, whether the representatives of these companies are available. I apprehend that these companies have ran away. The promoter and the managers are absconding. In such a situation what is the justification of JPC report? You will take action on the recommendation after one year. I want to say in clear words that you are solely responsible for it. You can not escape from this responsibility. According to the Tarapore Committee 70 companies were responsible for the ruin of UTI which include Shriyam Securities also. Even after being found guilty by the Tarapore Committee how UTI continued its business with Shriyam Securities. In the enquiry conducted by the SEBI the enquiry officer reported the Chairman that Home Trade Shriyam is guilty even then how the SEBI renewed the licence of Shriyam during that period? I want to know it clearly that why action has not been taken against him and under whose pressure action has not been taken.

Sir, I humbly request you that during UTI scam State Minister of Finance Government of India has sanctioned crore of rupees to provide security to UTI. Sir, when we speak about providing relief to the farmers, I am deviating from my subject. As Finance Minister said on the issue of sugarcane growers that if we increase the SMP it will endanger sugar industry. If there is scam in UTI and money of public is looted then you would provide crores of rupees to UTI you do not have funds to provide security to farmers. What is the condition of the UTI even after providing such a huge amount. I want to give an example before you. Shri Ram Niwas Mishra, a teacher of my constituency had invested in UTI under ULIP scheme but he has tired in his pursuit.

He has written so many letters but could not get his money back. You keep on giving crores of rupees to UTI, whereas small investors are not getting their money. What more unfortunate will happen!

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to state it very humbly that if political, protection is given to the people who are cheating with public money, definitely anger will arouse against this system in the country and it will be unfortunate for Democracy. Therefore, I would like to say that the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam and Matters Relating Thereto should study this and do not try to shield anybody. If the Joint Parliamentary Committee has made a wrong recommendation, definitely I want to associate myself with the feelings of Tripathiji's and would like to say that you should lay the action

taken report on the table of the House and it should be made clear that the recommendations made by this Committee are wrong. We will accept that honestly.

But, if you do not prove our recommendations wrong, as per our as well as this Committee's expectations, Government of India as well as Ministry of Finance should positively work on that.

Now, whether it is Master Share Scam, Shreeyam Scam, Home Trade Scam, Lupin City banks Scam or all other scams, you should come forward to conduct a high level investigation of these scams. Today, I would like to know from you that as we have already empowered SEBI with more powers, even then if these scams are taking place, public money is being misused, who is responsible for that? This is the failure of the system and the Ministry of Finance as well as the Government cannot give any excuse for that.

In addition, I would like to say it very humbly that as far as the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam and Matters Relating Thereto is concerned, the Government should initiate an immediate action on it and put the guilt persons behind bars. If such people are seen enjoying in five star hotels in America, Delhi, Chennai or Mumbai, I would like to say that such a thing will arouse anger in the minds of masses and unemployed youth against this system and such anger and distress will be unfortunate for this Democracy.

[Translation]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, this scam is of a different dimension. There was a scam in the year 1991-92. This scam is of more recent occurrence. In a decade, two scams have taken place. One was committed during the time of the present main Opposition Party and the other one has taken place during the period of the present day Government. We are left in between. We are regional Parties. We look for the protection of the small investors. They believe in the institutions. They invest in it and finally it is they who lose out. Had the recommendations that were made after the 1991-92 scam been followed, then this scam would not have occurred. The nexus between the corporate houses, the brokers, the promoters and the bankers was known. It could have been that they did not volunteer or the Department of Company Affairs failed to bring it to the notice of the Committee. It could not have happened but for the connivance of the corporate houses, the

bankers and the brokers and promoters. It could not have happened but for their pumping in funds in the capital market. The diversion of funds by the corporate houses was a speculative game. This is well-known. They invest money and then suddenly they withdraw it, knowing full well that small investors are going to lose by this act of theirs. So, had the recommendations of the JPC been followed and implemented immediately, then at least we could have instilled a sense of fear in the minds of the corporate houses and brokers and the bankers.

Knowing that there would be a discussion in the House on the ATR on JPC, after one year, Shri Ketan Parikh has been disqualified for 14 years. This period of 14 years is nothing. He can work on proxy. He can operate from outside. The Chairman of the Committee took us to Bombay Stock Exchange. We visited the place and we found that there was inside trading. Inside trading cannot be controlled. There was inside trading even in 1991-92 and that scam again had got repeated in 2001. The *modus operandi* is the same. The character of the offenders are the same, maybe, that the names are not the same. So, to control inside trading, stringent measures should have been taken by SEBI in the first instance.

