FOR REFERENCE ONLY

Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXXV, No. 4

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Sravana 2, 1925 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

Gazettes & Debates Unit
Parliament Library Building
Room No. FB-025
Block 'G'

No. 6
Date 19/1/04

(Vol. XXXV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

G. C. Malhotra
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Dr. P.K. Sandhu
Joint Secretary

Sharda Prasad
Principal Chief Editor

Kiran Sahni
Chief Editor

Parmesh Kumar Sharma
Senior Editor

Sarita Nagpal
Editor

(Original English Proceedings included in English Version and Original Hindi Proceedings included in Hindi Version will be treated as authoritative and not the translation thereof)

CONTENTS

Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXXV, Thirteenth Session, 2003/1925 (Saka)

No.4, Thursday, July 24, 2003/Sravana 02, 1925 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
* Starred Question Nos. 61-66	1-43
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	43-333
* Starred Question Nos. 67-80	43-71
Unstarred Question Nos. 539-730	71-333
MOTION RE: FIFTY-SECOND REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	333-334
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	334-335
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES	
Thirteenth Report	335
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE	
Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth Reports	335-336
RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE	
Seventh and Eighth Reports	336
ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES	
(i) Committee on Public Accounts	336-337
(ii) Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	337-338
SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS	339-359
(i) Re: Reported non-implementation of interim award of cauvery water dispute tribunal on sharing of water	339-353
(ii) Re: Need to organise special programmes on the occasion of birth centenary of Shri Jai Prakash Narayan	353-359
JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) AMENDMENT BILL - INTRODUCED	360
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	360-367
(i) Need to name Jaipur Airport in Rajasthan after the name of Maharaja Swai Man Singh Ji	
Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava	360-361

* 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.

SUBJECT COLUMNS

(ii) Need to provide better telephone facilities in Ajmer, Rajasthan particularly in rural areas

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat 361

(iii) Need for proper maintenance of National Highway between Nasirabad and Mahu in Madhya Pradesh

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya 361-362

(iv) Need to revive tea plantation industry in the Banspal Block in Keonjhar District, Orissa

Shri Ananta Nayak 362

(v) Need to accord sanction to the proposal of the Government of Gujarat for construction of a wall at sea-shore between Umargaon and Amalsad

Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai Chaudhri 363

(vi) Need to take necessary steps to check pollution in Sai river at Pratapgarh, U.P.

Shrimati Rajkumari Ratna Singh 363-364

(vii) Need to constitute an Inter-State Tribunal to settle outstanding Hydro-electric Power Project disputes amongst the States of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Rajasthan

Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary 364

(viii) Need to provide sanction by amending rules and also to provide funds for construction of under-bridge at Mukkali and a foot over-bridge at the railway level crossing to the South of Tellicherry Railway Station in Kerala

Prof. A.K. Premajam 364

(ix) Need for effective implementation of Right to Information Act

Shri Ramji Lal Suman 365

(x) Need to set up an Office of DGM of East-West Corridor at Birpur or Supaul for construction of proposed bridge on river Kosi in Bihar

Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav 365

(xi) Need to provide adequate security and medical facilities to people at Kumbha Mela at Nasik, Maharashtra

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale 366

(xii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of U.P. to combat increasing naxalite activities in certain Eastern districts of the State

Shri Ramshakal 366

SUBJECT COLUMNS

(xiii) Need to extend Gujarat Queen Express running between Ahmedabad and Valsad upto Palanpur in Banaskantha district, Gujarat

Shri Madhusudan Mistry 366

(xiv) Need to take necessary steps to solve drinking water problem in Himachal Pradesh particularly in Simla Parliamentary constituency

Col. (Retd.) Dr. Dhani Ram Shandil 367

MOTION RE: CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTS IX AND IX-A OF THE CONSTITUTION DEALING WITH PANCHAYATS AND MUNICIPALITIES AS INSTITUTIONS OF SELF GOVERNMENTS DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS. 367-494

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan 367-368, 425-428

Shri Kashiram Rana 368-374

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar 374-384

Shri Pradip Yadav 384-387

Shri Mahboob Zahedi 387-390

Dr. Manda Jagannath 390-393

Shri Ramji Lal Suman 393-397

Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav 397-399

Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan . 399-401

Shrimati Margaret Alva . . 401-406

Shri Maheshwar Singh 406-415

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav . . . 415-418

Shri A. Krishnaswamy . 418-420

Shri Ramdas Athawale . 420-422

Dr. V. Saroja 422-425

Shri Madhusudan Mistry . 428-432

Shri Bikram Keshari Deo 432-435

Shrimati Kanti Singh 435-438

Shri Arun Kumar . 438-440

Shri N. Janardhana Reddy 440-443

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Rattan Lal Kataria	443-446
Shri K. Yerrannaidu	446-447
Shri Prabodh Panda	447-449
Dr. Nitish Sengupta	449-452
Shri Lakshman Singh	453-455
Shrimati Abha Mahto	455-457
Shri Khagen Das	457-459
Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab	459-463
Shri K.P. Singh Deo	463-469
Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan	469-470
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	470-473
Shri Bir Singh Mahato	474-475
Shri Ramjivan Singh	475-480
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	480-483
Shri Kharabela Swain	483-486
Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary	486-488
Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale	489-490
Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria	490-491
Dr. M.P. Jaiswal	491-494

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 24, 2003/Sravana 2, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[English]

...(Interruptions)

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for Adjournment Motion regarding the Cauvery issue. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No Calling Attention notice is admitted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not accepted any notice for Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, unless a direction is given. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. V. SAROJA: I have given notice for Adjournment Motion regarding the Cauvery issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak during 'Zero Hour'. I will consider the notices given by Members for Adjournment Motion during Zero Hour and not now. Please sit down.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Train Accidents

+

*61. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a spate of train accidents during the last few months;

(b) if so, the details of minor and major train accidents and incidents of fire in trains that had taken place since January 2003, till date, accident/incident wise;

(c) the causes for each train accident and incident of fire in trains;

(d) the loss of railway property and the number of persons killed/injured alongwith compensation paid to them, accident wise;

(e) the details of findings and recommendations of inquiry commissions, officials found guilty and action taken on the recommendations and against guilty officials, accident-wise;

(f) the details of safety measures being taken and proposed to be taken to check such accidents and incidents of fire in trains in future;

(g) whether the Government have received any report on the spate of train accident from the Railway Safety Commission; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of consequential train accidents during the period January-June 2003 has come down to 167 as compared to 201 during the corresponding period of last year (2002). These consequential train accidents are as under:-

Type of Accident	January-June, 2003*	January-June, 2002
1	2	3
Collision	5	6
Derailments	99	125
Manned Level Crossing Gate Accidents	4	7
Unmanned Level Crossing Accidents	45	49

1	2	3
Fire in Train	11	9
Miscellaneous	3	5
Total	167	201

* Figures are provisional.

However, there have been five major accidents (attended with 10 or more fatalities) since January 2003. These are as under:

(i) Rear end collision between 7064 UP Express running between Secunderabad and Manmad and Parli BOXN goods train at Ghatnandur station of Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway on 3.1.2003 (killed 20, injured 72)

(ii) Fire due to Bomb Blast in S-31 Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CSTM)-Karjat suburban local train at Mulund station of Mumbai Division of Central Railway on 13.03.2003 (Killed 11, injured 67)

(iii) Fire in 2903 Up Golden Temple Mail between Ludhiana and Ladhowal stations on Ferozpur Division of Northern Railway 15.5.2003. (Killed 36, injured 15)

(iv) Derailment of 904 Up Karwar-Mumbai Central Holiday Special in Ratnagiri region of Konkan Railway (KRCL) on 22.6.2003. (Killed 52, Injured 26)

(v) Derailment of 7201 Up Golconda Express at Warangal station on Secunderabad division of South Central Railway on 2.7.2003 (Killed 21, injured 24)

(c) The broad causes of the consequential train accidents, occurred between January to June 2003, including fire in trains, are as under:-

Broad Causes	No. of accidents
1	2
Failure of Railway Staff	81
Failure of other than Railway Staff	54
Failure of Equipment	4
Sabotage	11
Combination of factors	-
Incidental	11
Under Investigation	6
Total	167

(d) The direct loss on account of damage to railway property is approximately Rs. 7.01 crores (provisional) for the period January to June 2003. 229 persons lost their lives and 394 persons got injured, in the train accidents during these six months. Rs.135.37 lakhs ex-gratia has been paid to the victims/families of the victims of the five major accidents. This payment is not counted towards the amount decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT). Accident compensation claims are settled by the RCT. Rs. 48.05 lakhs of compensation has so far been awarded to the victims/families of the victims by the Railway Claims Tribunal during the period. Compensation will be arranged by the railways in respect of the remaining cases as and when awarded by the Railway Claims Tribunal.

(e) Since January 2003, 23 accidents have been inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety. Out of these, final inquiry reports have been received in 12 cases and preliminary inquiry reports have been received in all cases. The recommendations of the Commissioner of Railway Safety/Chief Commissioner of Railway Safetv are examined by Zonal Railways and the Ministry of Railways from various angles including feasibility, practicability, and financial implications etc. and the decision taken in this regard is conveyed to the Commission thereafter. The examination and implementation of recommendations is a continuous process. During the year 2002-03, 401 officials held responsible for consequential train accidents were punished and 146 officials have been punished since January 2003 (Provisional Figures).

(f) In order to prevent accidents and reduce the impact of mishaps on Indian Railways the following measures are being taken:-

(i) A non lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) of Rs.17,000 crore has been setup to wipe out the arrears of replacement of over aged assets like track, bridges, rolling stock, and signalling gears within a fixed time frame of six years. The fund has been operational since October 2001.

(ii) Extended field trials of prototype Anti Collision Device (ACD) have been successfully completed

on Northern Railway. Works of provision of ACD covering about 3500 route kms on Northeast Frontier, Southern, South Central, South Western, and Northern Railway have been sanctioned. ACD survey for 10,000 route kms has also been sanctioned.

(iii) Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark track circuiting on entire 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'D Spl.' routes where speed is more than 75 kmph has been completed.

(iv) Auxiliary Warning System has been working on Mumbai suburban sections.

(v) Last vehicle check by Axle Counter has been introduced on over 200 block sections and is being progressively added.

(vi) To meet the situation arising out of track stresses and fatigue, upgradation of track structure whenever called for is being undertaken on a planned basis by utilization of 60-kg rails on concrete sleepers. The specifications of rail steel have been upgraded and are in conformity with the International Union of Railways (UIC) specifications.

(vii) For improving maintenance and better asset reliability, Railways are continuing to eliminate fish-plated joints on tracks by welding rails to convert all single rails into long welded rails to the extent possible. During relaying/construction of new lines/gauge conversion, long welded rails are laid on concrete sleepers to the extent possible. Turnouts are also being improved systematically.

(viii) "Quality Management Systems" have been developed and implemented as per the ISO 9001 Quality standards in all the Production Units, majority of the Workshops and some of the sheds/ depots. All other important manufacturing/repair units have also been advised to develop and implement Quality Management Systems. Ultrasonic testing equipment is being used for detection of flaws in the axles.

(ix) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance. Also, sophisticated Track Recording Cars, Ultrasonic Flaw Detectors, Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Cars, Oscillograph Cars and Portable Accelerometers are being used progressively.

(x) Track renewals are carried out whenever they become due for renewal.

(xi) Modern bridge inspection and management system is being adopted, which will involve non-destructive testing techniques, under water inspections, fibre composite wrapping, mapping unknown foundations and integrity testing, etc.

(xii) Intensive patrolling of railway track is carried out at vulnerable locations during monsoon, summer and winter.

(xiii) Interlocking of level crossing gates, provision of telephones at manned level crossings are some of the other safety aids being installed on the Railways.

(xiv) New technological inputs like solid state interlocking, digital axle counter, high performance point machines are being progressively introduced for enhanced safety and reliability of signalling systems.

(xv) Walkie-talkie sets have been provided to Drivers and Guards of all trains for faster communication. Guards and Drivers are also being progressively provided with LED based electronic flashing lamps and hand signal lamps having better visibility than the conventional kerosene lit signal lamps.

(xvi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised, including use of Simulators for training of drivers. Rs.73 crore have been provided under SRSF for upgradation of Training Institutes and Disaster Management Modules are also being developed.

(xvii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training courses. Safety staff overdue for refresher course is not permitted on train duties.

(xviii) Periodical Safety Audit of different divisions by multi-disciplinary teams has been introduced. Inter-Railway inspections and inspections by Railway Board teams have also been introduced.

(xix) Drivers are given Breathalyzer tests to check for alcohol consumption while signing on and

surprise checks are also done to identify defaulters.

(xx) Emphasis is given on surprise inspections and ambush checks. Night inspections are conducted regularly to eradicate adoption of short cut methods and those found to be slack are taken up.

(xxi) Introducing anti-climbing features in coaches to minimize effects of accidents Coaches with Center Buffer Coupler (CBC) are being manufactured.

(xxii) Development of fire proof coaches is being done utilizing the latest technology available in respect of materials, fire proofing technique, etc.

(xxiii) Development of design of passenger coaches with features of crashworthiness which will absorb most of the impact energy leaving the passenger area unaffected.

(xxiv) With the revamping of Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), quality of staff being selected through RRBs has substantially improved.

(xxv) Use of fire retardant materials for coach furnishings.

(xxvi) Fire resistant PVC flooring, interior panelling, ceiling, upholstery etc.

(xxvii) Improvement in materials used in electrical fittings, fixtures such as MCB, light fittings, terminal boards, connectors etc.

(xxviii) Intensive publicity campaigns to prevent the travelling public from carriage of inflammable goods.

(g) No, Sir

(h) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply to the part 'c' of the question, the broad reasons of accidents in trains including fire accidents during the period from January to June, 2003 out of which 81 accidents have occurred due to failure of the railway staff, 54 accidents due to failure of persons other than railway staff, 4 accidents due to failure of equipments and 11 accidents have taken place due to sabotage.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rail lines in the country stretch over one lakh kilometers which pass through various states. The ever increasing number of accidents resulting from sabotage causes a lot of difficulties to the passengers and they are always apprehensive of the possibility of an accident. In this regard I would like to know from the hon. Minister the names of the states which have witnessed more accidents due to sabotage and the alternative arrangements proposed to be made by the Ministry of Railways in the states which are not getting necessary railway assistance. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, When the Railway Minister had made a statement, there was noise in the House and nobody could listen to it. Since it is a major issue, you may kindly permit a discussion on this. ...*(Interruptions)* Not Half-an-Hour Discussion. ...*(Interruptions)* A full-fledged discussion may be permitted. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Railways had made a statement on this. This needs to be discussed. This is a very serious issue, but the day on which the hon. Minister of Railways made his statement, orderliness was absent from this House. Through you, I would like to make an humble submission that I want to know about all the rail accidents and the Minister's statement made in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I want to listen to the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, he made a statement. That statement could not be heard because of the noise in the House. Since it is a major issue, that statement itself should be discussed... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me know what the Minister has to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards the suggestion of the hon. members, I have made a statement on it, and there should be a discussion on that. I too agree with them on this and moreover, it would be better to hold a discussion on the condition of the railways.

You might recall that we had laid a white paper during the previous session. We would better discuss the issue relating to rail accidents and railway safety.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: The accidents are tiling place, and it does not matter whether the paper presented is white or Red. So, this subject should be discussed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Jos Saheb, you speak about this too during the discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Let them appoint a Minister for that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your question is taken up now, and you can speak during the discussion. I am inclined to allow a discussion on this subject.

[Translation]

Now no more questions on this subject. Since I have allowed a discussion, the hon. members should speak on this subject during the discussion. And, as to when the discussion will take place we will decide it in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee.

Question No.62, Shri T.T.V. Dhinakaran.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Have you skipped Q.No.61? Have you kept it for discussion?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, it is for discussion. So, during the discussion you can speak.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question has already been taken up in this House and the members are ready to ask questions. So, I would request you to kindly allow us to ask supplementary questions. Afterwards, when a discussion starts, we may discuss it again. Here nobody has said that this question be left now.

MR. SPEAKER: A decision has already been taken on it. The next question has already been taken up. I have also called for the question.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Q. No. 63 relates to the accident that took place in my constituency. I may be allowed to speak during that time.

Survey of Solar Energy and Wind Energy

* 62. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any survey of solar and wind energy potentials in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government provide 100 percent financial assistance to States in financial distress for developing non-conventional energy sources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under a project sponsored by the Government of India, solar radiation data measured at 18 meteorological stations in the country for periods ranging from 2 to 21 years was compiled and published in a "Handbook of solar radiation data for India" in 1981. Data for a total of 145 stations covering different parts of the country was later computed by using analytical techniques and published in another book entitled "Solar radiation over India" in 1982. Based on the data available so far, the daily average solar radiation available in the country is around 5 kWh/sq. meter and on the basis of the present status of solar energy technologies, the technical potential for solar power generation is estimated at 20 MW per sq. km. Under the Wind Resource Assessment Programme of the Ministry, 208 potential sites, which could be considered suitable for wind power projects, have so far been identified in 13 States/Union Territories. The gross wind power potential in the country has been estimated at around 45,000 MW. However the technical potential, which is the potential that can be practically harnessed at present, is limited to around 13,000 MW.

(c) and (d) The Ministry provides financial assistance in

varying degrees through grants to States for implementing programmes involving the use of non-conventional energy sources. However, no scheme provides for 100% assistance.

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, the annual solar radiation received by India is far more than the total energy consumption in the country. We are harnessing very little of it. The same is the case of wind energy also.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the target fixed to be achieved during the 10th Plan in respect of solar and wind energy.

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: Sir, the solar radiation falling over India is 5,000 trillion KW per year. There are about 300 clear sunny days in our country. But, we are harnessing it very less because the SPV modules costs are very high not only in our country but all over the world. We are trying to reduce these costs.

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am happy to inform the House that Tamil Nadu is the first State in the country as far as utilisation of non-conventional energy sources is concerned. Will the hon. Minister launch 100 per cent Centrally-Funded Schemes for the welfare of Tamil Nadu State so as to harness more energy from non-conventional energy sources?

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: Sir, the State-wise allocation is not made in the Government of India. The allocations are made when proposals are received from each State, and they are considered for Central assistance based on the potential available, techno-economic feasibility, etc., as per the provisions of the schemes and programmes of the Ministry.

However, State-wise the targets are fixed under the programmes relating to biogas; solar lighting system; solar photovoltaic waterheating system; IREP Programmes, etc. Accordingly, the funds are allocated.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, in some States, the State Electricity Boards have been privatised; and the other States are going to follow the precedents. This has created a situation where the rural electrification programme has been given a very short shift. The Government say that the stand alone power supply situation is the only alternative, whereas the non-conventional energy sources do play a great role. So, my question is this. What is the Government going to do about this? How do they intend to encourage the stand alone option?

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: Sir, the New Electricity Act provides for the new stand alone electricity projects.

Our renewable energy sources programmes, just like wind or solar energy or biomass, are all stand-alone projects, so there is no problem.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, solar energy in Sundarbans area of West Bengal is a successful story, which is internationally acknowledged. There is a proposal to extend the same facility which is available in the North-East, that is, 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent loan, to Sundarbans area where there are hundreds of isolated islands and where the only energy source will be non-conventional.

May I know from the Minister whether the Government of India has sanctioned 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent loan for energisation of Sundarbans area under non-conventional sources of energy?

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: Sir, this is a reasonable request. The Government is examining the request of sanctioning 90 per cent central grant and 10 per cent state share for energisation of all the islands including Suburbans, excepting those are UTs and the North-East.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, some of the villages in the tribal tract, in the remote places where they were not able to lay the lines, have been electrified, including the streetlights, with non-conventional energy, that is, solar energy. Now, most of those lights are not at all functioning, and all the villages are again in dark. Yesterday, there was a very serious report from that place. How to rectify them?

Will the Minister inquire into these facts pertaining to Andhra Pradesh and see that they are rectified at the earliest so that the tribal villages will get the lighting? I would like to have a positive reply from the Minister.

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: We are only giving funds for the streetlights in the form of subsidy. The maintenance is done by the State nodal agencies or the NGOs.

SHRI ANIL BASU: The batteries, where the energy is stored, are in a very bad shape, and the required standard battery has not been installed. That is the main cause. The installed batteries, where the energy is stored, are not up to the mark.

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: Please give me the details as to where the defective batteries have been installed or are not being maintained properly. Please send me the names, and I will look into it.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Your Ministry should inquire into

this and see that the streetlights in Andhra Pradesh, which are being run on solar energy, are rectified at the earliest.

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: Please give me the names of the villages, and I will certainly take necessary action.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: It has been conceded in the Minister's statement that the gross wind potentiality in the country is 45,000 MW, whereas what could practically be possible is only 13,000 MW. The possibility is only one-third, whereas the potentiality is 45,000 MW. I would like to know from the Minister as to what exactly has been tapped. In other words, out of 13,000 MW, how much has been tapped by the Government of India?

Secondly, is it due to resource constraints or technological constraints? I would like to know whether you are not able to tap it fully because of resource constraints or technological constraints. Lastly.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask only one supplementary.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Lastly, it is a supplement to what Shri Dhinakaran has said, there are several States which are performing very well. Will the Government examine the issue of giving some incentives to those States which are performing well, if not now, at least, in future?

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, wind resources assessment in the country is done by an institution called the Centre for Wind Energy Technology. In some of the identified sites, demonstration plants of the State Governments and Central Government are there. Private investments are coming there. We are giving many tax concessions and depreciation benefits. The State Governments are giving buy back, wheeling, banking and such type of benefits. On that basis, the projects are coming to the States.

[Translation]

SHRI BALBIR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my constituency there is the National Institute for Non-Conventional Energy in the name of Sardar Swarna Singh. Its foundation stone was laid three and a half years ago, but no progress has been made as yet. Will the Minister be pleased to state the time by which the same will be completed.

[English]

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN: Sir, I think this is the NEERI project in Punjab. The building construction is going on.

[Translation]

Encroachment of Railway Land

+

* 63. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scale encroachment on railway land in the country;

(b) if so, the number of encroachers penalised and evicted from it during the last three years, zone-wise;

(c) whether some officials were found guilty of dereliction of duty in dealing with encroachments;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken against them?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. Approximately 2200 Hectares of Railway land is under encroachment, out of total land holding of 4,23,000 Hectares, which is 0.47 percent of the total land holding.

(b) The zone-wise details of encroachers penalised and evicted from Railway land during the last three years ending 31st March 2003, is as given below:

Zone	Penalised	Evicted
1	2	3
Central	11	10331
Eastern	0	8891
East Central	0	3661
East Coast	0	1603
Northern	0	18380

1	2	3
North Central	0	1610
North Eastern	0	1949
North-East Frontier	0	9287
North Western	0	637
Southern	0	416
South Central	0	2393
South Eastern	2	4920
South-East Central	9	556
South Western	0	633
Western	0	4253
West Central	0	1092
Total	22	70612

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

[Translation]

SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Hon Mr. Speaker, Sir, what about the encroachment of railway land? I had asked a question but the Minister has replied in the negative. It is common knowledge that railway land is being encroached upon in the whole country. We can see railway land being encroached upon from Baroda to Surat and Valsad also. The Villimora Vaghai narrow gauge line falls in my constituency, and I have demanded the Railway Minister to convert it to broad gauge. I think more than 40 per cent of railway land has been encroached and the railway services are on the verge of closure. Just two days ago an accident took place and a child lost his life in that. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government have issued any orders regarding the railway land; if so, the details thereof; and the action taken by the Government in this regard. The other question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No more questions please. You can ask only one question at a time. You may ask supplementaries later on.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): The hon. Member raised the issue of encroachment of railway land along the tracks and expressed the apprehension that because of encroachment accidents may take place. He referred to the gauge conversion programme also.

We will examine all the incidents mentioned by the hon. Member. We will ask the State Government for their view. On the policy, we have already given a statement on the floor of the House. Out of the total railway land of 4,23,000 hectares, only 2200 hectares of land is under encroachment. We have removed 10,037 encroachments during last one year ending 31.3.2003. The number of encroachments as on 31st March, 2003 is 1.88 lakh. If we see the position of land on which encroachments have taken place in the last four years, from 1999 to March, 2003, the area of Railway land under encroachment has come down from 2,445 hectares to 2,218 hectares of land. In these three years very rapid fall down has taken place. Encroachments are being strictly monitored at the Board level, Zonal level and at the DRM level. As far as encroachments are concerned, we appeal to all the hon. Members of Parliament to extend their cooperation.

[Translation]

SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister as to how many persons were killed in the accidents which took place in the encroached area during the last three years, and the causes leading to those accidents?

[English]

SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA: Sir, the information is not available with me right now. But I will send this information to the hon. Member later on.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to negligence of the officials, a large area of railway land continues to be occupied by encroachers, especially in big cities. A large area of railway land is yet to be freed from unauthorised occupation. The officials who are responsible for this have also been punished. I would like to know from the Government as to the time by which they will remove the remaining encroachments and the earnings of the Government from the land got back from illegal occupation so far. I have information that at a number of places such as Manjhi in Chhapra, 50 acres of land has been occupied illegally to run taxi stand and shops. This has given rise to public resentment. Similarly, various other places are also

facing the problem of encroachment. I would like to know of the steps to be taken by the Government to remove all encroachments and to ensure that no railway land is encroached upon in future.

[English]

SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA: Sir, eviction of land encroachment is an on going process.

[Translation]

It would be difficult to fix a time limit for this because most of the cases are pending in the court and the court takes time. We have issued 47 thousand orders for eviction. We are making efforts for that. The hon. member has just referred to the encroachment on 50 acres of land, I will give you the details after making an inquiry.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity and also for admitting a full-fledged discussion on Question No.61 and other important railway matters.

Having said this, Sir, the Railways happens to be the biggest industry in our country for the public benefit. Most of the time when the accidents take place, we are told that the trains and the tracks are not in good conditions; and two-thirds of the accidents are due to human error.

Having said this, since this does not pertain to Question No. 61, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that during the last Budget Session, while participating in one of the debates on Railway Budget from this side, I had asked several questions but I got an answer for none. However, now Question No. 63 says about the utilisation of the railway lands.

Sir, in the last two Starred Questions, I had requested the hon. Minister to let us know as to what exactly is the reason for the wastage that the Railways is indulging in due to these unutilised lands. Some of them are on Sardar Patel road, right behind the Maurya Hotel where the land could be utilised for the simulation training. This simulation training could have been on the pattern of the Aviation staff where the people could have been imparted training, at least, in that space on all these kinds of accidents that are taking place due to human error. This staff could have been trained in those various institutes which could have been put up in the Sardar Patel Road where the Railways have a huge chunk of property.

The other point which I had said in my Starred Question, during the last Budget Session, was about the railway stations where there is a huge chunk of land of the Railways. So, the Railways can easily raise finances. It is a revenue-yielding land. The hon. Minister could utilise it for building up hostels for the Railway staff or utilise it for the purposes of raising their own internal finances. This has become a garbage hold. People are just encroaching on those lands and the huge property is being wasted, apart from being an eyesore to the public eye. Could the hon. Minister take note of this, and also lay emphasis on the simulation training course for these drivers to avoid such accidents which have left the country highly traumatised?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the vacant railway land is concerned, several steps are taken to make use of it. Schemes are being made for commercial utilization of such land in cities so that we could raise some funds out of it. Then that land is used for the railway's own needs like their expansion, training of railway employees or any other activities related to the railways, as the case may be. But several steps have been taken to use the land which is lying vacant at present. Mostly land is available to us in long strips and we have recently started a scheme to plant Ratanjot saplings on it so that we could produce bio-diesel and mix it in the diesel we use. An MoU has been signed for this with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. So, not one but several steps we take to put the vacant land to use. Now directions have been issued about the encroached land, steps are being taken to remove the encroachments, directions have been issued to see that the vacant land is not encroached and for that responsibility has been fixed at levels. All this is reducing new cases of encroachments.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just stated that new ways are being devised to use the railway land in the cities or around the cities. For information sake I would like to tell him one thing that in the rural areas whenever the railway police go, they remove the encroachments, but as soon as they leave, the land is encroached again. The railways have made no regular arrangements for its proper surveillance. Through you, Sir, I would like to know from the Railway Minister whether the railways are contemplating to provide employment by constructing small rooms on the land at present lying unutilised or encroached by people in the rural areas and renting them out through advertisements. If not, what are the reasons therefor?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: So far as the non-urban or rural areas are concerned, the schemes we are making for,

commercial utilization are not feasible there, they are viable only for the big cities. At small places people do petty business to earn their livelihood. The policy of the railways was changed long ago. Earlier shops were constructed and leased out to people who ran their shops. But this policy was changed many years ago. Afterwards we have seen examples that a number of people have encroached the land at a number of places for running their business. We have looked at the whole situation afresh and we do not contemplate to bring about changes in the policy For this we are making efforts to help the small businessmen in such areas form cooperative society and allot them the railway land so that employment opportunities could be generated at the local level itself. A pilot project is contemplated for this. Such a policy is being given a formal shape.

[English]

Crash of MIG Series Aircraft

* 64. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of MIG series aircraft crashed during each of the last six months and loss of life and property suffered in each crash alongwith the compensation paid to the victims or next of their kins;

(b) the recommendations and the outcome of the enquiries conducted in each accident and action taken thereon;

(c) the reasons behind the high number of crashes; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avoid the recurrence of crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) A total number of 05 (five) Category-I aircraft accidents involving MiG aircraft occurred during the last six months (from 1st January, 2003 to 20th July, 2003). Courts of Inquiry have been set up to investigate the causes of these accidents and are still in progress. The details of losses of lives and property suffered and compensation paid to the victims in these crashes are as under:

Date/Month of the year 2003	Category of aircraft	Pilots killed	Civilians killed	Civilians injured	Loss of property and Compensation paid to the victims
January	Nil	-	-	-	The Courts of Inquiry are assessing the loss of property. The amount of compensation will be paid to the victims as per existing rules.
February	Nil	-	-	-	
March	Nil	-	-	-	
04th April	MiG-23	-	07*	-	
07th April	MiG-21	-	-	06**	
May	Nil	-	-	-	
04th June	MiG-21	01***	-	-	
07th July	MiG-23	-	-	-	
14th July	MiG-21	02***	-	-	

* Rs 40,000/- paid as interim relief to the next of kins of deceased in each case.

** Compensation claims for injuries from affected civilians were not received as they had sustained only minor injuries. However, 11 civilians submitted applications for compensation for damage to their properties. Out of these 11, 9 have already been paid compensation amounting to Rs. 1,92,500/-. Two claims are pending for want of assessment report from the Civil authorities.

*** Compensation to the next of the kin of the pilots are being given as per the existing rules.

Military aviation does have a certain amount of inherent risks. The major causes of accidents are Human Error (HE), Technical Defect (TD) and Bird Hit (BH). However, as a result of the efforts made by the Government the number of Category-I accidents on MiG series aircraft have come down from 10 to 05 in comparison to the same period last year.

Every effort is taken to reduce accidents and improve flight safety. This is an ongoing process. Measures to enhance quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) at the highest level is being maintained with a view to reduce accidents. DRDO and other technical agencies are also being involved in all accident investigations to form a wider perspective to prevent accidents. Measures to reduce accidents on account of bird menace are also being implemented.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we continue with the boycott of the hon. Defence Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we are also boycotting. *...(Interruptions)*

11.30 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, and some other hon. Members left the House.)

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that five MiG aircrafts have met with accidents during the last six months. The details thereof have been given in (a), (b), (c) and (d) parts of the reply. But what is important is that the lives of our pilots are very precious. Pilots as well as civilians get killed in such accidents. The hon. Minister has stated three major causes of plane crashes - Human Error (HE), Technical Defect (TD) and Bird Hit (BH). I would like to know from the Minister whether the Air Force has collected details separately for each of the three types of plane crashes viz. the crashes occurring due to human error the ones occurring due to technical defect and those caused by bird hit, so that we could know exactly the area which needs to be improved.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. member has asked about the details of the causes of the aircraft crashes and the number of aircrafts which crashed. If we take a look at the details during the last few years, most of the crashes have taken place due to technical faults. I can put before you the details of the period from 1992 to the 20th of this month. I am sorry, my eyes are deviated a bit, human error caused 101 accidents, technical defect caused 95 crashes, bird hit caused 20 and other factors caused 13 accidents.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I am on a point of order. We strongly condemn the behaviour of the Opposition during the Question Hour. Being the custodian of the House, you have to give the ruling. The present Defence Minister was appointed, as per Constitution, by the Prime Minister of the country. Outside, the Opposition is writing letters in this regard but inside the House it is boycotting the reply given by the Minister. This is not proper. You have to close the matter once for all. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Sir, I also associate with him. *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Sir, it is such an important issue. It is an issue of national importance. They should not treat the House like this. It is quite unfair. *...(Interruptions)* Such an important question is being asked and the Minister is also ready to reply. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should set good traditions in the House. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

You have to understand that the matter is very important. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: These people walk out like this. This is not proper. Does it have any meaning. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of all the Members I submit that the behaviour of the Congress is not proper. They always do such things. *...(Interruptions)* Such important questions are raised about

the security of the country and these people always behave like this and they do it deliberately. You should give a ruling in this regard, otherwise they will do this about every Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* I urge you to give a ruling so that such things are not repeated. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been discussing it for long. The congress members ask questions. They submit a list of questions here and then rush to you. They should not ask the questions so that these are not printed in the Questions list. thus saving the time and lakhs of rupees spent on it. This is also a question of privilege, as also a question of decorum and dignity of the House, a question of the country's security, and I think the entire house in unanimous in condemning it and we should condemn it strongly. ...*(Interruptions)* The Congress party and its leader in particular who appears very keen these days to express her concerns for the country. This attitude of theirs is highly condemnable and it goes against the decorum and dignity of the House. You should record it here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: See, I do not want a debate on this issue. This cannot become a subject of debate. You know it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: We should pass a resolution in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: My submission is that the newspapers these days are publishing long statements of the congress leader about this country, and they have been boycotting the Defence Minister in the House whenever he comes to the House and wants to reply to some question. It results in two things. First, it tells upon the morale of the country's armed forces which in turn affects our security, and secondly, it amounts to contempt of the House. I would urge you to pass a unanimous censor motion against them in the House so that the country may know what they are doing in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You kindly find a way out. ...*(Interruptions)* This is not going to bring any improvement in their negative attitude. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think I require more guidance on a point of order. Please sit down. A point of order has been raised by Shri Yerrannaidu and some other members have also expressed their views in this regard. I agree with the sentiments expressed by the Members here. When a Member puts a question, he is expected to be present in the House to get the reply from the Minister. I would therefore, appeal to the leaders of those Members who have staged a walk out, to resolve this issue.

I made this appeal in the last Session also and I am happy to mention that there was a response from them. The issue was also discussed in the Business Advisory Committee. I am hopeful that by next week this issue will probably be closed and there will be good atmosphere in the House.

My appeal to all the Members, who have staged a walked out, and their leaders is that to maintain a decorum in the House this issue has to be closed and they should see that the reply of the hon. Defence Minister is heard all the time.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I accept that you will find a way out, but merely condemning what they have done is not going to do. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, I also associate with it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am hopeful that wisdom prevails and probably by next week the issue is resolved.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, keep the Congress people out of the House for a week till this issue is settled. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, this is my submission. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you. You may stand when I call your name.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Both of you must support me on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, let me go to the Question. I am sorry I cannot allow you now.

...(Interruptions)

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to put a question to the hon. Defence Minister. You have already seen how dangerous it is for the Members of the Opposition to put a question to the Defence Minister and I am one of the Members of the Opposition. My colleague from the Congress Benches, Shri Jagmit Singh Brar who posed a question from the Congress Benches last time to the hon. Defence Minister was deprived of a very coveted post in the Parliamentary Party of his Party. *...(Interruptions)* When you take up the issue of their joining Parliament in the Question Hour, I would like to request that this issue of reinstating Shri Jagmit Singh Brar should also be taken up. It is because he asked a very pertinent question to the hon. Defence Minister.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mannji, you ask your next question from the Defence Minister.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, the country is shocked by the rate at which the MiGs are coming down from the sky. The day before yesterday, a Jaguar came down from the skies. We want a blue water Navy but the aircraft carrier is being grounded. The day before yesterday a brigadier was killed and an officer of the rank of Lieutenant General and a commander of the Northern command was injured in a militant attack in Jammu and Kashmir. I want to know from the Defence Minister as to what is the preparedness of the Defence Forces to defend our country against foreign aggression. It is because this attack on the Generals shows lack of training and lack of perception. Again, the aircraft have been falling from the skies, even a Jaguar came down from the skies. The aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy is getting grounded. In the international arena there is a talk of our Defence Forces going to Iraq. Would the Defence Minister tell us firstly, about the state of preparedness of our Armed Forces to stop foreign aggression; secondly, about our Defence Forces being sent to Iraq on a peace-keeping mission; and thirdly, after having been rocked by *Tehelka* and *Coffin* scams, does the Defence Ministry have the morality to lead the Defence Forces in such a state of Affairs? This is what I wanted to ask.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, there are only two points arising out of the question that the hon. Member has raised here. First is the grounding of the aircraft carrier. The aircraft carrier has not been grounded. It is very much afloat and it is doing its job.

Sir, as regards the Jaguar point that he has raised, the Jaguar did not fall from the skies. The Jaguar was being handled, at that particular point of time, by a trainee. He was doing his first solo flying. As the aircraft was going along the runway, he found that it was not going straight. There was a snaky kind of a movement. It is a normal thing that he could have controlled it. But obviously he must have become nervous, or he must have lost his cool and he was unable to control it. In that event, the aircraft went and hit a lamppost which was there on the ground and rolled. The fire brigade had put off the fire and brought him out of the cockpit where he was.

Therefore, there was no drop from the skies as the hon. Member has pointed out.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: I do not think he has answered my question about corruption and the falling of aircraft, which is a loss to the nation and to the Air Force.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you very much for this opportunity. I have a question in two parts for the hon. Defence Minister.

We have seen over the years that Shri George Fernandes, as the Defence Minister, has taken a number of steps to build confidence in the Armed Forces. Particularly significant are his frequent visits to Siachen; recently his overnight stay in a submarine; and his famous flight in a Sukhoi fighter plane. I would like to ask the hon. Defence Minister one question. Reports time and again have suggested that the spate of crashes of our aircraft result directly from the absence of an Advance Jet Trainer. For a number of years all of us in this country have been asking as to when we will get AJT and every time we are told that we are very close to acquiring this jet trainer; but something happens and the jet trainer does not come. I would like to know from the Defence Minister when our trainee pilots can expect to have an Advance Jet Trainer available to them so that they can make progression towards the Advance Fighter Aircraft.

Secondly, as I said, we have seen the Defence Minister taking a flight in a Sukhoi aircraft. This, I believe, was the easier option for the Defence Minister because so far I do not think in this country we had a single Sukhoi crash. I would like to ask the hon. Defence Minister whether he would consider - the way he makes routine visits to Siachen - taking routine flights in a twin seater MiG-21 aircraft. As we know, these aircraft have a propensity to crash. Most recently in my constituency, Srinagar, one aircraft crashed in which two pilots unfortunately lost their lives. To instil confidence in the Air Force, would the Defence Minister consider taking a

regular flight in a MiG-21 twin seater aircraft? If he considers appropriate, he can take some of his colleagues with him.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Long before the advice of my young colleague about my taking a flight in the MiG-21, I had raised this matter with the Air Chief and a day was fixed. But there happened to be certain situations which prevented my taking that flight. I want to assure him that at the earliest opportunity I shall be in a MIG-21. It would not be possible to take any passengers in it because there will be only two seats there and there will be room for only two - the pilot and the passive pilot who will be sitting behind him.

Insofar as his point on acquisition of AJT is concerned, there is a Question coming up after the next one or two Questions. I would like to answer it then.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: That Question is listed in the name of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and he is not here. So, let him answer this question as it is pertinent here.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It arises out of the question that I have been answering. So, it is a pertinent question and I will answer it with your permission, Sir.

The AJT proposal is before the Cabinet Secretariat at the moment. We have finalised the last action on the part of the Ministry to procure it. There is only one little point that needs to be now sorted out. We have asked the British Government a certain question pertaining to this particular AJT. We are waiting for that answer. The moment that answer comes; if it comes today, our action will be tomorrow, if it comes in the course of this week, the action will be course of next week.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether six MiG-21 aircrafts of Ambala Cantt. Military Airport in my constituency have crashed and whether some civilians have also lost their lives in these crashes. If so, whether any compensation has been given in this regard. Now the Ambala Cantt. Air Force Station has dense population around it. So, whether the Government propose to shift the same to some other location away from the dense population? Besides, I also want to know as to how much compensation has been given to the kills of the dead.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the compensation has been given to all the affected persons without any cut of any kind. So far as the amount of compensation is concerned, I am not able to tell you about that right now because payments are made in this regard in a different way. If you want a written information I will give you later. And so far as the shifting of the Ambala airbase to a far away place is concerned, we think it strategically fit to keep it right there. But the problem is there and a solution to it is necessary. So we are thinking on this issue from the viewpoint of our strategic requirements and the occasional losses due to accidents here.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, keep these people out, otherwise the House will be disturbed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: They are happy at your arrival.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, do they want us to go back again? ...*(Interruptions)*

Retail Policy for Petroleum Products

* 65. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether even a year after the Government dismantled the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), a retail policy for petroleum sector has not been formulated till date;

(b) if so, reasons for the delay; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to do away with the pre-APM policy's reservation mechanism in order to allow a level playing field for public sector oil companies in post APM regime?

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

Statement

(a) to (c) In keeping with the Government decision for phased dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) and deregulation of the petroleum sector from April, 2002, marketing of all petroleum products except kerosene for public distribution system and domestic LPG has been decontrolled w.e.f. 1.4.2002. The Government has also issued guidelines for grant of authorization for marketing transportation fuels to new entrants, including the private sector. In accordance with this authorization, two more companies in the public sector, viz., Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Numaligarh Refineries Limited and

two companies in the private sector, viz., Reliance Petroleum Limited and Essar Oil Limited have been given permission to set up retail distribution network in the country. These four companies have proposed to set up 9159 Retail Outlets. M/s Shell India Pvt. Ltd. (SIPL) have also applied for setting up 2000 Retail Outlets, which has been agreed to in principle and authorization would be granted after fulfilment of conditions laid down in the Government guidelines.

Soon after dismantling of the APM, the Government had dissolved all Dealer Selection Boards which had been constituted for making selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products as per the guidelines which were in vogue at that time.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited have now been given freedom of choice of new locations for setting up of dealerships/distributorships in various parts of the country, including rural areas on commercial considerations.

The selection of dealers/distributors in the post-APM regime for retail outlet dealerships (petrol and diesel outlets), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships will be made by these companies themselves as per the guidelines to be adopted by them. While finalizing the policy, OMCs will take a view on all related questions including reservation.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Sir, I have not got a direct reply to my written question, so through you I would like to know whether the hon. Minister of Petroleum has received some draft proposals from the public sector oil companies regarding retail policy of petroleum products. If so, why are the Government making delay in taking a decision in this regard?

The part (b) of my question is about the reasons for delay in implementing the retail policy. ...*(Interruptions)* What is the quantum of loss being incurred by the private sector oil companies as compared to the public sector oil companies? ...*(Interruptions)* If they are incurring loss, what do the Government intend to do in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You people take your seat, Jadhavji is asking his question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the guidelines are to be made by the oil companies because the entire petroleum sector has been deregulated. When they were making the guidelines, they sought for our guidance. The reason is that there are certain issues like the issue of reservation. Whether such issues should be included or not, such important issues are there. There is a saying in English.

"Marry in haste and repent at leisure"

Unlike this, the issue of consolidating the roles is under consideration. I would advise them and the matter will end in the coming two and half a months.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the extent of benefit of the private oil companies due to the abolition of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM)? The second question is also related to this–When are the Government contemplating to implement the retail policy to take it out of the reservation system under the previous Administered Pricing Mechanism? The time by which the guidelines with regard to reservation are likely to be issued?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government do not keep the details as to the profits earned or to be earned by the private companies. If the hon. member wants some specific information, I will give the same to him. So far as the guidelines are concerned, they have prepared the guidelines. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Jadhavji, sit down, the Minister is replying.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the Government companies have not incurred any loss. All the 12 companies in the public sector have done good job, earned profits and paid dividends to the Government and the public. So far as the finalisation of the guidelines is concerned, this is for the oil companies. We will give them suggestions within two or two and half a month, this I have said.

[English]

Implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS)

+

* 66. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the implementation of the Conditional Access System (CAS) has been deferred till September 1, 2003;

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

(c) the details of pay channel rates, if declared alongwith the number of free channels to be made available to the consumers and the cost thereof;

(d) the details regarding the import of Set Top Box alongwith the number of STBs to be imported from other countries and the cost at which these STBs to be made available to the consumers;

(e) details of programme, if any, for the manufacture of these STBs indigenously; and

(f) the other steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government and the progress made for smooth functioning of the CAS and to resolve the issue of STBs?

[Translation]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) After monitoring the preparedness of the stakeholders and after consultations with the broadcasters, multi-system operators, cable operators, consumer groups, etc. it has been decided to roll out the conditional access system (CAS) in a phased zone-wise manner in the three metros of Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and at one go in Chennai with effect from 1st Sept. 2003. A notification to this effect has been issued on 10th July 2003. The intervening period will be utilised to step up prepardness for smooth roll out of the C.A.S. and educating the subscribers.

(c) Government has specified Rs.72/- (plus taxes) as the maximum price for the package of channels in the basic service tier (free-to-air channels), consisting of not less than thirty such channels of different genres of entertainment, news, sports, childreg's programmes and music. Free-to-air channels, over and above thirty, would also be made available to subscribers within the said maximum amount. The details of pay channels and the rates, as indicated by broadcasters are contained in Annexure. The rates are subject to revision in future because stakeholders are yet working out internal arrangements.

(d) Government is not importing any set top boxes (STBs). As per the data furnished by the Customs and Central Excise authorities, 50,050 STBs. have been imported by various multi-system operators/cable operators as on 16th July, 2003. According to data given by Multi-System Operators (MSOs), orders for large volumes of STBs have been placed and these are expected to arrive in a phased manner in the next few months. The cost of the box ranges between Rs.2,500 and Rs.3,000/-. The MSOs. and the cable operators, etc. have come out with different schemes for making the STBs, available to the subscribers i.e., through instalments/hire-purchase/outright purchase, loan schemes, etc. or on a refundable deposit plus nominal daily rental charges.

(e) and (f) The indigenous manufacturing industry is yet to gear up fully since the technology deployed is quite new. With the incentive of waiver of central excise duty by the Central Board of Excise and Customs in the Ministry of Finance vide their notification of 24th June 2003 and the reduction of duties on components, indigenous production is expected to pick up. Government is closely and continuously monitoring the arrivals of STBs. Visits are made to head-ends to assess the level of preparedness and test check of boxes has also commenced to ensure that the boxes conform to the standards published by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

Annexure

I. List of Free to Air (F.T.A.) Channels

S.No.	Name of the company	Name of the channel
1	2	3
1.	Sahara T.V.	1. Sahara Manoranjan
		2. Sahara Samay (National)
		3 Sahara Samay (Regional U.P.)

1	2	3	
2.	Sadhna Channel	4.	Sadhna
3.	SAB T.V.	5.	SAB T.V.
4.	Channel Guide Media Limited	6.	Channel Guide Info T.V.
5.	Trinity Broadcasting Network	7.	TBN
6.	Shop 24 Seven	8.	Shop 24 Seven
7.	Udaya T.V.	9.	Udaya T.V.
8.	Sun T.V.	10.	Sun T.V.
		11.	Surya T.V.
		12	Ushe T.V.
		13.	Udaya News
9.	Gyan Darshan Indira Gandhi Open University (Electronic Media Production Centre)	14.	Gyan Darshan (Gen. Education)
		15.	-do- (Interactive channel)
		16.	-do- (Eklavya Technology)
		17.	-do- (Agri. Channel- to start soon)
10.	Reminiscent India T.V. Limited	19.	Lashkara (Punjabi)
		20.	Gurjari (Gujarati)
11.	M.T.V. India P. LTD.	21.	M.T.V. (Music T.V.)
12.	B4U	22.	B4U Music
13.	Asianet Communication Ltd.	23.	Asianet
		24.	Asianet News/Gulf
14.	Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.	25.	ETV - Telugu
		26.	ETV Bangla
		27.	ETV Marathi
		28.	ETV Kannada
		29.	ETV Urdu
		30.	ETV Gujarati
		31.	ETV Oriya
		32.	ETV U.P.

1	2	3	
		33.	ETV M.P.
		34.	ETV Rajasthan
		35.	ETV Bihar
15.	DISH Asia Ltd.	36.	TRT Tamil Oli
16.	F.T.V.	37.	Fashion T.V.
17.	T.V. To-Day Network Ltd.	38.	Aaj Tak
		39.	Headlines To-day
18.	MH One T.V. Network Ltd.	40.	MH1 (Music Hits One)
19.	Raj T.V. Networks	41.	Raj Music
		42.	Vissa
20.	TMG Enter	43.	TMG Enter
21.	STAR T.V.	44.	Star News
22.	Ary Digital	45.	Ary Digital
		46.	The Musik

List of F.T.A. Channels of Doordarshan

Prasar Bharati Corporation	1.	D.D.-1 National
	2.	D.D.-2 Metro
	3.	D.D. Bharati
	4.	D.D. India
	5.	D.D. Kashir
	6.	D.D. Punjabi
	7.	D.D. Gujarati
	8.	D.D. North-East
	9.	D.D. Bangla
	10.	D.D. Oriya
	11.	D.D. Sahayadri (Marathi)
	12.	D.D. Telugu
	13.	D.D.Kannada

1	2	3	
		14.	D.D. Tamil (podigai)
		15.	D.D. Malayalam
		16.	D.D. Gyandarshan
		17.	D.D. U.P.
		18.	D.D. Rajasthan
		19.	D.D. M.P.
		20.	D.D. Himachal
		21.	D.D. Bihar
		22.	D.D. Sports
		23.	D.D. Uttaranchal
		24.	D.D. Jharkhand
		25.	D.D.Chhattisgarh
		26.	D.D. Haryana

II. List of Pay Channels

S.No.	Name of the Company	Name or the Channel		Rate
1	2	3		4
1.	SET Discovery P. Ltd.	1.	Sony Ent. Television	Rs.20/-
		2.	Max	Rs. 14/-
		3.	HBO	Rs.20/-
		4.	Discovery (English)	Rs. 10/-
		5.	AXN	Rs.14/-
		6.	Animal Planet	Rs. 4/-
		7.	Discovery (Hindi)	Rs. 10/-
		8.	NDTV India	Will be FTA on the date of CAS implementation
		9.	NDTV 24x7	
2.	Gemini T.V.	10.	Gemini T.V.	Rs. 10/-
		11.	Teja T.V.	Rs. 5/-
3.	Sun T.V.	12.	Sun News	Rs. 5/-

1	2	3		4	
		13.	K.T.V.	Rs. 12/-	
		14.	SCV	Rs. 3/-	
4.	Silkroute Network	15.	Action T.V. (English)	Rs. 7/-	
5.	M.T.V. India P. Ltd.	16.	Nickelodeon	Rs.3/-	
6.	B4U	17.	B4U Movies	Rs. 10/-	
7.	ESPN Software Ltd.	18.	ESPN India	Rs.29/-	BQT Rs. 32/-
		19.	Star Sports	Rs.29/-	
8.	Maa Television Ltd.	20.	Maa TV	Rs.5/-	
9.	Dish Asia Ltd.	21.	TRT Cinema Channel	Rs.30/-	
10.	FTV	22.	Fashion X TV	Rs.30/-	
11.	Raj T.V. Network Ltd.	23.	Raj T.V.	Rs. 10/-	BQT Rs. 14/-
		24.	Raj Digital Plus	Rs. 10/-	
12.	Star T.V.	25.	Star Plus	Rs.24/-	
		26.	Star Gold	Rs. 10/-	
		27.	NGC	Rs. 10/-	
		28.	Adv.1	Rs.4/-	
		29.	Star Movies	Rs.20/-	
		30.	Star World	Rs. 14/-	
		31.	(V) Channel	Rs.8/-	
		32.	Vijay T.V.	Rs.10/-	
13.	Less T.V.	33.	Less T.V.	Rs. 72/-	
14.	Zee Turner	34.	Zee T.V.	Rs. 25/-	
		35.	Zee Cinema	Rs. 20/-	
		36.	Zee News	Rs. 10/-	
		37.	Alpha - Punjabi	Rs.15/-	
		38.	-do- Gujarati	Rs.15/-	
		39.	-do- Marathi	Rs.15/-	

1	2	3		4
		40.	-do- Bengali	Rs. 15/-
		41.	Cartoon Network	Rs.20/-
		42.	Zee MGM	Rs.15/-
		43.	Zee English	Rs. 10/-
		44.	CNBC	Rs.20/-
		45.	CNN	Rs. 5/-
		46.	Trendz	Rs. 10/-
		47.	Reality	Rs. 5/-
15.	Ten Sports	48.	Ten Sports	Rs. 14/-
16.	Hallmark Channel	49.	Hallmark Channel	Rs. 12/-

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have not yet come out with an unequivocal stand on the Conditional Access System (CAS). Different leaders are giving different statements in this regard which is increasing the confusion day-by-day. I would like to know from the Minister whether the new system is contemplated to be implemented in a phased manner in order to protect the interests of the subscribers. What action has been taken to resolve the dispute with cable operators regarding pay-channels? Sir, will the Minister be pleased to state whether the working group constituted on CAS had fixed a price of Rs. 72 for 60 free to air channels, whereas now the Minister has stated in his reply that the subscribers will have to pay' for 30 channels? I want to know the reasons behind this decision.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour will lapse and you will not get the reply. The question is important. Be quick.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Sir, a question mark is still there on the availability of set top boxes. This is an important point. In case of shifting of residence or in case of more than one television sets in a single household, what will be the condition of Set Top Box is not clear yet. Will the Minister please throw light on this?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. member has asked so many questions. Time is short, but I will try to answer them all.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the last six years have recorded an 1100 per cent increase in the cable TV rates.

[English]

There has been a 1100 per cent rise in the cable television rates.

[Translation]

The consumer was not at all responsible for this rise. Rates used to be increased unnecessarily. That's why the Government implemented the CAS which gives the consumers the right to select the channels of his choice.

12.00 hrs.

They will see whatever channel they want to see. They will pay for only those channels which they think reasonable.

[English]

Therefore, the CAS is basically designed to empower the consumers.

[Translation]

First of all you should know this. You raised a point as to how 60 channels were reduced to 30. I would like to tell you that the task force deliberated over this for long. We consulted the Audit Account Branch of the Finance Department. We conducted a survey. After the survey the scheme of 30 channels for Rs.72 was decided because at that time only 35 free to air channels were available while the law provides that penal cause will be effected for refusing to show free-to-air channels. At that time, the task force came

to know that only 35 channels were available. There are 8 crore television homes and 4 crore cable TV homes in this country. This would be quite interesting for the hon. members to know that 60 per cent people still watch BW television. The poor people like small shop owners, Paan vendors, rickshaw pullers etc. watch black and while television and their television sets can receive only 12 channels. In such circumstances if we show 60 to 70 channels, we would only deprive the poor of their rights. All the points were discussed there. A number of MSOs putforth their views before us.

[English]

We are prepared to show 60 to 70 channels. I have gone to Mumbai. I would say that many MSOs are going to show 80 channels. Therefore there is freedom of choice, choice for the richer consumer having colour televisions. They can see 70 to 80 channels. Even for the poor people, they can see black and white television.

[Translation]

You asked as to why we resorted to phased roll out? It was because the Government were always committed to take care of the consumers' interests. There was shortage of set top boxes. We talked in this regard and that's why we are rolling it out. We have brought it in the interests of the consumers. We will try our best to ensure that the consumers are benefited most.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Procurement of AJTs

* 67. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies who have shown interest for the supply of Advance Jet Trainers (AJTs) to Indian Air Force;

(b) whether the Government have short-listed these companies;

(c) if so, the latest progress made regarding procurement of Advance Jet Trainers;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in procurement of Advance Jet Trainers; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to procure best quality Jet Trainers and to bring transparency in the proposed deal?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Government have decided to induct Advanced Jet Trainers for the smooth transition of trainee pilots on to the frontline fighter squadrons equipped with high technology aircraft.

Keeping the operational requirements in view, the Air Headquarters had made a desk survey in December 1985 of a number of Advanced Jet Trainers then available in the world market.

Request for Proposals (RFPs) for AJT was issued on three occasions i.e. in 1986, 1992 and finally in 1999 to the two short-listed vendors M/s BAE for the HAWK aircraft and M/s Dassault Aviation for the Alpha Jet Aircraft.

Various options for procurement of AJT have been under examination by the Government. No contract has been finalized, as yet. Government is keen on finalization of the issue and has taken necessary steps in this direction in accordance with the procurement procedures. It would not be possible to lay down time limit for such a major procurement project.

Implementation of Railway Budget Announcements

* 68. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the presentation of budget 2003-04 the Government had announced increase in the frequency of some trains and introduction of some new trains; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in regard to implementation of the said announcements?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. In the Railway Budget it has been proposed to increase the frequency of 13 pairs of existing trains and to introduce 50 pairs of new trains.

(b) Of these 9 pairs of new trains have been introduced and the frequency of 8 pairs of existing services have been increased. The remaining services will be introduced during the remaining period of 2003-04.

[Translation]

Joint Exercise with U.S.

*69. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:

SHRI SUBODH ROY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. propose to have a military exercise jointly with the Indian Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the details of the programme chalked out in this regard;

(c) the reasons to go in for a series of exercises with US in Indian sub-continent; and

(d) the measures proposed to ensure that American military officers do not seek access to Indian bases and military infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) As part of the India-US Defence Cooperation, exercises involving the Armed Forces of the two countries have been held in the recent past and are also planned to be held in future, both in the United States of America and in India. It would, however, not be in national interest to divulge specific details of the exercises planned to be carried out by the Armed Forces of the two countries jointly.

(c) The exercises are held both in India and in the USA on the basis of reciprocity. In this context, it is noteworthy that such exercises provide invaluable exposure to the Armed Forces of India and the experience gained during the course of these exercises serves as a vital input for upgrading the skills and capabilities of our Armed Forces.

(d) Adequate measures are taken for safeguarding our national interests while planning and executing such exercises.

[English]

Improvement in Signalling and Telecommunication System

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

(a) whether there is a need for improvement in the signalling and telecommunication system in Railways in order to avoid increasing train accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the signalling and telecommunication system?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Signalling and Telecommunication (S&T) system improves safety in train operation. Replacement of overaged signalling assets with modern signalling system of Panel/Route Relay/Electronic interlocking system and induction of following modern signalling system is an ongoing process for improving safety in train operations:

- Track Circuiting of station yards.
- Improvement in block communication by replacing over head wires by under ground cables.
- Block Proving by Axle Counter.
- Mobile Train Communication System
- Safety Enhancement by providing interlocking and telephone at level crossing gates.
- Continuous Track Circuiting in block section with Automatic Block Signalling for improved line capacity and safety.
- Auxiliary Warning System to prevent a driver from passing a signal at danger.

Following major works to modernize and improve signalling and telecommunication system on Indian Railways have been sanctioned.

- Under special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF), replacement of over aged signalling assets at 1494 stations with modern panel/route relay/ electronic interlocking system, rehabilitation of over aged signalling assets on 'E' & Meter Gauge (MG) routes at 911 stations and safety enhancement through track circuiting at more than 5000 locations has been sanctioned. These works shall be completed in next 4-5 years.
- Provision of continuous track circuiting with automatic block signalling to improve safety has been sanctioned at about 2000 Route Kilometers (RKms) on important sections of Indian Railways during the year 2003-04. The work shall be completed in next 4-5 years.
- Provision of Auxiliary Warning System to prevent driver passing a signal at danger, at about 120 Track Kilometers (TKms) section of Southern

Railway is a sanctioned work and shall be completed in next 2-3 years.