The SEBI has shirked its responsibility. They said that they have not teeth. But now a proper legislation has been brought about and SEBI is given more powers to control inside trading. As far as small investors are concerned, they believe that the share prices may go up. They have honest belief that they will not be deprived of their investments. But there are certain conspiring minds and individuals who act in connivance with the stockbrokers and the corporate houses. Actually, the corporate houses must have been the kingpins. They will not be the subordinates of these brokers. The corporate houses should have been the mastermind and the kingpin. These masterminds have conspired to defeat the interest of the small investors and they have been given a go-by. They have not been brought to book. Ketan Parekh, a broker, has got money from six corporate houses. They have not been examined, named, called for a summoned. Had they been summoned, they would have been exposed to the public. My feeling is, the corporate houses are playing with the life of individuals. What number of JPCs we appoint, what number of Reports we submit and what number of ATRs are presented and debated, they are not going to serve the purpose. This is going to be repeated again and again. So, I would say that the Government should at least come out with a concrete plan to avoid recurrence of such scams. After 1991, it has been repeated in 2001. Let it not be repeated again as small investors cannot bear that loss.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to participate in the discussion being held on JPC Report on Stock Scam. I would like to say that this discussion had been very informative and unveiled a number of things. Initiating the discussion, Hon. Member Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji had thrown light on a number of things. He told particularly about the participation of members concerned in discussion at the time of submission of JPC Report. Now, I think that discussing the same points and the same things will possibly yield no new results.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the points required to be discussed were not discussed in detail. Kunwar Akhilesh Singh just stated a few points. I agree with this views that the Government should take strong and punitive action against those economic offenders who played a role in UTI scam. When we talk about a scam in our democratic system, we note that earlier to this first JPC was constituted in 1991 and second JPC was constituted after 12 years. We should seriously discuss the result of the investigation conducted and action taken in Shri Harshad Mehta Scam. This is not a subject which should be seen or discussed on party line. I got surprised when hon. Member Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was talking about ethics and teaching moral values to hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji. I believe Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji is one of the persons who have a grand contribution in nourishing this temple of democracy. I do not say that Ketel Parikh Scam has taken place because Harshad Mehta Scam took place in the past. UTI scam has shattered the confidence which was the key factor in investing the money by small investors. The Government have tried to restore that confidence. In this direction, I do not want to go in all these details relating to the role of the SEBI, RBI, the Government. But, somewhere, it is our accountability. We should ensure that such incidents do not occur in future. We can create a stable economic system by winning the confidence of masses. But, if we debate on this by restricting it is the political angle only, it will yield nothing fruitful. The democratic system in which more and more people can have their faith, should see as to how this system can be made a foolproof one. When Mani Shankar Aiyarji teaches the lesson of moral values of hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, it seems to us a bit absurd because ethics is a word which is related to activities of life.

When Mani Shankarji speaks, it seems that his mind works, not the heart. There should be union of heart and mind. We should see one's contribution in building of the

nation keeping in view one's real feelings towards nation and the system and that we should evaluate when we ourselves stand now. We should keep all these things in mind before levelling any allegation against anyone. I do not say that the Government is thoroughly clean and that there have been no irregularities and that no one is responsible for that. At the same time I want to say that these incidents keep on happening but for just foolproof things. You are questioning a person. Who has dedicated his whole life for nation founded on moral values and principles and who strengthened who democratic system. We may have differences on the thinking plane but we must agree that such a democratic system. Today, this Government, under the leadership of Vajpayee ji, is so transparent that it is very much concerned about these scams and in order to provide better system we are in favour of giving six months report. But how it should be made more foolproof only because you were sitting here or there and then you will see things by sitting here. I would like to tell the hon'ble Members that had they been more determined to reach the logical conclusion of these things in those days when they were a member of the JPC, then there could have been better results.

Had this concerned been felt on the day this suggestion was given by many friends then this could have been definitely a formula to lead to logical conclusion. But when I see your discomfort since the submission of the JPC report, I wonder where you had been for so many days? Why did you not discharge your duty earlier and if you had done that then it should have got reflected in the report also. Therefore, I would say that we should definitely learn from the mistakes and shortcomings and not only this, we should also ensure as who were responsible and to what extent.

19.56 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

Had the then Government taken action in the Harshad Mehta Scam and punished him then there would have been a norm to deal with such economic offenders in the society I would have accepted your tall claim of morality had you managed to follow that norm. But in the past I have seen present MP Shri Shivraj Patil playing his role as a Speaker and making his contribution in democracy from a visitor's gallery. Even today, I quote that he has definitely contributed to this democratic system. Therefore, it could have been acceptable to me and I would have appreciated it if you would have tried to bring to light the irregularities in your own Government and questioned Atal Bihari Bajpayee ji also.

But you can not have two standards for such a great man who has strengthened this temple of democracy not only through his poems, feelings, thoughts but also through his conduct and Parliamentary history definitely a great contribution which we can feel proud of and the whole nation as well as you should also feel proud of. But I was surprised by the way you were teaching moralities to Shri Atal ji repeatedly, you have trapped yourself in the net of morality and now putting a question mark on a great person of democracy who has set standards through his conduct and his parliamentary history. Therefore, I would like to say that the NDA Government will pinpoint the persons, irrespective of his stature, in a transparent manner because no institution is greater than the JPC. JPC which is constituted with the cooperation from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha has submitted its report. It is also important for the defenders of the democracy in this strongest institution of parliamentary system that through the report and the ATR, we should take this institution to such a logical conclusion. Our moral responsibility, and our accountability towards the country and its crores of people was ensured and made reliable.

20.00 hrs.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak on the ATR of JPC. I shall keep myself confined to ATR only. My friend Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has expressed his and our Party's stand in detail about JPC and ATR. I do not want to talk about morality because I know the difference between Dr. Manmohan Singh and Shri Yashwant Sinha. I know the difference between that Government and this Government. Therefore I do not want to talk about morality. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards certain points.

The ATR that has been presented, the main aim of capital market is to generate money from development and its efficient allocation. How far the capital market has been successful in fulfilling these aims can be judged from this fact that even today there are four present in House hold saving schemes in our country. The reason of it is that there is complete lack of trust of common investors, small investors in capital market. There is a rough estimate that these are 40 lakh to 2 crore small investors in our country. The total population of one Kharab and the number of small investors one and half crore. We are surprised when we look at the Communist China where the number of small investors has give up to four crore. But in our country it is still swinging in between one and one and half crore. This gap is due to the lack of trust of small investors in capital market in our country. The Government, RBI and SEBI could have done the job of generating trust. But since these

institutions and the Government have not shouldered their responsibilities, as a result the small investors still feel disenchanted with the capital market. Until the interests of small investors are protected in the capital market, the capital market cannot grow. It is a matter of principle. The question of allegation and the counter-allegation is different. Had this Government and its institutions paid special attention to it, the capital market of this country would have made outstanding growth in our country today.

It's a big irony that for the last ten years its network has spread over the entire country with on live and paperless computerised trading. For this, I congratulate NSE which has achieved this unprecedented success. NSE has 4000 terminals in 350 cities in our country which is a record in itself. It has created such a huge infrastructure but even today it has failed to attract investors.

It was the dream of Late Rajiv Gandhiji to set up NSE. The entire country is aware that he dreamt to set up NSE during his regime. It was set up during the Narsimha Rao ji Government. But, today, despite having such a huge infrastructure the investor is not being attracted.

So long as the detachment of small investor is not seriously studied into, the capital market cannot have better prospect. JPC was constituted for the scam of 2001. It has made some important recommendations of creating a clean and strong capital market but the ATR that has been presented shows that only half hearted action or no action was taken on many important points ...(*Interruptions*). Certainly, some compromise has been made. JPC believed that SEBI had found many companies and big industrial houses guilty of giving crores of rupees to Ketan Parikh and his companies. Though action was taken against Ketan Parikh and some other brokers but it's a big surprise that all big industrial houses were given clean chit. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards point 11.34 of JPC in which the Committee found that there was ground of mismanagement and exploitation against 7 companies. The Committee also viewed that further action should be taken to appoint Government directors in those and other companies. But after going through ATR it seems that no such action was taken. The Committee found that Ministry of Finance and all regulators guilty due to which such a big scam could be possible.

Kolkata Stock Exchange was one of its key points. Serious irregularities were going on for many years in Kolkata Stock Exchange. Despite being aware of the whole situation, SEBI remained inactive. As a result,

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

Kolkata Stock Exchange turned bankrupt. What action did the Government take? Explanation was called for from one executive director and some officers only and no other action was taken where as the erstwhile Chairman of SEBI was fully responsible for it. Such a big scam took place, Kolkata Stock Exchange turned bankrupt but explanation was called for from only one director. How can we expect our capital market to improve in future, and small investors would be attracted to wares it? The Committee had recommended in para 9.110 that for protecting the interest of small investors listen companies should be held responsible by SEBI. But no action was taken by the Government, nor it has been mentioned in ATR.

Similarly half hearted action was initiated against some guilty auditors but it was not taken to its conclusion or action has not been taken at all for the last 10 years. It has too been mentioned in para 3.18 of the report of the Committee. Regulators are free to impose penalty. The defaulters save themselves by paying less penalty despite having committed serious offences. Earlier there was the provision that the regulators could impose penalty up to Rs. 5 lakh but a year ago regulators have been empowered to impose penalty up to Rs. 25 crore. But penalty is difficult to be imposed because there is no minimum limit. You might be involved in a scam of crores of rupees or you might do huge embezzlement and you can save yourself by paying penalty of one lakh or two lakh rupees by patching up since there is no minimum limit. It was understandable when the limit was up to five lakh rupees but since the maximum limit is 25 crore rupees now, I would like the Government to present details of how much penalty has been imposed and how much maximum penalty the Government i.e. SEBI has imposed. It will clarify everything.