- Modernisation of Signalling and Telecommunication equipments by the provision of Solid State Interlockings at all stations on Ghaziabad-Kanpur section, Automatic Block Signalling on Ghaziabad-Aligarh section, Mobile Train Radio Communication (Global System for Mobile Communication-GSM-R) system on Delhi-Mughalsarai section and Optical Fibre Communication system on Ghaziabad-Kanpur section has been taken in hand under KfW (German Loan giving agency) funding. The work shall be completed in next 4-5 years.

- Provision of Mobile Train Radio Communication is a sanctioned work on 2415 RKms of trunk routes and shall be completed in next 3 years.

Provision of Anti Collision Device is being undertaken on Indian Railways for preventing collisions. Provision of Anti-Collision Device on about 1800 RKms of Broad Gauge (BG) sections on North-East Frontier Railway is in progress and shall be completed in the year 2004-05. Further works of provision on about 1750 RKms has also been sanctioned on Northern, Southern, South Central and South Western Railways.

Recruitment in Armed Forces

*71. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that career in armed forces is becoming non-lucrative among the younger generation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to make recruitment in armed forces lucrative?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Recruitment in the Armed Forces during the recent years has increased in all the three Services and there has been no perceptible trend to the contrary. In fact, the response in the recruitment rallies conducted in various parts of the country has also been very encouraging. Due to a changed socio-economic environment and the availability of wide variety of lucrative employment options on the civil side, the priority being assigned to Armed Forces as a career option for officers of the three services, however, today is lower.

Sustained efforts are being made by the Armed Forces to attract talented youth, both at the officers' level and at the Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBOR) level.

An Image Projection Campaign by the Army has been launched in 1997 and currently Phase-III of the Campaign is underway. In addition, seminars, lectures and presentations are also organized by the Recruiting Offices at schools and colleges with a view to motivate the youth to join the Army and the training capacity of the Army has been increased to facilitate increased intake.

Extensive publicity and recruitment drives are being carried out by the Navy. Motivation drives are conducted in various colleges/institutions in order to widen the scope of target population.

Sustained publicity efforts are being undertaken by the Air Force to attract talented and qualified youth into the officers' cadre. Almost 3,000 schools and colleges are on the mailing list for sending the publicity material. Campus interviews are undertaken by qualified assessors from Selection Boards so as to interact directly with potential candidates and answer their queries about the service. Schools and colleges are visited regularly for motivational talks. Participation in "Career Fairs" and placing of career-oriented advertisements in newspapers and magazines is also undertaken.

In addition, a committee chaired by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence, had been constituted to give an impetus to the Short Service Commission cadre and make it more attractive and lucrative. Another committee under the Special Secretary, Department of Defence has also made certain recommendations relating to re-structuring of the officers cadre. The recommendations of these committees are being examined with the aim of improving service conditions and fulfilling career aspirations. The Fifth CPC recommendations also saw a favourable revision of the pay and allowances package for the Armed Forces. Better in-service training as well as resettlement training is also provided to Armed Forces personnel.

[Translation]

Outstanding Dues of Doordarshan/AIR

*72. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether dues are outstanding against several Doordarshan/AIR serial producers and other private programmes production agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof till date, Agency-wise;

(c) the amount of dues against each of them and since when the dues are pending;

(d) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to recover the said amount;

(e) whether Government are aware of such cases, where private producers and agencies have not paid the outstanding amount to DD/AIR and have taken the contracts for producing programmes again by changing the name of their companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that in case of All India Radio an amount of Rs. 27.30 lakhs is outstanding against M/s. Simran Audio Studio Pvt. Ltd. since March 1999. AIR is already in correspondence with the producer for recovery of outstanding amount alongwith interest. In addition, an amount of Rs. 2.83 crores, as on 31.12. 2002 is outstanding against advertising agencies. In respect of Doordarshan, details of major defaulting agencies (principal amount) on National Channels and action taken for recovery are given in statement I and II respectively.

(e) Prasar Bharati has informed that no such incident has come to their notice.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Major Defaulting Agencies (Principal Amount) on National Channels

(Rs. in lacs)

S. No.	Name of Agency	Dues as on date	Date since when dues are pending	Action taken to recover the dues
1	2	3	4	5
1.	NFDC Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai	6116	30 June 2002	Under reconciliation
2.	Creative Eye Peeragarhi, Delhi	1200	31 December, 2000	Arbitration Clause invoked.
3.	Shree Madhav Khar (W), Mumbai	1156	Jan. 2000	1230 (BG sent for encashment. Criminal complaint against the bank filed. Arbitration Clause invoked.
4.	Multi Channel Khar (W), Mumbai	1102	1997-98	Arbitration Clause invoked.
5.	Fame Comm. Worli, Mumbai	1074	31 December, 2000	Arbitration Appointed
6.	Plus Channel Andheri (W), Mumbai	1012	1996-97	Liquidator appointed
7.	Numero Uno Juhu, Mumbai	1010	31 December 2000	Some dispute Arbitration Clause invoked.
8.	Nimbus Communication K.G. Marg, New Delhi	647	1997-98	Award given by Arbitrator in favour of Prasar Bharati, challenged by Nimbus in Mumbai High Court

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Sagar Enterprises Natraj Studio, Mumbai	490	31 December 2000	Under reconcilliation.
10.	Film Craft Andheri (W), Mumbai	649	31 March 2003	Current dues and payment plan given.
11.	Market Movers Breech Candi, Mumbai	311	30 September 1999	Arbitrator appointed.
12.	Drishti India Andheri (W), Mumbai	294	1995-96	Winding up notice issued.
13	Advance TV Network Naraina, Delhi	213	28 February 1999	Arbitrator appointed.
14.	B4U Multimedia Andheri (W), Mumbai	179	31 March 2001	Arbitration proceedings under process.
15.	Concept Advtg. Jhandewalan, New Delhi	188	1998-99	Arbitrator appointed.
16.	Maya Ent. Kandivli (E), Mumbai	167	31 December, 2000	Arbitration Clause invoked.
17.	MBM Pali Hill, Bandra (W), Mumbai	163	31 August 2000	Arbitration Clause invoked.
18.	Global Ent. Greater Kailash, New Delhi	161	30 September 2000	Arbitration Clause invoked.
19.	L.R. Ent. Link Road, Malad (W), Mumbai	155	31 March 2003	Current dues Co.'s accerditation cancelled Legal action under process.
20.	Pritish Nandy Comm. Opp. Lion Gate, Mumbai	154	1998-99	Arbitration Clause invoked.
21.	Anand Advtg. Daryaganj, Delhi	140	1998-99	Arbitrator appointed.
22.	Pinky Advtg. Kishan Polo Bazar, Jaipur	134	31 March, 2002	Reminder issued to pay dues. Accreditation cancelled.
23.	World Media Jhandewalan, New Delhi	132	31 December 2000	Arbitration Clause invoked.
24.	Media Asia K.G. Marg, New Delhi	122	1996-97	Arbitration proceedings under process.
25.	Samvaad Video Worli Sea Face Road, Mumbai	53	31 March 2003	Current dues Reminder issued.
26.	Balaji Telefilms Andheri (W), Mumbai	48	28 February, 2001	Under reconcilliation. Dues to be cleared shortly.

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Magna Vision Jungpura-B, New Delhi	108	1997-98	Arbitration Clause invoked
28.	Triton Comm. Kalkaji, New Delhi	25	31 May 2003	Current dues Reminder issued to pay dues.
29.	First Option Tele Films Andheri (W), Mumbai	72	31 July 2002	Bank Guarantee encashed. Legal action under process.
30.	Guruji Advtg. Preet Vihar, New Delhi	185	31 December 1999	Reconciliation demanded after issue of legal notice.
31.	Prabha Films Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	75	30 November 2002	Bank Guarantee encashed. Legal action under process.
32.	Universal Communication J.S.S. Marg, Mumbai	73	31 August 1998	Legal notice issued.
33.	Kinescope Khar (W), Mumbai	70	1999-2000	Arbitration Clause invoked.
34.	Pas International Inderpuri, Delhi	60	2000-01	Paying in instalments.
35.	Reasonable Advtg. Rajender Nagar, New Delhi	60	31 March 2003	Current Dues Reminder issued to pay dues. Paying in instalments.
36.	Aaliya Productions K.G. Marg, New Delhi	60	1999-00	Arbitration proceedings under process.
37.	Worldcomm M/M Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	58	1998-99	Arbitration Clause invoked.
38.	Time Megnatics Versova, Mumbai	7	30 June 2003	Current Dues. Reminder issued to pay dues.
39.	KLI (Moving Picture) Jungpura Extn., New Delhi	32	2000-01	To be recovered from the dues payable by Doordarshan for various activities
40.	Jaya Advtg. V.T., Mumbai	49	1998-99	Arbitration Clause invoked.
41.	Uranus Khar (W), Mumbai	46	1999-00	Legal notice issued.
42.	Copy Desk Mayapuri, New Delhi	45	31 May 2000	Arbitration Clause invoked.
43.	Global Vision Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi	44	31 May 2003	Current Dues. Reminder issued to pay dues.
44.	Joslin Comm. Rajouri Garden, New Delhi	42	1997-98	Arbitration Clause invoked.

1	2	3	4	5
45.	Cinema Vision Jogeshwari (W), Mumbai	35	31 March 2001	Arbitration Clause invoked.
46.	Network 7 Bellasis Road, Mumbai	28	31 March 2002	Reminder issued to pay dues.
47.	Paras Marketing Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi	19	31 Jaunary 2003	Current Dues. Reminder issued to pay dues.
48.	Tracer Advtg. Mumbai	33	2001-02	Legal Notice issued.
49.	Eternal Dreams Oshiwara, Mumbai	10	31 March 2003	BGs encashed. Reminder for balance payment.
50.	Jos Marketica Khirki Extn., New Delhi	31	31 December 2002	Dispute. Reminder issued to pay dues. Protected by BG.
51.	Creative Channel Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi	28	30 September 2000	Disputed.
52.	Lehar Pub. Service Tula Ram Bagh, Allahabad	27	2001-02	Arbitration Clause invoked.
53.	ID TV Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi	26	31 March 2003	Reminder issued to pay dues.
54.	G.N. Comm. East of Kailash, New Delhi	25	1998-99	Arbitration Clause invoked.
55.	Innovision Film Santa Cruz, Mumbai	25	1999-00	Case in Mumbai High Court.
56.	Neerja Films Rohtak Road, New Delhi	23	1999-00	Arbitration Clause invoked.
57.	Translink Tele. Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	22	2000-01	Arbitration Clause invoked.
58.	Star Gazer Sukhdev Vihar, Okhla	22	31 January 2003	Arbitration Clause invoked.
59.	W.D. Consumer Nirlon House, Worli, Mumbai	22	31 January 2001	Reminder issued to pay dues.
60.	Prime Time Media Rajender Nagar, New Delhi	20	2000-01	Arbitration Clause invoked.
61.	Asian Ad Age Green Park Extn., New Delhi	19	31 December 2001	BG encashed. Reminder for balance payment.
62.	Corrum Comm. South Extn., New Delhi	18	1998-99	Arbitration Clause invoked.

1	2	3	4	5
63.	Advision Multimedia Noida	17	1998-99	Arbitration Clause invoked.
64.	Radha Publicity Jubilie Hills, Hyderabad	13	1999-00	Arbitration Clause invoked.
65.	HTA Gurgaon, Haryana	16	2000-01	Disputed.
66.	Bidhan Advtg. Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad	11	1998-99	Disputed.
67.	Future Comm. Goregaon, Mumbai	11	31 July 2000	Arbitration Clause invoked.
68.	Magic Box Andheri (W), Mumbai	11	31 August 2000	Arbitration Clause invoked.
69.	Bag Films Green Park Extn., New Delhi	28	30 June 2003	Paying in instalments (Doing business).
70.	Salvia Geeta Colony, Delhi	9	31 May 2003	Reminder issued to pay dues.
71.	A&A Films Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi	9	31 September 2002	Current dues. Co.'s accreditation cancelled.
72.	AK Int. Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi	8	31 December 2002	Current dues Co.'s accreditation cancelled.
73.	Govt. of Delhi	6	2001-02	Reminder issued to pay dues.
74.	Group Advtg. & Cons. Tilak Marg, New Delhi	4	28 February, 2002	Co. has been asked to pay dues.
75.	HMT Bellari Road, Bangalore	3	1998-99	Reminder issued to pay dues.
76.	Vigyapan New Delhi	3	1998-99	Reminder issued to pay dues.
	Total	18763		

(News and Current Affairs)

1.	M/s Nimbus Communications	Rs. 42,45,750/-	June/July, 2002
2.	M/s NDTV	Rs. 3,09,63,030/-	31.03.1999

(The matter is pending in the High Court for recovery of dues.)

Statement-II

I. Steps taken to recover outstanding

For recovery of outstanding and to ensure that outstanding are reduced to a minimum level, the following steps have been taken:-

(i) Outstandings are monitored on monthly basis and regular reminders are sent to the agencies for the clearance of the outstanding dues.

(ii) No fresh programme is allotted to any defaulting agency/producer.

(iii) Agencies which have outstandings have been asked to follow a payment plan to wipe off the arrears in three months. All the producers/ agencies are adhering to the payment plan those who are not allowed the normal credit period of sixty days. In case the dues are not cleared, the normal credit period is suspended and agencies are allowed their programmes only on advance payment of telecast fee.

(iv) Defaulting agencies are allowed to run their programmes only on advance payment of telecast fee.

(v) To secure the DD's revenue and to cover the credit period the Bank Guarantee amounts for running serials running on normal telecast fee is increased to four times the telecast fee. In the case of high value, MG programmes this is equivalent to fee for two episodes.

(vi) To recover the outstanding against the defaulting agency, legal action has already been taken against the several agencies and also contemplated against other defaulting agencies.

II. Name of Producer & Marketing Agencies whose Accreditation has been cancelled/suspended

S. No.	Name of the Agency
1	2
1.	Aaliya Productions
2.	Advance TV Networks
3.	Advision Multi Media
4.	Anand Advtg.
5.	ABCL
6.	Balaji Telefilms
7.	Bidhan Advtg.
8.	Cinema Vision
9.	Concept Advtg.
10.	Copy Desk
11.	Corrum Comm.
12.	Creative Channel
13.	Creative Eye
14.	Drishty India
15.	Fame Comm.
16.	Future Comm.
17.	G.N. Communications
18.	Global Entertainers
19.	Group Advtg. & Cons.
20.	Innovision Film & TV
21.	Jaya Advtg.
22.	Joslin Comm.
23.	Kine Scope
24.	Lehar Publicity Ser.
25.	Magic Box
26.	Magna Vision
27.	Market Movers
28.	Maya Entertainment
29.	MBM
30.	Media Asia
31.	Multi Channel
32.	Moule Advertising
33.	NCYP

1	2
34.	Numero Uno
35.	Prominent
36.	Plus Channel
37.	Prime Time Media
38.	Radha Publicity
39.	Shree Madhav
40.	Tracer Television
41.	Trans Link Television
42.	Uranus
43.	Vigyapan
44.	World Media
45.	Worldcom M/M

III. List of Companies against whom legal action has been initiated.

S. No.	Name of Agency
1	2
1.	Aaliya Productions, New Delhi
2.	Advance TV Networks, Mumbai
3.	Advision Multi Media, Allahabad
4.	Anand Advtg. New Delhi
5.	B4U Multimedia
6.	Balaji Telefilms, Mumbai
7.	Buddha Films, Mumbai
8.	Cinema Vision, Mumbai
9.	Concept Communications, Mumbai
10.	Copy Desk, New Delhi
11.	Corrum Comm . New Delhi
12.	Creative Eye Ltd., Mumbai
13.	Drishty India Ltd., Mumbai
14.	Fame Comm. Mumbai
15.	Future Comm. Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai
16.	G.N. Communications, Mumbai
17.	Global Entertainers, New Delhi
18.	Guruji Advtgrs.
19.	Hansa Vision
20.	Inno Vision Films and TV, Mumbai
21.	Jaya Advtg. Agency, Mumbai
22.	Joslin Comm., Delhi
23.	Kinescope India Ltd., Mumbai
24.	Lehar Publicity Ser.
25.	Maa Communications, Bangalore
26.	Magic Box Productions P. Ltd., Mumbai
27.	Market Movers, Mumbai
28.	Maya Entertainment Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai
29.	MBM, Mumbai
30.	Media Asia, Delhi
31.	Megna Vision, Mumbai
32.	Multi Channel, Mumbai
33.	Neerja Films, New Delhi
34.	Nimbus Comm. Ltd.
35.	Numero Uno International, Mumbai
36.	Plus Channel, Mumbai
37.	Prime Time IP Media Services
38.	Pritish Nandi Comm., Mumbai
39.	Radha Publicity, Hyderabad
40.	Romesh Films, Mumbai
41.	Sagar Enterprises, Mumbai

1	2
42.	Shree Madhav Poly Products, Mumbai
43.	Starcon
44.	Trans Link Television
45.	Universal Comm., Mumbai
46.	Uranus Marketing, Mumbai
47.	Western Advtg., Poona
48.	World Media Ltd., New Delhi
49.	Worldcomm M/M, New Delhi

[English]

Gas Reserves in Rajasthan

* 73. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) the details of locations where ONGC found oil and gas reserves in the country during the past one year;

(b) whether huge gas reserves have recently been found in some areas of Rajasthan bordering Pakistan;

(c) if so, whether the potential of this find has been assessed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete steps taken to explore more areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has established six hydrocarbon finds during the year 2002-03 namely, Vasai West in Mumbai offshore, GS-KW & GS-49 in Krishna Godavari offshore, Banamali & Laiplingaon in the onland Assam shelf and Chinnewala Tibba in Jaisalmer basin in Rajasthan onland.

(b) ONGC has made a new gas find in March, 2003 at Chinnewala Tibba prospect in Jaisalmer district of the State of Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) A preliminary estimate of 470 Million Cubic Meter of initial gas in-place has been assessed for the above new gas find in Rajasthan.

(e) Government is taking the following steps in order to explore more areas in the country:-

(i) Offering of new areas/exploration blocks for exploration under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under NELP, Government has signed 70 Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) with various companies in first three rounds of NELP for exploration of oil and gas. 24 more exploration blocks are on offer under fourth round of NELP.

(ii) Under the X Five Year Plan, ONGC envisages acquisition of 35,286 Ground Line Kilometer (GLK)/ Line Kilometer (LK) of 2-Dimensional (2-D), 34,834 square kilometer of 3-Dimensional (3-D) seismic data and drilling of 561 exploratory wells against which ONGC has already acquired 23,136 GLK/ LK of 2-D, 11,144 square kilometer of 3-D seismic data and drilled 175 exploratory wells as on 1.7.2003.

(iii) Under the X Five Year Plan, Oil India Ltd. (OIL) envisages to acquire 7,575 GLK & 2,000 LK of 2-D seismic data in onland & offshore area respectively, 3,070 square kilometer of 3-D seismic data and drilling of 93 exploratory wells, against which as on 1.7.2003, OIL has already acquired 3,052 GLK of 2-D data, 437 square kilometer of 3-D data and drilled 9 exploratory wells.

Operation Sarp Vinash

* 74. DR. V. SAROJA:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorists had infiltrated several kilometers deep into Surankot area in J&K and built up camps, bunkers etc. in Hillkaka area of Peer Panjhal Hills and were controlling some areas for the last four years;

(b) if so, the reasons for terrorists activities remaining undetected during the last four years;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the armed forces have launched operation Sarp Vinash in J&K to rush them out;

(f) if so, the extent to which the operation 'Sarp Vinash' has been successful in destroying camps, bunkers, etc. and the terrorists killed, arrested and number of arms seized;

(g) the number of Jawans killed/injured during the operation; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents of cross border terrorism in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (h) Counter terrorist operations based on intelligence inputs, have been carried out periodically during the last four years in Hilkaka area of Jammu & Kashmir to neutralise terrorists operating in this area. Operation Sarp Vinash is one of such operations. Hence, the question of instituting an inquiry does not arise.

The terrorists often exploit remote and rugged areas like Hilkaka for establishing hideouts and caches for weapons and stores. In such areas, it is neither logistically feasible nor operationally effective to establish a permanent counter insurgency grid.

Under Operation Sarp Vinash, the troops were moved in the last week of March 2003 and the operation in the area of Hilkaka was launched on 21st April 2003. The operation resulted in the elimination of sixty five terrorists and arrest of three, busting of 119 hideouts and capture of 79 major weapons and large quantities of war like stores. During the operations, five army personnel were killed and five were wounded. Details about the killing of all the terrorists by the Army were reported to the nearest police stations and FIRs were lodged.

Adequate military measures have been taken to intercept and eliminate terrorist groups attempting to infiltrate in J&K. The counter measures include surveillance of all known routes of infiltration, including deployment of unattended ground sensors, construction of fence along the LoC and a multi-tiered deployment of troops. The counter infiltration posture is constantly being reviewed based on intelligence inputs.

Non-payment of Salaries in Public Sector Undertakings

* 75. SHRI A. NARENDRA:

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees of different Public Sector Undertakings have not got their wages and other statutory dues for several months;

(b) if so, the reasons for spending Rs.425 crores on VRS;

(c) the time by which employees of Public Sector Undertakings would get their dues;

(d) whether Group of Ministers constituted three years ago to examine the non-payment of wages/statutory dues, has submitted its report; and

(e) if so, the response of the Government on the basis of the said report?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) to (e) As on 31.12.2002, there were 60 central PSUs having outstanding wages/salary and statutory dues amounting to Rs.1904.77 crores. During 2002-03 an amount of Rs. 425 crores was released for payment of compensation under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme/Voluntary Separation Scheme in order to rationalize the manpower in various PSUs operating under the administrative control of Department of Heavy Industry. A Group of Ministers constituted by the Government on the issue of liquidation of outstanding statutory dues of the employees of CPSUs is yet to submit its report.

Exploration of Oil and Gas in Andaman Sea

* 76. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government have allowed several foreign firms to explore oil and gas in the Andaman Sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the safety aspects in the Andaman Sea?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) To intensify efforts for exploration of oil and gas in the country, the Government

has, under the fourth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-IV), invited bids for award of twenty four exploration blocks through International Competitive Bidding. Eleven of these blocks are onland, one in shallow water offshore and twelve in deep water area including two blocks in Andaman Sea. The details of the two Andaman blocks are given below:-

S.No.	Name of the block	Area (approx.)
1.	AN-DWN-2002/1	10,990 sq.km.
2.	AN-DWN-2002/2	12,495 sq.km.

(c) All safety/security concerns are taken care of while signing Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs).

[Translation]

Concessional Monthly Season Tickets

*77. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are issuing concessional monthly season tickets to poor commuters;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria followed in this regard; and

(c) the number of concessional season tickets issued during each of the last three years, till date, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Concessional monthly season tickets (MSTs) costing Rs. 25/)- (including Safety Surcharge of Rs.10/-) are issued To persons working in unorganized sectors like agricultural labourers, construction workers, vegetable vendors, etc., having monthly income of less than Rs. 400 for commuting by Second class of Passenger trains between places of residence and work within 100 Kilometers. These Monthly Season Tickets are issued at the stations on surrendering a copy of the certificate issued by MPs/MLAs of their constituencies, supported by an income certificate given by the competent local Government official like Block Development Officer, Tehsildar etc. The original certificate will be produced for inspection at the time of purchasing the tickets and during journey.

(c) The number of concessional tickets issued during the last three years, zone-wise is as under:

Railway	No. of tickets issued during the year		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Central	246	160	286
Eastern	218498	11305	12401
East Central	-	-	8
Northern	470	198	87
North Eastern	721	728	117
North-East Frontier	5572	5361	5132
North Western	-	-	74
Southern	464778	371744	191
South Central	46284	44433	864
South Eastern	251032	440384	12168
Western	484	66	12
Total	9,88,085	8,74,379	31,390

[English]

Buffer Stock of Crude Oil

*78. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the Government are preparing a blue print for creating buffer stocks of crude oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consultations have been held between ONGC, Engineers India Limited, IOCL and other concerned agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any team has visited Japan or United States for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and time by which a final proposal is likely to be put up for approval of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government is considering to gradually build strategic storage of crude oil to provide for 45 days cover. In phase-I, 15 days storage is proposed.

(c) and (d) Engineers India Limited has prepared detailed feasibility reports for constructing underground strategic storage of crude oil to provide for 15 days cover. The subject of strategic oil storage is being further studied by Indian Oil Corporation and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation.

(e) and (f) A delegation headed by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas visited the strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) at Bryan Mound site, Texas, U.S.A. on 13th June 2003. As a follow up to the visit, a technical team would visit SPR in U.S.A. shortly. Meanwhile, further action is being taken to finalize mode of financing, building and operating the storage.

Guidelines for Shooting Foreign Films in India

* 79. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

SHRI M. DURAI:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to liberalize the guidelines for shooting foreign feature films and co-production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this relaxed regime will also apply to Jammu and Kashmir, North-Eastern States and the border areas;

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in view of the security considerations of these States;

(e) whether shooting of foreign feature films may affect the domestic film industry; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to safeguard the interest of domestic film industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (f) Shooting of foreign films/co-production in India has earlier also been permitted subject to existing regulations. However, recently the guidelines for shooting of foreign feature films and co-production in India have been liberalized to make them more facilitative.

Under the revised guidelines, proposals to shoot foreign feature films and co-productions in India will be cleared within a maximum of three weeks as against the twelve weeks taken earlier. Procedures regarding scrutiny of scripts, attachment of liaison officer with the shooting team and preview of film before its release anywhere in the world have been rationalized.

Keeping in mind security concern relevant to the border areas, specific clearance will be required for shooting in Jammu & Kashmir, North-Eastern states and other specified border areas and could take longer than the stipulated three weeks.

The guidelines have been revised after detailed inter-ministerial consultations in order to facilitate the working of the domestic film industry and also of studios and laboratories offering production and postproduction services. The speedier clearances would make India an attractive destination for foreign filmmakers as also bring in foreign exchange, technology and fresh management practices.

[Translation]

Military Training

* 80. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to unify and co-ordinate the activities of NCC, Bharat Scouts & Guides, Home-guards and Territorial army for National Defence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering imparting a compulsory military training to every able-bodied citizen of the country for conscription purposes;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) the names of the countries, where such policy of conscription has been in force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

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

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) The countries in which the policy of conscription is in force are the following:- France, Germany, South Africa, Vietnam, South Korea, North Korea, Israel, Ukraine, Italy, Portugal, Lithuania, Switzerland and Greece.

Funds to Voluntary Institutions

539. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) the funds allocated and released by the Government to the voluntary institutions in Gujarat and other States for education and training of the helpless children during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the funds spent by these institutions for the above purpose during the said period;

(c) whether these institutions have not fulfilled the stipulated norms; and

(d) if so, the names of institutions against whom action has been taken in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a Scheme called "An Integrated Programme for Street Children" with the aim to prevent destitution among children and to facilitate their withdrawal from a life on streets as well as placement into national mainstream. Under this scheme, financial assistance to the extent of 90% of the approved budget is given to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for providing shelter, nutrition, health care, education, vocational training and recreation facilities to these children.

In addition, this Ministry has also provided funds to voluntary organizations for, inter-alia, education and training of destitute children under the Scheme "General Grant-in-aid Programme for assistance in the field of Social Defence.

The funds are released by the Ministry and utilized by the grantee NGOs as per the norms of the Schemes. Unspent balance, if any, is adjusted with the grant for the subsequent year. Statements-I and II showing the grants released to the NGOs in Gujarat and other States/UTs under the above mentioned Schemes during the last three years and the current year (till 22nd July, 2003) are enclosed.

(c) and (d) The performance of the grantee NGOs has by and large been satisfactory. However, some instances have come to the notice of the Ministry where as a result of inspection/evaluation, it was found that the performance of a grantee NGO in running the sanctioned project was not as per the stipulated norms and standards. In such cases, further grant to the NGO has been stopped and action taken to blacklist the organization. A list of the NGOs blacklisted under the Scheme since 2000-01 is at statement-III.

Statement-I

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Grant in aid released			
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	29.62	86.08	154.45	34.27
2	Assam	15.87	12.26	13.03	1.00
3	Bihar	3.89	4.74	3.43	2.39
4	Goa	3.30	4.12	5.78	0
5	Gujarat	76.06	77.78	101.86	37.60

1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Haryana	0	0.25	0	0
7	Jammu & Kashmir	5.37	5.96	3.61	2.23
8	Jharkhand	0	0.07	2.76	0.58
9	Karnataka	27.85	29.89	37.50	14.82
10	Kerala	8.29	20.25	17.86	0
11	Madhya Pradesh	4.13	11.2	11.66	0.88
12	Maharashtra	106.62	69.40	141.97	35.87
13	Manipur	11.60	0	2.95	3.27
14	Meghalaya	0	2.29	4.66	0
15	Mizoram	1.06	0	0	0
16	Orissa	14.30	15.54	13.50	0
17	Punjab	6.38	23.28	13.97	0
18	Rajasthan	17.68	37.92	34.60	1.82
19	Tamil Nadu	66.80	53.76	83.98	10.06
20	Tripura	0	5.69	3.00	0
21	Uttar Pradesh	74.40	79.19	88.67	30.66
22	West Bengal	167.52	198.69	259.15	13.99
23	Chandigarh	9.00	1.88	0	10.84
24	Delhi	76.26	65.61	101.61	5.54
	Total	726.00	805.85	1100.00	205.82

Statement-II

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Fund released for the projects related to the welfare of children			
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (as on 22.7.2003)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	12.76	9.53	3.89	0.79
2	Gujarat	167.44		60.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Maharashtra	-	4.49	4.86	-
4	Uttar Pradesh	5.54	4.95	5.65	2.00
5	West Bengal	31.30	21.94	26.53	3.58
6	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.58	5.28	4.09	-
7	Delhi	-	-	2.70	-
	Total	218.62	46.19	107.72	6.37

Statement-III

Sl. No.	State/UT	Name and address of the Organization
A	**An Integrated Programme for Street Children**	
1	Andhra Pradesh	Learning in the Field of Training, flat No.302, Rocky Apartments Venkatred Colony, Sikh Colony, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh
2		Yuvajan Vikalngula Samkeshma Sangham, Kummara Palem Road Vinukonda, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
3		Zila Vikalngula Sangham, Dakshinam Bazar, Vinukonda, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
4	Gujarat	Bahgini Niketan, 10/ Tulsi Marg Baug Colony, Near Core House, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad Gujarat
5	Uttar Pradesh	Awadh Sansthan, Ramghat, Ayodhya, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh.
B	**General Grant in Aid Programme for Financial Assistance in the Field of Social Defence**	
1	Andhra Pradesh	Social service Society for Poor People, 1/2909, Tharaka Ramapuram, Dharama Varam, Anantpur District, Andhra Pradesh.
2	Uttar Pradesh	Propkari Sansthan, LS-2/648, Sector-F, Janakipuram, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
3		Bhartiya Gramin Kshetra Gramodyog Vikas Samiti, Jai Narain Verma Road, Fatehgarh, Farukhabad, Uttar Pradesh.
4		Manav Shiksha Prasar Samiti, 280/69, Tilak Nagar, Baghambari Road, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

Revival of Hindustan Cables Unit

540. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Cables played a vital role till 1995-96 in manufacturing high quality telecom cables not only for Telecom system in our country but also maintenance of security in India's defence system;

(b) if so, whether Hindustan Cables were pulled down to losses, throwing it to competition with the companies, supplying inferior quality of cables through tenders;

(c) if so, whether after 1996 the Union Government had shown lack of interest in supply of raw materials and creation of market for its cables;

(d) if so, whether Hindustan Cables executed an order in time by manufacturing 40 lakhs of C.K.M. cables during 2002-03;

(e) if so, whether government preferred closure of its units to its revival which would have been a viable industry for better quality of product to serve the telecom system and defence system as well; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL) established in 1952 has been regular supplier of telecom cables to Department of Telecom (DOT), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) as well as to Defence organizations.

(b) HCL is competing with other cable manufacturers, in the open tenders invited by BSNL and MTNL.

(c) The Union Government have taken a number of measures to help the company; including sanction of a package of assistance in 1999 which inter alia provided for two years reservation of orders of DOT/MTNL in favour of HCL. The Government have further approved the continuance of reservation of orders till disinvestment takes place in HCL.

(d) HCL executed pending order of 40.27 lac core kilo meter (LCKM) of Poly Insulated Jelly Filled (PIJF) cables during 2002-03.

(e) and (f) Board for Industrial & Financial Restructuring (BIFR) has declared the company sick in its meeting held on 21.3.2003 and appointed State Bank of India (SBI) as the Operating Agency (OA). The BIFR has directed OA to undertake a techno economic viability study of the company.

Hydro Electric Projects in the Country

541. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hydro-electric projects under operation and also the projects under construction in the country State-wise;

(b) the total land area occupied by each of the project; and

(c) the number of families subjected to evacuation from the land areas of these projects, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) On the basis of information received from the concerned authorities the detailed information regarding the number of hydro-electric projects under operation and also the projects under construction in the country, the total land area occupied by each of the project and the number of families subjected to evacuation from the land areas of these projects, project-wise are enclosed as statement.

Statement

(As on December, 2002)

Name of Projects		Capacity	
		Area (HA)	Affected
1	2	3	4
B.B.M.B.			
Bhakri Nangal	2702.5	46208 (Acrs)	7206
Beas I & II	-	77328 (Acs)	30000
N.H.P.C.			
Baira Siul H.P.	180	33.06	Nil
Salal-I & II J&K	690	2339.5	Nil
Tanakpur UTCL	120	437.23	60
Chamera-I HP	540	1281.28	700
URI J&K	480	215.99	121
Rangit III	60	133.8	19
Loktak, Manipur	105	200.97	Nil
*Dulhasti	390	232	Nil

1	2	3	4
*Dhauliganga State-I	280	168.963	36
*Chamera Stage-II HP	300	80.67	30
*Teesta Stage-V SKM	510	298.745	72
*Loktak DS Manipur	90	462	42
N.H.D.C.			
*Indira Sagar	1000	91348	31678
*Omkareshwar	520	9336	3591
D.V.C.			
Maithon	60	10785	4602
Panchet & Extn.	80	7814	7365
NEEPCO			
Kopili H.E. Project	150	7015.60 (Acrs)	
Kopili H.E. Project Stage-I Extn.	100		
Doyang H.E. Project	75	8420.41 (Acrs)	3169
Ranganadi H.E. Project		696.84 (Acrs.)	230
*Tuirial H.E. Project	60	1314.16	40
*Kopili H.E. Project Stage-II		Nil	Nil
S.J.V.N.L.			
*Nathpa Jhakri HEP	1500	498-68-81	480
T.H.D.C.			
*Tehri HEP	1000	5534	10720
*Koteshwar H.E. Project		393	103
Haryana			
WY. Canal A	16	837 (Acrs)	Nil
WY. Canal B	16		
WY. Canal C	16		

1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh			
Giri Bata	60	55	2
Bassi	60	-	
Bhaba	120	47.48	
Malana	86	61 Ha. Forest Land 140.34.39 Bigha Private Land	
BASPA St. II	300	225	-
*Larji	126	57.03	-
Dhamwari Sumda	70	N.A.	-
Jammu & Kashmir			
Lower Jhelum	105	N.A.	-
Upper Sindh-I	70	N.A.	-
Punjab			
Shanan	110	-	-
UBDC St. I & II	91.35	-	-
Mukerian	207	-	-
A.P. Sahib	134	-	-
Ranjit Sagar Dam		-	3868
*Shahpur Kandi	168	-	-
Rajasthan			
R.P. Sagar	172	76.55 Sq. Miles	N.A.
J. Sagar	99	3.72 Sq. Miles	N.A.
Mahibajaj-I	50	73 Bigha 17 Biswa	Nil
Mahibajaj-II	90	244 Bigha 13 Biswa	Nil

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh			
Rihand	300	-	N.A.
Obra	99	-	N.A.
Matatilla	30	-	N.A.
Khatima	41.4	41.6	-
Khara	72	-	N.A.
*Vishnu Prayag	400	-	N.A.
*Srinagar	330	-	N.A.
Uttaranchal J.V.N.			
Dhakrani (Y. St. I)	33.75	724.575	-
Dhalipur (Y. St. I)	51		
Kulhal (Y. St. IV)	30		
Chibro (Y. St. II)	240	328.526	-
Khodri (Y. St. II)	120		-
Ramganga	198	854.4	-
Chilla	144	417.911	-
Maneri Bhali	90	40	-
Khatima	41.4	41.6	-
*Maneri Bhali St.-II	304	42	-
*Lakhwar Vyasi	420	605	-
Gujarat			
Ukai	300	N.A.	-
Kadana (PSS)	240	N.A.	-
*Sardar Sarovar Projects$			
a) River Bed P.H.	1200	37533	40963
b) Canal Head P.H.		-	-
Madhya Pradesh			
Gandhi Sagar	115	N.A.	-
Pench	160	2569	5
Rani Avati Bai	90	N.A.	-
Rajghat	45	N.A.	-
Ban Sagar Tons	375	4831.1	1306
*Madikheda	60	35	-
*Maheshwari	400	N.A.	7885 persons
Chhattisgarh SEB			
Hasdeo Bango	120	21279	2721
Maharashtra			
Koyna I, II and III	920	12302	9069
Koyna IV	1000	626.97	181
Koyna DPH	40	Nil	Nil
Vaitarna	60	4689	109
Bhira Tail Race	80	768.82	87
Tillari	60	985	Nil
Bandhardhara-II	34	98	Nil
Bhira	150	N.A.	-
Bhivpuri	72	N.A.	-
Khopoli	72	N.A.	-
Bhira PSS	150	Nil	Nil
*Ghatghar PSS	250	258	176
Andhra Pradesh			
Machkund	120	10712	1114
Upper Sileru	240	1070	01 village
Upper Sileru St-II		3787	28
Srisailam RB HE Scheme		38082	26784
N.J. Sagar PSS	810	12.297	Nil

1	2	3	4
N.J. Sagar RBC	75	6.07	Nil
N.J. Sagar LBC	60	17.275	Nil
Singur	150	1.246	Nil
Srisailam LBPH	900	Underground PH	77
Pochampad	27	2.509	Nil
Karnataka			
Sharavathy	891	42100	2800
Lingnamakki	55	N.A.	N.A.
Badhra (L)	26	-	-
Kalinadi	810	21828	2447
Supa DPH	100	13405	1500
Ghatprabha	32	-	-
Varahi	230	9065.39	1475
Kadra	150	3177.73	364
Kodasali	120	1592.71	415
Sharavathy T. Race		700	Nil
Bommanhalli Pickup Dam			
Upper Kaneri Diversion Scheme			
Thattihala Dam & Diversion Works			
Jog	120	-	-
Kerala			
Idukki	780	6926	N.A.
Sabaragiri	300	2053	N.A.
Kuttiadi	75	283	N.A.
Sholoyar	54	899	N.A.
Sengulam	48	83	N.A.
Nariamangalam	75	77	N.A.
Pallivasal	37.5	382	N.A.
Panniar	30	989	N.A.
Idamalayar	75	3126	120
Lower Periyar	180	127	N.A.
Kakkad	50	35	Nil
Kuttiyadi Extn.	50	16	1400
*Azhutha Diversion Scheme	29	18	
*Vadakkepuzha Diversion Scheme		3	19 Families having house and 40 persons (land owners) to be evicted
Tamil Nadu			
Kundah I, II, III, IV & V, VI		6707 (Acrs.)	Nil
Pykara	72.2	1108.988	Nil
Moyar	36		Nil
Paraambikulam Aliyar		1000 (Acrs.)	Nil
Mettur Dam HEP	360	44.29	Nil
V. Papanasam PH	28	623.45 (Acrs.)	Nil
Kodayar PH	100	2998 (Acrs.)	Nil
Periyar PH	140	218 (Acrs.)	Nil
Suriliyar P. House	35	518 (Acrs.)	Nil
Bhavani Kattalai Barrage		62.06	Nil
Bihar			
Subernrekha-I	65	N.A.	N.A.
Subernrekha-II		N.A.	N.A.
Kosi	20	31.76 (Acrs.)	Nil
Orissa H.P.C.			
Hirakud I	235.5	N.A.	N.A.
Hirakud II	72	N.A.	N.A.

1	2	3	4
Balimela	360	N.A.	N.A.
Rengali	250	122414.52 (Acrs.)	10847
Upper Kolab		1632 Sq. Km.	N.A.
Upper Indrawati		110 Sq. Km.	5988
West Bengal			
Rammam-II	50	627.92 (Acrs.)	125 persons
Jaldhaka I & II	35	242.34 (Acrs.)	Nil
*Purulia (PSS)	900	456	Nil
Teesta Canal Fall	67.5	286.27	1379 persons
Assam			
*Karbi Langpi	100	-	-
Meghalaya			
Umiam Stage-I	36	3749 (Acrs.)	Nil
Umiam Stage-II	60	136 (Acrs.)	Nil
*Myntdu	84	181.17	Nil
*Kyradamkulai	60	1482.40 (Acrs.)	Nil

*HEPs under construction

Construction Power Projects in West Bengal

542. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects under construction in the West Bengal;

(b) the amount allocated to each project by Union Government and State Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The following Power Projects are under construction in the State of West Bengal:

Name of the Project/ Capacity (MW)	Executing Agency/ Sector	Estimated Cost/Expenditure incurred (Rs. crore)	Expected date of completion
Mejia TPS Extn. U-4 (1x210 MW), DVC	Damodar Valley Corporation/Central Sector	797.82/278.98 (upto 05/03)	2004-05
Purulia Pumped Storage Project (4x225 MW)	West Bengal State Electricity Board	3188.90/385.38 (upto 06/2003)	2006-07

The above projects are targeted to be completed during 10th Plan.

In addition to this, work on the Bakreshwar TPS Extn. (420 MW) at a cost of Rs.1312.72 crore with JBIC assistance has now been initiated. This project is scheduled for commissioning in the year 2006-07.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Setting up of Old Age Homes

543. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Government for setting-up Old Age Homes for the welfare of senior citizens in West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the present number of Old Age Homes functioning in West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir location-wise and the number of senior citizens being benefited;

(c) whether the Government have any scheme for further expansion of this work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) The details of financial assistance provided

under the Integrated Programme for Older Persons for setting up of Old Age Homes in West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir for the years 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (upto 15 July, 2003) are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) District-wise and State-wise details of present numbers of Old age homes run by the organizations and number of senior citizens benefited under the Integrated Programme for Older Persons in West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir are given in statement-II enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Details of financial assistance provided under the Integrated Programme for Older Persons for setting up of Old Age Homes in West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir for the years 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (upto 15th July, 2003)

(Rs. in Lac)

Name of the States	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
West Bengal	0.86	2.67	1.05	0
Jammu & Kashmir	1.34	1.80	0	0

Statement-II

District-wise and State-wise details of present number of Old Age Homes run by the Organizations and Number of Senior Citizens benefited under the Integrated Programme for Older Persons in West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir

Name of States States	Name of the districts	No. of Old Age Homes	No. of senior citizens being benefited
1	2	3	4
West Bengal	Burdwan	1	25
	Kolkata	5	125
	Howrah	2	50
	Hooghly	1	25
	Malda	1	25
	Midnapore	15	375
	Nadia	1	25
	North 24 Parganas	2	50
	Purulia	1	25
	South 24 Parganas	3	75
	Total	32	800
Jammu & Kashmir	Leh	1	25
	Baramula	1	25
	Srinagar	1	25
	Total	3	75

[English]

Capacity Addition of Bidadi Gas Power Station in Karnataka

544. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has moved to upgrade the Bidadi gas power station as mega project with a 1400 MW capacity;

(b) if so, whether after completion of this project, the Karnataka Government are likely to be able to sell the power to the centrally owned Power Trading Corporation Limited;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

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

(b) and (c) Government of Karnataka have informed that sale of power to the Power Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (PTC) is one of the options being examined by them towards fulfilment of the criteria for mega project status. The possibility of sale of power from the project to PTC would, however, depend, inter-alia, on the quantum of power that the State of Karnataka would be able to absorb, the surplus available for sale through PTC, competitiveness of the tariff and ability of

other buyer States to provide suitable payment security mechanism.

(d) Government of Karnataka have informed that completion of the project is likely by 31st January, 2007.

Disruption of Railway in Mumbai

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

(a) whether Central Railway has been disrupted more than five times in the month of June and July, 2003 in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details about the disruption, cancellation of trains, harassment caused to the passengers along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made/ to be made by Central Railway, Mumbai to handle the monsoon to avoid disruption of railway?

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

(b) The details about the disruption, cancellation of trains, harassment caused to the passengers are as under:

(i) The train services were disrupted on 5 days in the month of June 2003 and 2 days in July 2003 mainly due to heavy rains, water logging and some on account of Over Head Equipment (OHE) failures.

(ii) A total of 938 trains were cancelled during June & July 2003. However, 43 special trains were run during June & July 2003 for the convenience of the affected passengers.

(c) The following efforts have been made for minimizing disruption during the moonsoon:

(i) Cleaning of drains, culverts and muck removal was undertaken in the months preceding the moonsoon.

(ii) A joint inspection of the progress of these works was undertaken alongwith the Municipal Commissioner on 04.06.2003.

(iii) All works required to be done by the Railways have been completed before the onset of monsoon.

Keeping in view the level of the water above tracks, the rakes are not taken our from car shed/station sidings till the water level recede.

Production of Electricity from Wind and Tidal Waves

546. SHRI R.S. PATIL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of units in the country to produce electricity from wind and sea shores, especially in the State of Karnataka; and

(b) the break-up of total units of electricity from Non-Conventional Sources, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Wind power projects aggregating to 1870 MW have been installed in the country including 124 MW in Karnataka, as on 31st March, 2003. A 1 MW floating Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) power plant has been installed near Tuticorin port in Tamil Nadu.

(b) Break-up of estimated electricity generation from non-conventional energy sources, State-wise, during 2002-03, is given in the statement.

Statement

State-wise Estimated Electricity Generated during 2002-2003 from Non-Conventional Energy Projects

Sl. No.	State/UT	Electricity Generated (in million units)
1	2	3
1	Andaman & Nicobar	16
2	Andhra Pradesh	1115
3	Arunachal Pradesh	97
4	Assam	6
5	Bihar	135
6	Chhattisgarh	67
7	Gujarat	190
8	Haryana	169
9	Himachal Pradesh	274

1	2	3
10	Jammu & Kashmir	280
11	Jharkhand	12
12	Karnataka	962
13	Kerala	209
14	Madhya Pradesh	158
15	Maharashtra	1346
16	Manipur	14
17	Meghalaya	92
18	Mizoram	44
19	Nagaland	60
20	Orissa	4
21	Punjab	378
22	Rajasthan	93
23	Sikkim	98
24	Tamil Nadu	1985
25	Tripura	48
26	Uttar Pradesh	255
27	Uttaranchal	185
28	West Bengal	268
	Total	8560

Rail Projects in Kerala

547. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received by the Railways from the Government of Kerala and the Members of Parliament regarding construction of new railway lines, gauge conversion, doubling of railway lines and electrification during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the details of the each of the new and on-going projects along with the funds allocated and expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(d) the target fixed for completion of these projects, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The details of new proposals received from the State Government during the last three years are as under:-

Sl. No.	Proposal	Action taken
1	2	3
New Line		
1.	Chenganur-Kottarakara	Not taken up.
2.	Extension of Kottayam-Erumeli line upto Punalur	Updating survey is in progress.
3.	Extension of Tirur/Guruvayur line upto Ernakulam/Cochin	Survey has been completed and the survey report is being updated in view of the traffic likely to be generated at Vallarpadam Container Freight Terminal for which a survey is in progress.
4.	Nilambur Road-Nanjangud	Survey is in progress.
5.	Extension of Madurai- Bodinayakanur line upto Ernakulam	Not taken up.

1	2	3
6.	Tellicherry-Mysore	Survey has been completed. The cost of 298 Km. line has been assessed as Rs. 864 crore. Due to acute constraint of resources, the proposal could not be taken up.
Doubling		
1.	Ernakulam-Kayankulam	Doubling of Ernakulam- Mulanturutti, Mavelikara-Kayankulam and Cheppad-Kayankulam included in the budget.
2.	Thiruvananthapura-Nagercoil-Kanniyakumari	Not taken up.
Electrification		
1.	Shoranur-Mangalore	Not taken up.

(c) and (d) The details of each new and ongoing project alongwith the funds allocated and expenditure incurred thereon so far, and the target fixed for completion of these projects, project-wise, wherever fixed are as under:-

S. No.	Project	Outlay 2003-04 (Rs. in crore)	Likely Expenditure incurred upto March, 2003 (Rs. in crore)	Target date for completion
1	2	3	4	5
New Line				
1.	Tanur (Kuttipuram)- Guruvayur	3	0.77	Not yet fixed.
2.	Angamali-Sabarimala	10	4.95	Not yet fixed.
3.	Kottayam-Erumeli	2	0.10	Not yet fixed.
Gauge conversion				
1.	Quilon-Tirunelveli- Trichendur & Tenkasi-Virudunagar	25	61.51	Virudunagar-Rajapalayam section has been completed and commissioned. Rajapalayam-Tenkasi is targeted for completion by 31.3.2004. For remaining section, no target date has yet been fixed.
Doubling				
1.	Shoranur-Kuttipuram-Calicut	30	75.18	30 km doubling is targeted for completion in 2003-04.
2.	Calicut-Mangalore	25	506.00	Work completed except Cannanore-Valapattanam.

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Ernakulam-Mulanturutti	8	10.05	Not yet fixed.
4.	Ernakulam Jn. Marshaling Yard	0.01	6.37	Work completed.
5.	Mavelikara- Kayankulam	5	-	Not yet fixed.
6.	Cheppad-Kayankulam	5	-	Not yet fixed.
Electrification				
1.	Ernakulam-Trivandrum	21.97	56.96	March, 2004 subject to availability of resources.

Contribution Based Pension Scheme

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

(a) whether the Government have accepted a redefined contribution-based pension plan for railway employees;

(b) if so, the details of the new pension plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has accepted that future entrants to Railway service will be governed by a contribution based pension plan which would be applicable to all Central Government employees. Since the existing Railway Pension Scheme is based on the existing Central Government Pension Scheme, any new Scheme for Railway employees would also be based on the new Pension Scheme decided upon by the Central Government for all Central Government employees.

(b) and (c) The Railway employees are governed by the Pension Scheme formulated by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DOP&PW), the nodal department of the Government of India on pension policy matters under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions. The details of the new Pension Scheme based on defined contribution and the date from which the scheme will become effective are not known to the Ministry of Railways as a final decision in this respect is yet to be taken by the Central Government.

Opening of Computerised Reservation Centres at Bhiwandi and Dahanu in Maharashtra

549. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by the Government to open computerised reservation centres at Bhiwandi and Dahanu in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A representation dated 24.4.03 has been received from Shri Jivraj Nagaria, Secretary, Mill Stores Merchants' & Mfrs.' Association, Bhiwandi.

(c) Provision of Computerised Reservation Facility has already been sanctioned at Dahanu Road Station in the Annual Budget 2003-2004. As regards, provision of Computerised Reservation Facility at Bhiwandi Railway Station, the suggestion has been noted and will be considered at appropriate time.

[Translation]

Retail Outlets of Oil Companies on Contract Labour Basis

550. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Public Sector Oil Companies are running their retail outlets on contract labour basis;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued any guidelines to oil companies regarding appointment of labour contractors;

(c) if so, the number of such retail outlets where there was a long gap between appointment of labour contractors and the duration of agreements of contractors with oil companies; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The Public Sector Oil Companies are running some of their retail outlets on Company Owned Company Operated (COCO) basis under the supervision of an officer of the concerned oil company with labour assistance provided by labour contractors, till regular dealers are appointed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The commencement of the agreement with the labour contractor is from the date of his appointment and hence, there is no gap between the appointment and duration of the contract.

ROBs/RUBs in Uttar Pradesh

551. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail-over/under bridges in Uttar Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) the number of rail-over/under bridges which are in dilapidated condition; and

(c) the number of rail-over/under bridges which are under construction and the number of such bridges proposed to be repaired during current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) There are 177 ROB/RUBs in U.P. location shown in the statement enclosed.

(b) Nil. At present no such ROB/RUB is in dilapidated condition.

(c) There are 32 works of ROBs/RUBs falling in U.P. which are at different stages of planning and execution. All ROB/RUBs are inspected regularly and repair, as and when required, is carried out by Railway in railway portion (Bridge proper over the tracks) from time to time.

Statement

S.No.	Km.	Loation/Section on
1	2	3
1.	677/9-12	Mugalsarai-Allahabad
2.	686/3-5	Mugalsarai-Allahabad
3.	734/17-19	Mugalsarai-Allahabad
4.	826/15-17	Phaphund-Kanpur
5.	827/25-28	Allahabad-Kanpur
6.	833/30-32	Allahabad-Kanpur
7.	1012/3-5	Allahabad-Kanpur
8.	1017/33-31	Kanpur-Tundla
9.	1020/10-11	Kanpur-Tundla
10.	1021/7-9	Kanpur-Tundla
11.	1124/11	Kanpur-Tundla
12.	1023/3-5	Kanpur-Tundla
13.	1027/7-13	Kanpur-Tundla
14.	1262/9-11	Tundla-Ghaziabad
15.	1325/7-9	Tundla-Ghaziabad
16.	1325/35-37	Tundla-Ghaziabad
17.	1327/1-3	Tundla-Ghaziabad
18.	1347/25-27	Tundla-Ghaziabad
19.	144/10-11	Chunar-Chopan
20.	160/14	Chunar-Chopan
21.	70/8-9	Kanpur-Lucknow
22.	57/13-14	Balkunthpur-Etah
23.	83/4-5	Idgah Jn-Agra Fort
24.	1343/28-30	Agra Cantt.-Mathura
25.	1345/40-42	Agra Cantt.-Mathura
26.	1347/24-26	Agra Cantt.-Mathura
27.	1377/3-5	Agra Cantt.-Mathura
28.	1347/36A-38	Raja Ki Mandi-Agra City
29.	1386/13-17	Agra Cantt.-Mathura
30.	1394/26-28	Agra Cantt.-Mathura

1	2	3
31.	1401/16-18	Mathura-Pingleshwar
32.	1437/32-34	Mathura-Pingleshwar
33.	1438/34-36	Mathura-Pingleshwar
34.	2077.8	Jhansi-Kanpur
35.	1338/13-1339/0	Jhansi-Kanpur
36.	1319/10-11	Jhansi-Allahabad
37.	696/15-1	Mugalsarai-Allahabad
38.	738/24-1	Mugalsarai-Allahabad
39.	742/2-25	Mugalsarai-Allahabad
40.	743/20-2	Mugalsarai-Allahabad
41.	822/5-8	Mugalsarai-Allahabad
42.	822/15-1	Mugalsarai-Allahabad
43.	822/25-2	Mugalsarai-Allahabad
44.	823/3-6	Mugalsarai-Allahabad
45.	823/18-1	Mugalsarai-Allahabad
46.	923/30-3	Mugalsarai-Allahabad
47.	824/3-6	Mugalsarai-Allahabad
48.	830/17-1	Allahabad-Kanpur
49.	1019/0-1	Kanpur-Thundla
50.	1019/1-4	Kanpur-Thundla
51.	1158/12-1	Kanpur-Thundla
52.	1213/3-6	Kanpur-Thundla
53.	1231/0-2	Kanpur-Thundla
54.	242/6-7	Chunar-Chopan
55.	148/10-11	Chunar-Chopan
56.	153/8-9	Chunar-Chopan
57.	1041/25	Mathura-Alwar
58.	1058/7-6	Yamuna Bridge Agra-Thundla
59.	1266/10-11	Chhalesar-Jabalpur
60.	83/23-84/1	Idgah Jn-Agra Fort
61.	850/0-5	Agra Fort-Yamuna Bridge Agra
62.	1344/20-22	Agra Cantt.-Mathura
63.	1345/2-4	Agra Cantt.-Mathura
64.	1345/10-12	Agra Cantt.-Mathura
65.	1345/18-20	Agra Cantt.-Mathura
66.	1349/20-22	Raja Ki Mandi-Agra City
67.	1349/28-29	Raja Ki Mandi-Agra Cantt.
68.	1349/32-33	Raja Ki Mandi-Agra City
69.	1349/33-35	Raja Ki Mandi-Agra City
70.	1349/15-16	Raja Ki Mandi-Agra City
71.	1398/24	Mathura Yard
72.	1398/8-9	Mathura-Bhuteshwar
73.	1039/2-4	Bina-Jhansi
74.	1128/24-26	Jhansi Yard
75.	1128/41-1129/1	Jhansi Yard
76.	1340/7-8	Jhansi-Kanpur
77.	1340/15-1341/1	Jhansi-Kanpur
78.	1270/1-9	Agra Fort-Jabalpur
79.	204/8-9	Araku-Varanasi Jn.
80.	203/6-7	Araku-Varanasi Jn.
81.	204/1-2	Araku-Varanasi Jn.
82.	206/12-13	Varanasi Jn-Allahabad City
83.	323/13-14	Varanasi Jn-Allahabad City
84.	323/14-15	Varanasi Jn-Allahabad City
85.	324/8-9	Varanasi Jn-Allahabad City
86.	325/5-6	Varanasi Jn-Allahabad City

1	2	3
87.	325/13-14	Varanasi Jn-Allahabad City
88.	65/8-9	Chhapra-Araku
89.	126/13-15	Chhapra-Araku
90.	55/6-7	Chhapra-Araku
91.	68/7-8	Bhatni Jn-Araku
92.	66/3-4	Bhatni Jn-Araku
93.	-	Bhatni Jn-Araku
94.	458/8-9	Bhatni Jn-Gorakhpur Cantt.
95.	249/9-10	Kusganj-Achhnera Jn.
96.	300/7-8	Kusganj-Achhnera Jn.
97.	315/8-9	Izzatnagar-Bally
98.	4/4-5	Gonda Jn.-Lucknow
99.	718/11-12	Gonda Jn.-Lucknow
100.	771/6-7	Gonda Jn.-Lucknow
101.	507/7-8	Gonda Jn.-Lucknow
102.	771/3-4	Gonda Jn.-Lucknow
103.	767/6-7	Gonda Jn.-Lucknow
104.	570/11-12	Gonda Jn.-Lucknow
105.	-	Gonda Jn.-Lucknow
106.	-	Mohibulla Pur Yard
107.	506/0-1	Gonda Jn.-Gorakhpur
108.	4/6-7	Kanpur-Anwarganj
109.	772/3-4	Gonda Jn.-Lucknow
110	05-01-06	Allahabad-Faizabad
111.	142/11-12	Allahabad-Faizabad
112.	143/11-12	Allahabad-Unchahar Jn.
113.	862/5-6	Faizabad-Loop
114.	957/8-9	Faizabad-Loop
115.	969/11-12	Faizabad-Loop
116.	828/8-9	Faizabad-Loop
117.	828/11-12	Faizabad-Loop
118.	829/1	Faizabad-Loop
119.	829/4-5	Faizabad-Loop
120.	830/4-5	Lucknow-Alamnagar
121.	1080/10-11	Lucknow-Alamnagar
122.	1074/10-11	Lucknow-Kanpur
123.	53/21-23	Lucknow-Alamnagar
124.	27-04-29	Lucknow-Alamnagar
125.	8/0-1	Lucknow-Alamnagar
126.	913/8-9	Lucknow-Sultanpur-Zafrabad
127.	1070/4-5	Utrahtia-Lucknow
128.	765/8-9 to 766/5	Mugalsarai-Varanasi Jn.-Pratapgarh Jn.
129.	764/7-8	Mugalsarai-Varanasi Jn.-Pratapgarh Jn.
130.	766/12-13	Mugalsarai-Varanasi Jn.-Pratapgarh Jn.
131.	767/17-18	Mugalsarai-Varanasi Jn.-Pratapgarh Jn.
132.	768/8-9	Mugalsarai-Varanasi Jn.-Pratapgarh Jn.
133.	770/14-15	Mugalsarai-Varanasi Jn.-Pratapgarh Jn.
134.	771/6-7	Mugalsarai-Varanasi Jn.-Pratapgarh Jn.
135.	147/2-3	Phaphamau Jn.-Prayag
136.	147/7-8	Phaphamau Jn.-Prayag
137.	151/5-6	Prayag-Allahabad
138.	152/11-12	Prayag-Allahabad

1	2	3
139.	153/4-5	Prayag-Allahabad
140.	154/9	Prayag-Allahabad
141.	996/12-13	Rai Bareily Jn.-Lucknow
142.	107/10-11	Rai Bareily - Prayag
143.	14-03-15	Utrahtia-Alamnagar
144.	06-04-07	Utrahtia-Alamnagar
145.	03-10-04	Utrahtia-Alamnagar
146.	07-10-08	Utrahtia-Alamnagar
147.	09-12-10	Utrahtia-Alamnagar
148.	13/4-5	Utrahtia-Alamnagar
149.	1072/5-6	Utrahtia-Alamnagar
150.	1068/12-13	Utrahtia-Alamnagar
151.	178/15-16	Saharanpur-Delhi
152.	180/5-7	Saharanpur-Delhi
153.	182/1-3	Saharanpur-Ambala
154.	1175/6-7	Lucknow-Saharanpur
155.	1230/12-13	Lucknow-Saharanpur
156.	1236/8-9	Lucknow-Saharanpur
157.	1374/10-11	Lucknow-Saharanpur
158.	1396/1	Lucknow-Saharanpur
159.	1397/5-6	Lucknow-Saharanpur
160.	1400/8-9	Lucknow-Saharanpur
161.	1459/0-1	Lucknow-Saharanpur
162.	1491/0-1	Lucknow-Saharanpur
163.	55/5-6	Rosa-Sitapur
164.	1308/14-15	Lucknow-Saharapur
165.	33/4-5	Delhi-Ghaziabad
166.	01-09-02	Delhi-Ghaziabad
167.	14/18-20	Delhi-Ghaziabad
168.	18/9-11	Delhi-Ghaziabad
169.	1429/6-7	Delhi-Howrah
170.	22/2-3	Ghaziabad-Saharanpur
171.	25/8-9	Ghaziabad-Saharanpur
172.	39/11-12	Ghaziabad-Saharanpur
173.	14/33	Ghaziabad-Saharanpur
174.	117/12-13	Ghaziabad-Saharanpur
175.	122/0-1	Ghaziabad-Saharanpur
176.	127/15-16	Ghaziabad-Saharanpur
177.	66/7-8	Ghaziabad-Saharanpur

[English]

Bids for Oil Blocks under NELP

552. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to invite bids for the twenty oil blocks under its new exploration licensing policy;

(b) if so, the names of the oil blocks identified for exploration;

(c) the number of bids received by the Government and whether these bids have been processed; and

(d) if so, the names of the parties who have shown their interest in taking up the exploration work in these oil blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) To intensify efforts for exploration of oil and gas in the country, the Government has invited bids for twenty four exploration blocks, i.e. eleven in onland, one in shallow water offshore and twelve in deepwater area under

the fourth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-IV). The details of these blocks are given in the statement attached.