The Committee has recommended in 9.79(D) that serious offences like price digging, insider digging and irregularities in public issues should be defined comprehensively and SEBI should arrange for penalty in its own regulations according to the offence. But we have not got information of any action taken in this regard through ATR. There is no information of any action taken by the Government. There is no provision in the SEBI Act for the compensation of losses suffered by investors due to fraudulent practices whereas there are such provisions in the developed nations. Committee has recommended in their paras 9.108, 14.54 and 14.57 that there is no provision for compensation for the losses suffered by investors which should be provided in SEBI Act. The Government has not made any provision in this

direction. If investors who are cheated of their hard earned money invested are not assured that they would get compensation in case of scams then they would not enter the capital market. How will the capital market gain strength in this situation. How can the Government say that they are making some arrangements for the capital market. When was the need to create such large infrastructure if the Government can not make any arrangements. There was no need to create this much infrastructure through NSE.

Sir, I want to talk about vanishing companies also. The Committee has recommended in para 11.42 that monitoring companies should be there and FIRs should be lodged against all the identified 229 vanishing companies. Till now DCA has taken action against 95 companies through ATR. Action has been taken against these companies and 336 directors and they have been debarred from security market for five years. It is such a serious crime and they have been debarred only for five years. Their work can be carried out by their wives and children while they themselves have been debarred from the security market for five years. How will these small penalties strengthen the capital market and how will the small investors be attracted towards the capital market. Unless heavy penalty is imposed and stringent punishment are awarded, it is futile to think of preventing such offences. The Committee has also recommended that the definition of vanishing companies should be made comprehensive. As per the ATR it has not been done and only earlier definition has been clarified. It limited the scope of investigation and numerous companies escaped investigation. It is remarkable that BSE has identified such 604 companies who are non-existent at their registered address. I bet that there are one thousand and not only 600 such companies which have not been identified. The Committee has recommended that SEBI, DCA, CLB and RBI should take steps in this direction so that investors get back their confidence and the action should also include attaching the property of the directors of these companies. No action has been taken in this regard. No regulator has got the power of attachment of assets, so this can be done through the Court's orders. If MOF, SEBI and DCA support the PILs filed in the court in this regard, the order of attachment can be obtained from the court but MOF, SEBI, and DCA have not supported any PIL and as a result not a single property has been attached.

The Secretary DCA has himself admitted before the Committee that in this scam the promoters of the companies allotted shares to themselves on preferential

basis and this was an important episode in the scam. The promoters sold off their shares in the market or to mutual funds at high prices and got new shares allotted from the companies at low rates. Although this process is entirely legal, the Committee has recommended in para 55 that this procedure be made stringent and restrictions should be there so that this is not misused. Preferential allotment should be given only to technical collaborators and only in the interest of the companies. It should not be done in any other way.

It has also been mentioned in the ATR that SEBI has amended its take over regulations. So that they cannot be misused while taking over companies. DCA is going to form rules for unlisted companies in this regard. Above mentioned steps would not prevent its misuse. SEBI has confined its action only to the take over of companies. It has not imposed any restriction on the rest of the procedure. Major loopholes have been left lying in the procedure. Above mentioned steps would not serve the purpose. Very insignificant measures are being adopted to uproot big faults. These measures can only set some problems right. How can these measures remove such big faults and attract small investors?

The promoters of companies are again misusing them. It will not be surprising if a third scam comes to light soon. Many promoters have made this scam possible by buying and selling their shares. The Committee has recommended in this para 14.57 that if the promoters want to buy or sell their shares then they should make a disclosure in stock exchange and public. One of our associations Midas Touch gave a suggestion in this regard but it has not yet been implemented. It has been revealed in the ATR.

Unless fraud is considered a cognizable offence, we should quit all hope of progress in the capital market of India. Committee has recommended in para 14.57 that serious offence should be made cognizable so that people involved in big crimes should get a jail sentence even if for a short while. It has been mentioned in ATR that period of jail sentence has been increased up to 10 years and a penalty of up to 25 crore rupees has been provided for the offence of manipulation of shares. But it has not been made a cognizable offence.

I would like to know from the Government as to why it was done and whether manipulation is a right thing? Anybody can earn money through manipulation but the Government can not take any action against him and if the Government desires then why manipulation has not been made a cognizable offence?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the committee had recommended in para 14.57 that investors would be given due help so that they could feel protected. It has been said in the ATR that financial help is granted by SEBI but I have seen that SEBI, instead of increasing financial help on the recommendations of the committee, has reduced it. Unless the Government provides financial help to the institutions, disirous to work for investors protection, how long they can survive? I can firmly say that investors are not getting money or any support from the investors protection fund earmarked for them. If any help is being done, then it is like a drop in the ocean. The Government are providing enormous help to those institutions who are not doing anything for the investors protection. So we can not hope for improvement in the capital market of our country. It is true that unless capital market of a country particularly, developing country will be improved, enriched, the economy of that country can not be improved. So I would like to request that its ATR should be presented after every six months. Whatever shortcomings remained and neglected by the Government in the already presented ATR, these should be removed and the Government should present a new ATR in the Parliament as soon as possible.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kharabela Swain.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, UP): Mr. Chairman, Sir, neither the honourable Minister of Parliamentary Affairs nor any other Cabinet Minister is present here. It seems that the Government are not serious about the scam. All Chairs of the treasury bench are vacant. The Government involved in scam have made up the mind not to be serious about it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of State is taking notes and the Finance Minister is going to reply tomorrow. If you want to say like that, we have to see this side as well as that side. Except seven or eight Members, nobody is here. Even from your party, you are the only Member present. This is like a court. Only seven or eight lawyers are there.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, in parliamentary practice, it is the duty of the Treasury Benches to ensure quorum. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, a debate is going on here to improve economy of the country. Not only any Cabinet Minister but the Minister of Finance is also not present here. If the Government are not serious then this discussion should be stopped. Those people remained may be called tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: With Shri Swai, the list of speakers is over. The Finance Minister is going to reply tomorrow.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has not visible since five o'clock evening.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: How will the Finance Minister reply to a debate in which he has taken no part whatsoever? ...*(Interruptions)* We were told that he has gone to deliver a lecture. Is it really true? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance is taking notes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, it is very surprising that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the Finance Ministry has produced an ATR and the Minister is so cavalier that he does not even come for five minutes. He sends in his deputy here. Here is a man who said it was an insult to Parliament and his concerns. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has sent his representative.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The Minister's first job is to be responsible here. Okay, I understand that he has gone away for an hour and the Prime Minister sat with us. I appreciate that. But the lecture was over, I do not know when. What is he doing? Does this House not

matter to this Finance Minister? He does not answer when we ask questions and, when we raise issues, he is not present. It is a total insult to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, whether we presence that it is being done by connivance of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is JPC and not a Standing Committee. The Finance Minister is not here.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: No other debate is as important as it is. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was looking at both sides. I am not able to say anything.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: My point is twofold: One, getting a quorum is the job of the Treasury Benches and not the Opposition; second, for the last three-and-a-half hours, we have been discussing the JPC without the hon. Finance Minister finding ten minutes to come in our midst. What can be more important than this Parliament? It is this attitude of complete contempt for the proceedings of this House that accounts for the manner in which this Government conduct its business. I protest strongly.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: It is so serious debate and the honourable Finance Minister is not there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of State for Finance, Shri Adsul, is here. He is taking notes. What more do you want?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I really want the Cabinet Minister. I have respect for Shri Adsul. He is a personal friend of mine. He had been the Chairman of my Standing Committee. I have the highest respect for him. My respect for him is so great that I would like to see him as a Cabinet Minister. He is not the Cabinet Minister. When this House is discussing not a Standing

Committee Report but a JPC Report and doing it after 368 days of the presentation of the original report, is it proper, is it in accordance with parliamentary propriety and practice of procedure for the Minister to be absent himself for three-and-a-half hours? Why should we be present when he speaks?

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the small investors suffered a loss of more than ten thousand crores rupees due to this share scams on which we are discussing here but the hon. Minister of Finance is not available in the House. This is really a very unfortunate situation. The way honourable Minister of Finance is not here today and ignoring the House and the scams are going on, definitely these have the patronage of the hon. Finance Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us hear his reply tomorrow.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I suggest we adjourn the House because really we must protest against this. I would like to listen to Shri Swain, but not only I but 542 of my fellow MPs want to listen to Shri Swain.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, they should have been present. We will finish it today. Tomorrow, the Minister will come and reply. You can raise your point then.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Why should we be here to listen to the Finance Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He was hearing you.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am talking of the Finance Minister. Why should the Opposition sit and listen to the Finance Minister who, for three-and-a-half hours, does not come here to listen to any one of us? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, you can start your speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JASIWAL: All the apprehensions of the country are proving true. The people of the country felt that the Government is involved in such big scams. ...(*Interruptions*) The Government is