(c) and (d) The last date for submission of bids is the 30th September, 2003.

Statement

Details of Exploration Blocks on offer under New Exploration Licensing Policy - Fourth Round (NELP-IV)

Sl.No.	Basin	Block Name
1	2	3
Deep Water Blocks		
1.	Gujarat-Saurashtra	GS-DWN-2002/1
2.	Kerala-Konkan	KK-DWN-2002/1
3.		KK-DWN-2002/2
4.		KK-DWN-2002/3
5.	Krishna-Godavari	KG-DWN-2002/1
6.	Mahanadi-NEC	MN-DWN-2002/1
7.		MN-DWN-2002/2
8.		MN-DWN-2002/3
9.		NEC-DWN-2002/1
10.		NEC-DWN-2002/2
11.	Andaman-Nicobar	AN-DWN-2002/1
12.		AN-DWN-2002/2
Shallow Offshore Block		
13.	Palar	PR-OSN-2002/1
Onland Blocks		
14.	Assam-Arakan	AA-ONN-2002/1
15.		AA-ONN-2002/2
16.		AA-ONN-2002/3
17.		AA-ONN-2002/4
18.	Ganga	GV-ONN-2002/1
19.	Rajasthan	RJ-ONN-2002/1
20.	Cambay	CB-ONN-2002/1
21.		CB-ONN-2002/2
22.		CB-ONN-2002/3
23.	Cauvery	CY-ONN-2002/1
24.		CY-ONN-2002/2

Scam in Procurement of Sensitive Equipments

553. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam in the procurement of sensitive equipment running into crores of rupees have been detected in the Western Naval Command;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the established procurement procedures have been flouted by the some officers to favour certain firms;

(d) if so, the total money involved in the scam;

(e) whether the equipments procured have been found to be of genuine quality and do not endanger the Navy's strike capabilities;

(f) if not, whether these equipments have been removed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Some irregularities have been detected mainly concerned with certain individuals in the Procurement and Inspection Agencies seeking gratification and favours from suppliers.

(b) The manner is under detailed investigation being conducted by a Departmental inquiry.

(c) Deviations in procedures, if any, are also being investigated by the Departmental Inquiry.

(d) The amount involved has not been computed as the case is still under investigation and evidence being collected.

(e) There has been no report of any substandard equipment having been procured and therefore no adverse impact on the Navy's strike capability has come to notice.

(f) Not applicable.

(g) Not applicable.

Level Crossings between Kuttipuram and Ferook

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

(a) the details of manned and unmanned level crossings between Kuttipuram and Ferook under Palakkad Division of Southern Railway, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to man the unmanned level crossings and provide road overbridges at all these level crossings; and

(c) if so, details of the programmes in this respect?

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

(b) All the ten level crossings in between Kuttipuram-Ferook Stations are manned level crossings. Four of the above level crossings are sanctioned for construction of Road over Bridges.

Statement

(a) List of level crossings in between Kuttipuram and Ferook Stations.

S. No.	Level Crossing No.	Location Km.	Between Station	Manned/ Unmanned	Train Vehicle Unit
1	169	611/10-11	Kuttipuram-Tirunnavaya	Manned	83031
2	170	615/3-4	Tirunnavaya	Manned	103716
3	170A	618/3-4	Tirunnavaya	Manned	37224
4	171	626/10-11	Tirur- Tanur	Manned	170820
5	172	629/11-12	Tirur-Tanur	Manned	138754
6	172A	631/15-632/1	Tanur	Manned	74592
7	172B	635/10-11	Tanur-Parranangadi	Manned	182784
8	173	637/10-11	Tanur-Parranangadi	Manned	95880
9	174A	639/14-15	Parranangadi	Manned	172488
10	174B	642/8-9	Parranangadi	Manned	128317
11	174C	647/7-8	Parranangadi	Manned	130237
12	174D	650/7-8	Kadalundi-Ferook	Manned	54680
13	174E	651/14-15	Kadalundi-Ferook	Manned	71760

(c) Details of the programmes for construction of Road Over Bridges on four level crossings.

S.No.	Level Crossing No.	Location Km.	Between Station	Year of Sanction	Probable Target of Completion
1	170	615/3-4	Tirunnavaya	2002-03	31.3.2005
2	171	626/10-11	Tirur-Tanur	2000-01	31.3.2004
3	172	629/11-12	Tirur-Tanur	2001-02	31.3.2005
4	174A	639/14-15	Parranangadi	2000-01	3.1.3.2005

[Translation]

SCs, STs, and OBCs Employees

555. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the group-wise number of personnel working in group 'A' 'B' 'C' and 'D' in different departments and undertakings under Ministry of Defence;

(b) the number of personnel belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes separately, out of total number of personnel group-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the backlog, if any?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as the same is collected.

[English]

Compensation to Victims of Kadalundi Train Accident in Kerala

556. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have compensated the victims of Kadalundi train accident in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the full compensation is likely to be provided to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Compensation amounting to Rs. 178.48 lakhs has been paid in 38 cases of death and 58 cases of injury in this accident. In eight cases, payment is under process and 178 cases are awaiting disposal in Railway Claims Tribunal.

(c) (i) Inability of litigants to produce documents and witnesses on time;

(ii) Vacancies of Members in the Benches of Railway Claims Tribunal. Railway Claims Tribunal is a judicial body and follows procedure for hearing of settlement of claims cases as provided for in the Railway Claims Tribunal Act. No time frame, therefore, can be prescribed for finalisation of pending claims in Railway Claims Tribunal.

Wind Power Potential

557. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the exploitable wind power potential in the country;

(b) the details of exploitation of wind energy showing the percentage exploited;

(c) the capacity targeted to be installed during the Tenth Plan; and

(d) the details of exploited/exploitable wind energy sources in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The gross wind power potential in the country has been estimated at about 45,000 MW. The technical potential, which can be tapped at present is, however, about 13,000 MW.

(b) A total wind power capacity of 1870 MW has so far been installed in the country which is 14.4% of the present exploitable potential;

(c) A wind power capacity addition of 1500 MW is envisaged during the Tenth Plan period.

(d) The exploitable wind power potential in Tamil Nadu is about 1900 MW. A wind power capacity of 990 MW has been installed in the State so far.

Oil and Gas Reserves in Assam

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

(a) whether the Oil India Limited has succeeded significantly from its consistent efforts to explore new oil reserves during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of the Oil/Gas reserves identified in Assam during 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and the current year so far, indicating the estimate of each Oil and Gas reserves explored; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken for commercial exploitation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) In the year 2001-02 and 2002-03, Oil India Ltd. (OIL) has made 7 and 5 oil and gas discoveries with initial reserves (Oil + Oil Equivalent Gas) of 5.9876 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) and 10.22 MMT respectively. However, no discovery has been made in the current year, till today.

(c) OIL has already started production of oil and gas from six discoveries made since 2001-02. Further, exploitation of newly discovered reserves by way of further seismic survey, development drilling, setting up of production facilities is a continuing effort keeping in view the techno-economic parameters, including markets.

[Translation]

Introduction of Trains

559. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had announced in previous rail budget speech to introduce a new train from Rewa to Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in introduction of said train; and

(c) the time by which the said new train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It has been proposed to introduce anew train between Rewa and Delhi in the Rail Budget 2003-04. The train will be introduced during the year 2003-04.

[English]

Construction of Power Highway

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a 400 KV Trivandrum Edamon Cochin Trichur Area code power highway for the distribution of 250 MW Koodamkulam share and 2300 MW of Kayamkulam Power in addition to power from another planned projects to meet the power demand by 2007-08;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) As part of evacuation system for Koodamkulam Power Project (2x1000 MW), POWERGRID has planned to construct Koodamkulam-Edanion-Cochin 400 kV D/C line, Cochin-Trichur 400 kV D/C line and Trichur-Areacode (Kozhikode) 400 kV D/C line. These lines would cater to the share of Kerala State from Koodamkulam Power Station and also facilitate evacuation of power from Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Project Stage-II (3x650 MW) contemplated for being implemented during 11th Plan.

(b) and (c) Detailed system studies have been carried out by POWERGRID for finalization of transmission system associated with Koodamkulam Power Project in consultation with the other beneficiaries of the Koodamkulam and Kayamkulam projects.

Eunuchs in Reserved Compartments

561. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that eunuchs are freely entering in the reserved compartments and harassing the passengers by demanding money in almost all express/mail trains thus threatening the security of the passengers; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Some instances of eunuchs entering the reserved compartments have come to notice. Regular drives are conducted by ticket checking staff against the menace of unauthorized persons, including eunuchs, in trains in association with Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police so that passengers are not inconvenienced.

[Translation]

Special Uniform and Shoes for Jawans

562. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence scientists have prepared any special uniform or shoes to protect jawans deployed on borders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it would protect jawans from the impacts of exploding land mines; and

(d) the time by which Government plan to provide it to all the jawans deployed on the border?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Boot Anti-mine and the Body Protection Suit have been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The Body Protection Suit provides protection against splinters and fragments of blasts of Anti-Personnel (AP) mines. Two versions of Anti-mine boots are required for protection during breaching of mine field and assault operations respectively. The first version has undergone successful trials.

(d) The Body Protection Suit has been introduced into Service. The supply of these suits against orders of about 1550 suits from the Western and Northern Commands have been completed. 1070 boots for mine breaching operations have already been supplied to the Army.

[English]

Production Cost of ERFB (BB) and ERFB (BT) Ammunition

563. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the actual cost of production of indigenously manufactured ERFB (BB) and ERFB (BT) ammunition of South African technology in the ordnance factories and how it compares with the cost of production of HEER and HE77B ammunition of Bofors design;

(b) the actual production of ERFB (BB) in the ordnance factories in the last three years;

(c) the number of base bleed units of South African technology have so far been imported and the cost thereof;

(d) whether the ERFB (BB) ammunition for which bulk production clearance has been accorded will continue to be produced with imported Base Bleed unit of South African technology; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be produced?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) 155 mm HEER ammunition was last produced in 1998-1999 and supplied to army at a unit cost of Rs. 32,961/-. Similarly, HE77B ammunition was last produced in 2000-2001 and supplied to army at a unit cost of Rs. 17,078/-. The actual unit cost of ERFB (BT) was Rs. 25,211/- during 2001- 2002, which was the first year of its supply. The actual costs of production during 2002-2003 are yet to be compiled. The actual unit cost of ERFB (BT) ammunition during 2002-2003 is expected to be lower. The tentative unit cost of ERFB (BB) ammunition during 2002-2003, which is the first year of its supply, is Rs. 41,962/-.

(b) The production of ERFB(BB) ammunition was 24,000 rounds during 2002-2003, which is the first year of its production.

(c) A supply order was placed in June 2002 for import of 42,000 Base Bleed Units at a unit cost of USD 299. Out of these, 31,000 Base Bleed Units have been received and the balance are in transit.

(d) Since the Bulk Production Clearance accorded is for production with imported Base Bleed Units, for the time being the production will be continued with imported Base Bleed Units.

(e) The indigenous Base Bleed unit is under development. Based on the results of the user trials, necessary improvements are being effected and fresh trial samples of indigenous Base Bleed unit will be offered for user trials during 2003-2004. Imports will not be necessary after the production of indigenous Base Bleed unit is established.

Violation of Navratna Board Guidelines

564. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Navratna Board guidelines have been violated in case of appointments of CMD of Mumbai's Mahanagar Gas Limited;

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

(c) the reasons for violation of such guidelines;

(d) the details of the guidelines issued by the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) The matter is under consideration.

Compensation to Land Owners

565. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3375 on March 13, 2002 regarding Acquisition of Land in Gurgaon and state:

(a) the reasons for going in appeal particularly when the award for payment of compensation of the land acquired by the Ministry of Defence in Sector 4 & 6 in Gurgaon was given by Lok Adalat appointed by the High Court on October 17, 2001;

(b) whether all the land owners whose land was acquired have been informed by way of getting the summons issued by the High Court;

(c) whether Estate Officer, Delhi circle, Delhi cantonment can go in appeal against an award given by Lok Adalat; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Union of India has filed appeal against the Lok Adalat order as the Government Counsel was not authorised to give any commitment before the Lok Adalat.

(b) The notices have been issued to the landowners for hearing on 8.8.2003.

(c) The Estates Officer, Delhi Cantonment has gone in appeal against the award given by the Lok Adalat on behalf of the Union Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Workshop on Safety of Trains

566. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has organised two days workshop to improve safety of trains;

(b) if so, the details of the matter discussed therein and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to break the series of accidents which hurt the image of the 150 years old Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) In the wake of recent accidents, a workshop on 'Safety on Indian Railways' was held on 12th and 13th July, 2003 at New Delhi. It was attended by a cross-section of Railway staff at grass root level viz. Pointsmen, Gangmen, Drivers, Guards, Station Masters, Permanent Way Inspectors and other maintenance staff. Representatives of the organised unions of labour as well as federations of officers participated in the proceedings. Based on the deliberations in the workshop, a number of decisions have been taken on many issues viz. improvement in the condition of running rooms and crew lobbies, availability of maintenance corridors on various sections, adoption of the concept of life cycle cost, filling up of vacancies in safety categories on urgency basis, creation of posts for maintenance of rakes on introduction of new trains, upgradation of training facilities at all training centres etc. Various steps taken by Indian Railways as well as the continuous efforts being made, to reduce the accidents and further improve safety, have been brought out in detail in the 'White Paper on Safety' presented to the Parliament on 7.4.2003.

Release of Amount to KMC

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

(a) whether the Metro Rail Authority of Kolkata has released any amount to KMC from the date of inception of Metro Project and Kolkata in the heads like road restoration and drainage and sewerage system restoration etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

Statement

(fig.in Rs.)

S. No.	Head	Period of Payment	Amount paid	Remarks
1.	Road restoration	March 1985 to December 1996	22,04,78,687/-	Construction & repairing of roads at various locations along Metro Railway alignment.
2.	Water Supply pipeline	Oct.' 83 to Aug. 90	1,60,52,847/-	Provision/repairing of water supply lines at various locations.
3.	Drainage & Sewerage restoration system	June '85 to Feb '96	9,08,57,131/-	Along the alignment for construction and diversion of drainage.
4.	Parks & garden restoration	July '77 to 1997	2,39,11,249/-	Paid as leases charges for occupation of parks and gardens for storage of construction materials.
5.	Street Lightning	Dec. '80 to Jan. '87	3,84,379/-	Connected with shifting of electric poles.
	Total		35,16,84,293/-	

Vulgarity in Music Channels

568. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

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

(a) whether there has been an increase in vulgar/obscene contents in different programmes being shown in various music and other channels;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The programmes of all satellite channels, when transmitted/retransmitted through the cable network in the country are required to adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television, Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code inter-alia prohibits carriage of programmes in cable service, which offend good taste or decency; contain anything vulgar/obscene and are not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

The Central Government has constituted an inter-ministerial committee under Section 20 of the aforesaid Act to render advice on action to be taken in case of a specific complaint or otherwise in relation to violation of Programme Code. On the recommendations of the Committee, appropriate action is taken against TV channels for violation of provisions of the Code. This is a continuing process.

Transport Racket in BHEL, Bhopal

569. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a transport racket involving irregularities and kickbacks worth crores of rupees in the Bharat Heavy electricals Limited in Bhopal has been busted recently;

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

(c) the departmental action taken by the Government against officials of BHEL involved in this fraud and the details of seizure made therefrom; and

(d) the corrective measures taken to check such frauds?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) and (b) On 2nd July 2003, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted a surprise check at BHEL, Bhopal's Traffic Department. CBI collected following documents relating to transportation of goods:-

- 8 Nos. of running rate contract files of traffic division.
- Approx. 40,000 Nos. freight bills of transporters for last two years.
- Distance directory, Truck allocation and movement progress report.

Subsequently, on 3rd and 4th July, 2003, the CBI conducted surprise check at Barnala Transporter's Godown and Heavy Cargo Mover Godown outside the BHEL premises in Bhopal. Some consignments of BHEL, Bhopal were found in the Godowns of transporters.

(c) and (d) Appropriate action will be taken by Government/BHEL. However, based on the available initial inputs, action has been initiated by BHEL to strengthen their internal systems.

Oil Refinery at Paradeep

570. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK:

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

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

(a) whether the Government is going ahead with the construction of Paradeep Oil Refinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Orissa has agreed for tax concession which had delayed the project;

(d) if so, the present cost and capacity of the refinery; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to start commercial production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) IOCL is committed to implement the Paradip refinery project in a phased manner depending upon growth in product demand.

(c) The original tax incentives, approved by the Government of Orissa in 1998-99, have not been restored.

(d) The estimated cost of the 9 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) refinery is Rs. 12,400 crore at October, 2001 prices.

(e) The time schedule for implementing the project is under review by IOCL.

Air Show of Advance Light Helicopters

571. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two indigenously built advance light helicopters were sent to Paris for taking part in air show in June, 2003;

(b) if so, whether India is in a position to sell this type of helicopters to other countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Marketing efforts are being made in overseas markets.

Laying of New Rail Line between Naginimora and Dimapur

572. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Naginimora Railway Station, which was constructed in 1920 was shut down in 1980;

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

(c) whether the Government are aware that this Railway Station has been the main source of transportation of industrial raw-material, coal, timber, boulders and agricultural products to different parts of the country;

(d) if so, whether there is a plan to connect this line with Dimapur by laying a rail-line via Chumukedima and Tuli;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the measures being taken by the Railway to improve the transportation in this foot-hill region of Nagaland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Naginimora Railway Station was closed with effect from 22.06.1990 after Simaluguri Jn - Naginimora branch line was damaged by floods in 1989 resulting into suspension of train services on this section.

(c) During 1989, average loading of timber at Naginimora was only about 3300 quintals per month. While there was piecemeal traffic of timber and boulders, volume of outward traffic from Naginimora was negligible.

(d) to (f) Presently, there is no plan to connect Naginimora with Dimapur by laying a railway line via Chumukedima and Tuli. The traffic for Naginimora can be handled at nearby Simaluguri Jn. Railway Station.

(g) The Dimapur-Amguri-Simaluguri-Namrup Broad Gauge main line, running parallel to the foot-hills of Nagaland, serves the transportation needs of this region.

Extension of Present Siding of KRIBHCO

573. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to extend the present siding of KRIBHCO which connects Mumbai-Delhi link up to Hazira Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Railways is pursuing with KRIBHCO to allow co-use of KRIBHCO's private siding at Hazira by other industrial users.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Naptha Cracker Project of IOCL

574. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited has any proposal to set up Naphtha Cracker Project to produce 7 to 8 lakh tonnes of ethylen per annum;

(b) if so, whether the location of the project has been identified;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the estimated cost of the project and time schedule for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited has envisaged setting up a Naphtha Cracker Project utilizing captive Naphtha from its refineries for production of ethylene and propylene and conversion of the same to downstream polymers. The techno-economic study of the project is currently in progress, pursuant to which the location and estimated cost of the project would be finalized.

Laying of Optical Fibre Cable

575. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have commissioned Optical Fibre Cable Network between Bangalore-Chennai and Bangalore-Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to commission this Cable Network facility between Bangalore-Mangalore via Hassan and between Bangalore and Hubli Dharwar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel), a public sector undertaking of the Ministry of Railways has commissioned, in June 2003, Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) network connecting Bangalore - Secunderabad via Dharmavaram - Guntakal and Bangalore - Chennai via Secunderabad - Vijayawada and also via Guntakal - Renigunta. This covers about 2000 Route kms. and the Network commissioned has a capacity to carry 7560 voice channels.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. RailTel has also planned to commission OFC network on Bangalore - Mangalore section via Mysore & Hassan and on Bangalore - Hubli section via Gooty & Guntakal. The OFC network on Bangalore - Guntakal section has already been commissioned. The laying of OFC has been completed on Bangalore - Mysore and is in progress on Mysore - Mangalore and Guntakal - Hubli - Dharwad section.

[Translation]

Derogatory Language Against Balmiki in Films/Serials

576. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is strong resentment among the people of the Balmiki and various other communities following the use of derogatory language in various films, serials and books against these communities;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) It has been informed by Publications Division and Prasar Bharati that no such derogatory language has been used against any community in books/publications and programmes of the two organisations. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting does not have any information about serials shown on Private Channels or books published by private publishing houses.

Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has also informed that in an old case regarding the film Sant Valmiki certified as 'U' by the Board in 1991, the District Court, Sangrur in a petition filed by the Bharatiya Valmiki Dharma Samaj had ruled that the certificate issued by the CBFC is not in accordance with Section 5B of the Cinematograph Act, 1952. An appeal has been filed in the High Court. However, this is an isolated case and no generalizations can be made on this basis.

(c) Under the guidelines for film certification of 6th December, 1991 issued under Section 5B of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 it has inter alia been provided that:

- Visuals or words which promote communal, obscurantist, anti-scientific and anti-national attitude are not presented;

- Visuals or words contemptuous of racial, religious or other groups are not presented.

NCES in Bihar

577. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of work done in the field of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in Bihar during each of the last three years and the progress made in this regard;

(b) whether the Union Government are satisfied with this progress; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The Ministry is implementing various programmes based on non-conventional energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass and small hydro throughout the country, including Bihar. The achievements made under the major non-conventional energy programmes during the last three years, i.e., 2000-01 to 2002-03, in Bihar are given in statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) The matter is being pursued with the State Government to give purchase price preference to renewable power on the lines of the guidelines provided by this Ministry, which is expected to give a major boost to investment in this Sector in the State.

Statement

Achievements made under various non-conventional energy programmes during the last three years, i.e., 2001-02 to 2002-03 in Bihar.

S.No.	Programme	Achievement		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1.	Biogas Plant (No.)	584	519	559
2.	Improved Chulha (No.)	1654	483	6523
3.	Solar Photovoltaic Systems			
	Street Lighting System (No.)	0	32	0
	Home Lighting System (No.)	100	225	0
	Solar Lantern (Nos.)	200	2500	0
4.	Solar photovoltaic Pump (No.)	09	0	01
5.	Aditya Solar Shop (No.)	0	0	04
6.	Integrated Rural Energy Programme (No. of Block)	*48	*48	*48

* Sanctioned till 1997-98.

[English]

Generation of Power to meet increasing demand

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that an agreement was signed on June 30, 1984 with Himachal Pradesh Government for equity participation of Rajasthan to the extent of 75% with sharing of benefits to the extent of 63% (after allowing 12% free power to HP) in Kol Dam Project;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Rajasthan had also paid Rs.1.60 crores to HPSEB during 1982-94 on ad hoc basis towards its contribution in this project;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Rajasthan requesting maximum share of electricity generated from this project be given to Rajasthan keeping in view the provision kept in PPA; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government's approval is likely to be accorded?

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

(c) and (d) In the absence of a firm commitment from the Government of Rajasthan regarding the fund allocations for the Koldam Hydro Electric Power Project (HEPP) during 7th and 8th Plans the Government of Himachal Pradesh decided to entrust the project to NTPC for execution in the Central Sector. Rajasthan has a share in the allocation of power from the project in accordance with the prevailing guidelines.

Setting up of Power Grid Station in Saran District

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

(a) whether the foundation stone was laid down in June, 2003 for setting up of Power Grid Station in Saran District in Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in setting up of Power Grid Station; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Government of Bihar propose to set up a new 132/33 KV substation at Sheetalpur in Saran District of Bihar with a transformation capacity of 2x20 MVA as part of a comprehensive scheme for strengthening the sub-transmission system in the State of Bihar. The scheme is to be executed by POWERGRID on behalf of BSEB through a special grant by Planning Commission. The execution of the scheme shall commence after the signing of an agreement between Ministry of Power, Government of Bihar, Bihar State Electricity Board and POWERGRID and the same is being finalized expeditiously. The works are expected to be completed progressively in a period of two years from the date of receipt of 1st tranche of grant.

Development of Weapon System

580. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether DRDO's delay in developing the indigenous weapon system have resulted in imports of defence items;

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially after Kargil war; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to modernise the DRDO?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Some programmes and projects of DRDO have been delayed due to technical complexities and sanctions imposed. There have been some delays in the development of short range surface-to-air missile Trishul due to technological problem. The project was delinked from the user Services. In view of this, Services have been allowed to meet their urgent requirements through import.

(c) DRDO is a dynamic organisation engaged in development of state-of-the-art weapon systems for the Armed Forces to achieve technological self-reliance. We have created expertise and infrastructure facilities in almost all disciplines of military technology. We are well organized to take care of Services' needs.

Solar Power Supply to Villages

581. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide solar power supply immediately in each village of the country;

(b) if so, the number of unelectrified villages in Maharashtra propose to be provided solar power supply during the current financial year;

(c) the progress made so far in this regard; and

(d) the amount earmarked for the purpose to Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (d) There are over 80,000 unelectrified villages in the country. Out of these about 18,000 villages are estimated to be located in the remote and difficult areas of the country, which can not be electrified through extension of the conventional grid-power. The Ministry has taken up a programme for electrification of these remote villages through renewable energy sources by the year 2012. Solar energy, biomass and small hydro power are the main non-conventional energy sources, which are likely to be used in the electrification of such villages. A target for electrifying 5,000 such villages has been fixed for the Tenth Plan period.

The renewable energy programmes in Maharashtra are being implemented by the Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA). During 2001-02, MEDA submitted a list of 307 unelectrified villages in the state. The Ministry has received a proposal from MEDA for the electrification of Sethbunder, Rajbunder and Morabunder hamlets of the Gharapuri Village on Elephanta Island in Maharashtra through the installation of a solar-wind hybrid system. The load estimates and other details are being firmed up by MEDA. No amount has been sanctioned yet for this project.

Production of Heavy Industries Under Liberalization Policy

582. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on setting up of heavy industries in different parts of the country during the last three years under liberalization policy, State-wise and industry-wise;

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

(c) the details of such industries in which the production work is going on; and

(d) the dates by which these industries started their production?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) to (d) Consequent upon liberalization and delicensing of non-strategic sectors, promoters take their own decision on cost and location for setting up industrial units. However, so far as public sector units under the Department of Heavy Industry are concerned, no new unit has been set up in the country during the last three years.

Distribution of Electricity by NTPC

583. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has recently formed a company for retail distribution of electricity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the States identified/selected, where the proposed company would be setting up distribution network?

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

(b) and (c) In order to facilitate National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) entering into power distribution, a wholly owned subsidiary company called, NTPC Electric Supply Company Ltd. (NESCL) has been incorporated in August, 2002 to take up power distribution activities.

In the first instance, NESCL is in discussions with Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. and Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding the feasibility of taking over/acquiring majority stake in Kanpur Electricity Supply Company Ltd.

Funds Given by National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation

584. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the objective and functions of the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) the funds sanctioned/distributed by the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation to each state including J&K during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the details of the beneficiaries thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) Objective of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) is to promote economic development of weaker sections among minorities comprising of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis. The main function of NMDFC is to provide loans to persons belonging to minorities living below double the poverty line for undertaking income generating activities. It provides loans to individuals through its State Channelising Agencies (SCAs). Besides, it provides micro-credit to the poorest of poor among the minorities, organized in to Self Help Groups through established non-governmental organizations. It has also started a new scheme for Educational Loan through its SCAs.

(b) and (c) The requisite information is given in the statement.

Statement

National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation

Allocation and Disbursement for the last three years and the current year

(As on 15-07-03)

Sl. No.	State	2000-01			2001-02			2002-03			2003-04			Total	
		Alloca-tion	Amt. Disb.	Benf.	Alloca-tion	Amt. Disb.	Benf.	Alloca-tion	Amt. Disb.	Benf.	Alloca-tion	Amt. Disb.	Benf.	Amt.	Benf.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	589	100.00	600	300	150	1500	500	100.00	546	500	190.00	620	540.00	3286.00
2.	Assam	143	80.47	200	100	100	201	100	0.00	0	00	150.00	278	330.47	679.00
3.	Bihar	326	326.00	640	326	326	1204	563	196.50	357	500	0.00	0	848.60	2201.00
4	Chandigarh	25.22	7.51	11	25	10	20	36.48	0.00	0	50	0.00	0	17.51	31.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	1526	36	100	0.00	0	15.26	36.00
6.	Delhi	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	300	100.00	200	200	0.00	0	100.00	200.00
7.	Gujarat	726	400.00	1026	726	2025	4089	926	700.00	1618	900	300.00	653	3425.00	7386.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	87	0.00	0	83	25	38	50	33.00	50	50	5.00	8	63.00	96.00
9.	Haryana	281	134.78	323	300	300.00	704	212	156.75	313	175	0.00	0	591.53	1340.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	498.14	177.11	274	250	2.50	376	793.66	117.60	186	450	48.77	70	593.48	906.00
11.	Jharkhand	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	100	0.00	0		
12.	Kerala	1081	1209.56	3220	1400	1225.00	2962	1425	1225.00	3304	1325	163.81	249	3823.37	9735.00
13.	Karnataka	1013.37	600.00	990	600	300.00	840	600	400.00	692	600	0.00	0	1300.00	2522.00
14.	Maharashtra	494	0.00	0	2000	600	437	1000	200.00	276	800	0.00	0	800.00	713.00
15.	Manipur	92	0.00	0	50	0	0	50	0.00	0	50	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
16.	Madhya Pradesh	275	111.00	369	250	20	50	220	50.00	112	250	0.00	0	181.00	531.00
17.	Mizoram	700	942.43	6065	728	750.00	1361	582	582.00	899	475	50.00	99	2324.43	8424.00
18.	Nagaland	300	350.00	480	300	300.00	406	375	168.75	268	350	60.00	112	878.75	1266.00
19.	Orissa	300	0.00	0	300	150	300	188	50.00	114	150	0.00	0	200.00	414.00
20.	Pondicherry	46.08	20.00	27	25	0	0	25	21.75	50	25	0.00	0	41.75	77.00
21.	Punjab	850	455.00	722	600	250.00	508	260	50.00	102	250	0.00	0	755.00	1332.00
22.	Rajasthan	102	30.00	56	200	25	53	200	30.00	50	150	0.00	0	85.00	159.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	181	0.00	0	100	0	0	300	0.00	0	200	50.00	101	50.00	101.00
24.	Tripura	36	0.00	0	50	0	0	50	50.00	75	50	0.00	0	50.00	75.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1500	1500.00	1905	1500	750	1500	1450	1282.00	2564	1350	0.00	0	3532.00	5969.00
26.	Uttaranchal	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	25.00	75	100	0.00	0	25.00	75.00
27.	West Bengal	1200	800.00	3330	1500	1650.00	4940	2000	1550	4461	1600	400.00	1081	4400.00	13812.00
	Total	10845.81	7243.86	20238	11713	9206	21489	12206.14	7103.71	163 48	10850	1417.58	3271	24971.15	61346

Internet Cafes in Railway Stations

585. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has decided to open 200 Internet Cafes in major Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the RailTel had commissioned more than 20,564 km of OFC;

(d) whether the RailTel would offer additional bandwidth available on its OFC network for commercial exploitations as well as providing connectivity to areas near the Railway Stations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel), a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Railways, has presently set up an Internet cafe at New Delhi Station on trial basis. Based on the experience gained, further action would be taken in the matter.

(c) Railways and RailTel together have laid 20,876 route KMs of Optic Fibre Cable (OFC) as on June 30,2003. Out of this 13,503 route Kms of OFC has been commissioned.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. RailTel is already in the business of offering the spare bandwidth available in its OFC network and digital microwave links to Telecom Service Providers.

RailTel is also in a position to offer the spare bandwidth available at stations to Basic Service Providers, Cellular Service Providers and Internet Service Providers which may enable them to provide various types of telecom services in areas near the Railway stations.

[Translation]

Facilities for Sinhasth Mahakumbh

586. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway has formulated any scheme to provide facilities tor the Sinhasth Mahakumbh scheduled to be held in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh in 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, Railway has formulated a scheme of elaborate arrangements to be made during Sinhasth, 2004 which includes running of special trains, augmentation of existing services, provision of passenger amenities, provision of temporary stoppages during Mela period, establishment of temporary flag stations, opening of additional booking counters and PRS system, first aid booths etc. The scheme has been formulated in consultation with the Mela authorities and public representatives. This is an on-going process untill the completion of Sinhasth Mahakumbh during 2004.

[English]

Setting up of Coach Factory in Jagadhari

587. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Railway coach factory in Jagadhri in Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Capacity Addition during First Year of Tenth Plan

588. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 2958 MW of additional capacity has been generated in first year of Tenth Five Year Plan against the target of 41,000 MW;

(b) if so, the reasons for the dismal performance in the capacity addition;

(c) the break-up of additional capacity added in the first year of the Tenth Five Year Plan Sector-wise/State-wise; and

(d) the road map to realize the Tenth Five Year Plan target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Against a capacity addition target of 4087 MW set for 2002-03, a capacity of 2858 MW has been added during the first year of the 10th Plan. Shortfall in achieving the set target has been mainly due to non-commissioning of Dabhol CCPP Phase-II due to dispute between Maharashtra State Electricity Board and Dabhol Power Company.

(c) The Sector-wise and State-wise break up of capacity added in first year of Tenth Plan are given below:

State	Central Sector	State Sector	Private Sector	Total
Andhra Pradesh	500	300	78	878
Orissa	500	-	-	500
Tamil Nadu	210	94	250	554
Delhi	-	225.8	-	225.8
Madhya Pradesh	-	35	-	35
Gujarat	-	100	-	100
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	200	200
Rajasthan	-	75.3	-	75.3
Karnataka	-	210	-	210
Manipur	-	18	-	18
Tripura	-	42	-	42
Andaman & Nicobar Island	-	-	20	20
Total	1210	1100.1	548	2858.1

(d) Out of the 10th Plan capacity addition target of 41110 MW, projects totalling 3276 MW have already been commissioned and projects totalling 21891 MW are under execution. In order to ensure that the targeted capacity during 10th Plan is achieved, the monitoring mechanism has been strengthened. The Central Electricity Authority has a nodal officer for each project, both at the conception stage as well as during execution. In addition, regular review meetings are being organized in the Ministry of Power. The Ministry is also facilitating States in obtaining earlier clearances, resolving major bottlenecks and providing financial assistance through Power Finance Corporation (PFC)/Rural Electrification Corporation (REC). The year-wise programme of capacity addition is given below:

Sl. No.	Year	Thermal (MW)	Hydro (MW)	Nuclear (MW)	Total (MW)
1.	2002-03	2223 (Actual)	635 (Actual)	-	2858
2.	2003-04	1437	3765	-	5202
3.	2004-05	4926	2751	-	7677
4.	2005-06	5764	1914	540	8218
5.	2006-07	11067	5328	760	17155
	Total	25417	14393	1300	41110

Bungling of Scholarships

589. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) the number of schools which are providing scholarships to Dalit students;

(b) whether cases of bungling of scholarships meant for the Dalit students by schools have come to light;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government against the concerned schools State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to prepare foolproof scheme for proper use of scholarships to be given to the students in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) Most of the school scholarships are provided by the State Governments who collect data pertaining to the number of students covered.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) This Ministry has issued instructions to all

the States to introduce computerization of the process of sanction at the district and block level and to arrange random checks through the State Vigilance Departments in addition to the other agencies to verify that all the scholarships sanctioned are actually and fully paid to eligible students.

[Translation]

Trishul Missile Programme

590. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE:

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to shelve 'Trishul anti-missile', missile programme;

(b) the number of tests of 'Trishul anti-missile', missile conducted so far and expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the reasons for downgrading the Trishul missile project; and

(d) the reasons for not overcome the technological problems of 'Trishul anti-missile' missile?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) So far 67 flight tests have been undertaken for Army, Air Force and Naval version including sea-skimming flights. The development cost sanctioned for this project is Rs. 260.05 crore and expenditure till 31st March 2003 is Rs. 195.14 crore.

(c) Due to delay in realisation of state-of-art three beam guidance system, it was decided that the project be progressed as Technology Demonstrator, delinking from user Services' operational requirements.

(d) The technological problems have now been overcome and four successful flight tests have been conducted during 22-25th June 2003.

[English]

Restructuring of Public Sector Enterprises

591. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment by the Government is done regarding the losses suffered by the PSE's;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in restructuring of public sector enterprises which are making losses;

(c) whether the Government has framed a labour policy for labourers working in these loss making PSE's in order to avoid unemployment due to closure of the units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) and (b) The assessment of the performance of the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) including their losses is done and published in the Public Enterprises Survey, which is laid in Parliament during the Budget Session every year. Details of losses incurred by the CPSEs during 2001-02, till which period the information is available, are given in Statement 7B of the Public Enterprises Survey 2001-02 which was laid in the Lok Sabha on 3.3.2003 and is a published document.

Enterprise specific steps are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments in consultation with the Management of the PSU and other stakeholders for financial and business restructuring of the enterprises to improve their performance. The restructuring measures include waiver of interest and loan, conversion of loan into equity, infusion of fresh funds, rationalization of manpower, formation of joint ventures, closure of unviable units etc.

(c) and (d) Government have introduced a comprehensive VRS policy vide DPE's O.M. No. 2(32)/97-DPE(WC)GL-XXII dated 5.5.2000 for the benefit of workers in profit making as well as loss making/sick PSUs. The VRS compensation has been further increased by 100 per cent / 50 per cent for the workers who are at 1987/1992 pay scales respectively. Government have also introduced a scheme of counselling, retraining and redeployment for the benefit of rationalized employees.

Power Generation Capacity of NTPC

592. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present power generation capacity of NTPC:

(b) whether NTPC planning to triple its power generation capacity;

(c) if so, the specific plan formulated by NTPC in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The present power generating capacity of NTPC is 21,249 MW (including 314 MW owned by NTPC and SAIL Joint Venture Companies).

(b) to (d) NTPC envisages to become a 40,000 MW plus Company by the year 2012 by doubling its capacity by adding a power generation capacity of about 20,000 MW during 10th and 11th Plans.

Sick Oil Wells

593. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil wells becoming sick in the country;

(b) whether the oil is not extracted from a large number of wells;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make these oil wells functioning; and

(e) the loss suffered by the Government as a result of non-functioning of oil wells?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) In the course of the production cycle of oil wells, some wells may become sick due to subsurface changes, mechanical reasons etc., and work over operations and stimulation jobs are carried out for problem-specific remedial measures and revival of the wells for further production. While such 'non producing' wells are, thus, put back to production, some other wells turn uneconomic and are abandoned, which is a continuous and dynamic process.

Information regarding the number of oil wells awaiting work over operation/stimulation jobs in the country is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) Work over and/or stimulation jobs are carried out optimally by the oil producing companies to revive the oil wells falling sick. There is no tangible loss to Government on account of producing wells turning 'non producing', as this is a normal phenomenon in oil industry.

Doordarshan in Border Areas

594. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

SHRI R.S. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to widen the reach of the Doordarshan in the border areas of the country to counter the propaganda of the Pakistan Television;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have taken a decision to convert low power transmitters into high power transmitters in the border districts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Doordarshan has been assigning priority to expansion of TV coverage in border areas in its plans formulated from time to time.

A special package for expansion of DD coverage in J&K was approved by the Government in 1999 and as part of this Plan, 90 transmitter projects have been commissioned in J&K and Punjab.

Out of 1389 TV transmitters functioning in the country, 281 transmitters are in border districts. Presently, 33 transmitter projects are under implementation, for further expansion of TV coverage in border areas.

(c) and (d) The above mentioned 33 transmitter projects under implementation, include upgradation of 8 LPTs/VLPTs to HPTs.

White Paper on Railway Safety

595. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is propose to publish a white paper on railway safety in view of increasing railway accidents; and

(b) if so the details thereof and the time by which the same is likely to be published?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The "White Paper on Safety on Indian Railways" has already been presented in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 7.4.2003.

Amount Incurred on Advertisements

596. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3303 on March 13, 2003 regarding "Amount incurred on Advertisements" and state:

(a) whether the relevant information has been collected; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Terrorists Attack on Army Barracks in J&K

597. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are continued attacks on the Army barracks in J&K by the terrorists;

(b) if so, number of soldiers killed/injured at the hands of terrorists during last six months, till date;

(c) the number of terrorists killed/arrested during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the situation and to boost the morale of the Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) During the last six months, till 21st July 2003, there has been only one attack on Army barracks at Sanjuwan Cantonment on 28th June, 2003. Two terrorists were involved, both of whom were killed. The attack resulted in the loss of 13 soldiers on our side while another six were injured.

(d) Adequate measures have been taken to ensure security of vulnerable areas such as gathering intelligence inputs, reinforcing the security of cantonments, proper sitting of the camps, intensified patrolling for area domination, employment of "Quick Reaction Teams" and conduct of synergised counter terrorist operations in adjoining areas.

The troops are well motivated and psychologically conditioned and such isolated incidents do not necessarily impinge on their morale.

[Translation]

Declaration of Badai (Carpenter) Community as SC

598. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to declare Badai (Carpenter) community in Himachal Pradesh a Scheduled Caste on the lines of Luhar community settled in new areas of Himachal Pradesh so as to remove the anomaly existing between these two communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Railway Bridges

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

(a) whether the Government have initiated any new plan for the modernisation of railway bridges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated for the said plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) As a new initiative, Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) was created during the year 2001 for repair/rehabilitation of old assets. Out of Rs.17,000 crores allocated for the purpose, Rs.1530 crores have been earmarked for repair/rehabilitation of Railway Bridges. During the period 2001-2002 and 2002-03, 776 bridges have been rehabilitated/rebuilt to suit present standards and an amount of approximately Rs.195 crores

have been spent. During the year 2003-04, an amount of Rs.217 crores have been allocated and 571 bridges are targeted.

[English]

Pilotless Target Aircraft Project

600. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE:

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has initiated Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA);

(b) if so, the details including date of sanction of the project, date of completion of the project and present status of the project;

(c) whether PTA has been cleared for production;

(d) if so, the details thereof·

(e) whether there is any delay in completion of project;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which production of PTA is likely to be taken in hand?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) An order was placed on Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in May 1998 for manufacturing structures for Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA) under limited series production. Against the order, HAL made deliveries in 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.

(c) to (f) Price negotiations have been completed for series production of PTA for consumers. Series production will be launched by HAL on receipt of orders.

(g) Production of PTA will commence after placement of orders.

Funds for Welfare Schemes

601. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories for the implementation of various welfare schemes and funds allocated/sanctioned during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise and State/UT-wise;

(b) the funds actually spent/utilized by these States/UTs during the said period, scheme-wise and State/UT-wise;

(c) whether any complaint of mis-utilization of funds by the State Governments/Union Territories has been received during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon, State/UT-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken for the proper utilization of the fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) and (b) Details of schemes under which proposals were received from the State Governments/Union Territories during the last three years and 2003-04 and funds released and utilized during this period are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) No, Sir.

Statement

Name of the Scheme: Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	3720.00	3720.00	3551.51	3551.51	7216.48	6367.17	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	Assam	1810.69	914.75	127.14	1453.00	512.76	265.98	000
3	Bihar	0.00	1261.41	0.00	4286.00	0.00	4286.00	0.00
4	Chhattisgarh	500.00	284.28	414.68	465.10	430.25	359.58	0.00
5	Gujarat	1521.88	845.03	1227.91	446.76	559.73	200.00	0.00
6	Goa	8.00	1.50	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Haryana	930.63	635.39	443.53	815.20	1098.19	958.66	0.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	440.00	431.22	368.66	378.53	447.99	428.96	0.00
9	Jammu & Kashmir	218.00	238.10	201.84	200.60	122.88	208.55	0.00
10	Jharkhand	500.00	0.00	578.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Karnataka	2643.64	2643.64	2985.43	2985.43	2386.12	970.16	0.00
12	Kerala $	1251.07	0.00	533.44	129.50	0.00	481.00	0.00
13	Madhya Pradesh $	1720.00	1448.64	1148.23	1737.76	2598.12	1620.02	0.00
14	Maharashtra**	2722.00	1766.09	3314.14	2384.28	1077.10	2192.46	0.00
15	Manipur $	38.96	8.94	2.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Orissa	1884.00	2022.03	2480.19	1898.88	1792.01	339.36	0.00
17	Punjab	1784.00	184.29	0.00	161.14	0.00	1289.85	0.00
18	Rajasthan	3738.96	2203.87	3005.41	2531.62	3422.9	2486.49	0.00
19	Sikkim	23.87	23.98	16.68	16.26	42.21	0.00	0.00
20	Tamil Nadu	3558.00	2656.93	5020.32	4598.24	4500.71	2131.02	0.00
21	Tripura	476.48	476.48	83.45	32.05	176.91	0.00	0.00
22	Uttar Pradesh	9398.00	6525.23	11816.86	10181.17	10173.64	13417.92	0.00
23	Uttaranchal	500.00	54.17	433.21	314.44	174.57	288.18	0.00
24	West Bengal	5450.63	5450.63	7421.59	7178.43	6640.5	2861.25	0.00
25	Chandigarh	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	12.50	0.00
26	Delhi	149.91	36.71	0.00	80.97	0.00	545.23	0.00
27	Pondicherry	25.18	34.41	50.00	27.06	5.81	7.75	0.00

Name of the Scheme: Scheduled Castes Development Corporation

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	State/U.T.	2000-01 Releases	2001-02 Releases	2002-03 Release	2003-04 Releases
1	Andhra Pradesh	792.65	0.00	498.00	0.00
2	Chandigarh	38.43	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	503.70	299.85
4	Gujarat	200.00	48.79	0.00	0.00
5	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	25.60	0.00
6	Karnataka	727.39	391.00	160.50	0.00
7	Kerala	33.60	0.00	437.70	0.00
8	Maharashtra	487.96	1191.47	0.00	0.00
9	Rajasthan	0.00	118.74	0.00	0.00
10	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00
11	Tripura	12.69	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	100.50	0.00
13	Uttar Pradesh	300.00	350.00	314.60	0.00
14	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	61.40	0.00
15	West Bengal	169.95	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: State SCDCs are released assistance only after receiving their financial commitments during the year. As such, no utilization certificate of funds is required.

National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of scavengers

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	165.66	224.70	1328.62	2966.80	NR	0.00
2	Assam	372.00	6.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	Chhattisgarh	1500.00	0.00	0.00	70.00	0.00	NR	0.00
4	Haryana	0.00	106.06	0.00	66.88	0.00	NR	0.00
5	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	81.30	0.00	0.00	239.96	NR	0.00
6	Jharkhand	1085.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00
7	Karnataka	0.00	184.77	695.17	65.35	888.37	NR	0.00
8	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	309.77	0.00	473.47	0.00	NR	0.00
9	Maharashtra	2135.00	6.64	0.00	128.48	0.00	NR	0.00
10	Orissa	0.00	253.7	0.00	201.83	0.00	NR	0.00
11	Punjab	0.00	7.75	0.00	8.68	0.00	NR	0.00
12	Rajasthan	0.00	36.17	0.00	69.58	0.00	NR	0.00
13	Tamil Nadu	0.00	474.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00
14	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	993.16	0.00	66.34	0.00	NR	0.00
15	Uttaranchal	1000.00	0.00	0.00	29.70	0.00	NR	0.00
16	West Bengal	0.00	18.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00

Post Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	3099.56	4582.29	6426.72	6213.56	5804.52	NR	0.00
2	Assam	238.75	272.31	272.31	218.32	221.32	221.31	0.00
3	Bihar	0.00	211.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00
4	Chhattisgarh	0.00	394.84	229.97	185.90	106.83	64.42	0.00
5	Gujarat	149.39	79.80	60.14	0.00	2.70	NR	0.00
6	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.23	0.00	NR	0.00
7	Haryana	126.25	123.76	275.61	234.50	180.92	NR	0.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	21.23	20.23	21.84	24.81	0.00	NR	0.00
9	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	36.87	85.36	85.36	19.99	NR	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	266.64	NR	0.00
11	Karnataka	1111.61	1008.39	732.13	1806.13	984.47	810.34	0.00
12	Kerala	301.90	438.16	938.16	0.00	674.44	NR	0.00
13	Madhya Pradesh	382.47	158.43	490.53	630.67	371.81	372.08	0.00
14	Maharashtra	727.78	378.74	658.33	1778.66	1696.66	NR	0.00
15	Manipur	43.71	41.97	48.15	64.16	71.28	NR	0.00
16	Meghalaya	4.17	4.16	5.47	5.46	6.90	NR	0.00
17	Orissa	196.98	140.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00
18	Punjab	0.00	171.41	239.90	0.00	60.00	NR	0.00
19	Rajasthan	411.36	356.67	470.13	503.52	400.67	NR	0.00
20	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00
21	Tamil Nadu	1950.46	1244.51	1168.95	1566.02	1658.56	770.84	0.00
22	Tripura	141.20	141.20	138.71	102.16	85.06	NR	0.00
23	Uttar Pradesh	1383.22	5301.24	2304.94	2027.81	1994.42	2105.84	0.00
24	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	411.74	169.43	0.00	NR	0.00
25	West Bengal	1098.42	570.37	911.06	0.00	677.37	NR	0.00
26	Daman & Diu	1.68	0.00	2.50	1.88	0.08	NR	0.00
27	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.00	NR	0.00
28	Pondicherry	30.00	30.35	35.00	36.17	20.03	NR	0.00

Note: Central assistance in a particular year is released based on the expenditure and coverage anticipated by the concerned States/UT for that year. Any unspent balance of funds or arrear due are adjusted while releasing central assistance for the year.

To avoid abnormally high anticipated expenditure, analysis of trend of expenditure from previous years is also made while considering release of central assistance.

Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004 Releases
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	63.00	62.55	57.94	42.34	252.60	NR	0.00
2	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.11	NR	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	Bihar	20.00	11.05	15.47	84.43	20.00	NR	0.00
4	Goa	0.34	0.51	0.72	0.72	0.02	NR	0.00
5	Gujarat	459.25	347.07	510.07	578.81	0.00	NR	0.00
6	Haryana	0.00	19.21	38.20	46.9	0.00	NR	0.00
7	Himachal Pradesh	22.05	24.27	0.00	10.26	9.74	NR	0.00
8	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.09	NR	0.00
9	Karnataka	3.03	10.51	3.36	5.9	11.45	1.54	0.00
10	Kerala	0.00	0.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00
11	Madhya Pradesh	153.45	80.88	70.15	120.79	62.62	NR	0.00
12	Maharashtra	160.96	127.21	154.41	235.23	0.00	NR	0.00
13	Orissa	0.00	5.73	4.00	7.34	0.00	NR	0.00
14	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.31	0.00	NR	0.00
15	Rajasthan	107.51	72.15	59.69	77.45	38.83	NR	0.00
16	Tamil Nadu	170.25	88.64	49.72	106.11	61.50	NR	0.00
17	Tripura	2.45	2.97	3.08	2.44	2.30	2.33	0.00
18	West Bengal	0.00	1.84	2.81	2.89	5.60	NR	0.00
19	Pondicherry	0.00	5.16	0.00	13.27	1.80	NR	0.00
20	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	2.24	50.02	21.80	NR	0.00
21	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	30.20	0.00	1.15	NR	0.00
22	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	2.21	0.00	7.78	NR	0.00

Note: Central assistance in a particular year is released based on the expenditure and coverage anticipated by the concerned States/UT for that year. Any unspent balance of funds or arrear due are adjusted while releasing central assistance for the year.

To avoid abnormally high anticipated expenditure, analysis of trend of expenditure from previous years is also made while considering release of central assistance.

Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste boys

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004 Releases
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	462.83	462.83	42.67
2	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.00	0.00	000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	421.00	0.00	0.00
4	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	77.00	0.00	0.00
5	Haryana	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	4.50	0.00	0.00
6	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	60.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.97	0.00	0.00
8	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	245.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Karnataka	495.00	325.00	563.19	0.00	274.31	274.31	0.00
10	Kerala	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Madhya Pradesh	764.95	764.95	284.37	0.00	344.67	0.00	0.00
12	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65.75	0.00	0.00
13	Orissa	12.75	9.96	21.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Punjab	0.00	0.00	11.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	89.41	0.00	0.00
16	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	182.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Tripura	0.00	0.00	18.58	0.00	71.08	0.00	0.00
18	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	155.64	0.00	4.48	0.00	0.00
19	Chandigarh	45.00	45.00	50.18	0.00	50.18	0.00	0.00

Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste girls

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004 Releases
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	505.50	456.53	0.00
2	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
3	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.00	0.00	0.00
4	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.05	0.00	0.00
5	Haryana	140.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Himachal Pradesh	67.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.64	0.00	0.00
8	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	245.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Karnataka	148.96	148.96	207.42	0.00	651.84	554.72	126.93
10	Kerala	0.00	0.00	45.50	0.00	79.50	0.00	000
11	Madhya Pradesh	437.51	437.51	665.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Orissa	12.75	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	Tamil Nadu	258.34	302.89	43.5	0.00	61.50	0.00	0.00
14	Tripura	22.05	0.00	9.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	196.04	0.00	36.91	0.00	0.00
16	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.06	0.00	0.00
17	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.001	35.42	0.00	0.00

Book Banks for Scheduled Castes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004 Releases
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	116.59	116.59	0.00	0.00	76.43	0.00	0.00
2	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.78	0.00	0.00
3	Bihar	7.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
4	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.31	0.00	0.00
5	Goa	0.59	0.00	0.00	1.34	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Haryana	3.27	3.27	0.00	0.00	8.47	0.00	0.00
7	Himachal Pradesh	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Jammu & Kashmir	3.45	3.45	0.00	0.00	5.99	0.00	0.00
9	Karnataka	20.50	20.50	33.27	0.00	115.63	0.00	0.00
10	Kerala	13.92	13.92	40.00	0.00	16.79	0.00	0.00
11	Madhya Pradesh	12.79	12.79	0.00	0.00	24.99	24.99	0.00
12	Maharashtra	27.03	0.00	85.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	Mizoram	1.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Orissa	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Punjab	8.28	8.28	0.00	0.00	14.51	0.00	0.00
16	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	9.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Tamil Nadu	15.21	15.21	13.38	0.00	61.86	0.00	0.00
18	Tripura	1.68	1.68	1.86	0.00	1.18	0.00	0.00
19	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	103.16	0.00	87.85	11.42	0.00
20	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.21	0.00	0.00
21	Chandigarh	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Delhi	5.89	4.48	12.00	4.03	12.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Scheme: Upgradation of Merit

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004 Releases
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	37.80	0.00	2.67	0.00	0.00
2	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.80	0.00	0.00
3	Chhattisgarh	4.20	0.00	9.23	0.00	21.52	26.54	0.00
4	Goa	1.05	1.05	1.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0 00
5	Haryana	8.70	8.70	7.93	0.00	7.65	0.00	0.00
6	Jharkhand	5.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.20	0.00	0.00
8	Kerala	0.00	0.00	4.50	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
9	Madhya Pradesh	16.80	16.80	0.00	0.00	73.50	337.5	0.00
10	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.60	0.00	0.00
11	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	8.24	0.00	7.01	0.00	0.00
12	Sikkim	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00
13	Tripura	1.20	1.20	1.20	0.00	3.00	1.20	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	30.87	0.00	36.25	30.11	0.00
15	Uttaranchal	2.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	West Bengal	6.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.90	0.00	0.00
17	Pondicherry	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Scheme: Coaching and Allied Scheme for Scheduled Castes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004 Releases
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	111.80	0.00	0.00
2	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00
3	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.45	0.00	0.00
4	Haryana	0.00	0.00	2.19	2.19	24.68	0.00	0.00
5	Kerala	8.69	8.69	20.86	20.86	22.01	0.00	0.00
6	Madhya Pradesh	44.03	44.03	0.00	0.00	19.99	0.00	0.00
7	Meghalaya	1.79	1.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Orissa	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Punjab	2.39	2.39	0.00	0.00	7.76	0.00	0.00
10	Rajasthan	43.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	11.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	2.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Delhi	2.95	2.95	1.90	1.90	10.00	0.00	0.00

Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes & the Scheduled Tribe Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004 Releases
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	208.60	213.04	165.01	268.98	328.14	0.00	0.00
2	Assam	2.00	1.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	Bihar	34.03	47.00	0.00	47.13	65.00	0.00	0.00
4	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88.27	74.52	30.10
5	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.73
6	Gujarat	325.79	298.53	178.20	199.85	226.62	0.00	22.23
7	Haryana	11.53	13.53	13.78	13.76	27.28	27.14	0.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	4.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.72	0.00	0.00
9	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	105.98	0.00	0.00
10	Karnataka	150.44	188.58	174.59	409.33	567.05	350.56	0.00
11	Kerala	41.95	43.34	44.15	26.75	73.15	0.00	0.00
12	Madhya Pradesh	977.24	1027.35	812.86	788.10	435.98	613.64	1180.97
13	Maharashtra	190.44	64.02	6.48	79.27	772.52	0.00	0.00
14	Orissa	0.58	1.22	0.97	1.62	0.81	0.00	0.00
15	Punjab	18.39	32.72	33.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Rajasthan	150.00	118.52	317.38	120.91	19.29	0.00	0.00
17	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.41	1.91	2.90	0.00
16	Tamil Nadu	89.08	261.4	502.48	189.24	336.67	0.00	0.00
19	Uttar Pradesh	448.20	717.24	700.00	785.07	886.64	927.78	1030.22
20	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.42	0.00	0.00
21	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	27.00	25.27	25.00	26.25	26.33	26.33	33.42
22	Pondicherry	28.64	31.49	31.50	30.38	29.23	0.00	0.00

Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004 Actual Releases
		Actual Releases	Actual Expend.	Actual Releases	Actual Expend.	Actual Releases	Actual Expend.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	645.25	0.00	0.00
2	Assam	62.50	62.50	0.00	0.00	26.85	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4	Karnataka	425.71	405.99	278.15	278.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	606.00	0.00	0.00
6	Tripura	95.79	95.79	110.04	110.04	171.23	171.00	0.00
7	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	0.00	0.00
6	Manipur	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	1222.21	1222.21	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	73.19	49.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	184.75	0.00	0.00
13	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	31.45	31.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004 Releases
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	559.25	559.00	357.77	357.77	247.86	0.00	0.00
2	Assam	94.47	0.00	32.77	0.00	8.39	0.00	0.00
3	Bihar	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Goa	25.00	0.00	0.00	6.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	55.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Jammu & Kashmir	8.00	0.00	42.00	0.00	14.32	0.00	0.00
7	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	191.88	189.74	214.08	0.00	0.00
8	Karnataka	110.72	110.72	145.57	145.57	211.69	211.00	0.00
9	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	452.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Manipur	91.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.20	0.00	0.00
12	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	198.95	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	5.29	0.00	0.00
14	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	000	0.00	352.81	0.00	0.00
15	Tripura	0.00	0.00	63.31	63.31	254.03	0.00	0.00
16	Uttar Pradesh	10.20	10.20	329.00	0.00	1016.14	1011.14	0.00
17	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	25.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	258.14	0.00	0.00

Name of the Scheme: Hostels for OBC boys and girls

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004 Releases
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	188.74	188.74	210.00	0.00	0.00
2	Bihar	0.00	0.00	149.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	108.27	0.00	0.00
4	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	147.28	145.81	0.00	0.00	83.16
5	Karnataka	183.23	183.23	216.99	149.6	263.77	0.00	0.00
6	Manipur	46.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00
8	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	120.04	0.00	161.87
9	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Sikkim	20.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
11	Tamil Nadu	259.86	259.86	157.28	0.00	283.50	0.00	0.00
12	Tripura	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	265.13	265.13	195.47	0.00	0.00
14	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68.95	0.00	0.00

Scheme of Employment of Handicapped

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	State/U.T.	2000-01 Released	2001-02 Released	2002-03 Released	2003-04 Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	8.17	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Gujarat	14.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Haryana	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Karnataka	0.00	14.44	25.94	0.00
5	Kerala	0.00	64.46	0.00	0.00
6	Mizoram	0.00	15.21	0.00	0.00
7	Punjab	6.46	6.27	0.00	0.00
8	Rajasthan	39.26	10.41	26.10	0.00
9	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	77.60	0.00
10	Uttar Pradesh	17.63	29.05	14.10	0.00
11	Chandigarh	4.56	5.72	4.35	0.00
12	Delhi	0.00	6.03	0.00	0.00
13	Pondicherry	8.71	1.97	0.00	0.00

Name of the Scheme: Programme for Juvenile Justice

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004 Releases
		Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	Releases	Expend.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	78.86	78.76	112.13	0.00	0.00
2	Bihar	0.00	0.00	30.08	30.08	30.31	0.00	0.00
3	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.56	0.00	0.00
4	Goa	7.33	7.33	4.04	4.04	4.12	0.00	0.00
5	Gujarat	35.98	35.98	47.50	47.50	47.59	0.00	0.00
6	Haryana	25.06	16.54	3.09	3.09	2.47	0.00	0.00
7	Himachal Pradesh	24.56	0.00	0.00	24.56	3.99	0.00	0.00
8	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.84	0.00	0.00
9	Karnataka	87.00	70.34	49.44	27.15	51.76	27.71	46.65
10	Kerala	21.30	21.30	25.28	22.20	12.69	0.00	0.00
11	Madhya Pradesh	159.27	158.03	113.58	103.53	110.81	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	Maharashtra	251.16	251.16	710.77	710.77	509.15	0.00	0.00
13	Manipur	5.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Meghalaya	5.62	2.31	5.89	4.40	7.00	5.88	8.22
15	Mizoram	4.26	4.26	8.99	8.99	15.91	15.91	14.77
16	Nagaland	6.67	6.67	3.22	3.22	4.56	0.00	0.00
17	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.00
18	Punjab	24.06	13.87	13.17	13.37	23.04	0.00	0.00
19	Rajasthan	8.00	7.98	12.17	9.15	9.17	9.08	0.00
20	Sikkim	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	2.03	2.03	0.00
21	Tamil Nadu	118.21	118.21	190.51	188.25	113.60	0.00	0.00
22	Uttar Pradesh	184.45	144.73	64.95	64.95	189.11	0.00	0.00
23	West Bengal	80.00	80.00	73.49	73.49	83.65	0.00	0.00
24	Chandigarh	3.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.09	0.00	0.00
26	Delhi	0.00	0.00	82.03	82.03	0.00	0.00	0.00

Travelling Allowances to Other Backward Classes Candidates

602. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that candidates belonging to Other Backward Classes applying for posts under the Central Government are not being given Travelling Allowance for attending interviews;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that OBC candidates are not exempted from examination fees etc. like other reserved category candidates;

(c) if so, whether the Government will extend them all concessions like other reserved category candidates; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Maintenance of Railway Coaches

603. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:

SHRI KAMAL NATH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maintenance of Railway coaches is not properly conducted resulting in increase in incidents;

(b) if so, whether the Railways has recently tightened the norms for upkeep of electrical wiring and equipments in passenger coaches;

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

(d) whether the standards laid down by the research and development unit, RDSO would be implemented in trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. All the coaches are maintained as per laid down norms.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The standards laid down by Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow regarding proper upkeep of electrical wiring & electrical equipments in passengers coaches are being followed during maintenance.

Prices of Petroleum Products

604. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) the details of prices increased or decreased on petrol, kerosene, LPG and other petroleum products during the last one and half years by the Government;

(b) whether the prices of the items were increased or reduced in percentage of fall in global crude prices;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) With the dismantling of administered pricing mechanism in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the pricing of all petroleum products, except for PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG which continue to be subsidized products, have been decontrolled. The oil companies are now fixing the prices of these products on market considerations.

The details of revision in the retail selling prices of petrol, diesel, Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene from 1st April 2002 onwards are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Revisions in retail selling price at Delhi

(Rs./litre/Rs./Cyl.)

	Petrol	Diesel	Domestic LPG	SKO (PDS)
1.4.2002	26.54	16.59	240.45	8.98
04.06.2002	28.94	17.99		
16.6.2002	29.18	18.23		
16.8.2002	29.00	18.05		
1.9.2002	29.20	18.34		
16.9.2002	29.66	18.68		
1.10.2002	29.91	18.91		
17.10.2002	30.24	19.23		
1.11.2002*	30.26	19.25	241.20	
16.11.2002	29.57	18.57		
1.12.2002	28.91	18.06		
3.1.2003	29.93	19.07		
16.1.2003	30.33	19.47		
1.2.2003	30.71	19.84		
1.3.2003	32.10	21.21		
16.3.2003	33.49	22.12		
16.4.2003	32.49	21.12		
27.4.2003	31.49	20.12		
1.5.2003	31.50	20.13		
16.5.2003	30.40	19.18		
1.6.2003	30.30	19.08		

* Due to revision in dealer's commission of Petrol/Diesel and distributor's commission of domestic LPG.

Setting up of Wind Energy Parks

605. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wind energy parks set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) the year of the installation of those wind energy parks;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the working of those wind energy parks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The total capacity of wind farm projects set up in the country so far is 1870 MW. The aggregate capacity of wind farms set up in each State, year-wise, is given in statement-I.

(c) and (d) The electricity generated and fed to the State grids is metered by the concerned State Electricity Boards. As per the information provided by the State authorities the cumulative electricity generated in each State (upto 31st March, 2003) is given in statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise & Year-wise Wind Power Installed Capacity (MW)

(As on 31.03.2003)

State	Upto March '92	Upto March '97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Total
Andhra Pradesh	0.6	54.3	1.5	6.0	26.3	3.8	0.7	0.0	92.6
Gujarat	14.5	146.8	20.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.2	173.1
Karnataka	0.6	5.9	11.2	2.6	14.6	10.4	24.0	55.6	124.3
Kerala	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Madhya Pradesh	0.6	9.6	2.7	6.2	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.6
Maharashtra	1.1	5.4	0.2	23.3	50.3	110.5	209.4	2.0	401.2
Rajasthan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	5.3	8.8	44.6	60.7
Tamil Nadu	22.3	676.2	31.1	17.8	45.6	41.9	44.0	133.6	990.3
West Bengal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.0	1.1
Others	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6
Total	41.3	901.9	66.9	55.9	142.9	172.4	287.5	242.0	1869.5

Statement-II

State-wise Generation from Wind Power Projects

(Million Units)

Andhra Pradesh	495.2
Gujarat	1099.0
Karnataka	424.3
Kerala	15.9
Madhya Pradesh	139. 9
Maharashtra	1209.8
Tamil Nadu	7961.8
Rajasthan	47.4
West Bengal	0.8
Others :	1.2
Total :	11395.3

[Translation]

Home Delivery of Tickets to NRI

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

(a) whether there is any scheme for home delivery of tickets to NRI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any extra payment/surcharge is charged or likely to be charged under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Preparation of Kargil like War by Pakistan

607. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that Pakistan is making preparations for one more war like that of the Kargil war;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of preparations made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) While there are no specific intelligence reports to suggest Pakistan's plans for another 'Kargil' like operation, all aspects of threat from the neighbouring adversary are taken into account while formulating our plans and operations.

Manufacturing of Gun

608. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating any plan to manufacture gun like Bofors indigenously;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any concrete steps in this regard so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Presently there are no plans to manufacture Bofors like guns indigenously. However, once army finalizes the acquisition of 155 mm Towed Gun, indigenous production can be planned with Transfer of Technology.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Instalment of Warning Devices by KRC

609. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation has decided to install warning devices at all rock cuttings along the mountainous route on the west coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have any plans to install similar equipment in other zones of the Railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Audio visual pre-warning alarm device called "Raksha Dhaga" in all deep cuttings more than 12 metre in depth are being installed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Manufacturing of GM Type High Power Locos

610. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had fixed a target for manufacture/assembly of 50 GM-type high power locos, under transfer of technology;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether investment has been made and target achieved by the Government in this regard so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reason therefor; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) No Sir. Ministry of Railways have planned for indigenous manufacture of, 125 high horse power GM type Locomotives during the Xth Five Year Plan period.

(c) to (f) A target of expenditure of Rs. 184 crores in two phases was set for setting up the facilities for the manufacture of GM Locomotives. Out of this, an investment to the tune of Rs.57 Crores (31%) has already been made upto 31.3.2003.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

611. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of the gauge conversion projects which were announced in the last two railway budget speeches has been started;

(b) if so, the details of the ongoing projects; and

(c) the reasons of delay in starting the work on remaining projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No new gauge conversion project was announced in the last two Railway budget speeches.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Work on the following ongoing gauge conversion projects is yet to be physically taken up:-

Project	Present status
1	2
1. Pipar Road-Bilara	Detailed survey has been completed and the estimate is under process of sanction. Tenders for earthwork and bridges have also been processed.
2. Sriganganagar-Sarupsar	Requisite clearances have been obtained. Preliminary arrangements like detailed survey and preparation of plan and estimate has been taken up.
3. Rewari-Sadulpur	Detailed survey has been completed and the estimate is under process of sanction.
4. Bhildi-Samdar	This project is being executed under National Rail Vikas Yojana. Tenders for earthwork, bridges etc. for part length have been processed.

[English]

CRS Report on Train Accidents

612. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after an accident the authorities ordered an inquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS);

(b) if so, the follow-up actions taken on the reports;

(c) whether the CRS reports on rail accidents are confidential and debar the media and general public to have access to them;

(d) whether the CRS of respective zones function independently;

(e) whether the Government are aware that the CRS reports, in their present form, lack credibility; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. As per Section 114 of the Railways Act-1989, Commissioner of Railway Safety conducts a statutory inquiry into a train accident involving grievous injuries to any passenger or serious damage to Railway property.

(b) The recommendations made by Commissioner of Railway Safety in their reports are examined by Zonal

Railways and Ministry of Railways. Their acceptance or non-acceptance is advised to the Commission.

(c) The reports are kept confidential as advised by the Commission of Railway Safety and are published by the Commission of Railway Safety only.

(d) The Commissioner of Railway Safety under the Railways Act works independently in respective Circle for the Zonal Railway under their jurisdiction.

(e) and (f) The issues related to the Commission have been raised in the 'White Paper on Safety on Indian Railways', presented in the Parliament in April 2003.

[Translation]

Outstanding Dues of BHEL against Iraq

613. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made by the Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any outstanding dues of the said company against Iraq;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the said dues are likely to be recovered from Iraq;

(e) whether some existing assignments of BHEL in Iraq which are due to be completed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) On the export marketing front, physical export order in-flow of Rs.2,970 crores was achieved by BHEL during the last three years. These included prestigious projects namely:

- 600 MW Power Project in Libya
- 140 MW Power Project in Oman
- 20 MW Co-generation Project in Indonesia
- 68 MVA Hydro Power Project in Taiwan
- 123 MW Gas Turbine Generator from China
- 40 MW Gas Turbine Generator from Kazakhastan
- 123 MW Gas Turbine Generating Unit and 57 MW Steam Turbine Generating Unit from Sri Lanka
- 4 large size Gas Turbine Generating Units from Iraq
- 330 KV Substations from Zambia.

(b) and (c) Rs.13.89 crores is outstanding against the supplies related to Baiji Power Project contract executed under "Oil for Food" Programme. These supplies have been made in May/June, 2003 after the Iraq War upon clearance from the U.N.

(d) The dues are likely to be recovered in three to four months.

(e) and (f) Supply of two sets of 123 MW Frame 9 Gas Turbine and Generator Equipments for Rumailla contract received from SITEA International, Switzerland who in turn received the contract from Iraq under "Oil for Food" Programme is yet to be completed.

The contract value is Rs.200 crores approximately. Supplies worth Rs.181 crores approx. have been shipped to an alternate location Zerka, Free Trade Zone, Jordan as per UN advice. This amount will be due for payment only after customer/UN inspection is completed.

[English]

150 Years of Railways

614. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had organised a year-long celebration to commemorate 150 years of Railways in India;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated for the celebrations;

(c) whether it involved all the zonal Railways; and

(d) the achievement made through this celebration?

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

(b) Rs.790.27 lakh.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Railways' 150th year of service to the nation was an occasion to share the pride with all segments of rail users all over the country. The role and contribution of the Railways as the lifeline of the nation, as an instrument of industrial development of various regions and above all, as a part of the common man's life, needed to be recognised by the entire nation. The objectives were fully met.

Achievements of Production Units

615. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the six public sector production units of Railways failed to achieve their production capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons behind the failure; and

(c) the steps being taken to revive the production capacity of these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. All the six production units have achieved their production targets for 2002-03. The production targets were fixed based on traffic requirements as also availability of funds.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Folk Cultural Programmes from Regional Doordarshan

616. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme for broadcasting maximum number of programmes based on folk-culture from the regional Doordarshan Relay Kendras;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to promote the folk artists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati is a statutory autonomous corporation, and they are mandated to provide adequate coverage to the diverse cultures and various regions of the country. They have informed that in order to represent the local culture, all the Doordarshan Kendras telecast programmes based on folk culture from different regions, in the respective languages, featuring artists of that region.

[English]

National Commission for SCs and STs

617. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding composition and functions/duties of the National Commission for SCs and STs;

(b) whether a conference was organized at Banaras on September 29, 2002 by the Commission;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether National Commission for SCs and STs submitted any report to the Governments;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have received any complaints about the unconstitutional functioning of the Commission; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken theron?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) The details regarding the composition and functions/duties of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are included in the Ministry's Webside www.socialjustice.nic.in

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. A two day National Conference on Educational and Socio Economic Empowerment of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes was organized by the National commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Banaras Hindu University on September 29-30, 2002 at Varanasi.

(d) No Sir.

(e) The question does not arise.

(f) No Sir.

(g) The question does not arise.

Expansion of Unchahar and Rihand Thermal Power Plants

618. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the expansion of the Unchahar and Rihand Thermal Power Plants in Uttar Pradesh during the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the expansion plan drawn up;

(c) the amount proposed to be spent on the expansion of above plants; and

(d) the additional power to be generated after expansion?

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

(b) to (d) NTPC is presently implementing Stage-II (2x500 MW) expansion of its existing 1000 MW Rihand Thermal Power Plant in Sonebhadra District, Uttar Pradesh with an approved cost of Rs.3451.97 crores (3rd Quarter 1998 price level). Unit-I and Unit-II of the project are scheduled to be commissioned by August 2005 and May, 2006 respectively. Various activities of the project are progressing as per schedule.

NTPC also proposes to expand its existing Feroze Gandhi Unchahar Thermal Power Plant (840 MW) in Raibareli District of Uttar Pradesh by adding 210 MW capacity in Stage-III at an estimated cost of Rs.962.24 crores (1st Quarter 2003 price level). The project is planned for commissioning in X Plan period.

[Translation]

Earnings of Doordarshan

619. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) the names of the Ministries whose outstanding amount is payable by Doordarshan separately and since when;

(b) the steps taken by Doordarshan for its payment; and

(c) the amount of profit earned by Doordarshan during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No amount is outstanding as payable by Doordarshan to Ministries. Against Payments made by Ministries, Doordarshan carries their campaigns which is a continuous process.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The commercial revenue earned during last three years is as under:-

Year	Amount (Rs. In crores)
2000-2001	637.51
2001-2002	615.21
2002-2003	553.81

Doordarshan does not earn any profit since its expenditure is at least three times more than its revenue.

[English]

Land Acquisition for Nahur Railway Station

620. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6717 dated May 08, 2003 regarding 'Nahur Railway Station' and state:

(a) whether the State Government has informed Central Railway, Mumbai that land required for Nahur Railway Station is already acquired by Railways in 1960;

(b) if so, the details about the requirement of land availability of the same and the present status of the construction work of Nahur Railway Station; and

(c) the schedule fixed for completion of construction of Nahur Railway Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The actual requirement of land for construction of new station at Nahur is 1745 square metre (sqm). Out of this, an area of 913 sqm of land is already in possession of Railways since 1962. Now, the State Government has been asked to acquire and make available the balance 832 sqm of land to Railways.

The construction work will commence as soon as this land is made available to the Railway.

(c) The construction of stations is targeted to be completed within 12 months after the additional land required for the work is transferred to Railways by the State Government.

Per Capita Consumption of Power

621. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita consumption of electricity, State-wise during 1999-2000;

(b) whether the inter-State differences in per capita consumption of power have been widening;

(c) if so, the magnitude of this differences, over a period of time; and

(d) the steps taken to correct the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Per capita consumption of electricity, State-wise, during the year 1999-2000 is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) The comparative chart showing State-wise per capita consumption during 1990-91 and 2000-01 is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) It is envisaged to provide power to all on demand by 2012. Electrification of all villages by 2007 and provision of access to electricity to all households by 2012 has been targeted. For this purpose, special need based assistance is being provided to the States under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). Funds are also provided under Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) and are available from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) also. Interest subsidy is also provided under the Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme (AREP).

Statement-I

Annual per capita consumption of electricity - State-wise during 1999-2000

(in killowatt hours)

Name of the State/UTs.	1999-2000
1	2
Haryana	530.20
Himachal Pradesh	339.95
Jammu & Kashmir	269.33
Punjab	924.11
Rajasthan	339.51
Uttar Pradesh	179.06
Chandigarh	821.66
Delhi	646.28
Gujarat	840.88
Madhya Pradesh	353.13
Maharashtra	571.55
Goa	724.92
Daman & Diu	3927.36
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3691.63
Andhra Pradesh	433.96
Karnataka	367.02
Kerala	315.02
Tamil Nadu	547.95
Pondicherry	1149.94
Lakshadweep	244.57
Bihar	146.73
Orissa	334.26
West Bengal	206.94
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	222.26
Sikkim	192.38
Assam	101.20
Manipur	69.50
Meghalaya	161.02
Nagaland	83.25
Tripura	95.48

1	2
Arunachal Pradesh	68.60
Mizoram	121.03
Total All India	364.45

Statement-II

Per capita consumption of electricity in 1990-91 and 2000-01

(in KWH)

Name of the State/UTs.	1990-91	2000-01
1	2	3
Haryana	400.40	544.31
Himachal Pradesh	208.91	342.67
Jammu & Kashmir	193.30	286.19
Punjab	605.81	841.54
Rajasthan	201.48	349.54
Uttar Pradesh	165.85	191.08
Chandigarh	708.44	801.51
Delhi	703.50	671.89
Gujarat	469.33	853.97
Madhya Pradesh	247.38	294.82
Maharashtra	401.89	551.50
Goa	451.61	809.72
Daman & Diu	656.40	4540.00
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	904.79	4105.68
Andhra Pradesh	245.22	433.14
Karnataka	295.99	411.74
Kerala	186.45	328.88
Tamil Nadu	323.03	599.01
Pondicherry	719.96	1277.44
Lakshadweep	153.80	248.29
Bihar	110.07	144.73
Orissa	270.72	342.89
West Bengal	146.18	207.65
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	117.37	230.82
Sikkim	119.45	184.20
Assam	93.52	103.91
Manipur	97.03	69.39
Meghalaya	114.96	169.59
Nagaland	74.96	96.76
Tripura	46.86	79.11
Arunachal Pradesh	67.81	84.59
Mizoram	68.71	142.50
Total All India	252.77	366.14

[Translation]

Increase in Power Generation Capacity

622. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the increase in the power generating capacity of each power station in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra during the last three years separately year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the power generating capacity of these power stations in both the States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The year wise increase in capacity addition during the last three years in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra is as under:

		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Uttar Pradesh	Thermal	-	-	
	Hydro	-	-	-
Maharashtra	Thermal	420 MW*	-	-
	Hydro	-	-	-

* Khaperkheda TPS Unit 3&4 (2x210 MW). Unit 3 commissioned on 31.5.2000 and Unit 4 commissioned on 7.1.2001.

(b) and (c) Following power projects are targeted to be commissioned in 10th Plan in these States:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/Capacity	Expected Commissioning Schedule.
Uttar Pradesh		
Thermal		
1.	Rihand STPS St.II (2x250 MW), NTPC, Central Sector	U-3 - 2005-06 U-4 - 2006-07
2.	Unchahar TPP (1x210 MW), NTPC, Central Sector	2006-07
3.	Anpara 'C' (2x500 MW), State Sector	2006-07
4.	Parichha TPS Ext. (2x210 MW), State Sector	2005-06
Hydro - Nil		
Maharashtra		
Thermal		
1.	Parli TPS Ext. St.I (1x250 MW), State Sector	2006-07
Hydro		
1.	Ghatghar PSS HEP (2x125 MW), State Sector	2004-05

As per intimation received from the State Government of Maharashtra, Paras TPS (Unit-I) (250 MW) is being taken up as 10th Plan project. Further, Uran Gas Turbine Power Station Expansion project (400 MW) is also likely to be commissioned within 10th Five Year Plan subject to issue of availability of gas being resolved.

[English]

Supply of Gas to Tata Power Company

623. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Tata Power Company have represented that the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) have been discriminating them in the matter of gas allocation to their company;

(b) if so, the rate at which the gas is being supplied to the different power companies;

(c) the reasons for supplying the gas to the Tata Power at a higher rate than the other power companies; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make available gas to all the power companies either in private or in the public sector at a uniform rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Tata Power Company Limited had represented to the Government against reduced gas supply to their Trombay Thermal Power Plant.

(b) Presently, the natural gas is being supplied at uniform consumer price of Rs.2850/MCM to all consumers in that region.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise, in view of the above.

Procurement of Simulators for Fighter Planes

624. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force has decided to purchase simulators for fighter planes and helicopters to 'bring down the number of crashes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the feasibility of such simulators has been tested; and

(d) if so, the result thereof and the manner in which it is likely to be helpful in curbing air crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Induction of simulators in Indian Air Force (IAF) is a continuous process. Simulators of various aircraft like MiG-21, Jaguar, Mirage-2000, & AN-32 are already in service.

(c) The requirement of simulators for IAF is decided on case-to-case basis.

(d) The simulators help in enhancing the skill levels and in practising emergencies and procedures in a safe environment. Training on simulators is helpful in preventing flying accidents due to error of the aircrew.

Purchasing of Stationery

625. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scam in the purchase in Air and Naval Headquarters for getting rate quotations for purchasing stationery and other items from private parties in violation of the Government orders to purchase the same from NCCF or Kendriya Bhandar; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this scam and to bring to book the authorities responsible for violating the Government orders?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Air Service in Trains

626. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati proposes to entertain passengers on select trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi by introducing the AIR service via worldspace satellite;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been made with Railways for providing the service;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railway Board has made some reservations against provision of such a service; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Prasar Bharati thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati proposes to introduce Live Radio Service on board the trains of Indian Railways via World Space Satellite, on an experimental basis.

(b) The details have not been worked out as yet.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Persons Working in A, B, C, D Categories in Departments of NCES

627. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of personnel working in Groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' in different departments and undertakings under Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Grade- wise; and

(b) the number of personnel belonging to OBCs, SCs and STs out of total number of personnel separately; grade-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The total number of personnel and those belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes working in Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' in this Ministry and its regional offices; the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Public Sector Undertaking and the Centre for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET), an antonomous body functioning under the administrative control of this Ministry, are at statements I, II and III respectively.

Statement-I

Details of Group-wise and Grade-wise Personnel working in the Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources and its Regional Offices

Sl. No.	Grade	Group	No. of Personnel	OBCs	SCs	STs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	26000 (fixed)	A	1	-	-	-
2.	Sr. Adviser 22400-525-24500	A	1			
3.	18400-500-22400	A	10		1	-
4.	16400-450-20000	A	26		2	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	14300-400-18300	A	3	-	1	1
6.	12000-375-16500	A	36	-	1	1
7.	10000-325-15200	A	26	-	2	-
8.	8000-275-13500	A	1	-	-	-
	Total Group 'A'		104	-	7	4
9.	8000-275-13500	B	1	1	-	-
10.	7450-11500	B	1	-	-	-
11.	6500-200-10500	B	23	-	7	-
12.	5500-175-9000	B	49	-	10	2
	Total Group 'B'		74	1	17	2
13.	5000-150-8000	C	18	1	5	-
14.	4500-125- 7000	C	8	-	2	-
15.	4000-100-6000	C	57	2	13	4
16.	3050-75-3950-80-4590	C	49	4	10	2
	Total Group 'C'		132	7	30	6
17.	2650-65-3300-70-4000	D	15	1	6	3
18.	2550-55-2660-60-3200	D	67	6	27	2
	Total Group 'D'		82	7	33	5

Statement-II

Details of Group-wise and Grade-wise Personnel working in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, A Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

Sl. No.	Designation	Grades (In Rs.)	Total number	OBC	SC	ST
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01.	Managing Director	25750-650-30950	01	-	-	-
02.	Director	20500-500-25000	02	-	-	-
03.	E-8	25000-500-26500	02	-	-	01
04.	E-7	18500-450-23900	04	-	01	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
05.	E-6	17500-400-22300	02	-	-	-
06.	E-5 (a)	15000-375-19500	06	02	01	01
07.	E-5	14500-350-18700	06	-	02	-
08.	E-4	13000-350-18250	14	02	01	03
09.	E-3	10750-300-16750	13	-	02	01
10.	E-2	8600-250-14600	25	07	03	01
	Total Group 'A'		75	11	10	07
11.	E-1	6550-200-11350	22	02	02	-
	Total Group 'B'		22	02	02	-
12.	NE-5	5100-135-7800	12	02	01	01
13.	NE-4	4900-125-7400	14	02	04	01
14.	NE-3	4700-115-7000	01	-	01	-
	Total Group 'C'		27	04	06	02
15.	NE-2	4500-105-6600	04	-	-	01
16.	NE-1	4300-95-6200	07	03	01	-
	Total Group 'D'		11	03	01	01

Statement-III

Details of Group-wise and Grade-wise Personnel working in the Centre for Wind Energy Technology, an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

Sl. No.	Grade	Group	No. of Personnel	OBCs	SCs	STs
1.	16400-450-20000	A	1			
2.	8000-275-13500	A	7	1	2	-
	Total Group 'A'		8	1	2	-
3.	5500-175-9000	B	3	2	-	-
	Total Group 'B'		3	2	-	-
4.	4500-125-7000	C	3			
5.	4000-100-6000	C	8	8	2	-
	Total Group 'C'		11	8	2	-
6.	2650-65-3300-70-4000	D	1	1	-	
	Total Group 'D'		1	-	1	-

Darjeeling Himalayan Railways

628. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the proposal regarding depriving the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) from the status of world heritage as it is run by a diesel engine;

(b) if so, whether the use of fast moving upgraded steam engine is possible in DHR;

(c) if so, the efforts made by the Government to maintain the status of world heritage for DHR; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Railways has not received communication of any proposal regarding depriving the Darjeeling Himalayan Railways (DHR) from the status of world heritage.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Railways is committed to protect and uphold DHR's status of world heritage.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Low Quality Material Used for Gauge Conversion

629. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the newly upgraded Broad gauge track between Guwahati and Dibrugarh have the optimum speed limit is 60 km/hr. against the normal Broad gauge speed of 110 to 120 kms.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is largely attributable to the low quality material used in upgrading this track meter gauge to broad gauge;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the low quality material used for the conversion;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) At present, the maximum sectional speed of Guwahati-Dibrugarh section (559 Km.) is 100 km/h except Guwahati-Kamrupkheri (45 Km.), Lumding - Dimapur (69 km.) and Tinsukia - Dibrugarh (44 km. Group- E route).- Sections where it is 90 km/h, 80 km/h and 75 km/h respectively on account of many high degree curves as the section is on difficult terrain.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Bids of Koldam Projects

630. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has 13 bids including 11 international for construction of main dam for its 800 MW hydro power project at Koldam in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries from which NTPC got bids;

(d) whether some Indian private companies also participated in bids;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the contract for the said project has been awarded; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and time by which work is likely to be started on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Details of the bidders from whom bids have been received in Stage-I bidding for the Main Dam Package for Koldam HEPP are given in the enclosed statement.

(f) and (g) The award for the construction of main dam is under process.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Bidder
1	2
1.	Daelim Industrial Co. Ltd. (South Korea) and Hindustan Construction Co. Ltd. (Mumbai) - Joint Venture
2.	Nishimatsu Construction Co. Ltd. (Japan), Maytas

1	2
	Infra Pvt. Ltd. (Hyderabad) and Sri Shankaranarayana Construction Co. (Bangalore) Joint Venture
3.	Limak Construction, Industry & Trade Co. Inc. (Turkey), Soma Enterprise Ltd. (Hyderabad) and Patel Engg. Ltd. (Mumbai) - Joint Venture
4.	Progressive Constructions Ltd. (Hyderabad)
5.	Jaiprakash Industries Ltd. (New Delhi)
6.	Nural Construction and Trading Co. Inc. (Turkey) and Bagheeratha Engg. Ltd. (Cochin) - Joint Venture
7.	China Anneng Construction Corporation, China
8.	Italian-Thai Development Public Company Ltd. (Thailand)
9.	MAPA Construction and Trade Inc. (Turkey)
10.	Guris Construction and Engg. Co. Inc. (Turkey) and Ketan Construction Ltd. (Ahmedabad) - Joint Venture
11.	JSC "Chirkeygesstroy" (Russia) and Harishchandra (India) Ltd. (New Delhi) - Joint Venture
2.	Ozaltin Construction Trade & Industry Co. Inc. (Turkey) and Gammon India Ltd. (Mumbai) - Joint Venture
13.	Sabir Dam & Water Works Construction Co. (Iran) and Sew Construction Ltd. (Hyderabad), Joint Venture

Transfer of ROB to Road and Bridge Development Corporation

631. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to transfer 20 more Railway over bridges to Roads and Bridges Development Corporation of Kerala, a Kerala Government Undertaking, as requested by the Government of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. The Railway portion (across tracks) of these Road Over Bridges is being constructed by Railways and the approaches by the State Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Recommendations of BIFR on BSCL

632. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question No. 1544, dated February 27, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the Government as per BIFR's order dated February 10, 2003 has furnished the VRS before April 30, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the Government have already taken a decision to reduce BSCL's manpower for a joint venture;

(c) if so, the number of manpower to be reduced;

(d) whether there is no provision for the liabilities of the employees already working in BSCL has been reflected in the Annual Accounts of the company;

(e) if so, whether the Government have issued directive that closure of BSCL should be weighed against the option of its disinvestment and a report with comparative data was to be furnished to DHG by May 9, 2003 positively; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof and the reason behind Government's intention for disinvestment, particularly when BIFR has not taken any decision so far?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) BIFR had allowed the Government to pursue the course of disinvestment and submit the proposal to the Operating Agency (OA) by 30.4.2003. However, as the strategic partner could not be located, therefore, on the request of the Government, the BIFR has extended the time limit to 31.7.2003.

(b) and (c) Reduction of manpower through VRS is a continuous process so as to reduce manpower cost and it has noting to do with formation of Joint Venture.

(d) All employee-related liabilities have been reflected in the Annual Accounts of the company.

(e) The Government had sought information to compare the cost of disinvestment with the cost of closure.

(f) The estimated cost of closure worked out to be more than the cost of disinvestment. The disinvestment of BSCL is being carried out with the permission from BIFR as a part of the broad policy of the Government to exit from non-strategic PSEs.

Visit by Minister

633. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries visited by the Minister and Minister of State during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the names of countries visited by officials of the Ministry/Departments and subordinate offices under the Ministry during each of the last three years, till date; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on each visit alongwith purpose of the visit, names and designations of representatives, the country visited with whom the discussions were held and agreements were signed, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name	Country visited	Expenditure (in Rupees)	Purpose/Discussed matters etc.
1	2	3	4	5
		2000-2001		
1.	Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Minister of State (Social Justice and Empowerment)	Sweden and Netherlands	277499.00	To study old age income security system and on Projects related to drug abuse and adoption and other welfare programmes.
2.	Smt. Asha Das, Secretary	Sweden and USA	333952.00	To Study Old Age Income scheme
3.	Sh. Dharmendra Deo, Joint Secretary.	Sweden and USA	227346.00	To Study Old Age Income scheme
4.	Smt. Rajwant Sandhu, Joint Secretary.	Singapore	47154.00	To participate in the Training programme "Managing Change in the Public Service" in Civil Service College, Singapore.
5.	Shri S.K. Panda, Joint Secretary	Malaysia	12600.00	To participate in Training programme Localizing the Anti-poverty Agenda: Lessons from Malaysia Institute for Rural Advancement
6.	Shri A K. Ganju, Private Secretary to Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment	Sweden and Netherland	151817.00	To accompany MOS (SJE).
7.	Shri Atul Chaturvedi, Deputy Secretary.	Austria	131336.00	To attend the 44th Annual Session of Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
8.	Shri S.K. Dev Verman, Deputy Secretary.	Sri Lanka	39052.00	To attend first meeting of Inter-Governmental Expert Group to draft a SAARC Social Charter
9.	Shri C. K. Rawat, Desk Officer	Thailand	1286.00	To participate in the Training Workshop for utilization of Cyberspace technology in Drug Abuse Preventions

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Shri A Goswami, Desk Officer	Thailand	1271.00	To participate in the meeting organised by the Colombo Plan Secretariat at Bangkok.
		2001-2002		
11.	Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Minister of State (Social Justice and Empowerment)	Switzerland and UK	237757.00	To attend Selectior Committee meeting for the Sasakawa Prize at UNEP in Geneva and to participate in a meeting of the Renaissance Group at the Royal Society at Edinburgh.
12.	Smt. Jayati Chandra, Joint Secretary	Austria	54091.00	To attend 11th Session of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
13.	Smt. Rajwant Sandhu, Joint Secretary	USA	256526.00	To attend Joint Working Group Meeting
14.	Shri A K. Singh, Director	Vietnam	81537.00	To attend the Third Session of Thematic Working Group on Disability Related Concerns and Campaign, 2001 for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.
15.	Shri Pankaj Kumar, Director	Japan	240.00	To attend seminar on social work for orphans and fatherless families and to visit programme in Japan
16.	Shri L.D. Jha, Director	Japan	400.00	To attend seminar on social work for orphans and fatherless families and to visit programme in Japan
17.	Shri Satyendra Prakash, Deputy Secretary	Phillipines	2149.00	To attend regional workshop on National Policies on Ageing
		2002-03		
18.	Dr. S.N. Jatiya, Minister (Social Justice and Empowerment)	Spain	457486.00	To participate in Second World Assembly on Ageing
19.	Shri C. Gopal Reddy Secretary	Spain	208119.00	To attend Second World Assembly on ageing at Madrid, Spain
20.	Shri C. Gopal Reddy, Secretary	Japan	118656.00	To attend High level Intergovernmental Meeting to conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons
21.	Shri P.C. Rawal, Additional Secretary	Japan	115093.00	To attend the International Drug Control Summit, 2002
22.	Smt. Sarita Prasad, Additional Secretary	Maldives	-	To attend the Strategic Planning Workshop on Drug and HIV/AIDS

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Smt. Sarita Prasad, Additional Secretary	Thailand	-	To attend 14th International Conference on the reduction of drug related harm
24.	Smt Uma Tuli, Chief Commissioner for Disabilities	USA	-	To attend UN Session on Children rights as part of Ministry of Human Resource Delegation
25.	Smt Uma Tuli, Chief Commissioner for Disabilities	Japan	18375	To present two papers and attend intergovernmental meeting organized by Osaka, Japan Forum
26.	Smt Rajwant Sandhu, Joint Secretary	Thailand	Nil	Meeting of Expert Group on preparation for the conclusion of the Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons by UN-ESCAP Secretariat
27.	Smt Rajwant Sandhu, Joint Secretary	Phillipines	Nil	Workshop on Disability and Development organized by Asian Development Bank
28.	Ms. S. Ray, Joint Secretary	Thailand	52320.00	To attend 58th Session of U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia & Pacific
29.	Shri P.N. Murthy, Joint Secretary	Japan	750.00	To participate in a seminar on Social Work and visit of institutions in Japan
30.	Shri Alok Shrivastava, Private Sectretary to Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment	Spain	167390.00	Accompanied Minister of SJE
31.	Shri L.D. Jha, Director	Spain	183469.00	Part of Indian delegation to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
32.	Shri W.L Hangshing, Director	Sri Lanka	300.00	To attend regional workshop on Quality Assurance of Treatment Services for Drug Dependents
33	Shri W.L. Hangshing, Director	Austria	111826.00	To attend the 46th Session of Commission on Narcotic Drugs
34.	Shri C.S. Mohapatra, Director	Japan	92903.00	To attend high level intergovernmental meeting to conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons
35.	Shri Satyendra Prakash, Deputy Secretary	Austria	132097.00	To attend 45th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
36.	Shri A.K. Joshi, Deputy Secretary	Malaysia	350.00	To attend the 4th Global Conference on Drug Abuse Prevention

1	2	3	4	5
37.	Shri A K. Joshi, Deputy Secretary	Japan	326.00	To participate in a seminar on Social Work and visit of institutions in Japan
38.	Shri Khaleeq Ahmad, US	Japan	1088.00	To participate in a seminar on Social Work and visit of institutions in Japan
		2003-04		
39.	Smt Jayati Chandra, Joint Secretary	Netherland	14460.00	To participate in the Bi-annual Meet of Adopters and their parents
40.	Smt Rajwant Sandhu, Joint Secretary	Finland	-	To attend WHO Conference on community based rehabilitation
41.	Shri R. Radhakrishnan, Deputy Secretary	USA	53939.00	To attend meeting of the United Nations Ad hoc Committee on Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities

Purchase of House for CMD of GAIL

634. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new house has been purchased for the residence of CMD of GAIL recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the total amount spent on purchase and its renovation separately;

(c) whether prior approval of the Board of General Body was taken therefor;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for not opting for house on rent/ lease rather than spending huge public funds; and

(f) the officials responsible therefor and action likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been reported by the GAIL that the house allotted to earlier C&MD was allotted to another Director of GAIL. Therefore, GAIL decided to purchase a house for the C&MD, GAIL. The house was purchased at a cost of Rs.3.27 crores and renovation of the said house was done at a cost of about Rs.76 lakhs.

(c) and (d) GAIL Board of Directors had approved purchase of the house for C&MD at a total cost of Rs.3.27 crores for the residence, official use of C&MD, GAIL and usage of one of the floors of the house for holding Top Management Meetings and/or for Guest House for International visitors. Subsequently, GAIL Board was informed about the expenditure incurred on renovation and furnishing of the premises.

(e) GAIL had considered it more economical in long term to purchase the house than renting the house for C&MD.

(f) Unless the charge of irregular action is established question of action against officials does not arise.

NOC for Installation of Retail Outlets

635. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether District Magistrate of respective districts grant the NOC for the installation of retail outlet as an clearance of site for the installation of petrol pumps on the respective site;

(b) if so, whether this NOC once issued in the name of one oil company can be used by the other oil company for getting storage licence from explosive department;

(c) if not, whether the IOCL had obtained the fresh and new NOCs for all the petrol pumps taken over at the time of nationalization;

(d) if not, whether the same principle regarding the use of already granted NOC to other oil company would prevail; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) When the retail outlets were taken over by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) at the time of nationalization, the Explosive Licences were got transferred in the name of IOC by making an application to the Explosives Department, Government of India as per the provisions of the Petroleum Rules 1976. No fresh 'No Objection Certificate' was required for such a transfer.

Indo-China Joint Naval Exercise

636. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan is being mooted out for a first ever joint naval exercise by India-China;

(b) if so, the details of the plan; and

(c) the time by which the exercise is expected to begin?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) During the visit of our Prime Minister to China in June, 2003, the possibility of joint naval search and rescue exercises between India and China was agreed to.

(b) and (c) The details for such exercises have not been worked out as yet.

[Translation]

Issuance of OBC Certificates

637. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) the norms laid down for issuance of OBC certificates:

(b) whether any time limit has been fixed for scrutiny and issuance of OBC certificate;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the beneficiaries are facing difficulties in getting the OBC certificates; and

(e) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard during each of the last three years, till date and the action taken on the complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) The Government of India has issued detailed instructions/guidelines from time to time for the issue of OBC certificate. For the purpose of verification of the castes/communities, the Government of India has prescribed a certificate from the authorities as in the case of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The candidate can obtain OBC certificate from the designated authorities of the place where he normally resides by applying in the prescribed format.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The subject matter of issue of OBC certificate comes under the purview of the State Government concerned. However, Ministry had received only four complaints during the last three years about the non-issuance of OBC certificate. The matter was immediately taken up with the State Government concerned to get the matter resolved.

[English]

Doubling of Ernakulam-Kayamkulam Route

638. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the doubling work of Ernakulam-Kayamkulam line both via Alleppy and Kottayam;

(b) the schedule fixed for completion of said project; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Doubling of Ernakulam-Mulanturuthi, Kayankulam-Mavelikara and Kayankulam-Cheppad sections have been taken up. Earthwork, bridges etc. on Ernakulam-Mulanturuthi section is in progress. Preliminary arrangements like preparation of detailed estimate, tender papers etc. have been taken up on Kayankulam-Mavelikara and Kayankulam-Cheppad sections.

(b) and (c) No target for completion of these projects have been fixed. The doubling will be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.

Supply of Diesel to Consumers by Essar Oil

639. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

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

(a) whether the Essar Oil propose to supply diesel to the consumers at a much cheaper rate than the public sector oil marketing companies in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for selling diesel at lesser price to the consumers by Essar;

(c) whether the demand of diesel marketed by the public sector oil companies will not be reduced considerably as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to have a uniform rate for the supply of diesel to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) With the dismantling of administered pricing mechanism effective 1.4.2002, the pricing of diesel has been decontrolled. Further, effective 1.4.2003, the companies like M/s Essar Oil, who have been granted rights for marketing of transportation fuels in terms of the Resolution No.P-23015/1/2001-MKT dated 8.3.2002 of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, can directly import transportation fuels including diesel.

In a free market scenario, the public sector oil marketing companies would need to compete with the private players in the marketing of diesel.

Spreading of Nets on Gradiant of Hills

640. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken all precautions including spreading of nets on the gradiant of the hills around the railway track to prevent boulders falling on the tracks to avoid such train mishaps which the Konkan Railway faced recently due to landslide; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps the Government propose to take to avoid such mishaps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railways are continuously striving to prevent accidents and measures being taken, include monsoon precautions, patrolling in identified areas, training of staff, safety awareness campaign and safety drives etc. Monsoon precautions include measures to prevent boulder fall.

Special Package for Rail Projects in Gujarat

641. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested to Union Government for special package to complete the on-going railway projects in their State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No such request has been received in the Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

Implementation of Anti-Collision Device

642. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the action taken to upgrade safety-related trailing facilities in Railways and implementation of anti collision device on major Railways for customer satisfaction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): All staff, including safety category staff, is properly trained before utilization of newly acquired technological aids is adopted. The Railways are in the continuous process of modifying and refreshing the training of railway staff to update their

knowledge and skill. A comprehensive training need analysis of all categories of staff is being done through series of meetings. Based on the analysis, training modules are revised to suit the training requirement of individual staff besides changes in technology, work practices and objectives of the job.

All Major training centres are being provided with funds under SRSF for providing training aids, models, teaching kits, etc.

In order to attract able and talented instructors, incentive in the form of 'Training Allowance' is granted and they are permitted to retain quarters at their previous place of posting for a period of two years.

A separate unit is being set up for training techniques and instructional designs at Gwalior which will be entrusted the job of development of lesson plans, training modules, etc.

Provision of Anti Collision Device (ACD) on about 1800 Route Kilometers of Broad Gauge Section of Northeast Frontier Railway is in progress and shall be completed in the year 2004-05. Further works of provision on about 1750 Route Kilometers has also been sanctioned on Northern, Southern, South Central and South Western Railways. ACD surveys works on Northern and South Central Railways has been completed and on Southern and South Western Railway, it is in progress. The work of provision of ACD shall be taken in hand on these sections after successful implementation of ACD on Northeast Frontier Railway. Works of ACD survey on additional 10000 Route Kilometers has further been sanctioned during the current year.

High Speed Coaches

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce high speed coaches in some Rajdhani Express routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Coaches of a new LHB type design, capable of 160 Kilometer per hour manufactured by Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala will be introduced into Rajdhani service soon at a maximum operational speed of 130 Kilometer per hour.

(b) and (c) Indian Railways have adopted technology from German Company M/s Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) (now ALSTOM LHB) for manufacture of light weight, high speed coaches. These coaches have extra earning potential as they can carry more passengers per coach, give better ride comfort and have enhanced safety features.

[Translation]

Supply Rate of LPG Cylinders

644. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether LPG in the country is supplied at different rates to the consumers of various categories;

(b) if so, the number of categories into which the Government have divided the LPG consumers; and

(c) the quantum of LPG supplied to the consumers of each category during the last three years, year-wise separately alongwith the category-wise rates at which the LPG was supplied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) supply LPG to the consumers under the following categories:-

(i) Domestic LPG

(ii) Non-domestic LPG

(iii) Bulk Industrial LPG

(iv) Auto LPG

The LPG under domestic category is supplied at subsidised rate where as other categories get the supply of LPG at market rates.

(c) The quantum of LPG supplied to the consumers of each category during the last three years, is as under:-

(Figures in TMT)

Category	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Domestic	6301	7126	7819
Non-Domestic	127	103	160
Bulk Industrial	185	81	180
Auto LPG	0	0	4

[English]

LPG Bottling Plant in Nagaland

645. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited (AOD) has set up a LPG Bottling Plant in Dimapur, Nagaland;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to absorb the local candidates for all technical/non-technical jobs to encourage job opportunities for the local candidates and avoid employing candidates from adjoining States to fill up the backlog; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The LPG bottling plant set up by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Assam Oil Division) is mechanically complete. Trial runs are scheduled by the end of July, 2003. The plant will be made operational thereafter.

(c) and (d) The operation of the bottling plant is planned to be managed by the re-deployment of existing surplus manpower available with the company.

Gauge Conversion between Gandhidham and Palanpur

646. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of gauge conversion work between Gandhidham and Palanpur;

(b) whether any time limit has been fixed for the completion of the said project;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The Gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Samakhiyali-Palanpur MG line is in progress. Earthwork, bridges and ballasting have been taken up and are in various stages of progress. The project is covered under National Rail Vikas Yojana.

(b) to (d) This project is likely to be completed in next 2-3 years as per the availability of resources.

Import of Set Top Box

647. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

SHRI KAMAL NATH:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to impose Conditional Access System (CAS) in connivance with some Set Top Boxes manufacturing Companies;

(b) if so, whether the Government have finalized a deal with a London-based business magnate;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard:

(d) whether the import duty on STBs have been reduced from 46% to 5%;

(e) if so, the justification thereof;

(f) whether the Government are aware that the digital STBs (MPEG-2) proposed to be imported, are technologically an outdated one; and

(g) if so, the reasons for insisting to import the outdated MPEG-2 STBs instead of encouraging indigenous companies to manufacture STBs with fibre cables of providing MPEG-4 technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The implementation of CAS

was considered only in consumer interest. The representatives of Consumer Electronics and Television Manufacturers' Association (CETMA), who represented the indigenous industry, were consulted at different times.

(d) and (e) CETMA and some manufacturers had made an appeal for reduction of customs duty on the import of components, required for manufacture of Set Top Boxes (STBs). The import duty on components was rationalised by the Government to give a boost to the indigenous industry, for manufacturing STBs. The reduction of Customs duty on STBs was proposed in order to make the STBs affordable to the consumers. The reduction of the customs duty on import of STBs is valid up to 31st July, 2003.

(f) and (g) Commercial Digital Television broadcasting, worldwide, the compression standard used is MPEG-2 for all delivery platforms i.e. satellite, cable and terrestrial, while MPEG-4 is not used for commercial television broadcast. BIS has adopted international cable TV standards known as DVB-C and DVB-CSA which is based on MPEG-2 technology. This is widely in use and is not outdated.

[Translation]

Earnings Throughout Advertisements

648. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are offering their sites including rail coaches and other properties for displaying advertisements on them to augment its income;

(b) if so, the income made by the Railways on account of advertisements during 2001-2002;

(c) whether any drive has been launched in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Rs. 41.76 crores (approx.)

(c) and (d) The Railways have made efforts by giving newspaper advertisements, publishing information brochures, having meetings with advertising companies from time to time and establishing direct contact with prospective sponsors. Officers have been nominated on the Zonal Railways to co-ordinate in this respect.

[English]

VRS for ONGC and IOCL Employees

649. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

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

(a) whether the Government have approved the proposals of ONGC and IOCL to offer voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) to their surplus staff;

(b) if so, the number of employees expected to avail VRS in these two oil companies separately; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be met by PSUs for providing VRS benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have approved the proposals of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to offer Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to their staff as per existing guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE).

(b) and (c) The number of employees expected to avail VRS and the likely expenditure have been assessed at 4000 and Rs. 250.08 crore, respectively, for ONGC. In case of IOCL, between 700-1000 employees are expected to avail VRS and the likely expenditure is assessed at between Rs. 50 crore to Rs. 76 crore.

Action Plan for Customer Satisfaction

650. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalized an action plan to increase customer satisfaction during the current financial year, especially in the areas covering safety, security, punctuality and cleanliness;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any task force has been constituted to work out the modalities in this direction;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways are considering to amend the Railway Protection Act; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) Indian Railways have planned to improve the level of customer satisfaction in the current year, i.e. 2003-04 for which a number of steps covering various areas viz. safety, security, punctuality and cleanliness etc. have been initiated. Action Plan includes reduction of accidents by taking various measures, improving security of passengers through constant liaison with State Government and other measures, ensuring improved punctuality standards of trains through a computerised monitoring system, drives etc., improving cleanliness by introduction of modern system of cleaning of stations and trains, by facilitating and computerising the issue of tickets, computerising the refund process, extension of internet booking of reserved tickets etc.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Two Bills to amend the RPF Act, 1957 and The Railway Act 1989 have been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 9.5.2003 and have been referred to the Standing Committee on Railways on 29.5.2003.

Foreign News Agencies in India

651. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to review the operations of foreign news agencies with India;

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

(c) the details of the present policy for foreign news agencies; and

(d) the likely changes proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Since 1956, the policy regarding news agencies within the country, requires that communication facilities can be granted only where the distribution of news within the country is to be effected through an Indian news agency owned and managed by Indians, which would have full and final authority in the selection of foreign news for distribution and which would also be in a position to supply Indian news, in reasonable volume, to the foreign news agencies with whom they have a working arrangement and that facilities for the transmission from India of multiple-address press messages by wireless will be granted only to Indian news agencies as defined above.

Opinions and suggestions on modification or continuation of the existing policy have been invited by the Government.

Rail Neer

652. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have started supplying its own bottled water 'Rail Neer' to railway passengers;

(b) if so, the Railway Zones in which 'Rail Neer' is being supplied;

(c) whether the bottled water 'Rail Neer' has not been found to be of international standard as has been reported in some prominent newspapers;

(d) if so, the facts of the matter and reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) the company which has been selected for this purpose;

(f) whether the company's bottled water is of 'Zero B' quality and meets the standard specification; and

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

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

(b) Rail Neer is being made available at important Railway stations of Northern and North Central Railways, from the Rail Neer plant at Nangloi, Delhi.

(c) No, Sir. Rail Neer conforms to the stringent norms set up by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). It further conforms to European norms for pesticides residues.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The plant is completely owned by Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) and the equipment etc. has been supplied by M/s Ion Exchange Ltd.

(f) and (g) Rail Neer has been tested and it conforms to the laid down standards of Bureau of Indian Standards.

[Translation]

Inclusion of New Castes in SC List

653. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jatav, Paswan, Balmiki, Passi, Raiger and Dhobi, etc. castes have been living in lakhs of numbers in Delhi over the years;

(b) if so, whether these castes have been kept deprived of the benefits of the reservation made for SCs in Delhi for the Government jobs;

(c) whether the Government propose to include these castes in the list of Scheduled Castes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) to (d) The Jatav, Balmiki, Pasi (not passi), Raigar (not Raiger) and Dhobi communities have already been notified as Scheduled Castes in Delhi, vide the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union territories) Order, 1951. As such, persons belonging to these communities are eligible to derive the benefits accorded to member of the Scheduled Castes. As far as inclusion of the Paswan community in the list of Scheduled Castes is concerned, no proposal in this regard has been received from the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

[English]

Stolen of Niazi's Pistol

654. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a pistol of Pakistani Commander Lt. General A.A.K. Niazi which was handed over to the Indian Army at Dhaka at the time of surrender during the Indo-Pak war in 1971, has been stolen from the Naval Gallery in the National Museum in Delhi;

(b) whether the Naval Gallery is guarded by the Naval personnel;

(c) if so, whether the Government have made any inquiry into the lapses in the security arrangements leading to the theft of the pistol;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. The pistol, which was stolen recently from the National Museum, was the personal weapon of Rear Admiral Mohammad Sharif, Flag Officer Commanding of the then East Pakistan Naval Forces.

(b) No, Sir. The security of the National Museum is provided by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). The Naval personnel are posted at the Naval Gallery to act as information guide.

(c) to (e) The matter is under investigation by Delhi Police.

Expansion of Central List of OBCs

655. SHRI C. N. SINGH:

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

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) recommended for expansion of the Central list of Other Backward Classes for several States;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Commission of OBC for inclusion in the OBC list, State-wise and caste-wise;

(c) whether some States also suggested inclusion of some castes of their respective States in the OBC list;

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

(e) the action taken by the Union Government on the recommendations and suggestion of National Commission/State Governments and the criteria adopted for the purpose, State-wise and caste-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Commission for Backward Classes has recommended the inclusion of following castes/ communities in the Central List of OBCs-

State	Name of Community
Andhra Pradesh	1. Quresh (Muslim Butcher)
	2. Patra
Bihar	1. Ghasi, Sadgope
	2. Saikalkgar (Sikligar) (Muslim)
Punjab	Ghumiar, Parjapatra
Tamil Nadu	Kannada Saineegar, Kannadiyar (throughout the State) and Dasa-palanjika (Coimbatore, Erode & Nilgiris districts)
Uttar Pradesh	Baghban

(c) In pursuance of the Judgment of the Supreme Court delivered in 1992, all the State Governments have set up their own Commissions for the identification of castes/ communities for inclusion in the State List of OBCs. In view of this, the subject matter of inclusion of castes/communities in the State List of OBCs comes under the purview of the State Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government of India decides cases for inclusion in the Central List of OBCs on the basis of advices tendered by National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). The Central List of OBCs undergoes changes whenever there are additions. This is a continuing process.

The castes and communities for which final decision has been taken are notified through 20 Gazette Notifications issued so far. The details of these Gazette Notifications are given in the enclosed statement. The names of castes/ communities included in the Central Lists of OBCs for various States/UTs are given in these Notifications.

Further, the Commission has formulated guidelines for consideration of requests, which include criteria covering social, educational and economic aspects of backwardness.

Statement

Gazette Notifications issued so far for specification of castes/communities in the central list of backward classes

S. No.	Gazette Notifications:	
	Number	Date
1	2	3
1	186	13.09.1993
2.	163	20.10.1994
3.	83	16.05.1995
4.	88	25.05.1995
5.	123	17.07.1995
6.	29	29.01.1996
7.	60	11.03.1996
8.	210	11.12.1996
9.	129	08.07.1997
10.	164	02.09.1997
11.	236	12.12.1997
12.	239	17.12.1997
13.	166	04.08.1998
14.	171	06.08.1998
15.	241	27.10.1999
16.	270	06.12.1999

1	2	3
17.	71	04.04.2000
18.	210	21.09.2000
19.	246	06.09.2001
20.	151	20.06.2003

Rationalisation of CPSUs Tariff Structure

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Government of Rajasthan regarding rationalization of Central Public Sector Undertakings Tariff Structure;

(b) if so, status of the proposal;

(c) whether the existing tariff structure of power generated by Central Generating Stations has created an anomalous situation of Central Undertaking earning;

(d) if so, the details of increase in ROE;

(e) whether the Government have decided in principal to consider the request of State Government; and

(f) likely time by which this proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (f) The responsibility of determining tariffs of Central Public Sector Undertakings lies with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). The CERC fixes the tariff of the generating companies in a transparent manner after considering the views of all concerned.

The electricity Act. 2003 provides for formulation of the National Electricity Policy and tariff policy by the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments. The views of the State Governments including the Government of Rajasthan have been invited.

Grants to Centres for Handicapped Persons

657. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide grants and assistance to certain centres working for the handicapped persons:

(b) if so, the details of such scheme and assistance provided thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year State-wise and centre-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints against the management of certain centres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) and (b) Government provides grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of handicapped persons under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for persons with Disabilities. The details of this Scheme and the State-wise, organization-wise details of grants-in-aid provided to Voluntary Organizations under this Scheme during the last three years and the current year (as on 21-7-2003) are available in the Ministry's Website "www.socialjustice.nic.in"

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are as under:-

(i) A complaint against the management of Chaitanya Mahila Mandli, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh was received. The complainant also filed a Writ Petition against the management of this Organization in Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh. The complaint received by the Government was got enquired into through the State Government and the complaint was not substantiated. The WP filed by the complainant in the Hon'ble High Court was dismissed by the Court. Accordingly grant-in-aid has since been released.

(ii) A complaint was received against the management of Handicapped Women Welfare Organization, Bhadrak District, Orissa. The complainant also filed a Writ Petition against the management of the Organization in the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa. The Government has advised the State Bank of India, District Branch, Bhadrak to stop operation of the Bank accounts of the Organization. The Hon'ble High Court has since issued interim order directing District Collector, Bhadrak to take over the management of the Special School for the disabled girls of the Organization and also directed the Bank to allow the operation of Bank accounts of the Organization by the District Collector.

Loan from Foreign Financial Institutions by IRFC

658. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railway Finance Corporation seeks loan from foreign financial institutions;

(b) if so, the amount of loan taken from abroad during the last three years;

(c) the amount of interest paid by the Indian Railways to foreign institutions during this period;

(d) the projects undertaken by the Railways in Maharashtra with these loan assistance during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. (IRFC) raises funds from both domestic and overseas debt capital markets to augment resources for the Railway Plan.

(b) During the last three years, IRFC raised the following amounts from foreign financial institutions:

Year	Amount	Source
2000-01	Euro 19.5 million	Kreditanstalt fur Wiederafbau (KfW), Germany.
2001-02	US$ 20.4 million	Export Development Canada (EDC)
2002-03	US$ 75 million	Syndicated Loan

(c) Since the loans were raised by IRFC, interest has been paid by them. The amount of interest paid by IRFC against the above loans during this period is as under:-

Year	Amount of interest paid	
2000-01	Nil	
2001-02	Euro 0.79 million US$ 0.59 million	(Rs. 6.24 crore)
2002-03	Euro 0.61 million US$ 0.41 million	(Rs. 4.96 crore)

(d) The funds raised were used to finance the acquisition of rolling stock which are operated on the entire Indian Railway network. No Railway project has been financed from these funds.

(e) Does not arise.

Power Generation through Central Sector Undertakings and SEBs

659. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether electricity is generated through the project under State Electricity Boards in addition to the electricity generated through the Undertakings of the Union Government in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the percentage of electricity is generated by the Undertakings of the Central Government out of the total electricity generated in the country; and

(c) the percentage of electricity generated through the projects of State Electricity Boards during the last three years, State-wise?

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

(b) Details of electricity generated by Central Sector Public Undertakings during the year 2002-03 and their percentage out of the total electricity generated in the country are given below:

(Figures in MUs)

Central Sector Public Undertakings	2002-03	
	Actual Generation	% of All India Generation
National Thermal Power Corporation	146200	27.5
Neyveli Lignite Corporation	15005	2.8
Damodar Valley Corporaiton	8955	1.7
North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.	2990	0.6
National Hydro Electric Power Corporation	9875	1.9
Bhakra Beas Management Board	10671	2.0
Nuclear Power Corporation	19235	3.6
Total Central Sector Public Undertakings	212931	40.1
All India Generation	531607	

(c) The percentage of electricity generated by State Electricity Boards/State Public Sector Undertakings during last three years out of the total electricity generated in the country is given in enclosed statement.

Statement

(Generation Figure in Million Units)

State	SEB/PSU	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
		Actual Generation	% of All India Gen.	Actual Generation	% of All India Gen.	Actual Generation	% of All India Gen.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Delhi	DVB	2800	0.6	2677	0.5	3496	0.7
Jammu & Kashmir	J&K	564	0.1	541	0.1	381	0.1
Himachal Pradesh	H.P.S.E.B.	1165	0.2	1146	0.2	1317	0.2
Haryana	H.P.G.C.	3795	0.8	5314	1.0	6211	1.2
Rajasthan	PRVUNL	10236	2.0	11256	2.2	14054	2.6
Punjab	PSEB	17599	3.5	18406	3.6	17166	3.2
Uttar Pradesh	UPRVUNL	19582	3.9	20510	4.0	20967	3.9
	UPHPC	5301	1.1	2030	0.4	1454	0.3
Uttaranchal	Uttaranchal	0	0.0	2914	0.6	3343	0.6
Gujarat	GEB	23337	4.7	22933	4.5	23456	4.4
	GSECL	2883	0.6	3136	0.6	3398	0.6
	GSEG Ltd.	0	0.0	171	0.0	878	0.2
Maharashtra	MSEB	45849	9.2	48929	9.5	48283	9.1
Madhya Pradesh	MPEB	22237	4.5	14735	2.9	16403	3.1
Chhattisgarh	CSEB	0	0.0	8148	1.6	7839	1.5
Andhra Pradesh	APGENCO	29657	5.9	28369	5.5	26707	5.0
	APGPCL	1978	0.4	1950	0.4	2031	0.4
Karnataka	KPCL	19440	3.9	9244	1.8	6823	1.3
	KEB	237	0.0	231	0.0	264	0.0
	VVNL Ktk.	658	0.1	772	0.1	715	0.1
Kerala	KSEB	6969	1.4	6719	1.3	4814	0.9
Tamil Nadu	TNEB	25123	5.0	25547	5.0	24912	4.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Pondicherry	PPCL	233	0.0	250	0.0	265	0.0
Bihar	BSEB	2260	0.5	731	0.1	590	0.1
Jharkhand	JSEB	0	0.0	1523	0.3	1310	0.2
	TENUGHAT VID.	1333	0.3	1157	0.2	1369	0.3
Orissa	OPGC	3006	0.6	2598	0.5	2613	0.5
	OPHC	4612	0.9	6456	1.3	3153	0.6
West Bengal	WBSEB	3635	0.7	1387	0.3	510	0.1
	WBP DEV Corp.	7507	1.5	11777	2.3	13935	2.6
	DPL	597	0.1	1041	0.2	1476	0.3
Sikkim	Sikkim	21	0.0	35	0.0	35	0.0
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	A&N Island	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Assam	ASEB	932	0.2	842	0.2	743	0.1
Meghalaya	MSEB	658	0.1	613	0.1	573	0.1
Tripura	Tripura	312	0.1	289	0.1	340	0.1
Manipur	Manipur	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	13	0.0	19	0.0	10	0.0
Nagaland	Nagaland	0	0.0	4	0.0	2	0.00
	Total SEB/ PSU	264529	53.0	273776	53.1	272778	51.3
	All India Gen.	499548		515247		531607	

Regulatory Authority for Broadcasters

660. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:

SHRI M. DURAI:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up an autonomous broadcast regulatory body; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) There is clearly need for an institutional mechanism for regulation of broadcasting. A wider consultation with stake holders is considered necessary for deciding on the appropriate framework.

Permanent Venue for International Film Festival

661. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided that International Film Festival would now permanently be based in Goa; and

(b) if so, the reasons for making Goa the regular and permanent venue for India International Film Festivals to the exclusion of other important cities and towns of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The need for a permanent venue of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) arises, inter alia, from the need to develop quality infrastructure, reduce infructuous costs of refurbishing a new festival venue each year and have a venue that evokes a festive split. In consultation with the representatives of the film industry, Goa is seen as a place that is already on the international tourist map and has a festive ambience. Accordingly, it has emerged as the unanimous choice for a permanent venue for IFFI.

ONGC Investment in Sudan

662. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC Videsh Limited has imprudently invested huge amount in a Sudanese venture without assessing the political risks;

(b) if so, whether Sudan is high on US hit-list post-Iraq;

(c) whether the ONGC Videsh Limited has secured a Political risk insurance cover to safeguard its investments in Sudan covering war, terrorism and expropriation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL) has purchased 25% stake in the Greater Nile Oil Project (GNOP) in Sudan from Talisman Energy Inc., Canada on 12th March 2003, after due assessment of the risks and the mitigating factors.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) OVL has informed that they have taken standard political risk insurance policy covering confiscation, expropriation, nationalization and selective discrimination to the extent available.

Passenger Security Measures in Trains

663. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the safety and security of passengers are neglected by the Government Railway Police inspite of huge amount spent by the Railways on the Government Railway Police;

(b) whether the Railways are not able to fix responsibility of each crime on running trains;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Railways have any plan to fix responsibility of crime committed on running trains;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons for spending huge amount on security of passengers while the State Government are not providing security to the passengers;

(g) whether the Railways propose to review the present system of passengers security in trains; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. Government Railway Police is the statutory agency to deal with each crime and is discharging its function.

(b) No, Sir. GRP is responsible for curbing crimes in running trains. However, serious cases of crime like murder/rape/dacoity/robbery are taken up with concerned GRP Chiefs so that they induce their staff to solve the crimes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) As explained at (a) above, GRP under the State Government are the sole statutory agency to deal with crimes on passengers in running trains. Railways bear 50% of the entire cost of GRP, the other 50% being borne by the State Government.

(g) No, Sir. However, RPF is deployed to augment GRP whenever there is a spate of crimes in running trains.

(h) Does not arise.

Funds Allotted and Utilized by Development Projects in West Bengal

664. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have allocated funds for the development of various existing development projects executed by the Union Government in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and disbursed for various centrally assisted schemes in West Bengal during the last three years;

(c) whether the money allocated for various schemes and projects are utilized fully;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry is implementing various programmes/schemes for the development and utilization of non-conventional energy sources like solar, wind, biomass and small hydro power throughout the country, including West Bengal. The Ministry does not allocate funds, State-wise. However, the proposals/projects received from the States are considered based on techno-economic feasibility, fulfilment of the terms and conditions as per the provisions contained in the scheme and availability of funds. During the last three years, i.e., 2000-01 to 2002-03, Rs. 50.28 crore has been released under various non-conventional energy programmes/schemes to West Bengal, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Non-utilization of funds have not been reported from West Bengal.

Statement

Release of funds during the last three years, i.e., 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 under the major non- conventional energy programmes to West Bengal

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Programme/ Scheme	Funds Released during 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 to West Bengal
1	2	3
1.	Wind Power	3.51
2.	Small Hydro Power	8.29
3.	Biomass Power	0.23
4.	Biomass Gasification	1.39
5.	Solar Photovoltaic Power	0.34
6.	Biogas Plants	13.75
7.	Community/Institutional/ Night soil biogas plants	0.36
8.	Improved Chulha	5.34
9.	Solar Thermal	0.89
10.	Solar Photovoltaic	13.03
11.	Wind Pumps & Small Aero-generators	0.11
12.	Integrated Rural Energy	0.04
13.	Special Area Demonstration	0.80
14.	Village Electrification	2.20
	Total	50.28

Setting up of Grid Station at Sheetalpur in Bihar

665. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a power grid sub-station at Sheetalpur in Bihar.

(b) if so, the cost of the project; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started and the target for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Government of Bihar/Bihar State Electricity Board propose to construct a new 132/33 kV substation at Sheetalpur in Saran District of Bihar with a transformation capacity of 2x20 MVA as a part of the comprehensive scheme for strengthening the sub-transmission system in Bihar, to be executed by POWERGRID as a deposit work. The cost of construction of the Sub-station at Sheetalpur would be Rs.9.2 crore (Approx.). The execution of the scheme shall commence after the signing of an agreement between Ministry of Power, Government of Bihar, Bihar State Electricity Board and POWERGRID and the same is being finalized expeditiously. The works are expected to be completed progressively in a period of two years from the date of receipt of 1st tranche of grant.

Technology Upgradation in PSUs

666. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Units fall short in meeting global standards of these services and products;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for technology up gradation in Public Sector Units; and

(c) the number of such units taken up for upgradation of technology?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) to (c) There are 240 PSUs in operation under administrative control of various Ministries/Departments. Technology upgradation is a continuous process depending upon the requirement of the particular enterprise. Information regarding technology upgradation in PSUs is not centrally maintained.

IOCL ties with SAAC Countries

667. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOCL has drawn up a roadmap to piggy-back on India's friendly diplomatic ties with SAARC counties to expand its cooking gas business; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the opportunities available in SAARC counties, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has taken initiatives to enter LPG marketing in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal. IOCL has plans to export the LPG to these countries after importing the same.

State Power Ministers Conference

668. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Power Ministers conference was held in June to discuss the power situation in the country:

(b) if so, whether any target fixed for power generation during the 10th Plan;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have urged States to meet power generation targets;

(d) whether number of projects have not been undertaken so far;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the names of the States where these projects have not undertaken; and

(g) the details of the help and assistance the Centre has agreed to provide to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. The centre has impressed upon the states that they should take up the work on all feasible Tenth Plan power projects within next few months and in any case within the financial year so that the Tenth Plan targets could be met.

(b) and (c) A capacity addition target of 41,110 MW projects (25417 MW-Thermal, 14393 MW-Hydro & 1300 MW-Nuclear) has been set for 10th Plan. A capacity of 3276 MW has been added till 30th June, 2003. This comprises of 2541 MW thermal and 735 MW hydro.

(d) to (f) The Tenth Plan target for capacity addition in the State Sector has been set as 11157 MW. Out of this, projects totaling 1418 MW have already been commissioned and projects totaling 5076.69 MW are under execution. Remaining projects are under award/investment decision. In the Power Ministers' Conference, various States committed to lace awards and start work on all the remaining power projects within 2003-04 to ensure completion of these projects by the end of 10th Plan.

(g) The centre is rendering assistance to states in obtaining earlier clearances/inputs, resolving major bottlenecks. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has mobilized themselves to see that execution of a good project is not hampered due to lack of funds.

Cost of On-going Projects in Tamil Nadu

669. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether against the total cost of Rs. 3,056 crores for the ongoing railway projects in the State of Tamil Nadu the Railways so far allotted only Rs. 634.77 crores;

(b) if so the reasons therefor;

(c) whether in the current year too, the allocation was relatively meagre at Rs. 179.28 crores;

(d) whether at this level of allotment of fund, it would take many more years to complete the projects which would result in a heavy cost overrun; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The total cost of on-going projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu anticipated in the beginning of the current financial year 2003-04 is Rs. 5101.07 crore and the outlay expected upto March 2003 is Rs. 2094.50 crore.

(b) Constraint of resources.

(c) During 2003-04 Rs. 245.6 crore has been provided.

(d) and (e) Funds are being made available state-wise in a transparent manner based on formula and projects/part sections of the projects are identified for their completion in a time bound manner.

Excise Duty Exemption on Kerosene and LPG

670. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken/likely to take any decision to exempt excise duty on kerosene sold through PDS and domestic LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefit likely to accrue to the consumers by exempting excise duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No such decision has been taken.

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

[Translation]

Purchase of Orders for HEC

671. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether H.E.C. has approached a number of undertakings and Ministries to obtain purchase orders;

(b) if so, the names of the Undertakings and Ministries approached during last two years;

(c) the value of purchase orders obtained and the percentage of increase in purchase orders during the last three years; and

(d) the names of the Undertakings and Ministries from which purchase orders have been obtained and the value of these orders during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) HEC approached following Ministries and Undertakings for obtaining orders, during the last two years:-

1. Ministries of

(a) Railways (b) Steel (c) Defence (d) Coal

2. Government Undertakings

(a) Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL)

(b) Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)

(c) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL)

(d) Coal India Ltd. (CIL)

(e) Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL)

(f) National Mineral Development Corp. (NMDC)

(g) Neyveli Lignite Corp. Ltd. (NLCL)

(c) The figures for last 3 years are as under:-

Year	Order booking (Rs. in crore)	Increase/decrease over preceding year
2000-01	196.67	24.33%
2001-02	145.43	-26.05%
2002-03	172.71	18.76%

(d) The value of the orders obtained during the current financial year upto June, 2003 alongwith the names of Ministries and Undertakings are as under:-

Name of Organisations	Value (Rs. in crore)
Ministries	
Railways	0.59
Undertakings	
BHEL, SAIL, RINL, CIL, SCCL & NMDC	24.84
Total	25.43

[English]

Railway Disaster Management Committee

672. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up Railway Disaster Management Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of sittings held during the last one year;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the implementation of 100 measures recommended by the Committee for disaster Management;

(d) whether all the measures recommended by the DMC have been implemented;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) A five member high-level Committee to review the Disaster Management system over Indian Railways and for its strengthening and streamlining was constituted by Ministry of Railways on 16.9.2002. The Committee had very wide consultations with expert agencies, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Communication, Ministry of Home Affairs, suppliers/manufacturers of rescue related equipment and also invited suggestions from individuals and organisations. In March 2003, the Committee submitted its report containing 111 recommendations. It has since been accepted.

(c) to (f) The tentative financial cost of implementing bulk of the recommendations amounts to around Rs.400 crores, excluding certain recommendations, requiring further scrutiny for financial assessment. Action has been initiated to implement the recommendations, which broadly cover institutionalising golden hour drill, faster relief measures for injured and survivors, care for dead and technological inputs to Medical, Relief and restoration operation.

Records of Old Railway Bridges

673. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of rail bridges in the country which are more than 80 years old;

(b) whether Railways do not have appropriate and adequate data base about railway bridges due to which their proper monitoring is very difficult;

(c) if so, the reasons for not maintaining appropriate and adequate data base about railway bridges; and

(d) the manner in which the Government are monitoring and maintaining such old bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) There are about 75600 Rail Bridges on Indian Railway which are more than 80 years old.

(b) Adequate and appropriate information about railway bridges is available for proper monitoring. However, Railway has further decided to modernize inspection & management systems.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Railways have well laid down multi-tier schedule of annual inspection of bridges and each bridge is inspected atleast once in a year. The defects noticed during such inspections are attended to promptly or suitable speed restrictions are imposed, if required, till such time repairs are carried out.

Withdrawal of Jan Shatabdi Trains

674. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have withdrawn certain Jan Shatabdi trains; and

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

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

(b) 2071/2072 Tata-Ranchi Jan Shatabdi Express replaced by MEMU service from 10.02.2003, and 2081/2082 Ahmedabad-Bhuj Jan Shatabdi Express has been short terminated at Gandhidham from 01.07.2003 due to poor patronage. Further, due to operational problem on Konkan Railway, 2051/2052 Lokmanya Tilak (Terminus)-Madgaon Jan Shatabdi Express has been temporarily cancelled for a period of one month and 15 days w.e.f. 03.07.2003.

Joint Exploration by India and Sri Lanka

675. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:

SHRI KAMAL NATH:

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

(a) whether India and Sri Lanka have jointly decided for oil exploration recently;

(b) if so, whether discussions were held with the Sri Lankan Government on the issue in the month of May 2003;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the Government is likely to be benefited by such joint venture with Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has informed that during the visit of their officials to Sri Lanka in February 2003, a suggestion was made by IOC to Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC), the National Oil Company of Sri Lanka that IOC along with Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) could join CPC in their exploration efforts in nominated acreages in the strait of Palar and Gulf of Mannar located in the geographical proximity to the Cauvery basin of India.

(d) As the legal framework for offering exploration blocks under Production Sharing Contract basis, has not been finalized by the Sri Lankan Government as of date, and keeping in mind the uncertainties of exploration of hydrocarbons it is not possible to identify the likely benefits from the proposed joint venture.

Outstanding Dues Against SEBs

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

(a) whether Railways has not been able to recover its dues from the State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the total outstanding dues of Railways on each State Electricity Board as on March 31, 2003; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. However, recovery of the dues is an on going process. Some State Electricity Boards/Power Houses (SEB/PHs) have been paying the dues concurrently, while other SEBs have been paying amounts due in parts.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) The steps taken by Railways to recover the dues are as under:

(i) The scheme for prepayment of freight for carrying of coal to SEB/PHs was introduced since 1-10-1996 for all power houses with the exception of Badarpur Thermal Power Station of NTPC, for whom the scheme commenced on 1-1-1997. This was done to arrest fresh accrual of freight outstandings.

(ii) Pursuant to the Government's decision on 07.02.1997, that the outstanding dues from SEB/PHs as on 31.12.1996 would be adjusted from the Central Plan Assistance to the State Governments subject to certain limits, Railways have received an amount of Rs.159.23 crore till date.

(iii) Close monitoring of recovery of outstanding dues from SEB/PHs is being done by holding meetings with the representatives of State Electricity Boards/Power Houses.

(iv) Ministry of Railways has approached Secretaries of the concerned Ministries and Chief Secretaries of the States from time to time.

(v) Matter had also been taken up by the Minister for Railways with the Chief Ministers of concerned States and the Minister of Power, as and when required.

(vi) Adjustment of outstanding dues against traction bills in respect of some of the SEB/PHs is also being carried out.

Statement

The position of outstanding dues against State Electricity Boards/Power Houses as on 31.03.2003 is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Name of State Electricity Board/Power House		Outstanding dues as on 31.03.2003.
1		2
1.	Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	0.01
2.	Assam State Electricity Board	0.00
3.	Bihar State Electricity Board	0.02
4.	Delhi Vidyut Board	179.88
5.	Gujarat State Electricity Board	0.32
6.	Haryana State Electricity Board	1.13
7.	Jharkhand State Electricity Board	0.25
8.	Karnataka State Electricity Board	0.01
9.	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	0.87
10.	Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board	6.29
11.	Punjab State Electricity Board	424.05
12.	Rajasthan State Electricity Board	109.92
13.	Tamilnadu State Electricity Board	0.60
14.	Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	27.36
15.	West Bengal State Electricity Board	8.11
16.	Badarpur Thermal Power Station	966.63
17.	National Thermal Power Corporation	20.45
18.	Damodar Valley Corporation	7.94
19.	Private Power House, Sabarmati	0.03
	Total	1753.87

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion Projects in Maharashtra

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

(a) the names of the railway tracks in Mallarashtra on which the gauge conversion work has begun and the present status thereof;

(b) the present status of the work of Latur-Mirage (Maharashtra) phase III railway line between Latur and Kurduvadi; and

(c) the time by which this phase is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The present status of on-going gauge conversion projects in Maharashtra along with outlay for 2003-04 is as under, the status of Kurduwadi-Latur is also given:

Sl. No.	Project	Budget Outlay 2003-04 (Rs. in crore)	Status with targets wherever fixed
1	2	3	4
1.	Miraj-Latur	25	Work between Kurduwadi and Pandharpur (52 km.) completed and commissioned. Latur-Latur Road (33 km.) has also been completed. On Kurduwadi-Latur section earthwork, bridges and ballasting are in progress. Land acquisition is in progress and land for 15 out of 29 villages

1	2	3	4
			acquired. Work is being progressed as per availability of resources. No target has been fixed for completion.
2.	Solapur (Hotgi)--Gadag	10	The work on Solapur-Hotgi (16 km.) and Hotgi to Bijapur has been completed. Work is in progress on rest of the section from Bijapur to Gadag.
3.	Secunderabad-Mudkhed and Jankhampet-Bodhan	25	Mudkhed-Dharmabad-Nizamabad and Jankhampet-Bodhan sections completed and commissioned. On Nizamabad-Bolarum-Secunderabad section, earthwork and bridges are in progress.
4.	Mudkhed-Adilabad	30	The work was taken up under BOLT scheme. However, the contractor failed due to financial crunch and now the work is being done through railway funding. Earthwork has been completed in 80 km. stretch. Earthwork, bridges and ballast collection is in progress.
5.	Akola-Purna	15	In Purna-Hingoli section, earthwork and bridges are in progress.

(c) No target date of completion has yet been fixed for Kurduwadi-Latur of Miraj-Latur gauge conversion project. The completion would depend upon availability of resources.

[English]

Per Unit Cost of Power Paid by TRANSCO

678. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the per unit cost of power paid by TRANSCO for purchasing power from other States;

(b) the details of rates at which TRANSCO sells power to the private Discoms in Delhi;

(c) whether the huge concessions provided to private distributors in the rate of power; and

(d) if so, the amount provided as concessions during the last three years along with the amount given to TRANSCO by the Government, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The per unit cost of power purchased by Delhi TRANSCO Limited (DTL) from other sources during the year 2003-04 are as under:-

(Rs./Kwh)

Name of the Utility/Source	2003-2004
West Bengal Power Corporation Limited	1.88
Eastern Region	2.40
Uttaranchal Power Corporation Limited	2.60
Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board	2.50
Uttar Pradesh Power Corpn. Ltd.	2.60

The average cost of the power purchased by DTL from all sources as approved by Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) for the year 2003-04 was Rs.2.24 per unit with effect from 4th July, 2003.

The bulk supply rates/kwh for DTL as fixed by DERC for sale to Distribution Companies (Discoms) for the year 2003-04 are as under:

(Paise per kwh)

	2003-2004 (w.e.f. 4.7.2003)
North Delhi Power Ltd.	157.54
BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd.	160.05
BSES Yamuna Power Ltd.	125.94

DERC fixes tariff and in doing so it is guided by the parameters as provided in section 28 of the Delhi Electricity Reforms Act which inter alia requires the Commission to take into consideration the factors which would encourage efficiency, economic use of the resources, good performance, optimum investments, and the interests of the consumers. The Act also requires that the Commission in discharge of its functions shall be guided by the policy directions of the Government of NCT of Delhi.

During the year 2001-2002 GNCTD had provided a subsidy of Rs.104.50 crore to Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) towards non-levy of Fuel Adjustment Charges on domestic/ agricultural consumers. The assistance given by the GNCTD to DTL is loan, which was Rs.1364 crore during the year 2002-03 and is reduced to Rs.1260 crore in the year 2003-04. GNCTD has also decided to provide Rs.52 crore as subsidy for the year 2003-04.

[Translation]

Grants to SCs Children for Shelter and School

679. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals from State Governments/ UTs for the shelter and schools for the children belonging to the scheduled castes received by the Union Government during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the funds allocated/sanctioned/spent for the said purpose during the said period, State-wise and scheme-wise; and

(c) the details of proposals rejected by the Union Government along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) No proposals have been received in the Ministry from the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations and no central assistance is sanctioned by us for shelter for the children belonging to Scheduled Castes.

However, under the Scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations Working for Scheduled Castes, the proposals of Non-Governmental Organizations for schools (non-residential and residential) are received through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The number of such proposals during each of the last three financial years and during the current financial year (as on 21.07.2003) are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The grants in aid sanctioned to non-governmental organizations for schools, State-wise, during each of the last three financial years and the current financial year (as on 21.07.2003) are detailed in the statement-II enclosed.

(c) 140 proposals from non-governmental organizations for schools have been rejected as they do not fulfil the conditions laid down in the Ministry's guidelines for grants in aid to non-governmental organizations.

Statement-I

Number of proposals of Non-Governmental Organizations received through State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, during each of the last three years and current year (as on 21.07.2003)

S.No.	State	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
		NRS	RS	NRS	RS	NRS	RS	NRS	RS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	1	12	1	-	1	1	1
2.	Assam	5	1	3	-	-	2	-	-
3.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Delhi		1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Gujarat	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6(a).	Haryana	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-
6.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
7.	Karnataka	-	1	4	5	1	4	1	4
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1	-	10	-	3	3	-	1
9.	Maharashtra	-	-	13	91	27	333	11	136
10.	Manipur	1	-	-	-	1	4	1	-
11.	Rajasthan	-	-	22	5	2	5	-	-
12.	Orissa	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-
13.	Punjab	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
14.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
16.	Uttar Pradesh	2	4	1	-	14	6	-	-
17.	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-
18.	West Bengal	2	2	1	-	-	-	1	-
	Total	14	14	73	103	50	368	15	142

Note: NRS = Non-Residential School

RS = Residential School

Statement-II

Grant in aid sanctioned to non-governmental organizations for non-residential schools as well as residential schools, state-wise, during each of the last three years and current financial year (as on 21.07.2003)

S.No.	State	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
		NRS	RS	NRS	RS	NRS	RS	NRS	RS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	199529	403402	-	-
2	Assam	299250	-	88875	-	-	-	-	-
3	Bihar	137745	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Chhattisgarh	-	-	141120	-	-	-	-	-
5	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Karnataka	278677	-	87912	500166	54000	90000	-	-
11	Madhya Pradesh	623819	-	1328949	-	206640	-	-	-
12	Maharashtra	251370	-	-	163170	-	968000	-	-
13	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Orissa	-	-	451980	877180	-	-	-	-
15	Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Rajasthan	-	-	2002167	1142370	-	-	-	-
17	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	West Bengal	1249356	-	177300	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	2840217	-	4278303	2682886	460169	1461402	-	-

Note: NRS = Non-Residential School

RS = Residential School

[English]

Reservation on Economic Criteria

680. SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

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

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to introduce reservation based on economic criteria for all sections of society not covered so far by any quota;

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

(c) whether the Government have constituted any committee or propose to bring any legislation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government of India has already initiated action for setting up a Commission to study and recommend reservation for the economically backward classes not covered by the present reservation policy. The concerned Ministries/Departments including Department of Legal Affairs of the Government of India are being consulted in the matter.

MoU between Railway and Production Units

681. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Railways has issued a Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Railways and the six production units under the Ministry of Railways and also approved it, in principle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar step earlier was opposed by the GM/CLW (Chittaranjan Locomotive Works) along with other unions and given reply to the question circulated to them by the Railway Board;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government on those replies;

(e) whether most of trade unions have opposed this move as it will cum the activities of the PSU and detach them from Indian Railways as non-core sector; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government and reason for not filling up vacant post which are created in last three years in CLW due to retirement of employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Not yet. A draft Memorandum of Understanding for granting more autonomy to Production Units for marketing to Non Railway Customers and exports has been prepared and circulated to all Production units.

(c) and (d) The replies of all the Production Units including CLW (Chittaranjan Locomotive Works) has been received and the suggestions made by them have been examined.

(e) The matter was also discussed with Staff Council, CLW, which is the recognized labour representative body of CLW and their apprehensions were addressed for satisfactory conclusion that the Memorandum does not seek to detach the Production Units from Indian Railways. No other Staff Council of other Five Production Units has expressed its opposition.

(f) The vacancies are filled up as and when the need arises depending on the work load vis-a-vis staff requirements.

[Translation]

Petrol Pumps to SCs/STs in Haryana

682. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by the Government for allotment of Petrol Pumps to persons belonging to SCs/STs category;

(b) whether the Government have received representation regarding violation of the criteria;

(c) if so, total number of representations received from various districts of Haryana; and

(d) the number of Petrol Pumps allotted in various districts of Haryana in violation of fixed criteria and action taken by the Government on the representations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) In the guidelines for selection of dealers/ distributors, the following criteria were prescribed for selection of dealers for retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) under the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe category:-

(i) The candidates should belong to castes/tribes recognized as Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution of India

(ii) The minimum age should be 21 years and the maximum 60 years.

(iii) The minimum educational qualification is matriculation or recognized equivalent.

(iv) The candidates should be residents of the district of the advertised location or its adjoining districts as mentioned in the advertisement with preference to the residents of the district where the dealership is to be located.

(v) The gross annual income of the candidate should not exceed Rs.2 lakh.

vi) No person would be awarded a new dealership, if he/she or any of his/her close relatives (including step relatives), i.e., spouse, father/mother (not applicable to a married female applicant who is not dependent on her father/mother), brother/ brother's wife (not applicable to a married female applicant who is not dependent on her brother/

brother's wife) and son/daughter-in-law already hold a 'Letter of Intent' or a dealership/ distributorship of any oil company.

(vii) Unsound persons were not eligible.

(viii) A candidate convicted of any criminal offence involving moral turpitude/ economic offence (other than freedom struggle) would not be eligible.

(b) to (d) The complaints received regarding violation of the criteria in the selection of dealers under the SC/ST category in the country, including Haryana, are investigated as per the provisions of the guidelines.

[English]

Safety Measures for Women in Trains

683. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce adequate safety measures for women passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to depute women police in trains including in the ladies compartments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Though maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railway premises including Railway Stations and running trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned, the Railways co-ordinate with the State Governments for ensuring better security to the passengers. The Railway administration has taken the following steps:

1. Anti-social elements are being removed from Railway premises and trains by RPF.

2. Coach Attendants/TTEs keeps proper watch on the passengers' entering/detraining from the coaches.

3. Vestibules between coaches are locked during night hours and passengers advised to latch doors at night.

4. FIR forms are made available with the Train Guards/ Station Masters/RPF to facilitate the travelling public to lodge their reports immediately.

5. Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and the GRP is done at all levels.

6. Announcements are made through Public Address System and CCTV at important Railway Stations tc alert the travelling passengers against theft of their belongings etc.

7. RPF Assistance Posts are provided at important stations to assist passengers in lodging FIRs with Government Railway Police.

8. Where and when necessary, RPF strengthen the security on trains to augment GRP escorts.

9. Periodic High Level co-ordination Meetings with Government Railway Police and Local Police are conducted to analyse the crime position with a view to taking suitable preventive measures.

10. Steps have been taken to sensitize the RPF personnel to the problems of women passengers by organizing workshops and seminars.

(c) and (d) Special squads consisting of ladies ticket checking staff and lady RPF personnel have been formed in Central, South Central and Western Railways to assist the women passengers. Ladies' compartments are escorted in some suburban areas by women GRP and women RPF staff.

[Translation]

Setting up of New Radio Stations

684. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open new Radio Stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location and State-wise particularly in Bihar; and

(c) the time by which the proposed Radio Stations are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 4 Nos. of new FM

Stations at Gaya, Motihari, Banka and Madhubani have been proposed by Prasar Bharati for the state of Bihar in the 10th Five Year Plan. Further one 10 KW additional FM channel has also been proposed to be installed at Patna in Bihar. The state-wise list of new stations, proposed to be opened in the country by AIR during 10th Five Year Plan, is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The commissioning of Radio Stations is contingent upon the approval of the competent authority, availability of financial resources and inter-se priorities.

Statement

List of FM/MW Stations Proposed in X Plan

I New FM Stations **71 Nos.**

State	Sl. No.	Place	Power
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
	1.	Kakinada/Rajamundry	10 kW
	2.	Karimnagar	5 kW
	3.	Srikakulam	1 kW
Arunachal Pradesh			
	4.	Anini	1 kW
	5.	Bomdila	1 kW
	6.	Daporijo	1 kW
	7.	Changlang	1 kW
	8.	Khonsa	1 kW
Assam			
	9.	Karimganj	1/5 kW
	10.	Lumding	1/5 kW
	11.	Goalpara	1/5 kW
Bihar			
	12.	Gaya	10 kW
	13.	Motihari	10 kW
	14.	Banka	10 kW
	15.	Madhubani	10 kW
Chhattisgarh			
	16.	Dantewara	5 kW
	17.	Rajnandgaon	5 kW
	18.	Jashpurnagar	5 kW
	19.	Baikunthpur	5 kW
Gujarat			
	20.	Jamnagar	10 kW
	21.	Junagarh	10 kW
Haryana			
	22.	Ambala	5 kW
Jharkhand			
	23.	Dhanbad	10 kW
	24.	Dumka	5 kW
	25.	Gumla	5 kW
Karnataka			
	26.	Sringeri	10 kW
	27.	Bellary	10 kW
Kerala			
	28.	Konni	5 kW
Madhya Pradesh			
	29.	Ujjain	5 kW
Maharashtra			
	30.	Shirdi	5 kW
	31.	Oras	5 kW
	32.	Amravati	10 kW
Manipur			
	33.	Tamenglang	1/5 kW

1	2	3	4
	34.	Ukhrul	1/5 kW
Meghalaya			
	35.	Dawki	1/5 kW
Mizoram			
	36.	Champhai	1/5 kW
	37.	Tuipang	1/5 kW
	38.	Kolasib/Sarchip	1/5 kW
Nagaland			
	39.	Phek	1 kW
	40.	Zunheboto	1 kW
	41.	Wokha	1 kW
Orissa			
	42.	Deogarh	5 kW
	43.	Raygada	5 kW
	44.	Rairangpur	1/5 kW
	45.	Parlakimidi	5 kW
Punjab			
	46.	Fazilka	10 kW
	47.	Amritsar	20 kW
Rajasthan			
	48.	Ramgarh	20 kW
	49.	Chautan Hill	20 kW
Tamil Nadu			
	50.	Kanchipuram	5 kW
Tripura			
	51.	Udaipur	1/5 kW
	52.	Nutan Bazar	1/5 kW
	53.	Longtherai	6 kW
Uttar Pradesh			
	54.	Gazipur	10 kW
	55.	Banda	10 kW
	56.	Lakhimpur Khiri	10 kW
Uttaranchal			
	57.	Dehradun	10 kW
	58.	Haldwani/Kaladungi	10 kW
	59.	Bhatwari	1/5 kW
	60.	Bhageshwar	5 kW
	61.	Champawat	1 kW
	62.	Gairsen	1 kW
	63.	Rudraprayag	1 kW
	64.	New Tehri	1 kW
West Bengal			
	65.	Darjeeling	10 kW
	66.	Purulia	10 kW
	67.	Maldah	10 kW
	68.	Koochbihar	10 kW
	69.	Bardhaman	10 kW
	70.	Tamluk	5 kW
	71.	Balurghat	10 kW
II New Medium Wave Stations			**3 Nos.**
Chhattisgarh	1.	Manendargarh	1 kW
Rajasthan	2.	Dungarpur	1 kW
Uttaranchal	3.	Dharchula	1 kW

Hydro Power in Bihar

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

(a) whether Bihar is left with the capacity to generate 49 Mega Watt Hydro Power after reorganization of Bihar State;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made for the Kanur and Indrapuri water reservoir schemes in Bihar;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which the work on these schemes is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) According to the Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources and Central Electricity Authority, the installed capacity of hydro power of Bihar is 44.9 MW.

(b) to (d) Bihar State Hydro-electric Power Corporation has informed that on their request the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation has already conducted survey and investigation of Kaimur Region and identified four sites of pumped storage schemes with a potential of 60 MW each.

Indrapuri Reservoir Scheme (5x90 MW), earlier known as Kadhwan Hydro-electric Project involves inter-state aspects between Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh (now Chhattisgarh), which need to be resolved by the project authorities. Meetings have already been held in the Central Electricity Authority and the matter taken up with the concerned State Governments to give their concurrence. While the Government of Madhya Pradesh had given its concurrence subject to certain conditions, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has conveyed its decision not to accord "in principle" approval in view of large submergence.

[English]

Rural Language Programmes

686. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the duration of rural languages programmes relayed from Lucknow and Varanasi Doordarshan Kendra, language-wise;

(b) whether there is any scheme to increase the said time limit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount made available to the Lucknow and Varanasi Doordarshan Kendra for relaying programmes under the commission category during the last financial year;

(e) whether any proposal to increase the amount to commission and number of programmes under the said category during the current year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati have informed that Doordarshan Kendra, Lucknow, relays rural programmes for 150 minutes per week in Hindi/regional dialects and Doordarshan Kendra, Varanasi, relays rural programmes for 145 minutes per week in Bhojpuri.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that at present there is no scheme to increase the time limit.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that for commissioning of programmes, an amount of Rs. 1.50 crores was made available to Doordarshan Kendra, Lucknow, and that no amount has been paid to Doordarshan Kendra, Varanasi, for commissioning of programmes.

(e) and (f) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan Kendra, Lucknow, has proposed to increase the Budget upto Rs. 3.20 crores, for the current financial year to clear all the deferred proposals.

Medical Facilities to Railway Pensioners

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

(a) whether the Government have received any Memorandum from the Association of Pensioners of Railways regarding medical facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. No such Memorandum has been received from "The Association of Pensioners of Railways" regarding medical facilities.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Outstanding dues of TPS to Railways

688. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many thermal power stations owe large amount of money to the railways for the transportation of coal;

(b) if so, the total outstanding dues to be paid to the railways by the thermal power stations; and

(c) the reasons for delay in payment and the steps taken by the Government to clear all the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Railways have reported that dues from State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/Power Houses (PHs) at the end of March 2003 are Rs.1753.87 crores. The financial difficulties of the State Electricity Boards/Utilities are the prime reasons for the delay in payment.

(c) The following steps have been taken by Ministry of Railways to realize the outstanding dues:-

(i) The scheme for prepayment of freight for carrying of coal to SEBs/PHs was introduced from 01.10.1996 for all power houses with the exception of Badarpur Thermal Power Station under the management of National Thermal Power Corporation, for which the scheme commenced on 01.01.1997. This was done to arrest fresh accrual of freight outstandings;

(ii) Pursuant to the Government's decision on 7.2.1997, that the outstanding dues from SEBs/PHs as on 31.12.1996 would be adjusted from the Central Plan Assistance of the State Governments subject to certain limits, Railways have received an amount of Rs.159.23 crore till date;

(iii) Close monitoring of recovery of outstanding dues from SEBs by holding meetings with the representative of SEBs/PHs;

(iv) Ministry of Railways has approached Secretaries of the concerned Ministries and Chief Secretaries of the States from time to time;

(v) Letters have been written by the Minister for Railways to the Chief Ministers of Haryana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra and Delhi urging them for clearance of outstanding dues of their SEBs.

(vi) Adjustment of outstanding dues against traction bills in respect of Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board, West Bengal State Electricity Board, Gujarat State Electricity Board, Haryana State Electricity Board, Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board is also being carried out.

SC/ST/OBC in Ministry

689. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the group-wise number of personnel working in groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' in different departments and undertakings under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas;

(b) the total number of personnel belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes separately, out of total number of personnel; and

(c) the group-wise number of personnel belonging to OBCs, STs and SCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Total number of employees in the Ministry and PSUs under the administrative control of the Ministry, the group-wise and the total number of SC/ST/OBC employees among them is given in enclosed statement.

Statement

S.No.	Name of PSU	Group-wise total number of employees		Group-wise SC/ST/OBC employees		
1	2	3		4		
				SC(i)	ST(ii)	OBC(iii)
1	Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas	A-	38	05	02	Nil
		B-	83	14	01	01
		C-	87	14	03	04
		D-	68	37	05	Nil
			276	70	11	05

1	2	3	4			
2	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	A-	3684	588	192	170
		B-	2707	408	167	45
		C-	3188	579	226	120
		D-	2911	615	176	289
			12490	2190	761	624
3	Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited	A-	531	69	43	37
		B-	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
		C-	1156	95	219	184
		D-	88	17	29	9
			1775	181	291	230
4	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	A-	380	29	5	5
		B-	148	14	0	6
		C-	238	30	3	11
		D-	895	101	15	25
			1641	174	23	47
5	Biecco Lawrie Limited	A-	66	4	0	3
		B-	53	6	0	2
		C-	73	2	0	1
		D-	390	81	0	7
			582	93	0	13
6	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited	A-	474	117	15	22
		B-	131	26	3	11
		C-	952	218	13	193
		D-	157	62	2	59
			1714	423	33	285
7	Engineers India Limited	A-	2416	367	92	66
		B-	248	59	2	Nil
		C-	200	55	9	7
		D-	43	29	2	3
			2907	510	105	76

1	2	3		4		
8	GAIL (India) Limited	A-	1915	284	100	234
		B-	463	59	13	76
		C-	929	178	88	155
		D-	66	7	2	36
			3373	528	203	501
9	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited	A-	3624	649	261	193
		B-	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
		C-	6764	1315	550	583
		D-	842	230	76	137
			11230	2194	887	913
10	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	A-	10373	1645	590	409
		B-	4054	586	255	10
		C-	15961	3208	1243	985
		D-	1015	208	42	163
			30403	5647	2130	1567
11	IBP Co. Limited	A-	687	98	17	17
		B-	220	32	15	33
		C-	1143	214	78	105
		D-	166	44	07	11
			2216	388	117	166
12	Kochi Refineries Limited	A-	585	79	24	38
		B-	330	47	10	16
		C-	1046	119	18	242
		D-	6	1	Nil	3
			1967	246	52	299
13	Numligarh Refinery Ltd.	A-	276	22	19	61
		B-	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
		C-	375	26	52	106
		D-	8	Nil	1	4
			659	48	72	171

1	2	3	4			
14	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	A-	19186	2582	832	244
		B-	4597	672	249	Nil
		C-	11392	1727	1079	320
		D-	4177	802	306	129
			39352	5783	2466	693
15	Oil India Ltd.	A-	1170	99	65	67
		B-	42	04	02	Nil
		C-	6320	343	624	1610
		D-	2029	480	226	596
			9561	926	917	2273
16	Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd.	A-	90	1	0	1
		B-	194	1	0	29
		C-	626	15	1	245
		D-	16	1	0	13
			926	18	1	288

Re-introduction of Train Service between Nizamabad and Parli

690. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had suspended the train between Nizamabad and Parli Railway Stations in South Central Railways in 1992 due to conversion of Meter Gauge line into Broad Gauge;

(b) if so, whether the conversion of the line has since been completed;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in re-introduction of the old train between Parli and Nizamabad; and

(d) time by which the said train services is likely to be re-introduced ?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Non availability of maintenance and terminal facilities at Parli Vaijnath and Nizamabad stations.

(d) There is no proposal for restoration or introduction of a train between Nizamabad and Parli Vaijnath at present.

Vettuvan Community as SC

691. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to notify Vettuvan Community as Scheduled Community throughout the State of Kerala as recommended by Kerala Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH

MEGHWAL): (a) The Vettuvan community has already been specified as a Scheduled Caste throughout the State of Kerala.

(b) Does not arise.

Gauge Conversion between New Mal to Chandigarh

692. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the job to gauge conversion from New Mal to Changrabandha has started in a slow movement;

(b) whether Railways is keeping silent, although RITES engaged in final location survey submitted their report about 27 months back;

(c) whether the Government are non-responsive to the request of Assam Government administration for release of Rs. 35 crore towards taking over 120 km. land for Railway;

(d) whether the joint survey work started from Changrabandha to Mathabhanga in June last year;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Gauge conversion of Maynaguri Road to Changrabandha is part of the new line project from New Maynaguri to Jogighopa. There is no proposal for gauge conversion work from New Mal to Maynaguri Road.

(b) No, Sir. However, M/s RITES have submitted part survey report of new line from New Maynaguri to Jogighopa for Mathabahanga-Abhaypuri section in the month of June, 2003.

(c) No, Sir. Railway is yet to make a formal request for acquisition of land with State Government of Assam.

(d) to (f) Joint survey has been taken up in December, 02 and so far survey has been completed for 28 km length from Changrabandha to Mathabhanga. Rs. 6.22 Crore has so far been paid to State Government of West Bengal towards the cost of land.

Foreign visits by Defence Minister

693. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the Defence Minister has gone abroad during the last three years till date along with the names of countries and the Defence Ministry's personnel accompanying him in respective trips; and

(b) the purpose of visits, discussion held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A Statement is attached.

Statement

Details of visits abroad undertaken by Defence Minister for the period from 01.07.2000 to 15.07.2003

Sl. No.	Name of Defence Minister	Names of countries/ Year & Period of visit	Details of Defence Ministry's personnel accompanying him in respective trips	Purpose of visit	Discussions held and outcome
1	2	3	4	5	6
			S/Shri		
1	George Fernandes	Sierra Leone 20-21 Jul. 2000	1. Maj. Gen. J.J. Singh, Assistant Director General Military Operations 2. Maj. Gen. R.S. Nagra, Assistant Director General of Staff Duties 3. AVM N. Menon, Assistant Chief of Air Staff 4. Rajiv Guaba, Private Secretary to Minister	Official Visit	Met Indian Contingent in UNAMSIL and discussed various aspects of their operation

1	2	3	4	5	6
			5. Col Rajiv Bhalla, Director Military Operations		
2	George Fernandes	Mauritius & South Africa 25-28 Sept. 2000	1. T.R. Prasad, Defence Secretary 2. Dr. M. Natarajan, Chief Controller of Research & Development, Defence Research & Development Organisation 3. Dhirendra Singh, Additional Secretary 4. Lt. Gen. S.S. Mehta, Deputy Chief of Army Staff 5. VADM Harinder Singh, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff 6. A.P. Sharma, Joint Secretary 7. Rajiv Gauba, Private Secretary to Minister	Official Visit	Held discussion on bilateral defence cooperation. The visit helped to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.
3	George Fernandes	Maldives 9-12 Jan. 2001	1. Ajay Prasad, Additional Secretary 2. RADM S.V. Gopalachari, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff 3. AVM N. Menon, Assistant Chief of Air Staff 4. B.A. Roy, Joint Secretary 5. Rameshwar Singh, Inspector General, Coast Guard 6. Maj. Gen. A.K. Sarvate, Director General Military Training 7. Rajiv Gauba, Private Secretary to Minister	Official visit	Discussion held on Defence cooperation. The visit helped to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.
4	Jaswant Singh	USA 5-7 Apr. 2001	Vadm Madanjit Singh, Director General Defence Planning Staff	Official visit	Bilateral discussion on defence cooperation
5	Jaswant Singh	Russia 2-6 June, 2001	1. Yogendra Narain, Defence Secretary 2. Subir Dutta, Secretary (Defence Production) 3. P.R. Sivasubramanian, Secretary (Defence Finance) 4. Lt. Gen. A.S. Khanna, Deputy Chief of Army Staff 5. Air Mshl. T.M. Asthana, Deputy Chief of Air Staff 6. Dr. C.G. Krishnadas Nair, Chairman, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited 7. Ranjit Issar, Joint Secretary 8. A.P. Sharma, Joint Secretary 9. K.P. Singh, Joint Secretary	Official visit	Bilateral discussion on defence cooperation

1	2	3	4	5	6
			10. B.A. Roy, Joint Secretary 11. R. Chandrashekhar, Joint Secretary 12. Karnail Singh, Joint Secretary 13. P.K. Misra, Joint Secretary 14. Ms. Dipali Khanna, Additional Finance Adviser 15. Abhijit Basu, Additional Finance Adviser 16. N.R. Mohanty, Managing Director (MiG complex), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited 17. Dr. A.S. Pillai, Chief Controller of Research & Development Organisation 18. Radm SCS Bangara, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff 19. Radm S.V. Gopalachari, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff 20. Cmde H.S. Kang, Chairman & Managing Director, Mazgaon Dock Limited 21. Radm R. Parlikar, Chairman & Managing Director, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers 22. Dr. R.N. Aggarwal, Director, Defence Research & Development Organisation 23. R. Ramanathan, Financial Adviser, Defence Research & Development Organisation		
6	Jaswant Singh	Australia & New Zealand 17-27 Jun. 01	1. Falguni Rajkumar, Joint Secretary 2. Lt. Gen. B.M. Kapur Director General Defence Planning Staff	Official visit	Bilateral discussion on defence cooperation
7	Jaswant Singh	France, USA and Germany 28 Sept. to 4 Oct. 2001	S. Ashok, Additional Private Secretary to Minister	Official visit	Bilateral discussion on defence cooperation in France and Germany and to attend UN General Assembly meeting in USA.
8	George Fernandes	USA 17-21 Jan. 2002	1. Yogendra Narain, Defence Secretary 2. Dhirendra Singh, Additional Secretary (Defence Production) 3. Ajay Prasad, Additional Secretary 4. Vadm S.V. Gopalachari, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff 5. B.A. Roy, Joint Secretary 6. Maj. Gen. S.C. Chopra, Officer on Special Duty (Implementation Cell) 7. C.K. Mishra, Private Secretary to Minister	Official visit	Held discussions on bilateral defence cooperation. The visit helped to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.
9	George Fernandes	Russia 10-13 Apr. 2002	1 Ajay Prasad, Additional Secretary 2. Dhirendra Singh, Additional Secretary 3. Vadm. S.V. Gopalachari, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff	Official visit	Bilateral discussion on defence cooperation. The visit helped to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.

1	2	3	4	5	6
			4. AVM P.K. Desai, Assistant Chief of Air Staff		
			5. Maj. Gen. C.S. Brar, Assistant Director General Weapons & Equipment		
			6. C.K. Mishra, Private Secretary to Minister		
10	George Fernandes	Tajikistan 25-26 Apr. 2002	1. Yogendra Narain, Defence Secretary	Official visit	
			2. M. Kumaraswami, Secretary (Finance), Defence		
			3. Somi Tandon, Additional Secretary		
			4. B.A. Roy, Joint Secretary		
			5. S.R. Ahmed, Under Secretary		
			6. S. Ashok, Addtional Private Secretary to Minister		
			7. Air Mshl. S.G. Inamdar, Vice Chief of Air Staff		
			8. AVM S.K. Jain, Assistant Chief of Air Staff		
			9. Col. K.A. Muthanna, Director (Foreign Training), Army Headquarters		
11	George Fernandes	Singapore 3 May - 3 June 2002	1. Ajay Prasad, Additional Secretary	Official visit	Participated in the First Asia Security Conference. Discussed defence and security issues with defence ministers of Asia Pacific countries.
			2. Lt. Gen. K. Davar, Director General Defence Intelligence Agency		
			3. Radm. V. Shankar, Assistant Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition		
			4. C.K. Mishra, Private Secretary to Minister		
			5. Arvind Mehta, Director		
			6. Cmde C. Uday Bhaskar, Deputy Director, Institute of Defence Studies & Analysis		
12	George Fernandes	Japan - 10 Jul 2002	1. Subir Dutta, Defence Secretary	Official visit	Discussions held on Defence cooperation. The visit helped to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.
			2. Air Vice Marshal Mohan Dikshit, Assistant Chief of Integrate Defence Staff		
			3. Maj . Gen. R.K. Kaushal, Chief of Staff 10 Corps		
			4. P. Paleri, Deputy Director General (Coast Guard)		
			5. C.K. Mishra, Private Secretary to Minister		
13	George Fernandes	Switzerland 28-31 Aug. 2001	S. Ashok, Additional Private Secretary to Minister	Official Visit	Attended International Conference on Federalism 2002 at St. Gallen

1	2	3	4	5	6
14	George Fernandes	Italy 18-22 Sept. 2002	1. Ajay Prasad, Additional Secretary 2. Maj. Gen. Mohinder Puri, Assistant Director General (Tac C-31) 3. Radm A.K. Singh, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff 4. AVM DE. Jonas, Commandant, CAW Secunderabad 5. C.K. Mishra, Private Secretary to Minister	Official visit	To discuss bilateral Defence cooperation. The visit helped to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.
15	George Fernandes	Oman 6-7 October, 2002	1. Subir Dutta, Defence Secretary 2. Air Cmde VS Kapani, Director, Integrated Defence Staff 3. C.K. Mishra, Private Secretary to Minister	Official visit	To discuss bilateral Defence cooperation. The visit helped to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.
16	George Fernandes	Russia 14-19 January, 2003	1. Subir Dutta, Defence Secretary 2. N.S. Sisodia, Secretary (Defence Production) 3. Dhirendra Singh, Special Secretary (Acquisition) 4. R.N. Das, Financial Adviser (Acquisition) 5. Ms. Somi Tondon, Additional Secretary 6. Dr. A.S. Pillai, Chief Controller of Research & Development 7. Lt. Gen. A.S. Chaki, Deputy Chief of Army Staff 8. N.R. Mohanty, Chairman (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) 9. Air Mshl Raghu Rajan, Deputy Chief of Air Staff 10. Vadm Parvesh Jaitley, Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition 11. Ranjit Issar, Joint Secretary 12. P.K. Mishra, Joint Secretary 13. R.P. Singh, Joint Secretary 14. Anil Wadhwa, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs 15. C.R. Mohapatra, Joint Secretary 16. Gautam Mukhopadhaya, Joint Secretary 17. AVM S.S. Lahiri, Assistant Chief of Air Staff 18. Radm Ajit Tewari, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff 19. Saurabh Kumar, Director 20. C.K. Mishra, Private Secretary to Minister	Official visit	Co-chaired the meeting of India-Russia Inter Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation. The visit helped to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.

1	2	3	4	5	6
17	George Fernandes	Uzbekistan Feb 27- March 2, 2003	1. Subir Dutta, Defence Secretary 2. A.Mshl. V. McMahon, Vice Chief of Air Staff 3. Gautam Mukhopadhaya, Joint Secretary 4. AVM P.P. Rajkumar, Asstt. Chief of Air Staff 5. C.K. Mishra, Private Secretary to Minister 6. Air Cmde I.B. Bhasin, Director (Engineering)	Official visit	Discussions held on Defence cooperation. The visit helped to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.
18	George Fernandes	People of Republic of China 20-27 April 2003	1. Subir Dutta, Defence Secretary 2. N.S. Sisodia, Secretary (Defence Production) 3. Lt. Gen. Shantonu Chaudhry, Vice Chief of Army Staff 4. Pratyush Sinha, Additional Secretary 5. Air Mshl. Raghurajan, Deputy Chief of Air Staff 6. Arvind Joshi, Joint Secretary 7. G. Mukhopadhaya, Joint Secretary 8. Radm Ajit Tewari, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff 9. Cmde C. Uday Bhaskar, Deputy Director, Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis 10. C.K. Mishra, Private Secretary to Minister 11. S.R. Ahmed, Protocol Consultant	Official visit	Discussions held on Defence cooperation. The visit helped to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.
19	George Fernandes	Singapore 30 May - 1 June 2003	1. Subir Dutta, Defence Secretary 2. Gautam Mukhopadhayay, Joint Secretary 3. C.K. Mishra, Private Secretary to Minister 4. Cmde. C. Uday Bhaskar, Deputy Director, Institute of Defence Studies & Analysis	Official visit	Participated in the Second Asia Security Conference. Discussed defence and security issues with defence Ministers of Asia Pacific Countries.
20	George Fernandes	Brazil 5-11 July 2003	1. Lt. Gen. J.B.S. Yadav, Deputy Chief of Army Staff 2. Gautam Mukhopadhaya, Joint Secretary 3. C.K. Mishra, Private Secretary to Minister 4. Air Commodore Anil Chopra, Commandant ASTE, Bangalore	Official visit	To discuss bilateral defence cooperation. The visit helped to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.

[Translation]

Purchase of LPG and Kerosene by Oil Companies

694. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Public Sector Oil Companies purchased LPG and Kerosene from Private Sector Oil Companies during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value and quantum of the LPG and Kerosene so purchased; and

(d) the criteria which formed the basis for determining the purchase price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The details of LPG and Kerosene purchased by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) from private sector companies during the last three years is as under:-

(Figures in TMT)

Year	LPG	SKO
2000-01	2014	2358
2001-02	2475	3224
2002-03	2500	3152

(d) The purchase price is fixed based on import parity principle and commercial agreement between oil companies.

[English]

Earnings of Doordarshan/AIR

695. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue earned by the Doordarshan/ AIR from different programmes during the last three years;

(b) the extent to which this revenue is higher or lower as compared to the corresponding three years;

(c) whether viewership of the DD/AIR has increased/decreased as compared to the private channels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with comparative figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the trend of commercial revenue earning of AIR and DD during last five years is as following:

(Rupees in crores)

Year	Revenue Earned	
	Doordarshan	AIR
1998-99	399.32	93.74
1999-00	597.19	80.84
2000-01	637.51	93.90
2001-02	615.21	96.69
2002-03	553.81	131.05

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that the DD and AIR which used to earlier enjoy 100% viewership have faced/are facing competition in cable and satellite homes, after other channels have come up. However, the viewership of DD-I and DD-II continues to be higher than that of all private channels. Listening to AIR channels has hardly been effected with the coming of various FM Channels.

Prasar Bharati has informed that according to National Readership Survey-2002, the viewership for DD-I and DD-II in all TV homes is much higher as compared to other channels. The viewership figures are as under:

DD-I	50%
DD-2	20%
Star Plus	16%
Sony	14%
Zee	13%

LPG Customer Service Cell at Jorhat

696. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether LPG Customer Service Cell at Jorhat was not in operation from October, 2002 to April, 2003 despite the advertisement in daily newspaper in Nagaland;

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

(c) the officials responsible for this serious lapse and action taken against them; and

(d) the steps being taken to make this cell operational immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The LPG Customer Service Cell (CSC) at Jorhat is in operation by Assam Oil Division of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) since 13th April, 1999. However, due to the transfer of the concerned officer in January, 2003 for un-avoidable reasons, the CSC could not be regularly manned during the period February to April, 2003. At present, the CSC is in normal operation.