making efforts to shield those who are involved in the scam and this is the evidence. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: When three Members start speaking at the same time, how can I speak?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JASIWAL: Hon. Sushmaji stated that he has gone to deliver a lecture. However, the hon. Finance Minister should have come after one and a half hour.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, when Paswanji asked who will give the reply, at that time I stated that Shri Jaswant Singhji himself will give the reply. During the discussion, I entered the House with his message, but I did not think it proper to interrupt. I have informed the hon. Speaker of the same. Shri Jaswant Singhji will give reply at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow. Since, there is voting on Constitution Amendment Bill in the Rajya Sabha. As you have seen uncertainty continues to hover because ultimately the time was shifted to 4.30 p.m. but the uncertainty continued thereafter too. Therefore, he has fixed time to give reply at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow. MOS has done all the noting and all these notes will be put to him. This has not happened for first time. Even the hon. Prime Minister gives the reply next day on the basis of the notes taken. The hon. Prime Minister himself heard Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji. The MOS has taken all the notes. Shri Jaswant Singhji has decided to give reply of each and every point tomorrow. I have informed the hon. Speaker in this regard. I myself came to the House to communicate this point and have informed the hon. Speaker in this regard. It has been decided that the discussion be concluded today and reply be given later on. It happens always that whenever the discussion goes on, few hon. Members remain in the House during the discussion and the Members would like that the reply be given later on. ...(*Interruptions*) It was decided that the discussion should be concluded by sitting till late night. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, let us conclude the debate.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I would like to know that where is the hon. Minister of Finance? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Akhilesh Singh, when you were speaking you did not raise this question. Now allow the hon. Member to speak. He is ready to speak.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I would like to know whether the proceeding of the Rajya Sabha is continuing. Where is the hon. Minister of Finance? The Finance Minister should remain present in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: It is a matter of regret that the hon. Finance Minister is not present in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Where is the hon. Finance Minister is not present in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: I am drawing the attention towards the indifferent attitude of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jaiswalji, when you were speaking, you had not raised this point. All the Members have a role in a debate. However, as soon as they finish their speeches, they go out.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am here to listen to him but Shri Jaswant Singh is not here.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: As a representative of Shri Jaswant ji, the hon. Minister of State is present in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Where is he? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, where is the Finance Minister now? He cannot be in the Rajya Sabha. Where is he now?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: He will give reply at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you raising this at the fag end of the debate?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is contempt of the House that Jaswant Singh thinks that sitting with his. ...*

somewhere outside is more important than coming here. If he were in the Rajya Sabha, I would accept it. For three and a half hours he decides to do something else instead of coming here.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The proceedings of the Rajya Sabha are not going on now. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: He has uttered parliamentary terms. These should be expunged. He is a senior Member of Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I expunge that. That is expunged.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I protest. Is it not true that the Finance Minister is not in the Rajya Sabha and, therefore, whatever else he is doing, he is giving it more importance than attending the House in the debate on JPC Report? And she asks for expunging it!

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: He will come in the House at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow and given reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I have come to know that the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha are not going on. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I have not mentioned that he is present in the Rajya Sabha. At that time, I also said that he has gone to deliver a lecture.

*...*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Is lecture being delivered for the last three and half an hour because we raised the question about it in the very beginning? He is engaged in some other work. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mani Shankar Aiyarji, is there any precedent to show that any action was taken so far when a Minister was absent like this? You tell me if this was done even during your time. Show me a single precedent, I will immediately pass a remark. The Minister of State is sitting here.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of State remained present in the House during his entire speech.

[*English*]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me answer your question. The only precedent that we have for a discussion on a JPC was in December, 1993 when this House was specially convened after the Christmas break. It discussed that JPC report for two days and throughout those two days, the Finance Minister was present for almost every minute and the rest of the Government was also present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am asking you, is there any compulsion that he should be present? Show me a rule. The Minister of State is here.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I did not say there is any compulsion. I was talking about parliamentary propriety. I did not raise any point of order. I merely said that when we are discussing something so exceptional as a JPC report, for three and a half hours for the Finance Minister to absent himself, for every single minute of that is not in keeping with the traditions of this House or the honour of this House. It demonstrates the contempt this Government holds the Parliament with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tell me what the Chair can do. There is no precedent so far. You cannot compel a Minister. The Minister of State is sitting here. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It was decided that the discussion be concluded today and the hon. Finance Minister himself will give reply at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow and

as his representative the hon. Minister of State will remain present in the House during the entire discussion. The hon. Prime Minister himself has heard the mover of the motion. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us not establish a precedent. Let us conclude the debate.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question is merely this that respected Sushmaji has come in the House and where is the hon. Finance Minister? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Akhilesh, you did not raise it when you were speaking.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, you can start your speech now.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I presume I am the last speaker. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I do not want to pass any harsh comments on the hon. Members of the Opposition because I do not want that this sitting should be prolonged for more time. I will simply come to the subject. I know it is not a very new thing. This has happened so many times in the past.

Sir, I listened with almost full attention to the initiator of this debate Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji and also the speech of the Member from CPM, Shri Rupchand Palji. The focal point of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar's speech was not the ATR. It was that the previous Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha should be punished, he should be removed from the Council of Ministers. That was the focal point of his speech. Shri Rupchand Pal said that this is a Non-Action Taken Report. These are the two basic points on which I would focus my speech.

Sir, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji said that Shri Yashwant Sinha should be removed from the Council of Ministers. I am not surprised at all. Within the last one year, probably he has written countless articles in so many newspapers. I had even to reply to one of his articles in

[Shri Kahrabela Swain]

which he mentioned the same thing that Shri Yashwant Sinha is entirely responsible for everything. The same thing he has mentioned here.

Sir, here, he has made a comparison between Dr. Manmohan Singh and Shri Yashwant Sinha. He said that Dr. Manmohan Singh wanted to resign but the then Prime Minister did not accept his resignation letter. He has said that: "Shri Yashwant Sinha refused to resign. He does not have any sense of *prayashchit* and the Prime Minister, hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji also does not have any political morality." That is what he said.

But here, I would just make out the comparison between the time that was represented by Dr. Manmohan Singh and the time that was represented by Shri Yashwant Sinha. Already, the Chairman of the JPC—who has left now—Lt. General Prakash Mani Tripathiji has already told that in 1992 all sorts of responsibilities of the Regulator vested in the Finance Ministry. He said, and I am repeating it again: "The Comptroller of Capital Issues Act and the Security Control (Regulations) Act prescribed direct responsibility on the part of the Finance Ministry to deal with matters like pricing, quantum, the issue of shares, the working of the stock exchanges, action against the brokers and action against the stock exchanges." That was the responsibility of the Finance Ministry in those times. But now, the things have undergone a sea change. Now, there is a SEBI Act. It is passed by the Parliament and it has provided all the powers to SEBI and not to the Finance Ministry. The powers over stock exchanges under the ACR Act were given to SEBI by taking it away from the Finance Ministry. The power of appeal under the SEBI Act was earlier with the Government, that means with the Finance Ministry, but now it has been transferred to a new Appellate Tribunal, that is called the Security Appellate Tribunal. The powers under the Depository Act were also earlier with the Government but now they are with SEBI.

20.38 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

So, it was very natural on the part of Dr. Manmohan Singh to offer his resignation because all these powers were vested in him. If there was anything wrong in the stock market, he was directly responsible for that. But that is not the case now. That was not the case with Shri Yashwant Sinha because he was not directly responsible. My learned colleague, Lt. General Prakash Mani Tripathi also said and I am also asking the same thing. We are saying that the Election Commissioner, the

Comptroller and Auditor General of India, SEBI and all sorts of statutory bodies should be independent.

Now, if you want that they should remain independent, how can you say that all the time the Government will poke its nose? Should it? Should the Government poke its nose, all the time intervene in the activities of SEBI?

Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal, who has left, was telling why this action was not taken by the SEBI. Why less punishment was meted out? Who will reply this? Will the Finance Minister ask the SEBI to take a particular action? I am sure once he does that the same Opposition Members will charge that the Government is now intervening. What sort of a dual standard is this? Take the example of UTI. It was said that Shri Yashwant Sinha did not interfere and that he did not know what to do about the UTI. So, he should have resigned. Previously, the UTI was not owned by the Government of India.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: He said that he was repeatedly assured. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: He did not say.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: He said it in the Rajya Sabha. He said that he was repeatedly assured that everything was hunky-dory. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am just telling you that the UTI was not owned by the Government of India. It was not regulated by the Government. A nominee of the Government of India in UTI was in place till 1996. It was withdrawn by the then Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram. So, the Government was not only responsible for running the UTI but also had no system of regular reporting. That is why whatever report was given to him by the Chairman of the UTI, he had to accept it. It was not under the control of the Government.

What happened on May 18? The then Chairman of UTI, Shri Subramanian gave a report that everything was hunky-dory. Would the Finance Ministry say that he doubt it and he did not believe in what the Chairman had said? He could not say that because it was an independent organisation. It was like any other statutory organisation which was functioning independently. The Government did not have any intervention in that. This is the exact reason for which he did not try to intervene. He has not committed any fault by believing in the report given by Shri Subramanian. So, the question of his resigning from the Ministry does not arise.

Shri Rupchand Pal has said that it is a non-Action Taken Report. Is it so? The SEBI Act has been passed. All the clauses in the Act pertain to the recommendations of the JPC. SEBI has now been given the power of search and seizure. It was not there earlier. The number of Board Members of SEBI has been increased from six to nine. The penalty specified in the SEBI Act for its violation has been increased. These were not there earlier. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is from Mumbai. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I think he is not convinced by the arguments of the Opposition.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am not surprised by Shri Akhilesh Singh's behaviour. He always behaves like that. ...(*Interruptions*) Let him be like that but you kindly listen to me. Sir, you always ask me to address to the Chair. I am now addressing the Chair.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is highly objectionable.

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing objectionable.

[*English*]

He is not convinced by your argument.

[*Translation*]

Take your seat please, what is in it?

[*English*]

He is not surprised.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, after listening his arguments there is no need for reply of the hon. Finance Minister. After hearing this we should go to our residences. It seems that he is confused that the hon. Finance Minister is present in the House and

we people will have to suggest to the hon. Prime Minister that Shri Jaswant Singh should be replaced and he be appointed as the Finance Minister.