[Translation]

Fire in Ammunition Depot in Rajasthan

697. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI KAMAL NATH:

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge quantity of ammunitions was destroyed due to the devastating fire in Ordnance Depot in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of the loss suffered by the, Government thereby;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry to know the causes of the devastating fire;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) There is no Ordnance Depot in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. However, a fire incident took place in a formation mine dump located at Danwar which is 70 Kms from Jaisalmer and is maintained by 30 Infantry Brigade under Southern Command. A court of Inquiry to ascertain the cause of fire and extent of loss has been ordered by Headquarters, Southern Command.

A preliminary investigation, however, reveals the following losses:-

Sl. No.	Type of Mine	Quantity destroyed
1.	NMM	4375
2.	M-16	1422
3.	ND MK-I	4422
4.	ND MK-II	2939
5.	Fuzes	2568

All cases of fire incidents in Ordnance/ammunition Depots have been investigated by Courts of Inquiry. The following steps/remedial actions have been taken:

(i) All depots have been directed to update safety and security instructions.

(ii) All depots have been inspected by a Board of Officers to check adequacy of safety and security arrangements.

(iii) Shortages in fire fighting equipment are being made up and effective equipment repaired.

(iv) Unservicable ammunition is being disposed of on priority.

(v) Additional funds have been allotted for creation of more Explosive Store Houses for shifting ammunition presently stored on plinths under canvas.

Setting up of Old Age Homes/Medical Care Centres

698. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up more Old Age Homes and Medical Care Centres in the country for the benefit of the aged; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the funds provided for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) and (b) Old Age Homes and Medical Care Centres are set up by registered bodies, mainly Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), under the Scheme, "An Integrated Programme for Older Persons" to the extent of budgetary provisions made in the annual budget. At present, 364 Old Age Homes and 61 Medical Care Centres are being run by 385 NGOs. The setting up of more Old Age Homes/ Medical Care Centres depends on the recommendations of the State Governments on the proposals of the NGOs received, with complete documents and funds available for additional projects.

[English]

Import of LNG from Iran

699. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI:

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to import LNG from Iran;

(b) if so, the terms of import;

(c) whether onshore pipeline between India and Iran through Pakistan has been revived;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which import of LNG from Iran through pipelines or other sources is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) An MoU has been signed in January, 2003 between the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India and Ministry of Petroleum, Government of Islamic Republic of Iran for cooperation in Hydrocarbon Sector including import of natural gas through pipeline and import of LNG from Iran to India. Oil companies from both the countries have to work out necessary details in this regard.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The import of LNG from Iran may start 4-6 years after the contractual arrangement is finalized. Import of natural gas through pipeline from Iran would depend upon technical feasibility and economic viability.

Power Generation from Wind Energy Sources

700. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wind energy mills working in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to increase power generation through wind energy sources;

(c) if so, the States where steps have been taken in that regard with Central assistance;

(d) whether the potential of wind energy in Orissa has not been fully trapped; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Wind power projects aggregating to 1870 MW have been installed in the country so far. State-wise wind power installed capacity is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Yes, Sir. A target for wind power capacity addition of 1500 MW has been fixed for the Tenth Plan.

(c) Central Financial Assistance has been provided to 9 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal for setting up of wind farm demonstration projects. Wind resource assessment studies have also been supported in these States as well as in several other States. In addition, fiscal incentives and term loans are provided for commercial wind power projects.

(d) and (e) Six potential sites have been identified in Orissa for setting up of wind power projects. The State Government have been requested to set up demonstration

wind farm projects in the State and to announce a conducive policy to attract private investments for commercial wind power projects.

Statement

State-wise Wind Power Installed Capacity as on 31.03.2003

	(MW)
Andhra Pradesh	92.6
Gujarat	173.1
Karnataka	124.3
Kerala	2.0
Madhya Pradesh	22.6
Maharashtra	401.2
Tamil Nadu	60.7
Rajasthan	990.3
West Bengal	1.1
Others	1.6
Total	1869.5

Development of Gas and Petroleum Sector

701. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to chalk out some long term plan for the development of Gas and Petroleum sector in the country to reduce the import bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the said long term plan is likely to reduce the import bill; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to reduce the import bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025 envisages long term plans covering indigenous exploration and production of petroleum products and natural gas, which inter alia include -

- 100% exploration coverage of the Indian sedimentary basins
- leapfrog to technical superiority
- conserve resources and adopt clean technologies
- put in place abandonment practices to restore the original base line
- exploit gas hydrate reserves

  produce gas from Coal Bed Methane and through Underground Coal Gasification
- review of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) option in the light of economic, political and energy security considerations.
- develop a policy for transportation of crude and LNG preferably through Indian Flag vessels
- massive capacity expansion of the refining and marketing infrastructure
- sale of 5% ethanol-blended petrol in the entire country in two phases initially commencing in 9 major sugar producing States and 4 contiguous Union Territories.

(c) Exploration is a continuous process and the leads thus obtained from various discoveries are to be pursued to consolidate the gains and produce hydrocarbon for which no time limit can be laid down.

(d) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), a fully owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. is actively participating in exploration and production projects abroad in Iran, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Russia and Sudan to enhance India's oil security.

[Translation]

Reservation to OBCs in Educational and Vocational Institutions

702. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to made any provision to provide reservation to Other Backward Classes in educational and vocational institutions;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the existing plans and other steps taken by the Government for the educational developments of backward classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(d) The Government is implementing Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarships Schemes under which financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations for grant of scholarships to eligible students of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The Government is also providing financial assistance to State Governments for construction of hostels for OBC students under the scheme of hostels for OBC students.

Besides above, the National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) is providing loans under its Educational Loan Scheme to OBC students at concessional rate of interest for pursuing general/ professional/technical courses or training at graduate and or higher level.

[English]

Regulation for Advertising on Channels

703. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to bring an ordinance or make some amendment in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act to ensure cable services to viewers at most reasonable cost and to regulate the advertising on pay channels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith obstructions being faced by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which an ordinance/amendment to come into force in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) At present, there is no proposal to bring any ordinance or to make an amendment in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rectification of Technical Snags in T-90 Tanks

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

(a) whether the Indian Army Chief during his recent visit to Russia had taken up the matter of rectification of technical snags found in T-90 tanks;

(b) if so, whether Russia has agreed to comply; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Russian military experts/technicians are expected to take up the job?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Russian warranty team of experts is already in the country and is rectifying the technical snags.

Rail Projects in Karnataka

705. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the pending railway proposals received from the Government of Karnataka alongwith the reasons for their pendency;

(b) whether the Railways in coordination with the State Government to approve some of these projects on the cost sharing basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Government has agreed in principle to share the cost of these projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which these projects are likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The details of some of the proposals received from the Government of Karnataka which could not be considered for inclusion in the budget due to heavy throwforward of on-going projects and acute constraint of resources are as under:-

i. New line between Gadag and Harihar via Harpanhalli

ii. New line between Mysore and Mangalore

iii. New line between Medikere and Channarayapatna

iv. New line between Chickballapur and Puttaparthy via Bagepalli

(b) to (f) Construction of new line for Kottur-Harihar via Harpanhalli, gauge conversion of Solapur-Gadag and doubling of Kengeri-Ramanagram and Bangalore-Kengeri with Electrification have been taken up on cost sharing basis with the Government of Karnataka. These works are in various stages of progress and would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Construction of new line from Hubli-Ankola gauge conversion of Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore and gauge conversion of Hospet-Guntakal have also been identified for taking up on cost sharing basis with the State Government through KRIDE. Necessary action has already been initiated in this regard.

These works are in various stages of progress and would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

State Government is being approached for indicating their willingness for sharing 2/3rd cost of extension of doubling of Kengeri-Ramanagaram upto Maddur. Further action will be taken on receipt of necessary willingness from the State Government for cost sharing.

Production of NCES from City Garbage

706. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to produce non-conventional energy from city garbage in the urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, the extent of potential of such energy from urban and industrial waste;

(c) whether any pilot project for production of energy from such sources is underway; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Non-conventional Energy sources has been implementing a National Programme for Energy Recovery from Urban and Industrial Wastes since June 1995. The programme provides for financial and fiscal incentives for setting up of projects for energy recovery from wastes including the city garbage.

(b) The potential of energy recovery from urban wastes of class I cities and wastes from selected industrial sectors has been estimated to be about 2700 mega watt.

(c) and (d) Twenty one projects with a total capacity of 25.75 mega watt equivalent have so far been set up for energy recovery from urban and industrial wastes. Besides, 11 projects with a total capacity of 25.50 mega watt power are under installation.

Policy for Power Supply

707. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 50% of the nation's population do not have access to electricity;

(b) if so, whether this has forced the Government to announce a policy vision to ensure power for all by 2012;

(c) whether the Union Government have decided to increase its financial stakes in power projects nation-wise;

(d) if so, the time by which this help for power projects are likely to be released; and

(e) the amount earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) As per census of India, 2001 about 44% households of the country do not utilize electricity as a source of lighting.

(b) The Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers chaired by the Prime Minister on 3rd March, 2001 resolved inter-alia that all villages in the country be electrified by the year 2007 and access be provided to all households by 2012.

(c) to (e) More than 55% of capacity addition of 41,110 MW envisaged for 10th Plan is in the Central Sector. The Central Plan outlay has been increased by more than three

times in the 10th Plan in comparison to the 9th Plan. Total outlay of Rs.1,43,399 crore has been allocated to Central Sector in the 10th Plan in comparison to Rs.45,591 crore allocated in the 9th Plan.

Further, to assist the States in obtaining adequate resources for completing power projects, Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation have mobilized themselves adequately to see that execution of a good project in the State Sector is not hampered due to lack of funds.

Import of Fuels by Oil Companies

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

(a) whether HPCL, BPCL and IBP propose to import transportation fuels such as motor spirit and high speed diesel for their retail outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has given necessary permission to these oil companies for importing these products;

(d) if so, whether it is a fact that the availability of MS/HSD are in surplus in the country and are actually exporting them; and

(e) if so, the reasons and justification for allowing HPCL, BPCL and IBP to import transportation fuels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) As per the extant Exim Policy, import of transportation fuels is allowed through IOC as State Trading Enterprise (STE) except for the companies who have been granted rights for marketing of transportation fuels in terms of the Resolution No.P.23015/1/2001-MKT., dated 08.03.2002 of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

While, the country is net exporter of MS and HSD, the issue of allowing HPCL, BPCL and IBP, who have been marketing transportation fuels even before the aforesaid Resolution of 08.03.2002, to directly import transportation fuels is under the consideration of the Government with a view to provide a level playing field to these companies vis-a-vis new companies who have been allowed to import such fuels directly.

Coaching Terminal Facility at Bangalore and Mysore

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Coaching Terminal facility at Mysore and additional facility at Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The second coaching terminal for Bangalore area is planned at Yeshwanthapur junction located 6 km away from Bangalore Junction Station. The work was included in the Budget 1999-2000 and is in progress.

Remodelling of Mysore station is proposed as part of gauge conversion of Mysore-Chamarajnagar section which is in progress.

Strengthening of Military Ties with Canada

710. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to strengthen military ties with Canada;

(b) if so, the areas of military cooperation identified by both the countries; and

(c) the various high level talks held between both the countries for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. There is no specific proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Expansion and Modernisation of Muzaffarpur and Barauni Thermal Power Plants

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

(a) whether the expansion, modernization and renovation of Barauni and Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Plants and the share of Bihar in Tenughat Power Corporation is under consideration of the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the action is being taken for the expansion of Kahalgaon Thermal Power plant and construction of Thermal Power Plant in Barh and Navinagar;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the plan of the Government to increase generation of power in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The responsibility for the expansion, modernization and renovation of Barauni and Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Plants lies with the Bihar State Electricity Board.

An order transferring the assets and liabilities relating to Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (TVNL) to the State of Jharkhand was issued on 31.10.2002.

(b) to (d) Work on the Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) expansion Phase-I of 1000 MW (2x500 MW) has started. Phase-II (1x500 MW) is also planned for execution. For the Barh Super Thermal Power Project of 1980 MW (3x660 MW), bids have been invited for the supply of main plant and equipment.

There is a proposal for a joint venture between the Railways and the NTPC for setting up of 1000 MW (4x250 MW) power project at Nabinagar.

Bihar is entitled to its due share of power from Central Generating Stations.

Survey for Doubling of Azamgarh-Lucknow, Varanasi-Lucknow Railway Line

712. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for doubling of Azamgarh-Lucknow, Varanasi-Lucknow via Jaunpur, Varanasi-Allahabad rail line has been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the time by which the doubling work is likely to be started along with the estimated cost thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) On Varanasi-Lucknow section, single line exists between Uttratia and Zafarabad. The survey for doubling of this section had been conducted in 1999-2000. No survey for doubling of Azamgarh-Lucknow and Varanasi-Allahabad has been conducted.

(b) As per the survey report, the cost of doubling of Uttratia-Zafarabad (219.62 km.) had been assessed as Rs. 268.19 crore.

(c) to (e) The doubling of Uttratia-Zafarabad has been taken up in phases. The work from Uttratia-Chandrauli, Sultanpur-Bandhuakalan and Zafarabad-Srikrishnanagar are in progress. No time frame has yet been fixed for completion of the projects. The completion would depend upon availability of resources.

GAIL Deal with Fertiliser and Power Firms

713. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) have struck a deal with the fertilizer and power firms for the supply of natural gas obtained from the small field off the Andhra Coast at market price;

(b) if so, the names of the fertilizer and power firms which are to be supplied the natural gas and quantity thereof;

(c) the extent to which the same will meet the total requirement of gas of these firms; and

(d) the rate at which the same is to be supplied to these firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nagarjuna Fertiliser (around 0.3 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD), GVK (around 0.12 MMSCMD), SPGL (around 0.12 MMSCMD), AP Gas Power Corporation (around 0.16 MMSCMD), Lanco Power (around 0.2 MMSCMD) and BSES Andhra (around 0.1 MMSCMD). Total gas for Ravva Satellite around 1.0 MMSCMD.

(c) Ravva Satellite gas constitutes around 12% of the total gas drawn by the consumers.

(d) Rate shall depend on prevailing High Sulphur Fuel Oil (HSFO) basket price, however, a floor, & ceiling price has been fixed at $2.3/Million British Thermal Unit (MMBTU) and $3.3/MMBTU respectively, which works out to around Rs.4290/Million Standard Cubic Meter (MSCM) and Rs.6155/MSCM.

Old Bridges

714. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the new bridges is not upto the standard prescribed by the Railways;

(b) whether as far 100 year old bridges numbering 51,340, the fate of inspection for the bridges was also distressing;

(c) whether on Eastern Railway there are 26 distressed bridges which were not submitted to special inspection as prescribed by the various officers during the period 1997-98 to 2001-02; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in securing safety of the railway bridges maintenance so as to avoid recurrence of the train accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. The new Railway bridges are being built as per the standards prescribed.

(b) No, Sir. The Railway bridges are inspected as per procedure laid down. As on 1.4.2003 there are only 317 distressed bridges on Indian Railways out of which 234 are targeted to be rebuilt/rehabilitated during the year 2003-04.

(c) There are 26 distressed bridges in Eastern Railway. All these are inspected as per schedule.

(d) Does not arise. All necessary steps are being taken to ensure safety of train running on Railway Bridges and their maintenance.

LNG Terminal Project in Kerala

715. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute a team to co-ordinate, review and monitor the progress of the LNG terminal project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) a Joint Venture Company promoted by four Public Sector Oil Companies viz. GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), propose to develop a 2.5 MMTPA LNG import and regassification terminal at Kochi. A Committee of PLL's Board is monitoring the progress activities.

[Translation]

Shortage of Bullet Proof Jackets

716. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army is short of bullet proof jackets for its action along the line of control and for anti-terrorism operations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the date on which the process to purchase these jackets was initiated and the present position thereof; and

(d) the fresh measures taken by the Government to start the indigenous production of these jackets without compromising the quality?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Consequent to 'Operation Vijay', in June 1999, there was a surge in quantum of troops deployed on the Line of Control/areas of Low Intensity Conflict Operations. Accordingly, the Army Headquarters reviewed their requirement of Bullet Proof Jackets. A proposal to lay down the scale of authorisation of Bullet Proof Jackets and to revise the requirement from 1,63,250 to 3,53,765 BPJs is under consideration of Ministry of Defence.

The sudden surge in the quantum of troops leading to increase in the requirement of Bullet Proof Jackets and simultaneous revision of GSQR to equip the soldiers with the best Bullet Proof Jackets, resulted in a transitional void in fulfilling the requirement of the Bullet Proof Jackets to our

troops. However a case for procurement of one lac Bullet Proof Jackets based on the new GSQR is already under process. A Global Techno-Commercial "Request For Proposal" (RFP) for procurement of Bullet Proof Jackets was issued to 89 foreign and 19 Indian firms on 23.01.2002. Offers received in response thereto were technically evaluated by a Committee headed by Deputy Master General of Ordnance and samples of the firms so selected by the Committee were trial-evaluated at Infantry School, Mhow. Finally the firms whose samples of Bullet Proof Jackets have passed the trials have been short-listed by the trial team. The Report of the trial-team and the recommendations of Army Headquarters thereon are under consideration of the Ministry of Defence.

To encourage indigenous production of Bullet Proof Jackets, without compromising the quality, Techno-Commercial Proposals were issued to the Indian Vendors also. Such of the Vendors, whose 'Technical Proposals' were accepted by the Technical Evaluation Committee were requested to submit samples of their Bullet Proof Jackets for trials. The trials have already been completed and Report of the "Trial Team" is under consideration of the Ministry of Defence. In the past also, procurement of Bullet Proof Jackets has been made from Indian Vendors, who meet the qualitative requirements.

[English]

Introduction of Fire Proof Coaches

717. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the major fire that engulfed several coaches of the Ludhiana bound Frontier Mail in May 2003, the railways have now decided to design and introduce fire proof coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the help of any foreign country/firm has been sought to design the fire proof bogies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such fire proof coaches are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The common practice in Railway systems world over is to have only coaches, which make use of fire retardant material to the extent feasible. Indian Railways have also followed same practice. However, Indian Railways decided to design and manufacture a prototype coach, which will be nearly fire proof. This is an entirely new effort and was started even before Ludhiana accident.

(b) The coach is being designed by availing of the latest technology available in respect of materials, fire proofing techniques, etc. A Second General Class coach being manufactured at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala will be provided with Honeycomb aluminium flooring. The panels will be fire retardant Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) coated Galvanized Iron (GI) sheets. Similarly, the furniture will also use as much non-combustible materials as possible. The prototype is likely to be ready by September, 2003.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) After the prototype is manufactured, the design features to be adopted for series production will be firmed up and introduced progressively.

Retrenchment in Central Sector Thermal Power Plants

718. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been large scale retrenchment in some central sector thermal power plants and particularly the IB thermal power plant in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the alternative steps being taken to provide them employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) There has been no retrenchment in Central Sector Thermal Plants in Orissa. There has also been no retrenchment of workers in the regular employment at IB Thermal Power Station of Orissa Power Generation Corporation Ltd. (OPGC). However, work in some areas of operation and maintenance of the power plant at in Thermal Power Station were being carried

out through contractors who had deployed their workers for the same. On expiry of the terms of the said contractors on 31.7.2002, OPGC deployed its own employees, in regular cadre in those areas of operation and maintenance. OPGC having the right to carry out the operation and maintenance through redeployment of its own work force has no role to play in the alleged retrenchment of the workers by the contractors.

Thermal Power Project at Mauda near Nagpur

719. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether three thermal power projects including NTPC's project of 1000 MW at Mauda near Nagpur, have been under consideration of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the sources of coal supplies identified therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Identification of potential sites for new thermal power projects is an on-going process in the NTPC. A site near Mouda in Nagpur district of Maharashtra has been prima facie, identified by NTPC for a 1000 MW (2x500 MW) thermal power project for conducting a pre-feasibility study. Coal supply to the project is envisaged from Western Collieries Ltd./Coal India Ltd., subject to pre-feasibility studies availability of water and other issues.

Dues of Workers in HMT/CCI

720. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether HMT Watch Division employees have not been paid the wages since November, 2002 as also the workers of Cement Corporation of India from July, 2002; and

(b) if so, the contingency measures are in place to disburse the dues forthwith?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) (i) HMT Watches Limited has paid the salaries & wages to its employees upto December 2002.

(ii) In Cement Corporation of India (CCI) salaries to its employees of 3 operating units viz. Rajban (HP), Bokajan (Assam) and Tandur (AP) and all Zonal offices are being paid on regular basis from within the internal resources of the company. For the balance 7 units of CCI which are not in production; i.e. Mandhar (Chattisgarh), Kurkunta (Karnakata), Nayagaon (MP), Akaltara (Chhattisgarh), Charkhi Dadri (Haryana), Adilabad (AP), Delhi Grinding Unit (Delhi/BGU), the Government have already sanctioned release of funds for payment of salaries and wages upto September, 2002.

(b) (i) HMT Watches Ltd. Has stepped up efforts to collect long pending debtors and disposal of unsold stocks.

(ii) In respect of CCI, the production in 7 units stopped long back due to financial unviability, liquidity crunch etc. The Government have already given a budgetary support of more than Rs.130 crore towards payment of salaries and wages from 1998-99 onwards. Government have also provided budgetary support of more than Rs.189 crore for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) from 2000-01 onwards.

Passenger Amenities in Trains

721. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that passenger amenities in trains are worsening day by day;

(b if so, whether the people of Karnataka and other States are facing hardship due to the insufficient passenger amenities in trains;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conducted any surprise check to keep the passenger amenities in good condition in trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to improve the passenger amenities in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Items of passenger amenities are attended to whenever coaches go to washing lines for inspection after every trip and workshops for overhaul as per schedule.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. Besides surprise checks, sustained supervision at officer's level is being ensured at all coaching depots of South Western Railway to keep the items of passenger amenities in coaches in good condition.

(d) and (e) Passenger amenities and general cleanliness of the coaches are receiving utmost importance. Some important steps are as under:

i. Fitment of modern UIC type vestibules.

ii. Provision of modular toilets, which are user friendly.

iii. Providing polyvinyl flooring inside coaches.

iv. Provision of 110 Volts electrical fittings in place of conventional 24 Volts.

v. Pest control in all coaches through specialized agencies.

vi. Providing thorough cleaning facilities at nominated stations.

vii. Use of high-pressure jet cleaning plants at maintenance depot and mobile jet cleaning plants at enroute stations.

viii. Mid-life rehabilitation of coaches of 12-15 years age group.

ix. Renovation of rakes in between overhauls.

x. Monitoring of passenger amenity fittings through "Zero Missing Fitting" drive and surprise checks.

Rehabilitation of People by Hydel Projects

722. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has conducted study on the number of people to be affected due to proposed 50,000 MW Hydel power projects in 16 States;

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

(c) whether the Government have proposed National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Programme for the project-affected people;

(d) if so, the details thereof and time by which it is to be finalized;

(e) whether the Government have rehabilitated project-affected people of ongoing public/private hydel projects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) CEA has identified 162 H.E. Schemes aggregating to an installed capacity of 50560 MW for preparation of Preliminary Feasibility Reports. The State-wise break-up of these schemes is given in the enclosed statement-I. No study has been conducted on the number of people to be affected due to proposed 50,560 MW hydel power projects in 16 States. The number of people to be affected due to the proposed projects would be assessed during the formulation of Detailed Project Reports.

(c) and (d) Framing of National Policy on Rehabilitation & Resettlement of Project Affected Families is under consideration of Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources, Govt. of India.

(e) and (f) The details of project affected families and the status of their rehabilitation is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Preparation of Preliminary-Feasibility Reports

State-wise Break-up of Schemes

Sl. No.	State	No. of Schemes	I.C. (MW)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	705
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	42	25690
3.	Chhattisgarh	4	580
4.	Himachal Pradesh	12	3750
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	13	2981
6.	Karnataka	5	830
7.	Kerala	2	205

1	2	3	4
8.	Maharashtra	9	1780
9.	Manipur	3	407
10.	Meghalaya	9	1490
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1	60
12.	Nagaland	3	970
13.	Orissa	4	1188
14.	Sikkim	10	1680
15.	Uttaranchal	39	6374
16.	Mizoram	3	1870
	Total	162	50560

Statement-II

Projects in the Country (As on December 2002)

Name of Projects	Capacity	Area (HA)	Affected	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
B.B.M.B.				
Bhakri Nangal	2702.5	46208 (Acrs)	7206	2395 families resettled in H.P. 2632 Families given cash compensation 2179 Families resettled in Haryana
Beas I & II		77328 (Acs)	3000	13,648 Families paid cash compensation 10,240 Families have been given land in I.G. Nehar Project Command Area in Rajasthan. Case of 6112 Families is under process with the Govt. of Rajasthan.
N.H.P.C.				
Baira Siul H.P.	180	33.06	Nil	Run-of-the-River scheme
Salal-I & II J&K	690	2339.5	Nil	Run-of-the-River scheme
Tanakpur UTCL	120	437.23	60	Compensation for land and properties paid alongwith other facilities like land against land etc.
Chamera-I HP	540	1281.28	700	Compensation & houseless/landless grant paid. Employment grant provided to 700 persons
URI J&K	480	215.99	121	No family evacuated. Compensation paid.
Rangit III	60	133.8	19	Alternate land and cost of build houses provided. 12 land owners given Employment.
Loktak, Manipur	105	200.97	Nil	-
*Dulhasti	390	232	Nil	-
*Dhauliganga State-I	280	168.963	36	Compensation of land etc. paid.

1	2	3	4	5
*Chamera Stage-II HP	300	80.67	30	Compensation paid to all affected families as per R&R Policy. 35 persons have been given regular employment.
*Teesta Stage-V SKM	510	298.745	72	Compensation of land & structure paid. 8 persons provided Employment.
*Loktak DS Manipur	90	462	42	Land compensation paid. Alternate accommodation facilities are under construction.
N.H.D.C.				
*Indira Sagar	1000	91348	31678	1522 families shifter - 254 have been settled at different rehabilitation sites and balance 1268 families paid grant as opted for.
*Omkareshwar	520	9336	3591	Project awaiting approval. The process of shifting people/families yet to start.
D.V.C.				
Maithon	60	10785	4602	Cash compensation given to 1876 families for lands and 1016 families for house.
Panchet & Extn.	80	7814	7365	Cash compensation given to 732 families for lands and 161 families for house.
NEEPCO				
Kopili H.E. Project	150	7015.60 (Acrs)		Majority of the families provided with alternate rehabilitation facilities. Land compensation paid to all land owners.
Kopili H.E. Project Stage-I Extn.	100	-		
Doyang H.E. Project	75	8420.41 (Acrs)	3169	
Ranganadi H.E. Project	405	696.84 (Acrs.)	230	
*Tuirial H.E. Project	60	1314.16	40	
*Kopili H.E. Project Stage-II	25	Nil	Nil	
S.J.V.N.L.				
*Nathpa Jhakri HEP	1500	498-68-81	480	All the families rendered landless have been provided alternative facilities. One nominee of each family given employment. Details are as under: > Employment provided to landless families - 51 families > Alternative agricultural land allowed to landless families - 41 families

1	2	3	4	5
				> Built-up houses provided to houseless families - 16 families > Cash assistance provided to houseless families in lieu of Built-up houses - 43 families > Shop/plot provided to displaced shopkeepers - 66 nos. > Shops provided in NJPC Shopping complex - 04 nos. > Financial assistance provided under income generation scheme to the families living below poverty line to run their business - 33 families
T.H.D.C.				
*Tehri HEP	1000	5534	10720	8772 families rehabilitated/paid compensation as per rehabilitation package.
*Koteshwar H.E. Project	400	393	103	Process of rehabilitation yet to start.
Haryana				
WY. Canal A	16			
WY. Canal B	16	837	Nil	Run-of-the-River scheme - No evacuation involved.
WY. Canal C	16			
Himachal Pradesh				
Giri Bata	60	55		Run-of-the-River scheme
Bassi	60	-		Run-of-the-River scheme
Bhaba	120	47.48		Run-of-the-River scheme
Malana	86	61 Ha. Forest Land 140.34.39 Bigha Private Land	2	Run-of-the-River scheme
BASPA St. II	300	225	-	
*Larji	126	57.03	-	
Dhamwari Sumda	70	N.A.	-	
Jammu & Kashmir				
Lower Jhelum	105	N.A.	-	Run-of-the-River scheme
Upper Sindh-I	70	N.A.	-	Run-of-the-River scheme
Punjab				
Shanan	110	-	-	Run-of-the-River scheme
UBDC St. I & II	91.35	-	-	Run-of-the-River scheme
Mukerian	207	-	-	Run-of-the-River scheme

1	2	3	4	5
A.P. Sahib	134	-	-	Run-of-the-River scheme
Ranjit Sagar Dam	600	-	3868	Employment given to 1395 persons out of 2029 eligible families. In addition rehabilitation and resettlement grant also being given.
*Shahpur Kandi	168	-	-	
Rajasthan				
R.P. Sagar	172	76.55 Sq. Miles	N.A.	
J. Sagar	99	3.72 Bigha 17 Biswa	N.A.	
Mahibajaj-I	50	73 Bigha 17 Biswa	Nil	Run-of-the-River scheme
Mahibajaj-II	90	244 Bigha 13 Biswa	Nil	Run-of-the-River scheme
Uttar Pradesh				
Rihand	300	-	N.A.	
Obra	99	-	N.A.	Run-of-the-River scheme
Matatilla	30	-	N.A.	
Khatima	41.4	41.6	-	
Khara	72	-	N.A.	Run-of-the-River scheme
*Vishnu Prayag	400	-	N.A.	
*Srinagar	330	-	N.A.	
Uttranchal J.V.N.				
Dhakrani (Y. St. I)	33.75		-	Run-of-the-River scheme
Dhalipur (Y. St. I)	51	724.575	-	Run-of-the-River scheme
Kulhal (Y. St. IV)	30		-	Run-of-the-River scheme
Chibro (Y. St. II)	240	328.526	-	Run-of-the-River scheme (Underground)
Khodri (Y. St. II)	120		-	Run-of-the-River scheme
Ramganga	198	854.4	-	
Chilla	144	417.911	-	Run-of-the-River scheme
Maneri Bhali	90	40	-	Run-of-the-River scheme
Khatima	41.4	41.6	-	Run-of-the-River scheme
*Maneri Bhali St.-II	304	42	-	
*Lakhwar Vyasi	420	605	-	Compensation being paid
Gujarat				
Ukai	300	N.A.	-	

1	2	3	4	5
Kadana (PSS)	240	N.A.	-	
*Sardar Sarovar Projects				
a)River Bed P.H.	1200	37533	40882	Various incentives have been/are being paid. 14493 families rehabilitated and 34288 families paid compensation.
b)Canal Head P.H.	250	-	-	
Madhya Pradesh				
Gandhi Nagar	115	N.A.	-	
Pench	160	2569	5	Compensation given to each family
Rani Avati Bai	90	N.A.	-	
Rajghat	45	N.A.	-	
Ban Sagar Tons	375	4831.1	1306	Out of 3684 eligible persons, 3327 have taken rehabilitation grant.
*Madikheda	60	35	-	
*Maheshwar	400	N.A.	7885 persons	Plots and grant-in-aid paid to 258 persons.
Chhattisgarh SEB				
Hasdeo Bango	120	21279	2721	All evacuated families provided alternative site and civic facilities besides compensation for land and property.
Maharashtra				
Koyna I, II and III	920	12302	9069	All evacuated families resettled including 2573 families who have settled at their own at other places. Various civic amenities provided.
Koyna IV	1000	626.97	181	All civic amenities provided.
Koyna DPH	40	Nil	Nil	Run-of-the-River scheme (Underground)
Vaitarna	60	4689	109	Rehabilitation works completed in 1971. All civic facilities provided to affected families such as houses, roads, samaj mandir, water supply etc.
Bhira Tail Race	80	768.82	87	Rehabilitation works completed in 1987. One village was rehabilitated.
Tillari	60	985	Nil	
Bandhardhara-II	34	98	Nil	Run-of-the-River scheme
Bhira	150	N.A.		

1	2	3	4	5
Bhivpuri	72	N.A.	-	
Khopoli	72	N.A.	-	
Bhira PSS	150	Nil	Nil	Pump Storage Scheme
*Ghatghar PSS	250	258	176	Affected families to be rehabilitated according to Govt.'s norms
Andhra Pradesh				
Machkund	120	10712	1114	Alternative rehabilitation was provided for all the families
Upper Sileru	240	1070	01 village	Rehabilitation was provided for all the families of the village Guntawada.
Upper Sileru St-II	485	3787	28	Rehabilitation was provided for all the families.
Srisailam RB HE Scheme	770	38082	26784	Rehabilitation has been provided to all the affected families.
N.J. Sagar PSS	810	12.297	Nil	Run-of-the-River scheme
N.J. Sagar RBC	75	6.07	Nil	No rehabilitation involved
N.J. Sagar LBC	60	17.275	Nil	
Singur	150	1.246	Nil	
Srisailam LBPH	900	Underground PH	77	Rehabilitation was provided to all the families.
Pochampad	27	2.509	Nil	
Karnataka				
Sharavathy	891	42100	2800	Opted for rehabilitation grant to settle of their choice.
Lingnamakki	55	N.A.	N.A.	
Badhra (L)	26	-	-	Run-of-the-River scheme
Kalinadi	810	21828	2447	Families provided with facilities at the Rehabilitation Centre established for this purpose.
Supa DPH	100	13405	1500	Opted for rehabilitation grant to settle of their choice.
Ghatprabha	32		-	Run-of-the-River scheme
Varahi	230	9065.39	1475	Rehabilitation grant provided.
Kadra	150	3177.73	364	Rehabilitation grant provided.
Kodasali	120	1592.71	415	Rehabilitation grant provided.
Sharavathy T. Race	60/180	700	Nil	Run-of-the-River scheme
Bommanhalli Pickup Dam	-	-	48	

1	2	3	4	5
Upper Kaneri Diversion Scheme				
Thattihala Dam & Diversion Works				
Jog	120	-	-	
Kerala				
Idukki	780	6926	N.A.	
Sabaragiri	300	2053	N.A.	
Kuttiadi	75	283	N.A.	
Sholoyar	54	899	N.A.	
Sengulam	48	83	N.A.	Run-of-the-River scheme
Nariamangalam	75	77	N.A.	Run-of-the-River scheme
Pallivasal	37.5	382	N.A.	Run-of-the-River scheme
Panniar	30	989	N.A.	
Idamalayar	75	3126	120	
Lower Periyar	180	127	N.A.	Run-of-the-River scheme
[illegible]kad	50	35	Nil	Run-of-the-River scheme
[illegible]di Extn.	50	16	1400	Land purchased after paying satisfactory compensation.
[illegible] Diversion Scheme		29	18	All families provided alternate land and compensation.
Vadakkepuzha Diversion Scheme		3	19	Families having house and 40 persons (land owners) to be evicted All families provided alternate land and compensation. Temporarily shifted to KSEB Quarters.
Tamil Nadu				
Kundah I, II, III, IV, V, & VI	585	6707 (Acrs.)	Nil	No family was evacuated.
Pykara	72.2	1108.988	Nil	No family was evacuated.
Moyar	36		Nil	No family was evacuated.
Paraambikulam Aliyar	587	1000 (Acrs.)	Nil	No family was evacuated.
Mettur Dam HEP	360	44.29	Nil	No family was evacuated.
V. Papanasam PH	28	623.45 (Acrs.)	Nil	No family was evacuated.
Kodayar PH	100	2998 (Acrs.)	Nil	No family was evacuated.
Periyar PH	140	218 (Acrs.)	Nil	No family was evacuated.
Suriliyar P. House	35	518 (Acrs.)	Nil	No family was evacuated.
Bhavani Kattalai Barrage	60	62.06	Nil	No family was evacuated.

1	2	3	4	5
Bihar				
Subernrekha-I	65	N.A.	N.A.	
Subernrekha-II	65	N.A.	N.A.	
Kosi	20	31.76 (Acrs.)	Nil	Run-of-the-River scheme. Project installed on barren land.
Orissa H.P.C.				
Hirakud I	235.5	N.A.	N.A.	
Hirakud II	72	N.A.	N.A.	Run-of-the-River scheme
Balimela	360	N.A.	N.A.	
Rengali	250	122414.52 (Acrs.)	10847	Land compensation provided to each displaced family. Alternate rehabilitation facility provided.
Upper Kolab	320	1632 Sq. Km.	N.A.	
Upper Indrawati	600	110 Sq. Km.	5988	Land compensation provided to each displaced family. Alternate rehabilitation facility provided.
West Bengal				
Rammam-II	50	627.92 (Acrs.)	125 persons	Full compensation paid to land losers. Employment given to 125 persons who lost their land partially
Jaldhaka I & II	35	242.34 (Acrs.)	Nil	Run-of-the-River scheme
*Purulia (PSS)	900	456	Nil	No rehabilitation and settlement involved.
Teesta Canal Fall	67.5	286.27	1379 persons	Full compensation paid. 15 families rehabilitated under Indira Awas Yojana
Assam				
*Karbi Langpi	100		-	All 192 eligible persons paid compensation.
Meghalaya				
Umiam Stage-I	36	3749 (Acrs.)	Nil	
Umiam Stage-II	60	136 (Acrs.)	Nil	
*Myntdu	84	181.17	Nil	
*Kyradamkulai	60	1482.40 (Acrs.)	Nil	Run-of-the-River scheme

*HEPs under construction

Foreign Collaboration in Power Projects

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

(a) whether some power projects are being set up in the country in collaboration with Foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost and installed capacity of each plant, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Nine power generation projects are under execution with external financing. Details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Project-wise Details of Externally Aided On-going Power Plants During 2003-2004 (As on 30.06.2003)

Sl. No.	Name of Project/ Organization	State	Capacity (MW)	Estimated Project Cost (Rs. in Cr.)	Funding Agency
N.H.P.C.					
1.	IDP-107 & 129 Dhauliganga HEP	Uttaranchal	280.00	1578.31	JBIC (JY)
2.	Dulhasti HEP	J&K	390.00	3559.77	French (FF)
3.	Chamera stage-II HEP	HP	300.00	1684.02	EDC (Canada)
4.	Teesta-V HEP	Sikkim	510.00	2198.04	Deutsche Bank & other banks in Tokyo under NEXI, Japan cover
NEEPCO					
5.	IDP-119 Turial HEP	Mizoram	60.00	368.72	JBIC (JY)
SJVNL					
6.	3024-In Nathpa Jhakri HEP	HP	1500.00	9700.00	IBRD (USD) (World bank)
APGENCO					
7.	IDP-43, 94, 128 Srisalam Left Bank HEP	AP	900.00	2482.00	JBIC (JY)
GOM/IRGG. Deptt.					
8.	IDP-53 Ghatghar PSP	Maharashtra	250.00	1184.60	JBIC (JY)
WBSEB					
9.	IDP-98 Purulia Pumped Storage Project	West Bengal	900.00	3188.90	JBIC (JY)

Connection of Patna-Hajipur Line with Purnia Bihar Sharif

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect Patna-Hajipur with Purnia-Bihar Sharif transmission line and also to construct sub-transmission line in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work in this regard is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Development of intra-state transmission systems and sub-transmission systems is the responsibility of the respective states. There is no proposal with POWERGRID to connect Patna-Hajipur transmission Line with Purnea-Biharsharif Transmission Line. A 220 kV D/C line between Purnea and Begusarai is under implementation by Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB). A 220 kV D/C line between Begusarai and Biharsharif exists but the same is presently being operated at 132 kV level in the absence of the 220/132 kV sub-station at Begusarai, which is under construction by the BSEB.

Procurement of Aircraft Carriers

725. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Navy has only one Aircraft Carrier viz. INS Virat in service against the requirement of two Operational Aircraft Carriers;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in obtaining another aircraft carrier; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fulfil the requirement of Indian Navy?

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

(b) and (c) Government have approved the indigenous construction of an Air Defence Ship for the Indian Navy in 1999. Keeping in view the strategic importance and role of the Air Defence Ship, approval was accorded for a higher capacity ship at a revised cost of Rs. 2880 crores in January, 2003. In addition, an Inter-Governmental Agreement has been signed with the Government of Russian Federation in October, 2000 for the acquisition of an Aircraft Carrier "Admiral Gorshkov". An investment decision on the acquisition of Admiral Gorshkov has not yet been taken.

[Translation]

Launching of News Channel

726. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to wind up the Metro Channel (DD2) and launch news channel very soon;

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

(c) whether the Government have conducted a nation-wise study in regard to expenditure to be incurred thereon and the popularity of the above mentioned channel;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have formulated a scheme for an alternate channel in lieu of Metro Channel; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposed schemes is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Prasar Bharati Board has decided, in principle, to convert DD Metro into 24 hours News Channel. The decision has been taken to fulfil a growing desire for news among the viewers, particularly among those without cable connection.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati have informed that the projected expenditure is about Rs. 130 crores annually. DD Metro has a terrestrial reach of about 52% of all T.V. homes. The viewership of DD News (ho· rly bulletin) at present, is around 90% in all homes but the number of main bulletins is only 6 (six). In view of the above, it is felt that if DD News is run on the Metro Channel (which is on terrestrial mode), more people will benefit.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Angul-Dubri-Sakinda Road Rail Projects in Orissa

727. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Angul-Dubri-Sakinda Road new rail line project in Orissa;

(b) the target date fixed for the completion of said project;

(c) the funds allocated for the project so far, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the construction of that project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The Final Location Survey and soil investigation for all major bridges have been completed.

(b) No target date of completion for the project has yet been fixed.

(c) Year-wise allocation of funds for Angul-Sukinda Road new line project since inclusion in the Budget is given as under:-

Year	Outlay (Rs. in crores)
1997-1998	0.1
1998-1999	2
1999-2000	2
2000-2001	23 (Rs. 22 crore under BOLT)
2001-2002	23 (Rs. 18 crore under BOLT)
2002-2003	1
2003-2004	2

(d) There is heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects with severe resource constraints. The work will be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.

Mangalore-Hassan Rail Link

728. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no diversion link connecting the existing railway network with Konkan track all along its 740 km. route;

(b) whether the work on Mangalore-Hassan link, held up for gauge conversion for almost ten years, will be taken up on war-footing;

(c) whether a rail link facility between Mangalore-Hassan and onwards, if restored, would provide an alternate diversion route for people of Dakshiana Kannada and Kerala in case of any mishaps on Konkan track;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) There exist a diversion link connecting existing Railway network with Konkan Railway line joining at Madgaon.

(b) to (e) Gauge conversion of Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore MG is being progressed in Phases. Work on Arsikere-Hassan-Sakleshpur section of the project has been completed and commissioned. Work on Mangalore-Kabakaputtur is nearing completion. It is targeted to complete the section upto Subramanya Road from Mangalore end during 2003-04. The work on ghat section between Subramanya Road and Sakleshpur is also in progress and is expected to be completed during 2004-05 subject to availability of resources. This is one of the projects being implemented through KRIDE.

On completion of Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore gauge conversion project, another diversion link for Konkan Railway route would be available.

Implementation of Reports on Railway Accidents

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

(a) whether most major accidents are put to sabotage by rail officials and shift responsibility from the Railways to the State Government;

(b) if so, the total number of reports of inquiry commission on railway accidents still pending for implementation in the country; and

(c) the concrete steps the Railways is considering to take to implement all the inquiry reports on railway accidents?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Implementation of accepted recommendations is a continuous process and the same is monitored periodically.

Import of Petroleum Products by Essar Oil

730. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State-owned Oil Marketing Companies are facing the risk of losing a major chunk of their bulk consumers of diesel with Essar Oil set to become the first private company that can undercut them through cheaper imports;

(b) if so, whether Essar Oil contracted 20,000 tonnes of diesel after the new export - import policy allowed Oil Companies with marketing licenses to directly import petro products;

(c) if so, whether this will allow Essar Oil to price its diesel cheaper by at least 40 paise a litre on the basis of import parity;

(d) whether this will put the State-owned Oil Marketing Companies at a disadvantageous position; and

(e) if so, the corrective steps taken to protect the interest of Oil Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) With the dismantling of administered pricing mechanism effective 1.4.2002, the pricing of diesel has been decontrolled. Further, effective 1.4.2003, the companies like M/s Essar Oil, who have been granted rights for marketing of transportation fuels in terms of the Resolution No.P-23015/1/2001-MKT dated 8.3 2002 of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, can directly import transportation fuels including diesel. As per information available, M/s Essar Oil has imported diesel during May and July 2003.

In a free market scenario, the public sector oil marketing companies would need to compete with the private players in the marketing of diesel.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: With the permission of the House, I would go to Item No.13 first since the hon. Minister has to go to the other House.

12.03 hrs.

MOTION RE: FIFTY-SECOND REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:-

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 23rd July, 2003."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 23rd July, 2003."

The motion was adopted.

12.03½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. **See** No. LT 7803/03]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 459 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library. **See** No. LT 7804/03]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1995:-

(1) G.S.R. No.843 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2002 regarding coverage of all parts of nine States and four Union Territories as mentioned in the notification allowing sale of only 5 per cent ethanol-blended petrol by 30th June, 2003.

[Placed in Library. **See** No. LT 78035/03]

(2) G.S.R. No.519 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2003 extending the validity of Notification No. G.S.R. 843 (E) upto 30th September, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7806/03]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 64 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995:-

(1) Annual Report of the Chief Commission for person with Disabilities for the year 2000-2001.

(2) Action Taken Report on the recommendations of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7807/03]

12.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Thirteenth Report

[Translation]

DR. S. VENUGOPAL (ADILABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I present the Thirteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Government Assurances.

12.04½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth Reports

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance:-

(1) Forty-fifth Report on the Financial Companies Regulation Bill, 2000; and

(2) Forty-sixth Report on the Industrial Development Bank (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 2002.

12.04¾ hrs.

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Seventh and Eighth Reports

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (PEDDAPALLI): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of Railway Convention Committee (1999):

(1) Seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in their Third Report on 'Construction of new BG line between Kolayat and Phalodi on Strategic Consideration'.

(2) Eighth Report on 'Rate of Dividend for 2003-04 and Other Ancillary Matters.

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 9 is being postponed. It may be taken up on Monday.

12.05 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) Committee on Public Accounts

[English]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (JALORE): Sir, I beg to move the following:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Haribhai Chaudhary resigned from the Committee and Shri Chinmayanand Swami ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule 254, in the manner required

by sub-rule (1) of rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Haribhai Chaudhary resigned from the Committee and Shri Chinmayanand Swami ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister."

The motion was adopted.

12.06 hrs.

(ii) Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (DHUNDHUKA): Sir, I beg to move:-

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 331 B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Kailash Meghwal ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 331 B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Kailash Meghwal ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as Minister."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:-

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Nana Deshmukh resigned from the Committee and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Nana Deshmukh resigned from the Committee and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your consent to raise my Privilege Motion against the Law Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am referring to the Privilege Motion moved by Shri Banatwalla. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have received from Shri Banatwalla and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi motions on question of privilege against Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of Law and Justice for allegedly suppressing the facts and misleading the House regarding the dilution of charges by CBI against the accused in Babri Masjid demolition case. The matter is under my consideration.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Please take it up early, Sir.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Privilege Motion is under your consideration. It is all right. And you are saying that. I want to know that, if any Member gives notice of privilege on wrong things, can another Member give notice of privilege against him? And if so, I want to give a notice of a privilege against him. If he has given notice of privilege on wrong things. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can see the rules and find out whether it can be given or not.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a number of notices for Adjournment Motions and I have already said that those notices have been rejected by me and, therefore, I can convert them into questions to be raised during the 'Zero Hour' and according to the procedure, whenever I feel proper, I will allow you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I want to say is. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down. I am going to permit all of you.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

12.10 hrs.

(i) REPORTED NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERIM AWARD OF CAUVERY WATER DISPUTE TRIBUNAL ON SHARING OF WATER

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for an Adjournment Motion. The Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal, in its order of 25.6.1991 and 3.4.1992, stated. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Your 'Zero Hour' notice also will be taken up.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter is *sub judice*. How can she raise it in the House? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me hear what is the subject.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (TUMKUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the matter is before the Supreme Court, how can she raise it here? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you are interested in your subject I am going to permit you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, the matter is before the Supreme Court. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have told you that I am going to permit you. What else do you want? Please take your seat now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want an opportunity to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to give you an opportunity. Please take your seat.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: But we should be given the first opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot force me to give you the first opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a notice for an Adjournment Motion from her. So, I have permitted her to speak. Please take your seat.

DR. V. SAROJA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal had passed its order on 25.6.1991 and 3.4.1992. In that order, it stated that. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, it is a very important issue. I seek your protection. *...(Interruptions)* The House should be in order. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (HASSAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order in 'Zero Hour'. You are a senior Member. You know the rules. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal, in its order of 25.6.1991 and 3.4.1992, stated that 205 TMC ft. of water should be released from Karnataka to the State of Tamil Nadu. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, I should be allowed to speak. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, they can be allowed to speak after me. They should listen to me first.

..*(Interruptions)* Sir, this issue is pending for the past 12 years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (MANGALORE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, she is referring to an order passed in the year 1991. This is not of recent occurrence. What is the urgency now? ...*(Interruptions)* There is shortage of water in the State of Karnataka and there is drinking water problem in Greater Bangalore. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. V. SAROJA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal, in its order, stated that 205 TMC ft. of water should be released to the State of Tamil Nadu from the State of Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Sir, where is the urgency for this matter now? It is not a matter of recent occurrence. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, we have to protect the interest of Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Prime Minister has made all efforts to settle the dispute peacefully. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, she is the Leader of AIADMK in the House. You have to allow her to speak. Please allow her. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, this is an issue of human rights and of common interest to the people of Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, Members - particularly Shri Dhananjaya Kumar - are aware that during the 'Zero Hour', a Member can raise an issue even if it is an old one. Therefore, there is nothing wrong in raising an issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down for a minute. I am on my legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted Dr. Saroja to speak. There may be Members who may not agree with her. I am prepared to allow them also to speak. But let me tell you that the manner in which the Members are trying to obstruct the business of the House is absolutely bad because other Members will be deprived of the opportunity to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me tell you that if you want to speak, I am prepared to permit you. But you cannot deprive other Members from raising their issues. There are 32 issues pending before us. If the Members are not understanding the interests of everybody, only God can help them.

Dr. Saroja, I have permitted you to speak. You can speak and complete your subject. Thereafter I am prepared to permit other Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Aiyar has asked for permission. I am going to permit him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, I will also permit you to speak. But please remember that this is not the way to get permission from the Speaker. You cannot disturb the House. After her, you will speak. Then, Shri Aiyar will also speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let us conduct the business nicely. I want cooperation from each and every Member.

DR. V. SAROJA: Two hundred and five TMC feet of water will be spread from June of that year. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You complete your statement and then only stop.

DR. V. SAROJA: It will be spread throughout 12 months in the following order. The release of water is regulated. For the month of June, it is 110.16 TMC feet, July 42.76; August 54.72; September 29.36; October 30.17, November 16.05, December 10.37 TMC feet. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence now. Let her statement be completed.

DR. V. SAROJA: In January 2.51, February 2.17, March, 2.40, April 2.32 and May 2.01 TMC feet of water is to be released. Even on a monthly basis, the quota will be released every week so that the farmers get a regular supply of water. They will be benefited in that manner.

The Technical Cell of the Monitoring Committee assisting the Cauvery Water Authority, which is an independent authority, obtained a report from the Central Water Commission about sharing of available water even

during the distress period. The same was circulated to all the Member-States, that is; Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Pondicherry. Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry had accepted that report. But it is unfortunate that for the past 12 years, the State of Karnataka is giving a deaf ear to the problems of farmers in Tamil Nadu.

After intervention by the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, the Monitoring Committee convened a meeting under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Water Resources. Instead of accepting the distress sharing formula, the Government of Karnataka came out with a new proposal about that formula which was unjustified and unreasonable. It is totally unjustified to the farmers of Tamil Nadu. The Government of Karnataka is defying not only the orders of the hon. Supreme Court but also of the Tribunal, the CRA and the Monitoring Committee.

There are farmers not only from Tamil Nadu but also from the Cauvery Delta area. All the people of Tamil Nadu require water even for drinking purposes. They are suffering because of illegal construction of dams and total defiance of all the orders. It is a day-to-day affair of the people of Karnataka who are taking revenge. We can politicise any issue but please leave aside water. They have failed to understand the consequences of this injustice being done by the Karnataka Government.

Sir, I would urge upon the Government of India and the hon. Prime Minister to intervene in this matter. This august House has conferred the supreme power on the hon. Prime Minister to resolve this issue. Using his good offices, he should direct the Government of Karnataka to accept not only the order of the Tribunal but also the distress sharing formula.

In this context, I appeal to the hon. Leader of Opposition to please take it up with the Government of Karnataka.* ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not make personal allegations.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No personal allegations please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have told her not to make personal allegations.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, she is their leader and she can direct the Government of Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will expunge those words.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have told you that I will expunge the words which are objectionable.

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, if she wants, she can find a solution to this problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to immediately intervene in this matter. There are so many hon. Members, from different States, agitating on this issue. I am not going to make any observation on its merit. Obviously, they feel that it is a very vital issue. Shri Yerrannaidu wanted to raise it yesterday and today other hon. Members are raising it. This is a matter which should not be allowed to be raised only in this House. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, I feel that the hon. Prime Minister should intervene and give some observation on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Saroja, you complete your submission.

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, she is the Leader of Opposition, she can instruct the Government of Karnataka to look into this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have removed that from the record.

DR. V. SAROJA:*... So, I urge upon the Leader of Opposition to intervene in this water as she can solve this problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, no prompting please.

DR. V. SAROJA: Sir, through this august House, I appeal and request the hon. Prime Minister of India and the Leader of Opposition to find an amicable solution for the farmers of Tamil Nadu.

Last but not the least, I would also go on record by saying that in the distress report, which has been submitted, they have given false report. ...*(Interruptions)* I am given to understand that there are 129 TMC feet of ground water which is available. Do they mean to say that the ground water, which is available, is going to be 205 TMC? This figure is totally wrong. It has been proved during the cross examination by

Shri Khanna. It has been proved during the cross examination by the witness of the Government of Karnataka State.

Sir, on behalf of my party, AIADMK, my leader Dr. Purutchi Thalaivi the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I urge upon the Government, the hon. Prime Minister and also the hon. Leader of Opposition to look into this matter.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): Thank you Sir. This is a life and death issue for the farmers of Tamil Nadu, particularly in the districts of Thanjavur, Nagapattanam, Thiruvarur, Pakkakadlur, Trichy and Udukottai. For the last three years the farmers of these districts, about 50 per cent, of Tamil Nadu are affected by drought. Sometimes it is natural and sometimes it is artificially created by the Government of Karnataka.

Sir, a tribunal was constituted by the efforts of the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaingar. The award was given and it has already been quoted by the AIADMK Member, hon. Dr. V. Saroja, which is to the tune of 205 TMC. So far, the Government of Karnataka has not honoured this award.

Sir, every time, there was an issue regarding water scarcity, they came to the River Authority as well as to the Supreme Court with a new proposal trying to spoil the old proposal.

I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Speaker and to this august House that the district of Thanjavur is a rice bowl and a granary of the South. It is supplying rice to the entire South. For the last three years, the farmers and the agricultural labourers are facing a great difficulty. There are some suicides in this district also because of this drought.

So, at this moment, through the hon. Speaker, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to intervene in this issue and settle the riparian rights of the people of Tamil Nadu because the friends from Karnataka are not ready to honour the order of the Supreme Court as well as the riparian rights of the people of Tamil Nadu.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I want to associate myself with Shri S.S. Palanimanickam.

MR. SPEAKER: Your name will be associated.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (POLLACHI): Sir, I also associate myself with it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your name will also be associated.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Already Mr. Speaker Sir, Members from Tamil Nadu have spoken. Please allow Karnataka Members also to speak now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI): He has already called my name. May I yield to our friends from Karnataka subsequently. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, you are very rightly allowing the Members to speak. Let the Members from Karnataka speak. I would request the Member to take this issue where it should be taken, not to the Opposition benches. It should go to the Ruling Party rather than to the Opposition benches. Let there be responsible and reasonable statements, and not irresponsible statements. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: A suggestion has been made to me that since the Members from Tamil Nadu have already cleared their point of view on this issue, somebody from Karnataka should also be allowed to speak on this. I have no problem in doing that. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has stated that he would be speaking afterwards. I have no problem. Therefore, I am allowing Shri S. Bangarappa to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bangarappa is requested to speak now. We are all part and parcel of the same country. After Shri S. Bangarappa Shri Dhananjaya Kumar will speak.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (SHIMOGA): Mr. Speaker Sir, with all humility at my hand and with due respect to the hon. Members coming from Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry or other low riparian region, I would like to express the viewpoint of Karnataka State.

There are two or three issues involved in this matter. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House. I am also interested in knowing what Shri Bangarappa has to say. Your own Party man is speaking. Let me listen to him.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: As far as the details are concerned, if you go to the details, it will take a lot of time. I do not think we can now indulge upon going into the details of either the Tribunal Order or the Supreme Court Interim Order.

There are several orders in the dispute. Actually it has consumed a lot of time also. We have seen so many Prime Ministers. So many times, so many orders were issued by the Tribunal constituted under the Inter State Water Dispute Act. Sir, this is a very serious matter also.

I agree with the hon. Member when he made a reference to release of 205 TMC of water, and all these things. We do not dispute that. But the point is there is a formula given by same Tribunal called Distress Water Sharing Formula. That is very very important. If water is there, certainly we are bound to release it. If water is not there, how can we get the water to be released? That is all the point here. Therefore, she also made a reference to the construction of certain dams or mini dams or something like that. In fact, we would like to make the point very very clear that Karnataka Government is not indulging in all these matters and we have not taken up projects other than those which are required to be taken up as per the agreement and rules also. We have not, in fact, transgressed the directions given by either the Tribunal or the Supreme Court.

Now, the point is this. As far as letting out water to either Tamil Nadu or Pondicherry is concerned, let me make it very very clear that in Karnataka State, standing crops of sugarcane on thousand of acres in a district like Mandya have been completely dried up. Even now, you can go and see that. The same is the case with regard to the paddy crops also. We have not been able to, in fact, let out even a drop of water for drinking purpose, and the entire catchment area of the KRS reservoir is completely dried up.

Till recently, little water has come to the dam site from two districts. That is the position. Therefore, what I am trying to submit to the consideration of this august House, through you, Sir, is that if we have got water, certainly we will honour it. If we do not have water, then we are not in a position to honour it. It is not that we are opposing you. We are all brothers and sisters living in the same country of the Indian Union. We are a part and parcel of the whole of India. ...*(Interruptions)* Yes, you are also there. Therefore, certainly we will move with that principle as the basis for our approach.

Sir, I am appealing to you that mutual dialogue is the best course to resolve this issue. We are appealing to the hon. Prime Minister also as has been directed or requested by the hon. Supreme Court. Madam, you have also rightly made an appeal to the hon. Prime Minister. We are also making an appeal to the hon. Prime Minister. Let the Prime Minister initiate all these actions. Let him call all the parties concerned to this dispute - Kerala and Karnataka, which are in the upper riparian region, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, which are in the lower riparian region. These are the four States involved in this dispute. Let a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry be called by the hon. Prime Minister to resolve this issue once for all. Mutual dialogue is the best solution. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bangarappa is making his point of view quite clear and very nicely. Let him complete. Please do not disturb him.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. V. SAROJA: After so many years, they are coming for a discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is explaining the position very nicely.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: We give due respect to the Order of the Supreme Court or the Tribunal under the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1951. But the point is that if water is there, we are bound to honour it. If water is not there, whether I am there or you are there or anybody is there, no one would be able to honour that Order. We have made our point very clear to the Tribunal, to the Supreme Court, to the hon. Prime Minister, and also to the Water Resources Minister. This is the case of Karnataka and even Kerala also since Kerala is also a party to this dispute.

With due respect to the hon. Members, let us sit together and resolve this issue. Let us give all the due co-operation to the hon. Prime Minister, as per the direction given by the Supreme Court.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Dhananjaya Kumar.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH): Sir, may I report to you very honestly that I went to Mysore in the first week of July and I saw the Krishnarajasagar dam with my own eyes. The whole riverbed is dry. There is no water in the dam. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is what he was saying.

Now, Shri Dhananjaya Kumar.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.):

Mr. Speaker. Sir, on a number of occasions I have said in this House that the water subject should be included in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and only then this problem can be solved. But this Government is doing nothing. I want to request you that if you want to solve the problem of water then you may direct the government to bring a bill to incorporate the water subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution.

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Sir, traditionally and historically, Karnataka has been a very peaceful and law-abiding State. Here, my sister has tried to distort the issue before this august House. ...*(Interruptions)* Would you please hear me for a minute? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI): You say that Karnataka is a law-abiding State but your Chief Minister was condemned by the Supreme Court. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: It is the State of Karanataka to which I am referring. I am not referring to the Chief Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* I must make it very clear that the State of Karnataka has. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSADAN MISTRY (SABARKANTHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given the notice.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Why are you interrupting? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us resolve this issue nicely. Shri Bangarappa has made a good beginning. We can find out a way.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Sir, the State of Karnataka has fully complied with the orders passed by the legal authorities like the Tribunal and the Supreme Court. ...*(Interruptions)*

As rightly pointed out by my colleague, Shri Bangarappa, there is an observation by the Tribunal in regard to distress sharing. I fully agree with my sister, Dr. Saroja that there has been an interim order. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mannji, why are you shouting. You are not going to get water by shouting. You will get water only when it is available. Water is not available. The rain is not falling. ...*(Interruptions)* Why are you shouting? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: There was no rain. That is what I am telling him. Unfortunately, for the last two years, Karnataka has been suffering with the worst kind of drcught. There was no rain in the Cauvery basin. That is why, as rightly observed by some of my friends who had gone as part of a delegation to that area, the entire reservoir has become dry and they have seen it. So, rightly the hon. Tribunal in its award has made an observation that in the case of distress, how that distress should be shared. In case of surplus, we will share the surplus. In case of distress, we will also share the distress. This is the formula proposed by the Tribunal. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken up the issue before the hon. Prime Minister. The hon. Prime Minister has convened the meeting. Whenever the hon. Prime Minister directed the State of Karnataka to come before him and place our facts, we have placed our facts. Whatever direction the hon. Prime Minister had issued, we have fully complied with that.

Today, fortunately this year the situation in the Cauvery basin is that we have started getting some rain. Let us pray to God that enough showers will come and enough water will flow into the reservoir. Then, we will give them more than their due share. Water for the purposes of drinking is also not available in the Cauvery. That is the position today.

MR. SPEAKER: Please complete now.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: My last submission is that this is not proper to bring this issue before this august House when the highest authorities of the country like the hon. Prime Minister, the Supreme Court and the Tribunal, are seized of the matter. There is no occasion for raising this issue before this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, please sit down. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar will speak now. Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, you have made your point here. Why do you want to repeat?

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: We are a law-abiding State. We will abide by the decision. I think, even Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar would agree that there is no water. If there is

water. we will give you. ...*(Interruptions)* Cauvery originates from my constituency. You should know that. There is absolutely no rain in that part. That is the problem.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri S. Ranganathan, the very long serving Chairman of the Cauvery Delta Farmers' Association, has visited Karnataka and quite honestly stated that there is an enormous shortage of water in Karnataka. That is a fact. At the same time, as the representative of the other end of the Cauvery, Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, I can assure you that the debate of distress in the Cauvery delta has never been as acute as in the last 12 years. We are, therefore, now not talking about the sharing of surpluses but sharing of distress. For the sharing of distress, there are a number of steps, which should have been taken by the Central Government in particular, but which have not been taken.

I would like to list these one by one. Firstly, the Prime Minister himself is the Chairman of the Cauvery River Authority. I think it is utterly shocking that with this creeping crisis that has been coming on us over the last seven months, there has been no attempt made by the Cauvery River Authority to meet and give a political direction to this acute crisis affecting peninsular India. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: While invitations were sent, your Chief Minister did not attend the meeting. You should not forget that. You know that. Why do you want to suppress that?

MR. SPEAKER: It is not 'your' Chief Minister, but his Chief Minister. Please sit down.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: She was invited twice, but his Chief Minister did not attend the meeting.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, please sit down.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: My second request is directed at the hon. Minister of Water Resources who is sitting here with us.

I am a Member of his Consultative Committee. We have repeatedly, over the last three years, requested the hon. Minister, if necessary along with the Members of the Committee, to visit the basin of the Cauvery, all the way from Shri Dhananjaya Kumar's constituency to mine so that we as Members of Parliament can also make our contribution in a harmonious manner to the resolution of problems arising out of distress, which is distress in Karnataka as much as distress in Tamil Nadu. The hon. Minister of Water Resources has always been very kind to us in the Committee but has been cruel to us outside the Committee. He has never taken us down there. He has not visited the area himself.

The third thing that I would also request the hon. Minister of Water Resources to do is that given the fact that we have all these opinions over here which express different views between States - this is an inter-State dispute, not an inter-party dispute - if he would kindly call the Members of Parliament of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry together we can sit with him informally and have a really detailed discussion on how these matters could be handled.

My fourth request to the Government itself is that the Minister who is in charge of Planning should kindly call the Chief Ministers of both the States primarily concerned, that is, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and see that until and unless we resolve this problem, that is, until whatever time it takes, we look into the Cauvery Modernisation Plan which the World Bank has offered to finance nearly 25 years ago, which is pending because the Government at that time, thinking the issue could be resolved, said, 'After the water sharing issue is resolved, we will bring in the Cauvery Modernisation Plan.' The Cauvery Modernisation Plan is as much required in Shri Dhananjaya Kumar's area as it is in my area. If we can do that, we can reduce the amount of water required for agriculture without affecting the output but the CMP has been put to sleep because nobody is taking interest in reviving it notwithstanding this.

Finally, my fifth appeal is to the AIADMK Chief Minister, who in December, 1995, had filed a case in the Supreme Court. I am referring to that case. There are many cases but I am referring to the case filed by hon. Kumari Jayalalitha in the Supreme Court in December, 1995. The case was being heard. It had almost come to a conclusion. The arguments were coming to a conclusion in April, 1997 when the Solicitor-General went before the Supreme Court and said, 'Please stop this case because we have found a formula to implement the Cauvery Tribunal's Interim Award'. The Supreme Court declined the request for stopping the case but agreed to suspend it saying, 'If you have got a formula, come up with it.' That formula was the Prime Minister's Cauvery River Authority, which has proved hopelessly incompetent, totally incompetent over the last four years in even beginning to approach the problem and even beginning to solve it. In these circumstances, I plead, as a fifth step, with the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to kindly resume the case in the Supreme Court on the grounds that the Central Government has failed to implement the Award. Let us bring it to a conclusion. Let us convert the quasi-judicial decision of the Cauvery Tribunal into a judicial decision of the Supreme

Court, which will be equally binding on Karnataka as on Tamil Nadu, as on Pondicherry and as on Kerala.

If these five constructive steps are taken, we may succeed in working constructively towards a solution. So, I plead with the hon. Minister of Water Resources to assure us that he would do what he is capable of doing and that he would convey my request about the CRA to the Prime Minister and I request the hon. mover of this discussion Dr. Saroja to kindly ask her Chief Minister to resume in the Supreme Court, the case that was suspended in 1997.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has made all the points clear.

I want to go to the next issue about the Birth Centenary of Shri Jaiprakash Narayan to be raised by Shri Ramjilal Suman.

12.45 hrs.

(ii) Need to Organise Special Programmes on the occasion of Birth Centenary of Shri Jai Prakash Narayan

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much. 11th October is the birthday of Jai Prakash ji and on 11th October, 2002 the Government of India had announced that the way we have been celebrating the birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi ji, Maulana Abul Kalaam Azad, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Dr. Ambedkar, in the same way the Government of India would celebrate the birth centenary year of Jai Prakash ji. The hon'ble Vice President of the India, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat ji was appointed as the Chairman of this Committee and it was stated that the programmes related to birthday of Jai Prakash ji would be organised throughout the year. It was said during the budget session that 100 districts would be identified for the implementation of all rural development schemes in the name of Shri Jai Prakash ji. Shri Jai Prakash ji has a great personality. His contribution to the freedom struggle of India is unforgettable and Shri Jai Prakash ji and Dr. Lohiya were the hero of the Quit India Freedom movement of 1942. The prestige and dignity of Jai Prakash ji is not far the reason that he was holding any post. He was neither the President nor the Prime Minister of this country but his stature was higher than any Prime Minister or the President of the country. But I am sorry to state that barring an exhibition mounted in the corridor of the Parliament, the Government of India have not organised any programme in the name of Jai Prakash ji throughout the year. You have been kind enough to install his portrait in this Parliament complex, but the way the country should have remembered him, that has not been done.

I would like to submit that Jai Prakash ji had set up Gandhi Study Centre in Varanasi in June, 1960. Attempts were made to check the activities of that study centre and even to close down that centre. The Government should have provided help to the above study centre this year which was running under the Chairmanship of acharya Ram Moorti ji, but contrary to it, that centre was closed down. My submission is this that the Government should provide grants to that centre. We are emotionally attached to Jai Prakash ji. On the one hand he had made valuable contribution in the struggle and, freedom, and on the other hand, when the fundamental rights of the people of this country were breached and emergency was clamped, Jai Prakash ji led the people of this country and launched a movement of Sampoorna Kranti (complete revolution). He is our ideal leader. The people associated with Samajwadi Rashtriya Andolan and Gandhian Institutions as well as the people emotionally attached to Jai Prakash ji throughout India are pained to see that the Government of India are not fulfilling their duty. I must say that the Government of India has not taken any action to celebrate the birth centenary of Shri Jai Prakash ji. Commensurating with his personality and are backtracking from their duty and responsibility. Therefore, I would like to request you to give directions to the Government in this regard.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL). Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, I will also allow you. If you want to speak, you must speak.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR): Mr. Speaker. Sir, this is a subject of the National Importance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (KHAGARIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, our subject is a very important. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: we are discussing about the subject of Jai Prakash Narayan ji. Let it be completed.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan ji was not only a hero of the Sampoorna Kranti (complete revolution) but he also led the stuuents agitation for Sampoorna Kranti launched by crores of student on 5th June, 1974 against the attack on democracy. Today after that agitation we have felt that the decision taken by the Union Government to celebrate the birth centenary and

to constitute a committee under the Chairmanship of his highness Vice President of India as well as selection of 100 districts for rural development programmes was just a formality. On 11th October, 2002, it was decided that the next year 2003 will be celebrated as the birth centenary year of Jai Prakash ji but today I would like to know as to why the government is showing apathy towards it? The freedom fighters and the youth and other leaders associated with the students agitation throughout the country are very much perturbed over this issue. It is a matter of deep concern to show apathy towards the organisation of the birth centenary programme of Jai Prakash ji, who was great warrior of the freedom struggle. It is a matter of showing great indifference. After all what the union government are doing. The union government cannot escape of their responsibility to organize the programmes as decided in this regard. But what is happening is that only formality has been completed and matter finished. Through you, I would like to request the Union Government to take up this matter seriously. The Government should decide and announce future programmes with regard to the birth centenary celebration because it is a very important question.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question raised by Ramji Lal Suman contains many facts. But it is not true that the Government of India are showing any carelessness in regard to this programme. A number of suggestions were made to that committee. The suggestions which need prompt action by the Government are being attended to. Work is being done in home village of Jai Prakash ji and in the institutions run by him. The government have not shown a good response towards one institution set up in Banaras by Jai Prakash ji towards which Shri Ramji Lal Suman has hinted. Their response has been poor. Even after the Prime Minister's intervention the annoyance of our Human Resource Development Minister still continues to be there for the reason unknown to me. But it is disgraceful. The Government of India has set up a committee or a commission - the waste land Board or Commission under the leadership of Mohan Dharia ji, I do not know its exact name. That committee has to select 100 poor villages of the country and undertake development works there. That proposal has also been accepted by the committee and the Ministry of Rural Development has also accorded its approval to that proposal. But no action has been taken towards that direction. As regards Shri Bhajron Singh Shekhawat ji, he is not only the vice President but, also the Chairman of that committee. He has accepted all the proposals submitted by anyone. The Minister of Culture Shri Jag Mohan ji has taken up this programme quite promptly. The above committee has constituted a sub-committee and I am the Chairman of that sub-committee. As such if I do not tell about that, I will fail in discharging my responsibility. I do not know if there is any proposal which has not been accepted by that committee. There was shortage of funds. Some funds have been provided. The Minister of finance is going to provide more funds. I do not know as to what are the 100 villages which have been identified. But state governments will have to do that work. I have not got any information as to whether or not the state governments are doing the work. But the required development work of the villages and Gandhi Institute, Banaras has not been done. The union government is specially responsible so far as Gandhi Institute is concerned. I do not know why the Minister of Human Resource Development, who is also the Minister of education department, is displeased with that institution. Barring the above two works, the government has not shown carelessness in other works. A number of institutions are being run in the name of Jai Prakash ji. On behalf of that committee I would certainly request the Chairman, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat ji that a list detailing the works being undertaken and the steps taken by the Minister of Culture may be drawn and distributed amongst all the members for their information. But I do not know why the state governments are not implementing that programme.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (SABARKANTHA): Nothing is being done in Gandhi Institute and Gandhi Ashram. The state government is not paying its attention towards it. The government should pay attention towards it.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, so far as the personality and deeds of Jai Prakash ji are concerned, the entire country and this House knows and recognizes the contribution made by him. After getting his education, Jai Prakash ji dedicated his whole life for the sake of the country and never sought anything in return. Everyone knows the role he had played in the freedom struggle of the country. When he was escaping from the Hazaribagh jail, the British police could shoot him. But without caring for his life, he inspired the youth of the country to take part in the freedom struggle and created awareness among them. A number of students leaders dropped their studies of law and joined the freedom struggle on the call given by Jai Prakash ji. We have been very closely associated with socialist movement. Everyone knows that he led the student's agitation against corruption in 1977 and that agitation was not confined to Gujarat and Bihar only but it spread throughout the country which resulted in a new change in the year 1977. That change was the result of his struggle. So far as the question of celebrating his birth centenary is concerned, it might have been celebrated at two-four places as hon'ble Chandra Shekhar ji has said, but I am not saying anything

about the committee and I even do not want to comment on that. If the government have taken any important measures and if the government come out with the list of the villages selected by them, then I will be satisfied. Earlier also, I have been elected from different constituencies but what I know is that no programme on Shri Jai Prakash ji has been held in those constituencies. No programme in this regard has been held in the districts also. I cannot say about the entire country but I can certainly spell out the names of seven-eight districts of Uttar Pradesh where not even a single programme has been held in this regard. Neither the union government nor the state government has organised even a single programme. It is good that the committee has prepared a proposal. I cannot say if anywhere any such programme has been held on a limited scale. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that if the future generations do not take lessons from the biography of such a great hero, leader of a masses and 'Lok Nayak'. Shri Jai Prakash ji, country would not be a loser. I would like to say that a country which forgets its ancestors and its great personalities, it loses its civilization, culture, justice and spirit of patriotism. With the efforts of hon. Chandra Shekhar ji, some compilation marked the occasion of birth centenary of Acharya Narendra Devji and a book, based on his biography was brought out. I have read that book, we have set up a Lohia trust and we are compiling books, based on his life and this is why we have initiated this discussion. I request the hon. Chandrashekhar ji to spare a day in the month of September because a programme is being organised to mark the occasion of his birth centenary. I will be thankful to him if he obliged us by sending the agenda of the committee. I appreciate the efforts made by the committee for the sake of Jai Prakash ji but I do not have much information in regard thereto.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we remained in jails on the call of Shri Jai Prakash ji and many others also followed the suit. All are aware that I was associated with the socialist movement. I request you to please issue instruction to the Government in this regard. You can call a meeting in this regard at an opportune time. You may send your request to the hon. President but so far as we are concerned Shri Chandra Shekhar ji will make for us. What I want that a book based on the biography of Shri Jai Prakash ji be brought out so that the future generation may derive inspiration from his life.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to be associated with the views expressed by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

13.00 hrs.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the birth centenary of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narain should be celebrated with magnificence and grandeur. A committee has also been set up in that regard and State Governments are also celebrating it in a sporadic manner. Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narain established Gandhi Vidya Sansthan in Banaras which used to get some assistance from the Government but unfortunately, the assistance has been suspended by the Minister of Human Resource Development, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi. Sir, not only that, the RSS people have got hold of it. All the followers of Gandhian philosphy and of Sarva Seva Sangh are staging dharna and launching agitation in protest against this move and the police department of the state is also dancing in the tunes of RSS. As has been indicated by Shri Chandrashekharji, the ground reality is that they apprised the hon. Prime Minister of their grievances and he has expressed his helplessness. He is helpless before RSS and further added that Shri Murli Manohar Joshi does not pay heed to his words. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to draw the attention of the House towards what Rashtrakavi Dinkar wrote in appreciation of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash ji - Jai Prakash nam hai, desh ki jalti hui jawani ka, kahte hain us ko Jai Prakash jo marane se kabhi nahin darta hai. The tasks performed by Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narain carry long lasting fame. RSS is being used as an instrument in dispossessing the Gandhi Vidya Sansthan from its own land. Saffronisation of all institutions set up by Shri Jai Prakash ji can neither be allowed nor shall be tolerated. Therefore, the people associated with the Sarva Sewa Sangh and 'Bhudan Movement' activists are launching agitation there in a planned manner. Shri Ram Chandra Rahi, Shri Amarnath Rahi and Shri Surendra Mohan who came to see me reported that an act of oppression is going on there. This injustice should be done away with the long lasting fame earned by Lok Nayak Jai Prakash through his great deeds should be protected from the RSS onslaught. Moreover, the assistance which was being provided to them in the past should be restored. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want your protection. You please direct the Government to let the House know as to what they are doing so that all the Members of Parliament may get this information. ...*(Interruptions)* The government may be directed to make the booklet available to all the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman has come out with a suggestion regarding celebration of the birth centenary of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narainji. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, hon. Chandra Shekharji, hon. Mulayam Singhji and Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji - all these hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACAHRIA (BANKURA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please speak on behalf of the entire House.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, I will speak on behalf of the entire House. Two points have been made in the discussion - one point is that the birth centenary programme be celebrated in different forms and the second is that we should cooperate to clear the proposal which is under consideration of the Government at the earliest. I think that there is no need to say more about Shri Jai Prakash Naraiyji. He was a great freedom fighter and a great social worker. He always worked in the interest of the nation. All hon. Members might recall that his statue was not installed in the Parliament House. When I was elected speaker of the House, the first thing which I did was to install the statue. So, I would like to say on this occasion that there is a need to make progress in this regard. I would like to convey to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to appraise the hon. Prime Minister of the discussion held and the sentiments expressed in the House. In this manner, he would feel honoured and something for all of us to rejoice at.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will inform the concerned department about the issue raised during the discussion held in regard to the birth centenary of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Naraiyji.

MR. SPEAKER: Please bring it to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: I will inform the hon. Prime Minister also. But four five departments are involved in this matter and one of them is our department, the Department of Culture. ...*(Interruptions)* I will inform the hon. Prime Minister about it.

13.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Legislative Business. Bill to be introduced - Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya.

14.03½ hrs.

JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) AMENDMENT BILL, 2000 *

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2003.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000."

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

14.05 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to name Jaipur Airport in Rajasthan after the name of Maharaja Sawai Man Singh ji

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): Sir, Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan. There is an international airport in Jaipur where from international flights are operated. The international airport of Jaipur should be renamed after the great king, Sawai Man Singh because his contributions have been great during his regime. Moreover, a statue of this great

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II - Section 2, dated 24.7.2003

king Sawai Man Singh should be installed at the Jaipur airport.

I request the Central Government to grant permission to rename the Jaipur Airport and for installing the statue there.

(ii) Need to provide better telephone facilities in Ajmer, Rajasthan particularly in rural areas.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Sir, Ajmer is a very important place from tourism, archaeology, education and religious point of view. There is a famous place of pilgrimage namely Pushkar, near Ajmer which is frequented by thousands of pilgrims. There is a famous cantonment namely Nasirabad and important industrial town like Byawar and Kishangarh are located in Ajmer district.

But the urban and rural areas of Ajmer district are still very backward as compared to the other developed areas of the country from the telecommunication services point of view. Thousands of rural consumer and hundreds of small and big villages are still deprived of telecommunication services. Seven or eight years ago thousands of people in rural areas were attracted to the alluring schemes and National policy of Telecommunication deposited the initial amount of rupees 1000/- per consumer for telephone connection. But they are still to get the telecommunications facilities even after 7-8 years. Urban area is neglected in respect of state of the art telecommunication machinery. The regional officers are expressing their inability in providing telephone connections due to shortage of equipments in rural areas despite repeated requests from the representations. Tell now they were confident of getting WLL system that due to its short supply in Ajmer district resentment is prevailing among thousands of customers on account of being deprived of telecommunication facilities.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to ensure adequate supply of WLL instruments in rural areas and latest machinery for urban area.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (MANDI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, not only Ajmer, entire nation is facing the same situation. Thus, I associate myself with it.

(iii) Need for proper maintenance of National Highway between Nasirabad and Mahu in Madhya Pradesh.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the stretch of national highway between Delhi and Mumbai passing through Jaipur, Ajmer, Chittorgarh, Neemuch, Mandsaur and Mahu was not approved as the National Highway between Nasirabad and Mahu which was approved as National Highway three years back and this was duly notified in the Gazette of India. There is lot of traffic on this route because it is the shortest route between Delhi and Mumbai. There is a need to apply the norms fixed for the national Highway and undertake construction and improve the said road for which the Union Government have given its consent. But the Madhya Pradesh Government have awarded two contracts of five years and seven years for construction and repairing of two stretches of the said road. By developing this road as per standard fixed for the national highways the other central regions will also develop.

Therefore, I request the Minister of Road Transport, and Highways to take appropriate and immediate action in this regard. The Union Government itself should start construction of this road.

(iv) Need to revive tea plantation industry in the Banspal Block in Keonjhar District, Orissa

[English]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (KEONJHAR): Sir, a serious situation has arisen in the Banspal area of Orissa due to the closure of the tea garden there. A tea garden started at an investment of Rs. 3 crore at Taramakant area in that block was finally closed down after it fell sick for a few months. The tea garden was started in that area as per the Government's proposal to encourage tea plantation in the non-traditional area. As many as 500 tribal workers who were earning their daily bread in that tea garden have been thrown out of employment. This has happened at a time when the Tea Board is promoting tea plantation under its New Area Development Scheme and Small Growers Development Scheme.

But, Sir, in the interest of the tea industry and the workers depending on tea garden, it is necessary to take over the tea garden by the Government keeping in view the climatic condition and scope for increasing areas under tea plantation.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to direct the Tea Board to undertake tea plantation in the Banspal Block in Keonjhar district extensively without any further delay, with a view to generate employment in that area.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to associate myself with Shri Ananta Nayak. It is because there are similar problems in my constituency also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

(v) Need to accord sanction to the proposal of the Government of Gujarat for construction of a wall at sea-shore between Umaragaon and Amalsad

[Translation]

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI (BULSAR): Sir, though the Ministry of Water Resources of the Government of India is acting quickly but there are some places even today towards which the Government have not paid attention so far. The sea coast in my Constituency Bulsar (Gujarat) is such a place. Every year a number of villages submerged in river flood on a stretch of 110 kilometres from Umargaon in Bulsar district to Amalsad in Navsari district. Two years back all the villages of the eastern bank submerged in flood due to which local people suffered huge losses and the cultivable land turned saline which resulted in decline in production and potable water has also become saline. As a result the natives of the villages inhabited on the banks are facing difficulty in getting foodgrain and drinking water. Keeping in view the difficulties being faced by the people of those villages the Government of Gujarat prepared a project for construction of a safety wall measuring about 110 kilometres from Umargaon in Bulsar district to Amalsar in Navsari district and forwarded the same to the Union Government for approval but no action has been taken thereon so far. The local people are facing numerous difficulties as their problem is not being solved.

Therefore, I specifically urge upon the Minister of Water Resources to provide for construction of a safety wall from Umargaon in Bulsar district to Amalsar in Navsari district on priority basis without any further delay so that the problem of the local people could be done away with.

(vi) Need to take necessary steps to check pollution in Sai river at Pratapgarh, U.P.

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH (PRATAPGARH): Sir, Sai river flows in my Parliamentary Constituency Pratapgarh which has been polluted completely due to discharging of chemical effluents and dumping of waste material by the factories located at Rai Bareilly. The river has been polluted to such an extent that there are reports of cattle being sick or dying due to drinking water from the said river besides skin disease is spreading among the people who take bath in the said river. Not only this if the water from this river reaches to the fields of any farmer the crop also destroys. This river flows in the basin of Ganga and Gomati rivers and when this river merges into Gomati river its water also get polluted.

Therefore, through this House I urge upon the Union Government to take necessary step to check pollution in the Sai river.

(vii) Need to constitute an Inter-State Tribunal to settle outstanding Hydro-electric Power Project disputes amongst the States of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Rajasthan

[English]

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that hydro-electric projects get delayed due to Inter-State disputes which takes much longer time to settle. Recognizing the need to take up such projects, the policy on Hydro Power Development was approved by the Union Government during August, 1998, which inter-alia, provides for basin-wise optimal development of hydro-electric projects without prejudice to the claims of the basin States or effect on the benefits from the existing projects. It is however, seen that the Inter-State Council as well as Zonal Councils set up for resolution of Inter-State Power disputes have not been able to sort out Inter-State Power disputes.

In order to settle long outstanding Inter-State disputes especially amongst Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Rajasthan. I request the Union Government, through you, Sir, to constitute an Inter-State Tribunal consisting of eminent Electrical and Civil Engineers from the Government headed by a Judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court. This will go along way in the development of hydro-electric projects in the country, especially in Rajasthan.

(viii) Need to provide sanction by amending rules and also to provide funds for construction of an under-bridge at Mukkali and a foot over-bridge at the railway level crossing to the South of Tellicherry Railway Station in Kerala

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): During 2001-2002, I suggested two important projects under MPLAD Scheme. These were the construction of an under-bridge at Mukkali between Badagara and Mahe Railway Stations and a foot over-bridge at the railway level crossing to the South of Tellicherry Railway Station. Though these projects are not passenger amenities, so far the Railway authorities have not given sanction for these projects. The Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme has approved the proposals. In both cases, the respective local bodies have assured the annual maintenance through resolutions. There is a growing demand from the people for these projects. As the Railway is not providing fund for these projects, I request that sanction may kindly be granted by amending the rules.

(ix) Need for effective implementation of Right to Information Act

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the World Bank has criticised India recently and the Government of India gave befitting reply of that criticism by the World Bank which was appropriate but we cannot tread on the path of development by ignoring the ground realities. The former Prime Minister Shri Indra Kumar Gujaral gave an assurance during his last year in the Office as Prime Minister that a Bill would be brought in the House in the next session i.e. during the Winter Session to ensure right to information to the common man. His tenure as the Prime Minister came to an end. The Government formed later on also endorse this proposal. The present Government introduced this Bill in the House three years back which could be passed last year only after deliberation thereon in the Select Committee. The hon. President has also given his consent to the said Bill but the common man of the country could not get the desired benefit for which Bill was introduced and passed. The formalities have not been completed even after six months of passing of the said Bill by the Parliament. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to complete these formalities as early as possible so that the common man of the country could get benefit of the said law.

(x) Need to set up an office of DGM of East West Corridor at Birpur or Supaul for construction of proposed bridge on river Kosi in Bihar.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (SAHARSA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have set the target to complete the construction of the East West Corridor, which is 3640 km long highway from Porbandar (Gujarat) to Silchar (Assam) by December, 2007. A major bridge is to be constructed over Kosi river in Bihar under the said corridor and the work on the said bridge has not been started so far and it appears to me that it is almost impossible to complete the said corridor within the stipulated period. At present no arrangement is being made to construct a road up to the proposed site of the bridge over Kosi river in Bihar.

The NHAI has posted a DGM at Muzaffarpur (Bihar) to supervise the work on the East West Corridor. It will be very difficult to reach the site of the proposed bridge on river Kosi from Muzaffarpur due to which work on this mega project cannot be supervised. Therefore, the Government should post the DGM at Birpur or Supaul which are near the site of proposed bridge over Kosi river besides to provide transportation facility from Simrohi and Boothah Mor to reach the site of proposed bridge.

(xi) Need to provide adequate security and medical facilities to people at Kumbh Mela at Nasik, Maharashtra

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kumbh Mela is going to be organised at Nasik in Maharashtra from 30th July, 2003. Around one and half crore people from the country and abroad are expected to visit Nasik for darshan and holy dip during the Kumbh Mela. It is necessary to provide adequate security and medical facility to people visiting Kumbh Mela. It is also extremely necessary to make arrangements to check spreading of 'SARS' and other respiratory diseases. Therefore, through you, I request the hon. Prime Minister to pay special attention to ensure safety and health services to the people coming to Kumbh Mela.

(xii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of U.P. to combat increasing naxalite activities in certain eastern districts of the State

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (ROBERTSGANJ): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra and Chandauli, the three districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh are adversely affected by Naxalism and these districts are dominated by extremely backward and poor people belonging to Scheduled Castes. Day in and day out naxalites are committing atrocities on these people due to which people are frightened in these districts. Therefore, the Union Government is requested to make available adequate amount of funds to deal with the naxalite activities and to give necessary cooperation to the State Government (U.P.) to remove the fear prevailing among the people over there.

(xiii) Need to extend Gujarat Queen Express running between Ahmedabad and Valsad upto Palanpur in Banaskantha district, Gujarat

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (SABARKANTHA): The 9109 Gujarat Queen Express runs between Ahmedabad and Valsad daily. It departs from Valsad at 4.05 a.m. and reaches Ahmedabad at 10.15 a.m. It leaves Ahmedabad at 1810 hours and reaches Valsad at 00.35 hours. Hence, it remains in the yard between 10.15 a.m. to 6.10 p.m. This train should be extended up to Palanpur in Banaskantha District. Palanpur is 133 Kms. from Ahmedabad and Express trains take three hours to reach Palanpur. Hence the 9109-Gujarat Queen Express, if extended, and if it leaves at 10.45 hours from Ahmedabad can reach Palanpur around 1.45 p.m. It can leave Palanpur at 2.30 p.m. and can reach Ahmedabad by 5.30 p.m. Further, it can depart from Ahmedabad at its present scheduled time to Valsad.

(xiv) Need to take necessary steps to solve drinking water problem in Himachal Pradesh particularly in Shimla Parliamentary Constituency

[Translation]

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL (SHIMLA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, water is a basic necessity. In the hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh, particularly in Shimla Parliamentary Constituency water table has fallen sharply due to which a difficult situation has arisen. Water consumption has increased due to population growth and cultivation of flowers, fruits and off season cultivation of vegetables. Water consumption has also increased due to providing 'Sulabh Sauchalayas' in rural areas. Geographically it is an uneven terrain. There are high mountains and besides fast flowing Satluj several small rivers and revolutes like Pabbar, Giri, Gambhar, and hundreds of nullahas flow through this region. Under the national programmes several schemes like National Water Shed and Swajaldhara are also being implemented in this region but the situation has not been improved too much.

Therefore, I suggest for a permanent scheme that water should be lifted through pumps from the rivers nullhas flowing in this region and from other permanent sources of water and stored in large tanks constructed on hill tops. From the tanks the stored water should be distributed for drinking and irrigation purposes in various areas through gravity.

14.22 hrs.

MOTION RE: CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTS IX AND IX-A OF THE CONSTITUTION DEALING WITH PANCHAYATS AND MUNICIPALITIES

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No.16. Before taking up the Motion, since Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has moved a Motion to object it, I call upon Shri Radhakrishnan to raise his objection.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): I welcome the discussion but I wanted to point out certain aspects. The Government has already appointed a Constitutional Review Committee and they are at it. In spite of long years, they have not submitted the Report. A discussion on the Constitutional provisions of the Panchayati Raj will be premature. That is the point I wanted to make. Anyhow, I stand for discussion though it is premature. I welcome the discussion. I wanted to point out that the Constitutional Review Committee is also looking into the matter. It should be very helpful in having a full-fledged discussion but our knowledge is only by experience. The legal aspect is looked into by the Constitutional Review Committee. What is their opinion with regard to Part III and Part IV of the Constitution and its application for the last 10 years? We are discussing about ten years' experience. When we are discussing about ten years' experience, it is only just and proper that there should be a report on that subject, especially when the Central Government has already taken a decision to appoint a Review Committee. They have not yet submitted the Report. Anyhow, I welcome the discussion. I do not stand in the way of a discussion and I do not press my objection also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since you have given a formal objection, I have to give a ruling.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am not pressing it. I wholeheartedly support the discussion. I wanted to point out this particular aspect. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard you. There is no provision in the Constitution or in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha which bars discussion on a matter which is under consideration of a Commission other than the Parliamentary Committee.

I may also mention that the Commission has already submitted its report to the Government. I therefore, allow the Minister to move the motion.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Sir, I beg to move:

> "That this House do consider the progress of implementation of Part IX and Part IX-A of the Constitution (dealing with Panchayats and Municipalities as institutions of Self-government) during the last ten years."

[Translation]

I am very happy to move this proposal in the House. Ten years back perhaps in December, 1992 this House provided for giving more powers to the Panchayati Raj Institution by effecting an amendment in the Constitution. We all know that ours is a country of villages and until and unless the Panchayats and Panchayati Raj Institutions in villages are not strengthened and work relating to development of villages is not done by them, it will be very difficult to develop the country keeping this in view, this House

adopted this proposal in December, 1992. The Hon'ble President gave his consent to this proposal in April, 1993 and this proposal came into force on 24 April, 1993.

With this amendment three tier Governance system in our federal structure begin in rural areas. It was made mandatory to hold elections at all these three levels after every five years. Provision of reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and women was made besides 29 subjects were also allocated to Panchayats. After passage of 73rd Constitution amendment and putting in lot of efforts we have been able to hold elections regularly and implement the provision of reservation for scheduled castes, Scheduled Tribes and women, Constitution of State Finance Commissions and State Election Commissions. Panchayat elections have been held in all the States except Pondicherry and Jharkhand. There are two and half lakhs of Panchayats in our country out of which two lakh twenty five thousand Panchayats are in rural areas and about thirty lakh people have been elected to these Panchayats out of which ten lakhs are women.

I also appreciate the efforts made by our State Governments so far for enacting laws to implement provisions of the 73rd Constitution amendment. I would like to reiterate that still there are many more subjects to be included to Strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions. A lot is yet to be done in the direction of delegation of financial and administrative powers to these institutions. While some states have given powers to panchayats, other states are yet to act in the matter.

Some states have given more powers to the district and intermediary panchayats while some states have given powers to Gram Panchayats and intermediary panchayats only ignoring the district panchayats. Most of the states have not provided required staff and transferred funds to the panchayats relating to the transferred subjects after entrusting Panchayati Raj Institutions with several responsibilities, which is very essential to enable them to discharge the responsibilities entrusted on them. Besides, panchayats should also be provided proportionate powers to enable them to levy taxes, collect taxes and mobilise resources on their own. When panchayats are provided with administrative powers and resources, only then they can meet requirements at local level and can act as self-governing institutions thereby giving the benefits of the motion which was passed in this House ten years back to lakhs of villages of this country in the real sense.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is also a need for setting up the District Planning Committees convening the meeting of Gram Sabhas regularly and ensuring the accountability of Panchayats. Similarly, there is also a need for restructuring and streamlining of the election machinery, audit machinery and Finance Commissions so that these can be brought in line with the corresponding institutions at the centre.

Gram Sabhas are to be entrusted with the responsibility of supervising, selection of beneficiaries and projects, mobilising contributions in the form of voluntary shramdan, in cash or in other forms for the community welfare projects and also promoting unity and brotherhood among all the sections of society to enable panchayati raj institutions to function effectively. Gram sabhas are yet to be effectively empowered in most of the states.

Accountability of panchayats is yet to take off. Social audit is one such means for doing so, some states have lawfully empowered Gram Sabhas for conducting social audit-Social audit by Gram Sabhas them to check misuse of funds. It is incumbent on the part of the states that for strengthening the Gram Sabhas clear-cut rules and procedures should be laid down for regular convening of Gram Sabhas thereby making the role of Gram Sabha in social audit amply clear.

Many among us belong to tribal areas. The provisions of the 73rd constitutional Amendment Act, 1996 have been made applicable to the areas of the schedule five thereby giving the benefit of local self-Government to the tribal dominated areas. It is provided in the Panchayat Act that all the functions of the panchayats in the areas of schedule five should be carried out as per traditional customs, social and religious rituals and traditional management of community resources. It is also provided in the Act that there shall be 100 per cent and proportional reservation for the scheduled tribes for the posts of chairman of panchayats at all levels but at least 50 per cent seats out of the total seats in panchayats should be reserved for the members of the scheduled tribes. Gram Sabhas have been provided comprehensive powers under the set like mandatory consultations with Gram Sabha before acquisition of land, the work of planning and management of water bodies to be entrusted to Gram Sabha and making the recommendations of Gram Sabhas obligatory for issuing licences and providing lease and for exploitation of small minerals.

Gram Sabha has also been empowered to impose a ban on the sale and consumption of narcotics. Gram Sabhas are also empowered with ownership of small forest produce, right to management of rural workers, control over advancing loans to scheduled tribes and also control over local schemes and resources including tribal sub-plans. PESA Act has also been extended to the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh,

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan. I am glad to inform that now all the states have enforced State legislation to make effective provisions incorporated in the Panchayat (Extended) upto areas of Schedule V, Act, 1996. However, an amendment remains to be done in subject related laws in most of them so as to make them in line with the provisions of the central Act. Some contradictions have also come to the fore in certain central Acts which need further amendment and improvement as is being demanded.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we have been reviewing the progress of implementation of 73rd Amendment Act from time to time and we had an opportunity to know about the details collected about the implementation of the 73rd Amendment Act at the All India Panchayat Chairman's conference which was inaugurated by the Hon. Prime Minister and hon. leader of opposition was also present there. And after the said conference, national level review meetings were held with the Panchayati Raj Minister of various states. And in these meetings our belief got strengthened that there is a need to further strengthen Panchayati Raj institutions. Our ministry has given a key role to panchayats to play in our development policy and recently launched programmes like the Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana, Swajaldhara and Haryali. Panchayats have also been given a major say in the selection of beneficiaries selection of project, supervision, monitoring, release of funds besides maintenance. We have also proposed improvement in capacity building on large scale for the elected representatives and employees of the Panchayati Raj Institutions who will adopt multi level modules for training to increase the scope of training at district, block and village level. Besides, we have also proposed to use satellite based and distance education techniques for the spread of training modules. All the instance of the Prime Minister, a high powered Sub-committee of the National Development Council has been set up to suggest ways to make Panchayati Raj Institutions financially and administratively empowered. Chief Ministers of several states and central ministers have been included in it as members. The first meeting of this sub-committee was held on 26th June, 2003 wherein, we had an opportunity to elicit the views of state governments on several subjects related to Panchayati Raj. We are soon going to hold second meeting of this committee.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as for as Part-IX-A is concerned, I would like to mention here that this bill was incorporated in the constitution through the constitution (74th Amendment) Bill 1992 and this came into effect from 1 June, 1993. The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation which is the nodal ministry for monitoring the implementation under this Act, took all necessary steps to ensure that the state municipality Act is implemented in accordance with the provisions of Part IX A within a period of one year from 1.6.1993, the Ministry, held a meeting of the Secretaries of all the states and union Territories for this purpose and emphasised on the completion to this process within the time limit. As a consequence, the steps taken by the Ministry, the State Governments have either enacted new or comprehensive municipal laws or effected required changes/amendments in the existing laws.

It is our endeavour to make them in the line with part IX of the constitution. In the existing amended municipal laws there are provisions of constitutions of municipalities their set up, reservation of seats for SCs/STs along with women, functions and financial powers of municipalities review of financial powers of municipalities, review of Financial position by state bodies, and constitution of District Planning Committees and Metropolitan committees. Except for Jharkhand and Union Territory of Pondicherry, elections to municipalities have been held else where as per the provisions of Part IX-A. The State Financial Commissions set up by the state governments to review the financial position of the Panchayati Raj Institutions have also reviewed the financial position of municipalities and concerned state governments have also reserved the seats. In some states, District Planning Committees have also been constituted. The tenth and eleventh Finance Commissions have also reviewed the Financial position of urban local bodies and have also recommended Rs.1000 crore and Rs.2000 crore to be allocated for 2000-05 and 2005-10 respectively.

Part IX-A of the Constitution does not apply the scheduled areas and tribal areas mentioned in Article 244 of the Constitution. The Ministry of Urban Development and poverty alleviation also introduced a bill in Rajya Sabha in July named provisions of municipality Bill 2001 named provisions of Municipality Bill 2001 so that the provisions of Part IX-A could also be made applicable to the scheduled areas.

The Parliamentary committee on Urban and Rural Development is examining this bill presently. We have got an opportunity to review the implementation of 73rd and 74th constitution amendments bills at grassroot level on completion of 10 years of passing these bills. This is the reason why we have planned to consider on Part IX and IX A in both the Houses. We hope that during the course of consultations, aided by comprehensive and varied experience of the members of various parties with regard to implementation of provisions of 73rd and 74th Constitution Acts and their multi-faceted views we will, get further strength.

We hope that with their views for strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions particularly the need felt for empowering them administratively and financially right now, we will take further steps in that direction, I have introduced this bill to desire strength from the views of the hon. members of this House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

[English]

"That this House do consider the progress of implementation of Part IX and Part IX-A of the Constitution (dealing with Panchayats and Municipalities as institutions of self-government) during the last ten years."

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): This is a very important subject. This has been slotted for the whole-day discussion. The House will rise at six o' clock. I understand that Members from all the parties are keen to take part in this debate. I appeal on behalf of my Party, and if the Government has also no objection that it would be proper if the sitting is extended beyond six o' clock in order to accommodate more Members so that all of them can contribute.

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH): The reply to the discussion may kindly be taken up on Monday. Tomorrow is the Private Members' day. Most of the Members will not be present tomorrow. So, the discussion can take place today and the reply may kindly be taken up on Monday.

There is another point. It is for the information of the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

The folder which we received from the Publication counter and the one which was kept in the Library's folder, the information given therein is not correct. That should be corrected. The one information given therein is that the Panchayati elections were held in West Bengal twice after the constitution amendment but in fact, three panchayati elections have been held there since then. The last one was held in 2003, a slight correction is needed in that.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It seems the House is in a mood to sit beyond six o' clock. We can sit beyond six o' clock so that many Members from all parts and parties can participate in the debate. We will sit. Is that the sense of the House?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will go ahead.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Hon. Minister, Sir, I received your letter. Part IX and Part IX A and other documents which are available with you, wherein it is mentioned that they are available in the library also and the members of Parliament can also have these papers from there, but its draft should have been circulated to the members before hand so that they could have gone through it and which could have come in hand for them. Since the copies available in the library are not sufficient for all the members to glance through it, so please keep this thing in mind in future so that such mistake does not occur again.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: There is nothing like mistake. The thing is that a discussion was to be held on this for two days in the beginning of the session and due to paucity of time, it was not possible to distribute its copies to the MPs. I also realise that copies should have been distributed. Therefore, 20 copies, each in Hindi and English have been placed in the library. We will keep your suggestion in mind in future.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have just listened to the speech of Hon. Minister. The point of concern is that already five ministers of rural development have been removed, and how long the sixth one will remain in office, nobody knows. It is the Rural Development Minister who have been removed the most, right from Sunder Lal Patwa to Venkaiya Naidu. What will happen to Rural Development in this country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, sit down. You say all these things in your speech.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the Government of India and specially the Minister of Rural Development for moving this motion in the 10th year of the moving of the motion on Panchayati Raj, he has moved this motion in this House when we are heading to celebrate the sixtieth birthday anniversary of Late Rajiv ji. For me, this moment is of very emotional significance as I have been associated to this for many years. Earlier as an officer and now I got the privilege to be the first to speak on behalf of the opposition. Therefore, I want that setting aside all the differences in opinion, we should think over what concrete measures could be taken in order to strengthen our democracy. We have not come here empty handed to discuss this issue. A few months back the 37th report of the Standing Committee was presented. Today's discussion will be based on it. I shall emphasise on one point before going into the discussion because our colleague, Shri *

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

Varkala Radhakrishnan raised this point and I am afraid, our colleagues will go into the same confusion in which our friend Shri Radhakrishnan has gone. The subject of Panchayati Raj has been put in the State List in our Constitution. This responsibility solely lies with the States and we cannot compel the State Governments to act according to what we think here in Parliament, be it through the Constitution Review Commission or through any other means, until and unless we bring constitution amendment on this subject.

In this thirteenth Lok Sabha, proposals have come from the Government side that amendments should be brought about in the Constitution to make such provisions. This subject is solely related to the State Governments. If you, we or this House wish to interfere in this, then first of all we should exclude the subject Panchayati Raj from the State List and include in the Concurrent List. If it is done, then we can do a lot through this House. But without doing that, it is not possible to interfere in that matter. I do not know as to how the work of excluding this subject from the State List in order to include it in the Concurrent List will become possible. We thought over this issue when our government was in place. In the year 1988-89 the law department had suggested that we could compel the State Governments with regard to structure but with their consent. As far as possible, we have to work in coordination with the State Governments for implementation. That is why, the term 'may' has been used instead of 'shall'. I request the hon. Minister of Rural Development to seek legal opinion before trying to substitute the term 'may' by 'shall' and then to seen whether it can be done through the empowerment sub-committee which they have mentioned about. Because if any change is effected in the Constitution and subsequently struck down by the Supreme Court, then we will not be able to escape responsibility for not having given due thought to it. I request you to think over this issue. What amendment is to be made in the Constitution, we have to discuss about it or we shall discuss after implementation only. The motion moved before us speaks of implementation only and not of amendment. Therefore, I urge that we should think over it.

As stated by our hon. Minister, we have got success in relation to Panchayati Raj during the last ten years. We should keep this in mind. Before we go into discussion of flaws of the Panchayati Raj. I want to repeat what hon. Minister has stated that till the year 1992 there was only 500 MPs and 4500 MLAs to represent the population of 100 crore. That means, only 5000 persons were there to represent the population of 100 crore. In this direction, Rajiv Gandhi ji was the moving spirit and the pioneer and it is owing to this that the number of elected representatives has gone up from the earlier 5000 to 30 lacs among whom 10 lac are women.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH): This set up existed earlier too. This was an old set up, not new. It did not originate in Rajiv Gandhi's time. ...*(Interruptions)* The post of Zila Panchayat Chairman existed earlier also but now women have been associated.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There should be no disturbance at all.

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I want to tell my friend that he can tell about the situation when it is his turn.

Sir, out of thirty lac elected representatives 10 lac are women. In the entire world and in history, the idea of empowerment of the masses and empowerment of women has never taken concrete shape to such a large extent. Witness America - they are a 200 years old democracy but there has been no woman chairperson.

SHRI DHARAM RAJ SINGH PATEL (PHULPUR): That is why their husbands live with them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, the moment somebody stands up, you should not yield to him. That is creating a problem for me.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the problem is, when they are not allowed to speak without my yielding, they nevertheless speak. So, rather than having my chain of thought interrupted, I allow them to make a fool of themselves. That is why I sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not yielding. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record now except what Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar says.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker,

*Not Recorded.

Sir, I am talking about the achievement of the country that we have 10 lac elected women. Among these 30 lac, many are poor, many are scheduled castes, scheduled tribes or backward classes, they have been empowered. Today, they are in such positions that they can transform the picture of the country if they get full powers, required officials and due financial assistance, this will be revolutionary step. On the basis of experience during the last 40-50 years and the first five year plan of 1951 we find that we cannot ensure development at the village level through the bureaucracy because the system in which we were continuing this efforts, failed. So, we thought that instead of depending on the bureaucracy we should develop these powers on to the elected representatives so that the villages and colonies could develop on their own. We contemplated that we should begin with empowerment so that they could become their own masters later. I am very grateful to you for emphasising on this subject that if our Panchayati Raj Institutions are allowed to function independently, they will get more financial assistance. After empowerment, if we allow them to function independently, it will automatically lead to prosperity. There is only one way to go ahead on this line that we facilitate participation of those in the process of making their future, for whom all the developmental programmes are meant. The constitution should be amended accordingly with this point in mind.

Here I want to mention one more thing which I think, we have forgotten. At the time of the 64th amendment, we were thinking to cover rural areas only. When Chief Ministers were consulted before introducing the 64th amendment, the then Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari asked as to why we should restrict these facilities to rural areas only.

15.00 hrs.

Why not cover urban areas also Gandhiji had said that India lives in villages. But today, two thirds of population live in villages and one third in cities. You will find that it will increase from one third in cities to the 50% of the total population as has happened in other countries where people migrated to cities from villages. Accepting this fact, the 65th amendment was brought later. But we forgot this past experience and during the last ten years we took the parts 9 and 9A separately to give these people responsibilities. We are separating the villages from the cities instead of bringing them closer like in colonial times. Therefore, it is quite necessary. The Government have taken this step today and they are taking up discussion on parts 9 and 9A simultaneously. Let us see as to what can be achieved by bringing the Panchayats and urban units at par in the time to come.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Late Rajiv Gandhi ji had quoted an example that a lad from a village in Gorakhpur district learns how to milk the cow. Instead of using his skill at Gorakhpur he migrates to Mumbai only to find that people even do not know that the milk comes from a cow rather they think that it comes from bottle only. The Gorakhpur lad goes there to facilitate development of such people. He had said that basic reason for this is that we see rural development with a certain perspective and think that urban development is an altogether different thing so we should not bring these two different things together. You see, there are fewer big cities along the route from Delhi to Bhopal, while in Germany big cities like Cologne, Bonn, Frankfurt, Stutguard, Munich etc. are located at shorter distances. There is a wide rural area from Delhi to Bhopal while the areas quite close to big cities are called 'rural hinterland' in English. If we connect those areas with the cities, then we shall find how the rural development takes place. This will facilitate urban development also. You will see that by connecting both of the areas development of the country will be ensured. In my opinion these are basic things. Keeping these things in mind we should come to the details which are necessary to discuss here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to emphasise here that we are not talking about decentralisation but about handing over the powers. Decentralisation means that somebody has the right on something for which I give permission to him. Handing over of powers means that right is mine but I hand over it to somebody else on my own. The units provided for in parts 9 and 9A of the Constitution are nothing other than those in the State Government agencies which are autonomous bodies. The target for which the constitution amendment was made cannot be achieved untill these autonomous bodies function accordingly. Therefore, we should emphasise to see that we have constituted these bodies by way of election. We have to see whether these bodies have remained mere agencies of the State Government or they have become units of an autonomy or we shall have to add 3A to make them autonomous bodies of self-governance but there should be provision for transfer of powers. At the same time the bureaucrats also should be handed over which means they should work on the directions of the elected chairpersons of these bodies. We have to make them disciplined and at a time, I belonged to that fraternity, so I know that one who reports upon in the confidential reports decides as to whose directions are to be followed and whose not.

Hon. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh once related a joke in Hindi which goes like this "the hathi" (elephant) and the "sher" (lion) are not afraid of any other animal except

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

'siyar' (meaning jackal but pronounced as C.R. in English) which even the lion is afraid of. In English C.R. stands for Confidential Report and the burecaurats* of our country need to be disciplined. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): Are you telling about yourself?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Yes, including myself, because I also belonged to that class.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I am not prepared to accept that.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Never mind. But I tell you, even if there is not*— but if you want to teach a lesson to these honourable people then you shall have to give the authority of writing C.R.S. to a selected few. There is not a single Prime Minister in this country who does not consider himself the Master and his Cabinet Secretary as his subservient. There is not even a single Chief Minister who does not know that the Chief Secretary is his first servant. But you name me one District Magistrate or a Chief Executive Officer who considers himself a servant of the Chairman of Zila Parishad. No B.D.O. feels that he has to take directions from the Chairman, Panchayat Samiti. You go down the hierarchy; no village officer or Patwari would consider himself subservient to the Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat until you change their mindset. There is hardly any use of empowerment. The officers should follow proper protocol. They should not look at the Centre for everything or try to appease the Chief Minister so as to facilitate their choice transfers etc. The elected Chairman, be he of village level, panchayat level or district level is not going to have his say until they follow proper protocol. When we talk of delegation of powers, we shall have to go in for decentralization of authority to the Officers. But if you divest them of financial powers how would they be able to perform their functions. You ask any representative of the people who has been elected as to what he promised to his voters? They gave them assurances that they would work for their welfare. But when they are elected they get to know that they can fulfil their promises provided the funds reach them from the Centre. At times it reaches D.R.D.A. Mostly it reaches direct to the State Governments which owing to financial constraints do not release the funds in time. Towards the end of a financial year funds are directed to these agencies and then they are labelled incapable of utilizing the amount and the funds are taken back. That is why there is a need to streamline the financial structure. In English we say --

[English]

Three f's: function, functionary and finance.

[Translation]

Unless coordination is set up amongst these three and powers are delegated, nothing can be achieved. You delegate the powers, which is done only on papers and not in reality. For the last ten years we have seen that good laws have been framed in every state which are in conformity with the Constitution of India and there is not much difference but how these laws will be helpful in the implementation of welfare measures by these functionaries in the absence of finances. As a result they merely indulge in striking a deal as to what extent the B.D.O. and the Chairman of Panchayat Committee or C.E.O. and the Chairman of Zila Parishad, the village Sarpanch or village Patwari would share the booty amongst themselves, say out of Rs. 25,000 one would keep Rs. 10,000 and another would keep Rs. 15,000. Through Panchayati Raj system instead of delegation of powers, decentralization of corruption is taking place. Sir, the cause of corruption rampant in the Panchayats is not that corrupt people are elected to those institutions. It is because delegation of powers has not been done properly. Only when they set up coordination amongst the function, functionary and finance, they will be able to achieve what they want. Simultaneously, if proper delegation is done in Gram Sabha, you will find smooth functioning of democracy right from Lok Sabha upto Gram Sabha. But if administration is run ignoring the Lok Sabha as is being done in the functioning of Panchayats that Gram Sabha are totally ignored then only corruption would be rampant. Fault does not lie in the elected person, it lies with us that we have not done proper delegation of powers that we have not set up any coordination between function and functionary on the one hand and functionary and finances on the other. Gram Sabha plays a very important role in the functioning of Panchayats. That sanction from Gram Sabha is sought for every proposal. Social audit is conducted through Gram Sabha which acts as a system of checks and balances on the utilization of public funds by questioning the extravagance say for example if Rs. 40,000 instead of Rs. 20,000 have been spent on the construction of a bus stand in a nearby village etc. such questions are answered in Gram Sabha prior to obtaining approval for a project. If powers are delegated properly you will find that democracy would then be reaching the real grassroots level. Only then can we claim the participation of people living in townships, streets, mohallas and villages is taking place and they are sharing

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

their destiny with their own hands. That is our goal and the achievement of which has been wrongfully thwarted by the Central Government. I refer to the 37th Report in this regard in which various anomalies have been pointed out but your functionaries are still not ready to admit those mistakes due to which things are not working out.

Firstly, the functions of Panchayats and Municipalities have been well defined in the 11th and 12th schedule for undertaking developmental works with Central funds. For this purpose, Rs. 31,000 crore have been earmarked to be spent by the panchayats and municipalities which is almost half the expenditure we incur on defence.

I do agree that everything is possible. We have to move ahead step by step. You may start with Rs. 10,000 crore and grant upto Rs. 20,000. This fund should reach these elected people.

Sir, if this money reaches into the hands of those who have been responsible for the country's social and economic revolution you will find the country heading in a new direction. Until this money is controlled by the State Government's officers nothing can be achieved. That is why the Leader of the Opposition said that when we shall come to power we shall mobilize these resources towards Panchayats.

This money should be handed over to the D.M. of the districts through the P.M. or any C.M. The Chairman of D.R.D.A. is either a C.E.O. or a Deputy Commissioner or a Collector. When your money reaches one of your peers, it is never utilized.

Our local committees have persistently demanded the winding up of D.R.D.A. and its merger with Zila Parishad and it should be run by the Chairman, Zila Parishad. Although our local committee has unanimously made this recommendation which was made by us long before for so many years but unfortunately, our recommendation has not been accepted that funds be handed down directly to Zila Parishads.

What to talk about your approval to this proposal your reports on the contrary constantly reiterate your plans to further strengthen the D.R.D.A. Earlier, where you were giving Rs. 5 crore to D.R.D.A. you are now giving them Rs. 20 crore. Why are you heading towards this kind of decentralization? The people of Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Committees, Zila Parishad are elected unlike your officers. Perhaps, that is why these funds are not handed down directly to these public representative organizations. The Sarpanch of a village, Chairman of Panchayat Samiti, Chairman of Zila Parishad all are elected representatives who all have support of the masses. You should direct the funds to these elected representatives by trusting them. But if you send the entire funds to Zila Parishad then 500*... would sit there because it is a reality that nowadays the entire funds are going to the State Governments whereas it should have been in the hands of Zila Parishads. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That word should be removed from the record.

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, you have to conclude now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, please give me a few more minutes.

[Translation]

Dictators would take over You should do clear-cut equity mapping for the funds which is flowing down from the Centre or from the State Government. Your Ministry is aware of this word. It categorically defines the functions of Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samiti or Gram Panchayat. Then you can deposit the funds in some nationalized bank in a village. You can direct the funds earmarked for Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad separately. If you have done equity mapping you will find that these funds flow down easily. The share of funds which are to be handed down be it 50, 60 or 75 per cent should be sent directly and let the State Government bother for its own share of funds. Let the heads of the local units settle themselves with their respective State Government that 75 per cent of funds has been released by the Centre; remaining 25 per cent be released by the State Government. Let them settle it on their own. We should strengthen them politically. It is only when they would enjoy political support that they can achieve such targets which can not be achieved by making amendments in the Constitution. You should empower them. We have no differences with Panchayats. Once you will empower the municipalities and panchayats financially you will find that they can work wonders.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wished to speak more on this issue but since you have asked me to conclude I would only take two-three minutes more. It should be remembered that we have to, streamline our system of jurisprudence, since we have had various verdicts from various High Courts. At times, if happens that the decisions pronounced by the Supreme Court in different cases on a subject do not match each other. In such cases the Law Commission can clarify the position. All the judgements given so far by the High

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

Courts and the Supreme Court can be brought for review before the Commission and then the position regarding the actual law and provisions of the Constitutions can be clarified.