[*English*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am also surprised, why is he sitting here? For the last two to three hours he was not present in the House. He had gone home. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: It seems that due to this kind of behaviour he has not been inducted in the Government till date.

[*English*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am not very much surprised by his behaviour. I know him. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, the UTI Bill has been introduced and passed also. This is also on the recommendation of the JPC. It has been divided into two parts; UTI-I and UTI-II. They say that the Finance Minister is responsible for the maladies of the UTI. I would ask you a simple question. When the UTI was at a loss, just to show its populist image, the previous Government had declared dividend of 28 per cent per year. They did not earn even five per cent but they declared a dividend of 26 per cent. How did they provide the dividend to the unit holders? They did it by dipping deep into the reserves. Whatever was in the reserve, they took it out as if that is the profit and gave it over to the unit holders. That is the main reason for the fall of UTI. US-64 is a Mutual Fund but that was brought under the Assured Return Guarantee Scheme. If you invest money in the stock market how can you assure a guaranteed return? Can you do it? the security market is not an assured market. You may earn or you may not earn. If you earn so much money today, you may lose it tomorrow. But the investors were told that you will be given an assured return every year. Who did this? Whose fallacy was this? Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee led Bharatiya Janata Party Government was not there when these things were done by the UTI. That is the major reason for which the UTI fell. But now the action has been taken. The Banking (Regulation) Act has been introduced. It is to set right the cooperative societies. Hon. Rupchand Pal also said that another Bill, namely, Corporatisation and De-Mutualisation Bill has also been introduced and now that has been given to the Standing Committee on Finance. These are the actions taken on the basis of the

[Shri Kahrabela Swain]

recommendations of the JPC. So, how can one say that it is the non-action taken report?

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am concluding. I know it is already late that is why you are worried. I will conclude within five minutes. I am not a compulsive speaker. So, I was saying that you cannot say that it is a non-action taken report.

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar mentioned about Mauritius route. I fully agree with him that there was a lot of hanky-panky through the Mauritius route. But he has also gone through the files and I have also gone through the files. He said that why did Shri Jaswant Singh who was the then Minister of External Affairs not talk to the Minister of External Affairs of Mauritius. If you go through the file, you will find that letter after letter were written by the Indian High Commission at Mauritius saying that India is having Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with 19 countries. So nothing should be done to scrap it because with Mauritius, we have a deep cultural relationship. It is our High Commissioner which had objected to this. That is the exact reason for which the Finance Minister could not take any action at that time. But the Mauritius Government has now agreed to see to it that those people who are actually operating from India but have opened only a small office in Mauritius, should be taxed on India itself. At that time, the Government of Mauritius did not agree on that point. So, you cannot blame something on Shri Yashwant Sinha because it is our High Commission which objected to it.

Sir, it was mentioned by Shri Jaiswal that the small investors are not feeling secured. Does the small investors not feel secured? If they do not feel secured, then how is it that the sensex has risen to 5600 points? It is a record. It is only because of the investments by the FIIs that have jagged up the sensex to 5600 points? Is there no involvement of the small investors? The small investors are also involved in this.

Sir, I would conclude in two minutes. I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister that the Special Cell that did not function and the HLCC that did not function should start functioning. The nexus between the banks and the brokers should be unearthed and the doubtful role played by the auditors and the Chartered Accountants should

also be looked into. It is because the Chartered Accounts and the auditors are supposed to find out the mistakes but just the reverse has happened. It was found by the JPC that it was the auditors who tried to protect the scamsters. It should be seen as to how they should be punished. Criminal action should be taken against broker-directors. The persons investigating economic offences should be fully qualified and there should be no adhocism in the appointment of SEBI officials. Nobody should come on deputation to SEBI. SEBI should have its own permanent cadre. It has already been decided by SEBI that no broker should be allowed to be a director of any of the stock exchanges. I think, these are the steps taken in the right direction by the SEBI.

Sir, I fully share the views of the hon. Members, who participated in the debate, that after six months the Ministry of Finance should come up with another Action Taken Report. It is because no system is cent per cent foolproof. Nobody can dare say that even if all actions are taken, there would be no scam. Scams may take place. It is taking place in other developing countries in spite of their having very stringent regulators. We know that. But we should have a system in place so that whenever any scam or wrong-doing comes to notice, the guilty could be punished. So, after six months, the Government should come up with another Action Taken Report. It is a continuing process. There could be two to three Action Taken Reports. The Parliament and the country should know what action the Government has taken in this regard. The Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a Government with integrity and honesty. They should give a message to the country that they are really looking after the well-being of the small investors of this country.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Ambedkar was the next speaker. He is not present in the House. The list of speakers is exhausted now. The reply of the hon. Finance Minister will be at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow.

The House now stands adjourned till 11.00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 23, 2003.

20.54 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 23, 2003/Pausa 2, 1925 (Saka).

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