For example, there is no provision in our Constitution to clarify as to when the elections can be postponed or deferred. The elections must be held within five years but the Supreme Court gave the ruling that in supervening circumstances like earthquake and floods, the elections can be deferred, but the elections cannot be referred in case of political earth quakes. But, we observe that elections are not held in time in several states. This point must be taken into consideration. Rajiv Gandhi had opined that the Election Commission should be entrusted with the work of holding free and fair elections. But this was altered. In fact you people favoured the creation of State Election Commission. You all are aware about complaints poured in regarding election matters in States. This thing should also be considered. Rajivji said that the Auditor and Comptroller General should do the audit work and give its opinion. However, you did not accept this as a result of which various kinds of complaints poured in. All things can be reviewed and rectified. We have come forward and how far we have to go. The UNO prepares a development index annually. This government can also prepare such index with the help of planning Commission and on that basis the Government can submit a report in the House annually stating which State is on number one and which one is in the last. It can also be established as to what changes have come compared to the previous year's position and which State has lagged behind and which one has gone up. That way it can be known which State has made progress and which one has lagged behind. That way the pace of progress will increase and the Panchayati Raj System can also be properly implemented. We have formulated this system in 10 years. There are 30 lakh elected representatives. Elections have been held and the Finance Commission has given its recommendations. We have 10 years experience in this regard. However, we have yet to achieve our target. Our target is clear. Now, we have to decide which way to choose in order to achieve our destination. What concrete steps are required to be taken? We have to see as to how much time will be taken in achieving the goal. Our party has formulated a programme for time bound implementations of Panchayati Raj. If the hon. Deputy Speaker, permits me, I am ready to lay it on the Table of the House, but if I am not permitted to do so then I am also ready to hand it over to the hon. Minister informally. There is no party politics in it. We just want to tell you about our approach to achieve the target. All that is dealt with in this document. What are the goals which we want to achieve. I have mentioned about 16 such goals. There are about hundred such steps which I have mentioned herein. All these things have to be implemented in five years. We have to decide this.

The Government should put a ban on parallel bodies. I am not referring to any particular State. Even in Congress ruled States there are such parallel bodies. We have to think about that. There are non-Congress ruled States as well in this category. We have to think about their programmes as well. But this is not the right platform to ponder over all these things. The reports of the Standing Committees very often suggest as to what should be our course of action. You should take into account these things. I am not going to deliberate upon the subjects due to paucity of time. But I must say that the paragraphs 2.25, 3.11, 3.14, 3.49, 4.14, 5.3, 6.13, 6.14, 6.15, 10.9 and 10.10 should be paid attention to. If you call the members in your Ministry informally, then we can come and sit together and can convince you about our objectives. We submitted a unanimous report on the Table of the House in November, but even after 8-9 months I am not aware of its fate. Our experience says that you do only what suits you. You have been elected to this House and we have also been elected to this House. We should also hear the voice of 30 lakh representatives who are elected. That is possible only through us.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are some words used by him, which I expunge.

[Translation]

SHRI PRADIP YADAV (GODDA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me a relatively less experienced Member an opportunity to make an maiden speech in this House. Besides I am thankful to the Chief whip of our party for allowing me to speak on this issue which is related to villages of this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, certainly the year 1992-93 has been an important year of this century for our country. There cannot be two opinions about it. In 1992-93 some amendments were made in our constitution which instilled a feeling in the minds of people that they would get some rights as a result of these amendments and that the villagers themselves would participate in the development of villages. Not only that the villagers felt that henceforth - the development of villages would not be conceived while sitting in Delhi and that schemes for the development of villages would be envisaged and translated into action in the villages

itself. Ten years have elapsed since then. I want to congratulate the union government for it has reiterated its commitment to this task.

I want to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister as he is in favour of giving more powers to village panchayats and even to effect amendments in the constitution if necessary. This commitment shows that the government want to give more powers to village Panchayats and intend to do a lot for the development of villages.

15.31 hrs.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*)

I don't want to go into details of all this but I would certainly like to say that the achievements made during the last ten years are really big achievements. Just now my friend Aiyarji said that thirty lakh representatives have been elected to Panchayats out of which ten lakhs are women. It is a big achievement of our democracy. But at the same time if we do the fair assessment of the situation we will come to know that the State Governments have not devolved as much powers to the Panchayats as was envisaged. They have not been sincere in this regard. In some states the Bhartiya Janata Party is in power and in some states other political parties are in power. I am not blaming any government but the State governments have not devolved the powers to the panchayats to the desired extent. The glaring example of this was seen in Bihar where the people have to approach the court for devolution of powers to the panchayats. The court directed the state government to take necessary action in this regard. Today the legislators there are raising their voice, staging dharnas and demonstrations for devolution of powers to the elected representatives of the people, that is why I have said that the state governments have certainly not devolved powers to the Panchayats to the desired extent. This is the time to overcome this shortcoming. Today we are considering this aspect.

I want to draw the attention of this House towards two-three things. Shri Aiyar ji has said one thing in detail and certainly if you want to keep the Panchayati Raj Institutions free from the clutches of bureaucrats, you will have to devolve powers to them. There should service conditions for them and power will have to be given to them to write confidential reports. There are no two opinions about it. Recently there was a news report that an adivasi women sarpanch in Rajasthan was compelled to commit suicide. ...*(Interruptions)* Such incidents point to the urgency of the matter.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA (JHUNJHUNU): What are you talking?

SHRI PRADIP YADAV: An Adivasi sarpanch in Betul village of Madhya Pradesh was compelled to commit suicide. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SIS RAM OLA: You give an example of other state Rajasthan's record is excellent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is his maiden speech, please don't disturb him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (MANDI): Madam, Chairperson, since it is the maiden speech, so he should not be interrupted. ...*(Interruptions)* It is the Parliamentary convention. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: When I am speaking, there is no need to say anything.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRADIP YADAV: I am not saying all this from my side. I have tired to narrate whatever I have read in the newspaper and I can substantiate that. I am not blaming the Madhya Pradesh government. I merely want to say that the Panchayati Raj Institutions will have to be made free from the bureaucrats, powers will have to be devolved to these institutions.

Just now there was a mention of District Planning Committee. For the purpose of development of District Planning Committee which was to be constituted by merging the municipality and District council, the State Government want to intervene in this also as the Minister have been appointed the Chairmen of District councils in some cases. There are many such states in which this has happened, though I do not want to name such states, where ministers have been appointed the chairmen of district councils. I do not want to go into details of these things. I want to draw the attention of the House that I hail from Jharkhand where elections have not been held for panchayats. I want to draw the attention of the government to it also and want to know as to what are the reasons for not holding Panchayat elections in the state. It has been made clear in the 73rd and 74th constitution amendments as to the state where panchayat system will not be applicable. These states come under 5th and 6th Schedules. My state Jharkhand comes under the 5th Schedule. In all there are 22 districts in the state out of which 14 districts are covered under the 5th Schedule but out of these 14 districts the Adivasi population of 7 districts is less than fifty per cent. When extension to the Schedule Area Act 1996 came into force, there was a clear

[Shri Pradip Yadav]

provision that all the Sarpanches, be they block Pramukh or Chairmen of District Council would be Adivasis. The government have made this arrangement keeping in view both these provisions. But when it comes to holding elections, the local people start agitation saying that when we constitute majority of the population why even a single candidate belonging to us will not be elected.

I would like to cite the example of Latihar district. That district also came under the 5th Schedule. The population of that district is about 4 lakh 41 thousand out of which 96 thousands are Adivasis and one lakh five thousands are the Harijans. If adivasis are elected to all the posts of Sarpanches Block Pramukhs and Chairmen of District councils, where will the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Dalit communities go. There is no such provision in the extension of the scheduled areas which came into being in 1996. This is the reason such things are raised there.

Jharkhand is naxalite affected state. The government is apprehensive that if it carried out such experiment there, more than half of the population which is already against such things may rise in revolt leading to civil war there. The region which I represent comprises two blocks namely Sareyahat and Jarmundi Island. The population of Sareyahat is about one lakh out of which twenty thousand are Adivasis and ten thousand belongs to scheduled castes. The adivasis will become Pramukhs and Pradhans there also. I mean to say that there is a provision in the extension to the Scheduled Area Act, 1996 that where there is not even a single member of non-Adivasi communities, such blocks and Panchayats can be declared general areas with the permission of the governor. But there is no provision in that regard to those areas where there is a single family of non-Adivasis or where non Adivasis population constitutes only one per cent. Therefore, I request the union government that the way special relaxation has been given in Arunachal Pradesh to enact law by the Panchayat similar special relaxation should also be given to Jharkhand.

I do not want to say much on this but I believe the discussion which we are having here today will certainly strengthen the Panchayat system and Panchayati Raj Institutions in future and I am sure that they will get powers and the dream of rural India and village rules visualised by Bapu will come true.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (KATWA): Madam, Chairperson, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity and I am also thankful to the Hon. Minister since at least he has brought forward the issue of Panchayati Raj for discussion in the House when ten years have elapsed since its inception in 1993 to discuss it in order to ascertain its present status. I do not want to go too far due to paucity of time and several members have yet to speak. What I want to say is that the panchayati raj practice is not new for India. In the British regime also, there was district board or union committee system in 1880. When India became independent, Mahatama Gandhi advocated for the Panchayati Raj. He must have set some target in his mind in doing so. And this target was that the rural people should also have access to power, money and technology. When after sometime it was noticed that the panchayats are not assembling in villages, and the rural people are becoming more and more alienated, then the Balraj committee in its findings mentioned in the last line of the report:

[English]

> "Panchayat is nothing but manifestation of force of rural people"

[Translation]

I have worked with S.K. Dey for some days. He is called the Father of the Panchayati system. He used to tell us that if we indulge in class-based politics, then we cannot empower the poor people. Ten years have elapsed since then. The real power of villages is manifested in panchayats. After lapse of so much time, four things have been said about panchayats. Its alright that he is a new member. He has said they should be empowered by way of transfer of function, transfer of functionaries, transfer of funds and financial autonomy. There are several states where panchayats are not treated as panchayats even now. Panchayat is not considered as a powerful organisation in the entire village. Other issues score over the issue of panchayats. You should think over this aspect also and DRDAs are non-existent in Zila Parishads in some states. If the DPC works at grass-root level, takes up basic problems there, and works for the upliftment of village people by planning the village panchayats, only then panchayats would be strengthened. But Minister or the officers are having control over DPC. They (the government) should ensure that the person having rural background should be there in these institutions. I am not speaking for Bengal. I am speaking responsibly. Amendments have been effected in Bengal in this regard four times. In the last amendment, we have tried to engage the entire village. Now, I will speak on the works which we have done for panchayats. You will have to ensure a poor man must be there in a panchayat and panchayats should work for land-reforms and betterment of farmers's life. What I want to say is that unless and until the people take charge of these panchayats who have an inclination for doing basic works, these panchayats cannot prove a success. I have also been

working in panchayats since 1956. That is why I feel that unless a poor person participates in the functioning of a panchayat with full vigour, they cannot prove a success. By introducing land reforms, more and more poor people will have to be brought in the management of panchayats. I want to bring two-three survey reports to your notice. A survey was conducted in 14 states including West Bengal and 25 other blocks. The survey in 1977-78 shows that the rich people of villages were elected to these institutes. The survey conducted by the Government in 1980 shows that all 71 representatives belonged to the poor and farmers' community having less than two acres of land. An Asian Survey in 1983 and a U.S. organisation Survey in 1987 show that 61 per cent leaders of Panchayats were farmers, three per cent leaders were landless labourers and teachers constituted seven per cent. Nothing is going to happen merely enacting laws and rest leaving to officers alone. So long as the farmers and villagers do not participate in them and they do not think about themselves. Rich and big persons could make their entry into them easily. Madam, if you take the example of 100 villages, 71 per cent representatives there are small and marginal farmers, farmers having two acres of land constitutes 42.9 per cent, those having two and half-an acre land constitute two percent and those having ten acres of land constitute seven per cent.

The main thing is that nothing is going to happen merely taking the name of panchayat. The reality is that village people should also be associated with this scheme of things. The rural force which constitutes 75 to 77 per cent, will also have to be associated with it. How these people have to be associated, the hon. Minister will have think over it. Two things have been mentioned in the UN Development report. One is about decentralisation and the other is about the association of village people. Besides, they have also stressed upon infrastructure. A political will is required for doing these things. With all seriousness, I would like to say that if the political will is lacking, the scheme of the Panchayati Raj can never be a success. If at all there is a need to change the law, it must be changed.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Zahedi, please wind up.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: I am concluding madam.

[Translation]

I should be given some more time since I want to make some points. Mahatma Gandhi had expressed his views on Panchayat. Jyoti Basu had also put forth his views. The suggestions given by the Ashok Mehta Committee in this regard were not accepted. Shri Jyoti Basu had said in 1977 that he would not be confined to office premises only rather he would delegate powers to villages including financial powers. It's a different thing that elections have not been held in some states but I would not like to take their names. As you know that after the elections were held, a bill was passed relating to village advancement committee. Other parties also cooperated in passing this bill. The main thing is that villages should be vested with powers and you cannot do anything simply excluding your opponents. We will also have to take them along. We will have to take all along. We will have to think over taking each and every person along us be it development, planning or any other sector.

The people of the opposition party should also be there and work together. Once when Rajiv ji came to Kolkata, I asked him as to what development was.

[English]

Development is nothing but a touching sensation of the people.

[Translation]

Panchayats should be there. There should be development besides empowerment of people.

[English]

Let there be Panchayati Raj system.

[Translation]

There should be development of village people only then Panchayati Raj could be successful. Hon. Minister, Sir, now you should ponder over it and interact with other people also but this organisation should be represented by the poor people of the villages and towns as well.

[English]

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL): Madam Chairperson, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

According to the Constitution of India, Pachayats shall be given powers: (a) to prepare plans for economic development; (b) to implement schemes for economic development and social justice in relation to 29 subjects given in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution; and (c) to levy and collect appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees.

After Independence, till the year 1993, these powers were not given to the Panchayats and local bodies. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): Even now you have not given.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: We are giving. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Gandhiji's dream became a reality in 1993, when this Act was passed and its implementation began. The salient features of the Act were: (a) to hold elections regularly, every five years to Panchayati Raj institutions; (b) to provide three-tier system of governance through Panchayati Raj institutions; (c) to provide reservation of seats to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women (to the extent of not less than one-third seats); (d) to appoint State Finance Commissions to enable recommendations regarding giving financial powers to Panchayati Raj institutions; and (e) to constitute District Planning Committees to prepare draft development plans for development of Districts.

After ten years of these institutions coming into being, when we look back at them now, we feel that there is not much to feel proud of. That is only because of lack of sustained effort, sincerity by politicians and most important of all the bureaucratic support, which is the driving force behind the implementation of these recommendations.

As far as holding of elections to Panchayati Raj institutions is concerned, many of the States are avoiding this on one pretext or the other. This has been brought out by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes also. Because of this, downtrodden people, for whose sake this amendment has been brought, are being deprived of their due share in governance.

As far as the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is concerned, we have been conducting elections regularly. Hon. Member Shri Janardhana Reddy knows it. We have successfully conducted elections two times so far. Whenever there is a vacancy, even if it is of an MPTC ward member, we have been conducting elections to the local bodies successfully. We have made reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and women.

Coming to the appointment of Finance Commissions and devolving of powers as per the provisions of the Constitution to Panchayati Raj institutions, the available data shows that a number States have not appointed the Finance Commissions so far.

16.00 hrs.

Madam, research analysis shows that nearly 19 States have not yet constituted the State Finance Commission to devolve powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions.

As the hon. Member was asking, yes, we have appointed the State Finance Commission in Andhra Pradesh and we are transferring the funds to the local bodies also. Out of 29 subjects which have been enlisted in the Eleventh Schedule, nearly 16 to 18 subjects have already been transferred to the Panchayati Raj institutions and the rest are in the process of transfer.

Madam, as the Constitution enjoins the States to make appropriate provisions in the Panchayati Raj Act for devolving powers for the local governance, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has come out with the formation of five Functional Committees in each village. In that Committee, the Gram Panchayat Sarpanch will be the chairperson and the Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) Members and the Ward Members will be its Members. In the absence of the Gram Sarpanch, the Gram Upsarpanch will be functioning as the Sarpanch of this Committee.

There is a Functional Committee on Natural Resources Management which includes agriculture, horticulture, dairy, fisheries and water conservation.

Then, there is a Functional Committee on Human Resources including education, health, women and child welfare and other related subjects.

Then, there is a Functional Committee on Employment Generation and Self-Help Groups.

Then, there is a Functional Committee on Finance and Planning.

Lastly, there is a Functional Committee on Works and Development.

All these five Functional Committees will be coalesced to form the Janma Bhoomi Abhivruddi Samakhya under which all these people will be clubbed together. It will look after the overall development of the village.

Each such Committee has been assigned specific functions and subjects which are to be approved in the Gram Sabha and the Gram Samakhya will take into consideration all these subjects.

Madam, now, I come to the District Planning Committees. In Andhra Pradesh, we have the District

Development Review Committees where all these elected M.Ps.& M.L.A' will be there presided over by one Minister as District Incharge. The overall development of the district will be reviewed by them and the remedial measures will be taken.

Under the able leadership of our leader Shri Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh is surging ahead with powers, functions and funds given to the Panchayti Raj Institutions and we are trying to implement the 73rd Constitutional Amendment in letter and spirit to see that all our villages develop. But Madam, we are facing hurdles. The three-tier system with five functionaries is really becoming a blockade for the successful implementation of this Amendment. With the experience of implementing this system after five years, we find that there is a peculiar situation with regard to MPP and ZPTC.

There is a Zila Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC). The Member of ZPTC does not have the voting power in Mandal Parishad and the Mandal President does not have the voting power in the Zila Parishad. He is just a figure without any purpose. That is why some time back we Telgu Desam Party had proposed a Constitutional Amendment that there should be a three-tier system with three functionaries so that it will be easy to function. During that time many political parties, including the Congress party, agreed that this Amendment be brought. But at the last minute, Congress party backtracked for reasons known to them, and this Amendment could not be passed.

Madam, with our experience of giving the powers to Panchayat Administration, we from the Telugu Desam Party feel that the system of three-tier with three functionaries is the best-suited system for our country. So, I request the Government of India to take measures in this direction to amend this provision.

With these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Madam, Chairperson, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The motion moved in the House by Shri Kashiram Ranaji, the Minister of Rural Development, I think, the practical purpose of that is that the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Bills passed ten years back envisaging empowerment of Gram Panahayats, weaker sections and providing reservation to women, now it is time to review as to what achievement we have made in these ten years. The extent to which we have advanced in these ten years and the extent to which improvement is needed in that. I think that discussion on these aspects would be meaningful at this point of time. I am happy that we are taking a positive initiative in the right direction. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India had called a conference on the Panchayati Raj, wherein he appreciated Shri Rajiv Gandhi for his interest in these institutions. Whenever, we will talk about Panchayat Raj System, he would be remembered for sure.

Madam Chairperson, we effected 73rd and 74th amendments in the Constitution but what is the condition of Gram Panchayats and municipalities today. I think that there is a need to think over this. Basically, we have moved in the direction of decentralisation of power about which we used to talk frequently. We are socialists and we regard Dr. Lohia as our icon, he used to call it a four-tier system (Chaukhamba raj). This system was to be strengthened. It is not that the people were not concerned about it earlier. So many committees were set up earlier also on this issue. The Ashok Mehta Committee, C.H. Hanumantappa Committee, GVK Rao Committee, L.M. Sanghavi Committee etc. had given their recommendations and stressed on the need of strengthening the Panchayati Raj System. When Shri Venkaiya Naidu was the Rural Development Minister before him, he had formulated a 15 points programme, one can go through that. That programme shows the concern for making the Panchayat system more powerful and strong and for which more constitutional amendments are needed.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to say through you that thirty lakh people have been elected to Gram Panchayats and Municipalities today and out of them, there are ten lakh women. I think that this is certainly a matter of satisfaction that so many people have been elected and as regards the percentage of women in that it is a different question but the more important question is as to what rights they have, what is their financial limitations. How many people have got elected, what rights we have given to panchayats and no doubt, we also have strengthened Panchayats under decentralisation system but I am sorry to say that until the financial condition of Panchayats improves, panchayats become self-dependent, municipalities and panchayats have sufficient economic resources, so that they can bring about radical change in villages and municipalities with their economic resources. It hardly matters that we keep on enacting laws and making constitutional amendments in this regard, but until they are financially independent, we will be escaping ground realities. I think that now it is high time to think that although we have given them powers, but have we mobilised sufficient funds for them. Have we made panchayats self-dependent and have we made municipalities self-dependent? Where will they mobilise economic

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

resources from? This aspect should be taken into consideration.

What is their economic condition? We have to think in that direction also.

I would like to submit here that when the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments were passed, the constitution Review Commission had said that despite these amendments the central and state governments were still keeping powers regarding the schemes with themselves without devolving financial and administrative powers to the Panchayats. So long as Financial and administrative powers are not given to panchayats, any constitutional amendments, debates in the House and Legislative assemblies are not going to serve any purpose. We will have to develop each and every panchayat as a financial unit and for that we need internal resources.

Madam, one of the provisions of the 73rd constitutional amendment is that part of the taxes levied by the panchayats would remain with them, and remaining part would go to the state governments. I am a political worker. But we have to see actually what happens in practice. If I may say that the taxes levied are not nominal, I am not wrong. The Minister of Petroleum Shri Ram Naik is sitting here. If I am right, the production cost of petrol per litre is Rs.13/-. The tax on petrol is 146 per cent and on diesel it is 62 per cent. The central and state governments levy these taxes. It is tax which is bothering people. There is a need to ensure that the taxes levied at panchayat and municipality level and the taxes so collected are properly distributed to the municipalities and panchayats. And if taxes so collected are not reaching them, then I don't think that panchayats could become self-independent and then how can they meet their local requirements.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to submit one more point through you. The federal character of our Constitution has a well laid out system. The State Governments are responsible to implement the schemes of the Government of India. We have been in power in the States, our party has been in power in the States, therefore, I feel the need for a discussion on the utilization of the funds provided by the Government of India, we should ponder over it. Sometimes, there is diversion of the funds and sometimes there is under utilization of funds granted by the Union Government. Sardar Buta Singhji is present here. ...*(Interruptions)* The ground reality is that the amount of Rs. 900 crore was allocated for the welfare of weaker sections and dalits remained unutilized. Hon. Minister of Rural Development should confirm from other Ministries, most of the State Governments do not even send utilization certificates. We need to think over it today. The Government of India should have the right to know as to how the State Governments have utilized the funds granted to them by the Central Government. Whether the funds have been diverted to other schemes or left unutilized. I think, it is imperative to see to it and ponder over it.

I agree with Mani Shankar Aiyarji as he has just said that this subject should be included in the Concurrent List and the funds allocated by the Union Government should go directly to the village panchayats and the municipalities. I am aware of the practical aspect of this issue. The amount of funds that we provide, is a separate issue but sometimes we find that safai karmcharis have not got their salaries for last three years. They resort to agitation. Sometimes Gram Sabhas do not have even petty funds to undertake the works like filling of ponds.

Madam, today the situation is such that municipality workers usually remain on strike be they safai karmcharis or other lower grade employees. When we ask the Chairman of the municipality, he expresses his inability to pay the salaries for want of funds. They do not have enough resources to mobilize funds to meet the expenditure on account of the salaries of their employees. They have no source of income. Thus they are unable to discharge their functions.

Madam, I shall conclude with the last submission. In the Panchayati Raj System in our country, in some States there are Sarpanchs while in others there are Pradhans or Mukhiyas. For example, in Rajasthan, there are Sarpanchs, in Uttar Pradesh, there are Pradhans and in Bihar, there are Mukhiyas. The Pradhan, Mukhiya or the Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat unit in the Panchayati Raj System is directly elected by the people but the head at the Block level is not elected directly. He is elected by the elected members of B.D.C. They elect Chairman from amongst themselves.

Similarly, members elected to the Zila Panchayat elect the Zila Panchayat Chairman from amongst themselves. Kashiram Ranaji, I beg your pardon, people use money power at large scale in these elections and one who wins elections by spending huge money, cannot remain honest but would wish to make as much money as he could. This sort of corruption would continue until a system of direct election is in place in respect of these posts and this motion of amendment will not be able to put a check on the corruption.

Kashiram Ranaji, if we assess the achievements made and losses suffered during these 10 years and to what extent we wish to empower the village panchayats, we see that all the efforts would go futile unless we make the village panchayats, block panchayats and zila panchayats self-reliant so that these units are in a position to meet their

expenses on their own, without this, despite everything else, the panchayati raj system will remain meaningless. We are aware of the practical aspect of this issue and without keeping practicality in our mind, all the discussions, all the programmes will not bring any results. The people, for whom the programmes are meant, should feel that they are benefited with these programmes, only then in my opinon, the Panchayati Raj System will be meaningful.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI): Madam Chairperson, the then Prime Minister of our country Shri Rajiv Gandhiji was the person who made the devolution of powers to the Panchayats possible in the country and now the Minister of Rural Development Shri Kashiram Rana has moved a motion in this regard. Ten years have passed since then and now we shall have to assess the achievements of this system during these 10 years. Here we are discussing the achievements of Panchayati Raj System, this will be useful only when we shall able to empower the Panchayati Raj Institutions. So, certainly, we ought to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Madam, India lives in villages. I am a member of this House but I get my strength from Gram Panchayat. The dream of development of Hindustan will come true only when the rural public of Hindustan is developed which makes about 70-80% of the total population.

Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi had rightly said that if we want to develop India, we shall have to start from the villages. 55 years have passed since independence but the rural public which is about 70-80% has not seen any development till now. Had we strengthened the panchayati raj institutions in true sense, then surely our village would have developed. It would not have been a situation of imbalance. Today, the Gram Panchayats are in a sorry state. They have limited resources. They get very little funds as compared to the population - be it from the Central Government or from the State Government.

I would like to quote an example. A small Gram Panchayat gets Rs. 50,000 or Rs. One lakh or one and a half lakh. How will they be able to do developmental activities with such a meager amount. In Bihar, the sarpanch of the village is called as 'mukhiya' else where the nomenclature may be different but the people expect more from him while he has a little fund. Through you, Madam, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Rural Development that if we really want to strengthen the panchayati raj institutions, then we shall have to formulate a proper scheme and take suitable steps. We have empowered the panchayats but they do not have funds. What can a sarpanch do with an amount as meager as Rs. 50,000 or Rs. One lakh or one and a half lakh. Even today the small villages have no roads, the panchayats have no funds to provide bulbs on the electric poles. There are not facilities like potable water, education and health. If we do not strengthen the Gram Panchayats, we cannot do anything. The financial condition of Gram Panchayats and small municipalities of B and C categories is quite miserable. The discussion in this House will be of no use unless we improve the financial condition of these institutions. We have given powers to the Panchayats but these are not exercised. The resolutions passed by the Gram Sabhas are viewed as party politics at every level be it panchayat samiti, zila parishad or state politics which is undesirable. I would like to give a suggestion to the hon. Minister through you that the works in the villages should be carried out according to the resolutions passed by the Gram Sabha or Panchayat.

Presently, in our State, there is a Minister in-charge for every district but he executes the proposal passed by the Gram Sabha if it belongs to his men and ignores those which belong to panchayat with a Sarpanch representing opposite party. My submission is that the Gram Sabha resolution should not be viewed politically, rather it should be implemented in the right spirit. This is the position in every State. Presently, Shiv Sena party faces much difficulty in Maharashtra as there is a Government of another party. All the funds are provided by the Centre to the States viz under the DRDA, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Swajaldhara Yojana. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): How much money comes here from Mumbai?

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: I am not talking with political motives nor I am commenting on anybody but I am stating the ground reality. The attitude of the Minister-in-charge needs change with regard to every scheme and effective steps are required to be taken for ensuring implementation of the proposal of the Gram Sabha.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Jadhavji, the time allotted to your party is over, now you conclude soon.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: I am going to conclude within 1 or 2 minute. How are we going to strengthen and empower the Gram Panchayats of every village. If panchayati raj institutions are empowered in our country, then only it will see development. Panchayats have little financial powers, means, resources and sources to mobilize funds. I am sure, Kashiram Ranaji will certainly do something to strengthen the Panchayati Raj System as he himself is strong.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now it is time to conclude, please conclude now. There are several speakers and moreover the time allotted to your party is over.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: As far as powers that we have developed to the Gram Panchayats are concerned, our Panchayati Raj institutions are still absolutely under the control of bureaucracy. I have come to know that in Bihar after a long time Panchayat elections were held two years back. I do not know how the Gram Sewak is designated in Bihar. In Maharashtra, it is the Gram Sewaks who virtually rules the Panchayat. The functions of Panchayat are fully controlled by the Gram Sewaks. If you really want to bring about development then give some financial powers to the Sarpanch. It is needed to give some financial powers to the local bodies of the villages. The Sarpanchs or the local bodies of the villages are not going to do anything for the development of the villages until they are given some financial powers.

Again, I express gratitude to Kashiram Ranaji on behalf of my party for the motion he has moved will help strengthen the democracy and panchayati raj institution of the country and the today's discussion will prove fruitful for future. I am grateful to you for the time you gave me to speak and with these words, I conclude.

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (GHOSI): Madam Chairperson, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to take part in the discussion on the implementation of part IX and IX-A of the Constitution of India. The Directive Principles of State Policy state that administration in the form of self-administration should be taken to village level. It was basically implemented through a Constitutional Amendment in the year 1992. Since then 10 years have elapsed. The implementation of three tier system of administration-Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat and Zila Panchayat has been indicated in Annexure II.

16.31 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

Panchayati Raj institutions have been enlisted in the State list. The State shall take care of the provision regarding the implementation of election processes and financial arrangements but it can not be further centralized since powers to this effect were delegated through a Constitutional Amendment. The only amendment required to be made is in Article 243(d) which provides for reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Clause (6) of this Article leaves it to the discretion of States to provide for reservation for the Backward Classes. That is why it is imperative to make Constitutional Amendment to the effect that States be compelled to provide for reservation of backward classes in every Zila, Block and Gram Panchayat. The High Courts in several states have issued a decree that since posts of Chairman, Zila Panchayat or Block Panchayat are single, no reservation can be made. ...*(Interruptions)* We should keep this matter away from judicial jurisprudence since as per the Constitutional Amendment the elections to these posts cannot be challenged. Elections are held every fifth year. And if the states provide for reservation then the matter should be beyond judicial review or such a decision should not be challenged. The electoral college is the same which elects the Chairman, Prahdan or Head of Gram Panchayat and also elects B.D.C. which further elects block Chairman. The same college elects members of Zila Panchayat which elects Chairman, Zila Panchayat so, the problem can be settled at village level itself. However, the problem of finances i.e. the budget for Gram Panchayat is in the hands of Centre and State Governments but it is not released in time and nor does it reach the Gram Panchayats. Why the implementation of scheme is not taking place. It was admitted by former Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi also. Incidentally Rs. 85 out of Rs. 100 provided in the budget by the Centre for the scheme gets swindled and only Rs. 15 reaches the villages. And today the situation is such that not even Rs. 15 reaches the villages. I will give an example. During meetings I point it out sarcastically that atleast the remaining Rs. 15 may be spent but not even that is done. I want to know why it is not done? Chairman of Zila Parishad and Chairman of Block are not elected by the Electoral college. They are elected by ten-twenty people and that is why these representatives are not accountable to the people and spend the budget arbitrarily. Therefore, the funds allocated by the Centre or State Governments should go directly to Gram Panchayats.

Our colleague Shri Sumanji, submitted that Chairman of Zila Panchayat should be directly elected. It may seem good but it may put a question mark on the dignity and prestige of Lok Sabha. The minimum and maximum number of Members of Parliament in a district is one and three, respectively. If one Zila Panchayat would be elected in a district then the number of voters would be 50-60 lakh approximately. Such a situation cannot be created at any cost.

The Government is directly giving the resources to DRDA which has become a banning authority rather than a development agency. I put a question to the hon. Minister of Rural Development about the diversion of central funds given to Mau district for digging of ponds, diversion of rice meant for labourers to other channels, scam to the tune of crores of rupees in food for work scheme and 221 drought relief

projects which were eclipsed. Funds to the tune of Rs. 10 crore were given to DRDA and not a single work was accomplished. Foodgrains loaded trucks were being diverted to black market and when these trucks were caught the District Magistrate explained that these were being sent to the villages. After one month the M.L.A. and Member of Parliament were invited and were urged to sanction 25%. I sanctioned 25 percent but the foodgrains got diverted before one month. That is why, I would like to request that DRDA should be dissolved. Some work should be entrusted to Zila Panchayats. The hon. Minister has sent a letter in regard to Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. He reiterated time and again that proposals of Members will be accorded priority. While the Zila Panchayat asserts that since their proposals have not been incorporated they have no reason to give approval. They get the funds arbitrarily sanctioned regarding the proposals of Members of Parliament. There is no transparency therein. There is something else than what meets the eye. I would request the hon. Minister to take note of it and clarify as to where the funds given to D.R.D.A. for Zila Panchayats are being diverted and whether 60-70 per cent is going to Zila Panchayat and the remaining to Block Panchayat and define the role of D.R.D.A. as to how it has to function regarding Gram Panchayats. Common man is elected to the Gram Panchayats and to the Gram Sabhas. They will never go there to work. These people are not answerable. That is why funds should be withdrawn from them and should be placed at the disposal of Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (CANARA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Panchayati Raj has a political and an emotional commitment for the Congress Party. Mahatma Gandhi had, right through the freedom movement, spoken about Poorna Swaraj becoming a reality only when Gram Swaraj was achieved and when villages become self-administered. Experiments were made at various levels, but none of them really took root. But then came Rajiv Gandhi with the enthusiasm and idealism of youth determined to change things. "I too have a dream", he declared and set about to make it a reality.

I stand here today to pay my tributes to this man of vision who helped to change the life of millions of people, particularly in the rural side. 'Power to the people' was his talisman; 'voice to the voiceless' was his objective; 'decentralised decision-making' was his directive; and 'inclusive democracy' was his mission. I had the privilege, as a Minister in his Government, to work during those years in mobilising, women and youth in particular, to accept these new ideas for Panchayati Raj and in working on support for them. Conventions, regional and national, were organised and people were encouraged to speak and give their inputs. Rajiv Gandhi listened patiently interacting with all sections - women, youth, dalits, tribals, officials, district magistrates, political leaders, opinion makers, intellectuals, MLAs and MPs, common people of every shade of opinion - to mobilise support and get their inputs.

Then came the Bills to Parliament. It is history of course that while it went through the Lok Sabha, a united Opposition determinedly defeated the Bills in the Upper House. It was a tragic evening in 1989, but as Rajiv Gandhi said, 'It is a set-back but we shall overcome'. I think we proved it, though when the Bills were actually passed in Parliament, he was no longer with us. That was 1992. We are today here to discuss the achievements of Panchayati Raj over the last ten years. There have been many achievements. All sections have been ensured a say in decision-making at the village level through the Gram Sabhas. Women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, minorities, have all been ensured representation in the local power structure. Regular elections have become compulsory. Local development planning has taken shape. It has ensured greater transparency and involvement of people in the implementation of programmes. It has given voice to the voiceless, as has been said, with three million representatives of the people elected, one-third of them being women. It has, to some extent, freed rural society from the clutches of dominant and exploitative upper castes and provided space for the weaker sections in the local power structure.

Yes, ten years of Panchayati Raj has brought in many many changes at the grass root level. I would say it is a revolution unheard of and unseen before through the ballot box.

But there are problems. There are aberrations. There is resistance. There is a strong and violent reaction in some parts of the country. At times, I must say that mere are callous and absolutely ineffective responses from the State administrations and the local law and order machinery. Many States have not yet amended their State Acts according to the provisions of the Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, thus denying a large sections of the tribal population their right to participate in these institutions.

The dalits and the weaker sections are sought to be excluded by unlawful means. They are not being allowed to file nomination papers at times. We have recently had the example in Karnataka of a Scheduled Caste woman. The reservation, in rotation, came to a Scheduled Caste woman.

[Shrimati Margaret Alva]

But there was no one willing to sign the nomination papers and the election could not take place. The High Court then intervened on her appeal and ordered that she be declared elected even though there had been no nomination.

Instances of stripping of women on Independence Day are there. In 1998, in one State, when a woman went to hoist the flag on Independence Day, there was violence. There are instances of refusal of chairs to elected woman sarpanches to sit on, when they come because the men think that it is an insult to have the women sit in the chair while they have to sit in the benches around. Various instances of resistance get reported. But despite that, I think the Panchayat Raj institution has come of age and it has come to stay. Even the gram sabhas - though in some places they are only in name - have begun to become instruments of opinion-making in the villages, in the rural side. But I must say that the BPL lists, which are supposed to be produced by the gram sabhas, are all defective even today. The poor and the downtrodden are left out of the BPL lists which are drawn, which are supposed to be confirmed by the gram sabhas because they dare not speak. The powerful ones, who are not supposed to be in the list, have their names included. Even when the lists are published, nobody in the gram sabhas dares to challenge or to have them changed. When houses are to be distributed to the poor, the lists are drawn up in the gram sabhas. Most often, it is those who do not deserve them that actually get the houses allotted.

Next, there are financial constraints. Everyone has spoken about that aspect. The allotments are insufficient for the gram panchayat. For instance, there are different villages, different sections to be helped. Therefore, the money is sought to be distributed among different villages or the sections with the result that nothing concrete is possible with the limited money that is available. Maybe, if all the money had gone to one gram panchayat for the year, then something could have happened. But there are so many villages and so many are fighting for it that there is really no concrete work possible with the limited money that comes, which has to be distributed. So, if I may say so, we find that real sustainable infrastructural results are not seen.

Again, there is the question of domination of party interest, of castes, of religious groups which make coordination and smooth functioning in many parts of the country very difficult. One cannot generalise. In the South, it is different. But I know that there are areas where these caste and religious differences create a lot of tension within the local panchayats. The dalits and the tribal women very often get targeted at the time of elections and even afterwards. There have been four gram panchayats in Tamil Nadu where the upper caste people have not allowed elections to be held simply because of reserved seats there for the dalits and the weaker sections. This is there, across the States. There are conflicts allover the country which arise out of other factors also making the Panchayati Raj system's functioning very difficult.

Training and empowerment of elected representatives must receive special attention. I have been looking at the budgets. There is hardly anything allotted for training in a systematic way. There are supposed to be institutes for training. I have tried to draw upon them for my area. They say, officers have been trained but by the time we look for them in the rural areas, they have been transferred to some other department and they are not available for actual ground level training programmes. We do not know where the trained personnel are. I must say that particularly women, dalits, weaker sections have to be trained and empowered by making them understand their own role, their duties and the powers that they enjoy as Chairmen and as Gram Pradhans, as Vice-Chairmen or whatever it is. They are not aware of it. That is why the CEO thinks that he is the dictator.

[Translation]

His dictates are to be followed by everyone.

[English]

The CEOs are never sensitised to their new role as people who have to work with elected representatives at the local levels. They still dictate terms and most of the elected representatives, particularly the weaker sections, find it very difficult to deal with them.

Sir, there is also the question of decentralised decision-making. We are all for it. There has to be planning at the local level. But I must admit from my own experience of seeing this functioning that there is no expertise at the local level. There are programmes pertaining to forest, agriculture, land improvement, mining, irrigation, fisheries, forestry, rural industry, drinking water, health, sanitation and various programmes which are supposed to be planned and implemented at the local level. The senior officers sit at the Capital in the Secretariat and very junior officers are in the field. The CEOs have no expertise and the elected representatives are really not trained to plan and implement such development schemes overnight with the result that there are huge leakages, wastage, corruption and I must say that a lot of work is being literally handed out, as they say, to the elected representatives who have become the contractors or the contractors have become the elected representatives. But the nexus is very strong. I recently found

out in one case that when there was a Rural Development Programme with contributory provision, the local people had to contribute 20 per cent and 80 per cent was coming from the State and the Central Governments.

Sir, the local people, particularly in the poorer villages do not have the money. They are not able to contribute and I have been fighting and saying that these contributory schemes are only increasing the gap between the developed and under-developed villages because those who have money corner all the schemes and the poorer, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes dominated villages are left out. But now in order to catch up with what is happening, they get the contractors, they provide 20 per cent and when the work comes, they say: "You give it to us." So, it is again becoming a nexus between the contractors and the local people because they are not able to raise the money. Therefore, we do need to look at both the expertise and the management of the schemes and the programmes where such Central Government schemes are given to the local people. There is also the question which, again, has been talked about regarding poor auditing and improper accounting system and overlapping between the local bodies, the State programmes and others. We have received a number of programmes from the Central Government.

[Translation]

Throughout the year you keep changing nomenclature. New programmes are announced and before implementation you announce other new programmes.

[English]

Nobody knows what is what. You have merged DWACRA with something, it is called Janmabhoomi somewhere and something else at some other place. Each State adds to it, multiplies it, and in the confusion the local bodies do not know how to go about it.

Sir, then there is the problem of Vote of No-Confidence. I am seeing from my experience that the first targets are women or Dalit Chairmen or tribal Chairmen. If they do not toe the line of the upper caste people or if they do not do what they are dictated to or sign blankly, or if they want to look at the file, people say: "Oh! they are becoming too smart and becoming too independent". So, they bring a Vote of No-Confidence against them; remove them from power and bring in their own people. This is what is happening. Recently, in our own State we have had series of Votes of No-Confidence. In Maharashtra, in order to overcome this, they have made three-fourth majority as a requirement to unseat women because everybody was trying to unseat women who have been elected to chair local bodies. So, I think the Government needs to look at this and find some way to see that the elected members are protected for their terms.

The other question is that of allowances. The Daily Allowance and Travelling Allowance that are paid to them to go to meetings are so meagre that they are not even a day's wage which those women lose when they go to attend these meetings, either of the Gram Sabha or of the Mahila Mandal. Even the Chairmen of the Gram Panchayats and other bodies are paid less than the minimum wage that is paid anywhere in the country. Their status needs to be raised. So, something has to be done to see that they are properly paid.

Finally, the challenge before us is, how to make this three-tier administration, which has come to stay, more meaningful and more responsive, how to strengthen the panchayats to make them instruments of grassroot development, of good governance, of responsive decision-making, of transparent administrative functioning and, most of all, instruments of social justice. Unless and until these changes come to the society at the grassroot level, no matter how much money we give and no matter how much of effort we make, there will not be any impact. I believe that the Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas have to be really empowered to make them instruments of change and social justice because that was Rajivji's dream and that, I think, ultimately is going to change rural India.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (MANDI): First of all, I would express my gratitude for providing me an opportunity to speak on such an important subject. Ten years have elapsed since the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendments were passed by the House with a view to strengthen and revamp the Panchayati Raj and Nagar Panchayats. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Rural Development for the motion moved by him in the House seeking to review it. The discussion has been raised by him on a very important subject so that the hon. Members can express their views on the basis of their experiences and give their valuable suggestions as to the manner in which the Panchayati Raj institutions can be revamped. We have shortage of time. Not taking more time, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards certain points.

I would like to make a few submissions in regard to the provision made for the direct election of Pradhan and Up-Pradhan of Panchayats. Shri Ramji Lal Sumanji opined that direct election should be held for Chairman of Block Samiti and Zila Parishads. However I differ with him.

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

The House knows 'Panch' holds a revered position in our country and are called 'panch parmeshwar' because they are primary unit of democracy. How far it is justified to divest them of their right of electing Chairman or Vice-Chairman. The 'Panch' which is revered as 'Parmeshwar' stands totally isolated. He is nowhere taken in confidence in developmental works. They approach me and complain about their being ignored because nobody bothers to consult them about anything. I would reiterate what all was submitted by hon. Member Shrimati Alvaji that today the scenario is such that nobody bothers about the elected 'Panch' and everything is done by the Pradhan.

17.00 hrs.

I would even add to it that this is a severe blow on democracy that no-confidence motion cannot be brought within the next one or two years since the 'Sarpanch' act arbitrarily. I am not generalizing but there are examples when' 'Sarpanch' neither consults the 'Up-Sarpanch' nor 'Panch'. That is why a provision should be made whereby the 'Panch' has a right to elect the 'Sarpanch', who would take everyone in confidence. There are several instances of 'Panch' not being consulted. That is why, it should be pondered over as to how to restore the dignity of the 'Panch' since they are the primary unit of democracy.

Now, I would dwell upon reservation and rotation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women in Panchayati Raj institutions, Municipal Panchayats and Municipal Councils. I am not against reservation as it provides a ladder to the weaker sections to progress. Word Rotation has been incorporated therein. The day a person would be elected from a particular seat, he/she would automatically come to know that next time she will not be elected from that seat since the seat would either become open or reserved. Further what about the accountability towards rural folk? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many a hon. Member would like to make submissions on this subject from both the sides since the subject is such which calls for everyone's willingness to participate. If the Government could extend its co-operation that all the hon. Members could make their submissions today and we could have the Minister's reply tomorrow.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the time of the House be extended upto 8 o' clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We still have one hour. It will be decided at 6 o' clock that what needs to be done and for how long?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am saying this because we have to adjust our hon. Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Members who are interested in making submissions be accommodated.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was saying that today if any hon. Member would come to know. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, try to understand our sentiments. If you do something now, it would be better. Why are you procrastinating? There are no legal obstacles in it, provided the Government agrees.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Every hon. Member who is interested will be allowed to speak.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, how can you allot so much time to everyone.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think all the hon. Members should be allowed to take part. That will be helpful to the hon. Minister in preparing his reply. It can summarise the opinions of the hon. Members. Views of Members should not go unnoticed.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am also of the view that all the Members should get a chance to participate and for that purpose the House may sit late. Members must putforth their viewpoints. I shall make the reply today itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As per the decision of the BAC this subject has to be disposed off today itself, but I would definitely go by the decisions of House.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is true that this was decided by the BAC but the Hon. Speaker was there and it was also decided that all the Members who want to participate in this subject should be allowed. I think there is nothing wrong if the hon. Minister gives reply tomorrow. It will take half an hour or quarter to one hour and he can easily get that time.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as Shri Shivraj is telling Members can speak till 7-8 O'Clock today and thereafter I shall give the reply.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Will you make the reply today itself.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the

hon. Minister is taking interest in his department. This is strange that he himself submits that the reply would be made by him today itself. Tomorrow is Friday. There is no Government business tomorrow. This is really strange on the part of the hon. Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The House sits till late in night to dispose of the work relating to Railways. The present subject is even more important because the discussion on Railways is held only twice in a year. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You should give your ruling on this issue. The House wishes that the hon. Minister should give his reply tomorrow addressing to the points raised by Members. What problem he can have in making the reply tomorrow? He can consult his officers and colleagues to give a concrete reply.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Let there be a discussion for the whole of the night today. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The BAC has decided to dispose of the issue today itself.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The BAC cannot overrule what we are saying on the floor of the House. If you want to take the sense of the House, you take the sense of the House. The hon. Members would say that we, would have the reply tomorrow.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): If the House wants, we can change the decision of the BAC.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Does the hon. Minister want to reduce the level of this debate to 'Zero Hour'. What haste he has.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I would like to know whether it was brought for formality only? So serious discussion is being held on this subject. We are not accusing you but we are not able to understand what you want to do. We are giving you suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion is going on without any dispute.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR): If the hon. Minister gives his reply tomorrow after listening to the views of the Members and after due deliberations on the subject, I think the reply would be perfect. If he makes instant reply, then he will be fulfilling only formality.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Generally the Minister ask for this kind of facility.

[Translation]

They generally ask the members to speak and prefers making their reply the next day. But he says that he was already make up his mind to make reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: It is not that. I shall make a casual reply. I am also very serious about this subject.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Let it be put to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: All the Members whose names are listed should be allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, that is decided to be taken up at the allotted time.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was telling that if an elected representative, whether an MP or other representative becomes aware of the fact that he will not get another term then in that case how much accountable he will remain to the public. Therefore, if this reservation has to be kept then the rotation should be applied at least after second term because the public have the right to vote back or vote out their representative for his performance and non-performance. This democratic right of the general people is being snatched through this rotation system. The day someone is elected a representative he comes to know that he will not get the second term whether he performs or not. So this should be checked.

Smt. Margaret Alvaji said that newly elected representatives should get the facility of undergoing training. At times it happens and also in the newspapers that husband is ruling by proxy. Wife is sitting silent while the husband rules from behind. That thing should also be checked. The elected woman Pradhan should work on her own and domination by husband should be checked. It would be good if the rotation is implemented after two terms so that the woman representative may get the second term and may be

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

able to work after getting trained. This point should also be considered.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the third point which I would like to raise is regarding the developmental works to be carried out through Panchayats. Smt. Alvaji rightly said that there is contract system prevailing in several places. Since the Pradhan is elected directly so he does not care for the views of the Deputy-Pradhan and he himself takes the entire contract work by entering into an agreement on two rupees stamp paper in the BDO office. So this system should be checked. I am not against the Panchayati system, but Panchayat does not constitute of Pradhan alone. The State Assembly does not mean only the leader of the legislative party rather it gives importance to the entire Assembly. Similarly, when the Panchayat is elected, any resolutions should be passed by taking all the Panchs into confidence. Earlier, there was a practice according to which released money allotted from the Development Office, was deposited in the account of Panchayat and withdrawn separately by the Panchayats. The proposal used to be passed to decide how Panch should be given the Muster roll and if someone keeps the funds with him it was termed as embezzlement. But what is happening. The Pradhan takes 50 per cent of funds for any work. The work may or may not be completed. This should also be checked. The funds given to Panchayats should be decided through the resolution of the Panchs and passed by the majority of Panchs in which all Panchs should also be allowed to participate. At times, I think whether this three-tier system holds any meaning? The Block Samiti and the District Council have no participation in developmental works. This is because those who are in the Panchayats say that they are not the Members. So they have no role to play. After all why the Members of the Block Samiti and the district Council have been elected. This point must be considered.

He said about people's participation in developmental works. In some states people contribute 30 per cent whereas in the rest 70 per cent is contributed by the Government. There is a one Swajal Dhara Yojana in which 10 per cent funds is contributed by these bodies and 90 per cent is contributed by the Union Government. The contractors willing to contribute 10 per cent are available in large number. They are ready to give the share. When the contract system is in vogue then what is the use of Panchayat? Have the Gram Panchayat got the right which we are talking about? Is the Gram Sabha consulted,? This should also be taken into account as to how to make the Gram Sabha more meaningful. The list of BPL families is finalised while sitting in the room. I am thankful to the hon. Minister for his decision that survey in this regard would not be done by Panchayats. Rather that would be done by independent individuals and thereafter the list would be placed before Panchayats. The families which will secure the lowest points will be termed as BPL families. I would like to congratulate him for evolving this system.

Sir, I would like to raise one more point. The utilisation certificate in regard to this Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojana is not being sent in time. This point was raised here as to why utilisation certificate is not being provided. This is because the work of Panchayats has increased manifold. On the one hand there is 'Sampurna Gramin Yojana'. As per the Government rules 50 per cent money goes directly to the Panchayat and if I am not mistaken, 30 per cent goes to the Block Samiti and only 20 per cent goes to the District Council. But have the Panchayats that much infrastructure get the work done. He rightly said that today one J.E. is working tomorrow and the day after tomorrow another J.Es would come. As on date this Gramin Vikas Mantralay has no cadre of its own. They get only rejected people as J.E. from Public works Department. There should be a consideration of the fact that if the rural development work has to be strengthened the infrastructure has also be made strong. At present Sarpanch not only has the control over the entire funds allocated under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana but the funds allocated to the MLAs and MPs are also given to the Panchayats. But the Sarpanch is neither qualified nor he has any technician to get the work done. Machinery is absent there. Only 2-3 Junior Engineers are posted in all development blocks in hilly States where one has to travel miles on foot. Sometimes, the villager have to hire taxi to get the inspection of the work done. He asks to take him there and then he will carry out the inspection. Once the Kuchcha road gets washed away, he comes for inspection and assessment.

Why do we allocate funds for rural development? This is true that getting the work done through them may prove a cost effective deal as compared to PWD because of their norms and criterion. But if a J.E. or BDO after being transferred are posted and that too in case of a retired or the individual against whom there are several complaints, how the work of rural development would be undertaken? It is, therefore, necessary to form a separate cadre and that cadre should be named after the cadre of the Ministry of Rural Development. The J.E. in the cadre should be imparted training because the impression which compels us to make comparative analysis that the work done through the development blocks or Panchayats would be inexpensive would become a reality only if such provision is made.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, undoubtedly now the Central Government is allocating more funds to the Panchayats under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana. Under which EGS and

JRY have been covered. But the money allocated to the Block Committee is treated as discretionary fund. The Members of the district council should distribute 20 per cent of the lump-sum fund, instead the Chairman of the district council make announcements while taking a ride in a car that these funds are part of their discretionary fund. In fact, this money should be incurred on the recommendation of the Member of District Council. Thus, the system is needed to be strengthened.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, former Minister of Rural Development took a very good decision to set up a Vigilance Committee chaired by the local M.P. which would monitor the Central Government projects being run in the State. The Chairman of the Committee would be the MP of the constituency irrespective of party or place. These Committees have been formed at several places at the behest of Ministry of Rural Development. Members have also been nominated on our recommendation. I would like to give the example of Himachal Pradesh. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyyar who is a learned person and a senior Member, is also present here and he is listening to me very attentively. I would like to tell the House while requesting to take note of the state of affairs in Himachal Pradesh that the Congress Party has won the election recently held there and formed the Government there but it is a matter of regret that as soon as it came to power, it put a ban on the holding the sitting of these Committees. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has issued a circular. As per the circular restrictions have been imposed on the formation of these Vigilance Committees and where the Committees have already been formed, orders have been issued for the administration not to hold on the meetings so that the MPs could be deprived of their Chairmanship. If you want to see the circular, I will put that on the Table of the House on Monday.

Sir, at that point of time also, this point was raised that full cooperation of the MP would be sought in Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and work would be under taken according to his recommendations and suggestion. So, if the intelligence and monitoring committees are chaired by the MPs, then they would be able to put forward their point of view and check any sort of irregularity immediately, otherwise, the MPs do not have any forum to air their views. Whom he should approach to give his recommendation. We are representatives of the Government of India but which forum we should approach to put forward our point. When the meeting of the Planning Commission is held in State. We are given no place there and the Legislator sit there in. When we approach hon. Minister here, he advises us that he is unable to do anything unless he receives recommendation from the State Government. So, please send it after seeking approval of the State Government. When we make request to the State Government it does not accept our recommendation. You send our proposals to officers of lower level and they do not take any action on our recommendations. So, please tell us which forum is left for us from where we make recommendation?

Sir, I want to add one more point. Although it is not related to the subject, yet it is very important that we should pay attention towards family-planning, the predecessors of the present Government in Himachal Pradesh i.e. our Government took a decision that an individual who has more than two children would have to resign nevertheless he is an elected representative of the Panchayati Raj Institution. It was implemented at several places and several elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institution had to resign because of this rule. This type of law should be enacted for MPs and legislators also. That law should be followed here also and it should not be the case that the law is implemented in case of only individuals belonging to the Panchayati Raj institutions. It should not be the case that the MPs be allowed to have as many siblings as they want without any legal restriction while the Sarpanchs of the village Panchayats are subjected to the two children norms. Are we not adding to the population of the country by not sticking to two children norm?

Sir, I still have so much to say that I am watching that your hand is moving towards the bell. Before you ring the bell, I would like to put forward a point and conclude. As far as making Panchayati Raj Institutions an independent body is concerned, it is very much necessary. At present, maximum number of minerals are found in rural areas, somewhere there are slate and stone mines and diamond mines are located at other places. Crushers have been installed at some places. The Panchayats should have the right to charge certain amount of royalty in lieu of mining work. If Panchayats do not have any source of income, Swajaldhara or other scheme would not be implemented. You may create infrastructure, install taps but the condition of the Panchayats is such that if a tap breaks, they do not have funds even to replace it. It has been rightly said they do not even have the money to replace a fuse bulb. So, if we want to make them independent or self-reliant we would have to ponder over exploring some of their sources of income. We have to absolve ourselves of the mentality that Sarpanch is the all in all. All members of the Gram Panchayat should be present in the meeting, it should be made more attractive and people should participate in its activities. Gram Sabha has its own powers. It has been rightly said here that it does not matter much if any person is an MP, a Prime Minister or a Chief Minister in his individual capacity because first of all he is the Member of the Gram Sabha and not of a Panchayat if he belongs to a village, and

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

in that capacity he should attend the meeting and participate in its activities.

Sir, I have attended the meeting of the Gram Sabha at several places and participated in the related activities and I am sure that these are needed to be transformed into an attractive entity, so that the poorest of poor or the people living below poverty line, may get selected therefrom. It is necessary to make such provision to keep nepotism in check.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister in my concluding remarks that the dignity of the MPs should be maintained because we are the representatives of the people and in that capacity, we have the right to chair the meetings of the Vigilance Committee. You please write to the Chief Minister and see to it that the money which is sent from here, which they deny, what could be done to such Governments, it is up to you and not in any other's hands. I do not want to disclose it. You have given me the chance to speak and everyone has attentively listened me. I conclude my speech thanking all of you.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. I do not want to give a lecture because several hon. Members have given important suggestions. I have only one suggestion and I hope you will also agree with me. As far as the Panchayati Raj is concerned, I would like to thank the hon. Minister because he has given an opportunity to review the performance of the ten years in this House. I do not want to speak much thereon. What had been the aim of the Panchayati Raj Institutions is not set today, but it has been continuing since several years. If you go through the history, you will find out that it has been there dated back to four five thousand years. There need to be a Panchayat in every village and that used to be such a strong body which has not been mentioned in the Constitution. Every decision used to be taken by five Panch and that was final. This was the concept, aim and intention with which the Panchayati Raj System came into being because the first and foremost step of the letter of democracy - if you want to strengthen it, and it is necessary to make it strong and run it in a democratic manner. This is the questionable point. As far as the question of empower the Sarpanch, you must be aware that it is within SDM and Deputy Collector have the right to suspend him and seize the documents. Although the land owned by the Gram Sabha cannot be transferred unless the Gram Sabha does not recommend even then the SDM seizes the document and transfer the lease in the name he wishes to transfer. ...*(Interruptions)* It gives rise to dispute in villages. The same thing has happened in my Constituency also. So, there is the need to delve on it seriously and Constitution should be amended accordingly. When you implemented it, first of all you came to meet me. I was in the Government and I expressed my reservation that the provision made by you is very fine but it would bring many evils with it. Your aim and your spirit behind bringing it were in good stead, as were of all other, but the practical result which have came before us are many dangerous. You should do these things. I have written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister and he agreed with that. I have no information about Gujarat. However, I would like to submit that in Panchayat elections, particularly in U.P. and Bihar, money and muscle power rule the most. Recently, the elections to Block head were held 20-25 days back and hon. Members would be surprised to know that he had prior information of the schedule date of election. Formal announcement was yet to be made and there were 64 Members of BDC. He took up 48 Members out of 64 and left with them. And three days later it was announced that on such and such date the nominations would be filed. The remaining three persons said that they would file their nominations and they did that. The mafia was so strong. They abducted them and threatened them at the point of revolver and rifle to kill in case they filed their nominations. That is why this is my submission that Panchayati Raj is going to lose its meaning if the coming Panchayati Raj elections are held in such a away. I have no words to describe the condition prevailing in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. What should be done now in this regard? Gangwar Saheb is well aware that the Chairman of the District Board and the Panchayat Pramukh can do whatever they want because they have the muscle power, they have the money power. Such persons managed to become Chairmen of District Panchayats as we had never even imagined, and who do not know even the basics of politics, and who never even dreamt of that, but all this has been made possible by using money power.

The member of the B.D.C. is elected by Mohalla Panchayat. He makes a bargain of Rs. 10-20 thousand because when MLAs and MPs will indulge in horse trading in the name of MPLADS fund or Government formation, they know it has a direct bearing on the Panchayat also. We are being too idealistic, with the hope that they will follow our conduct. This malady has emanated from nothing but the democratic systems. But now the elections for the Block Committee, Head of the District Panchayat and the Municipal elections are not being held on the principles of any polity. It is true that one who has toiled and served the people cannot become the head of the Panchayat. That is why we want that the Block Pramukh and the Chairman of the District Panchayat should be elected directly by the people. Only then the Panchayati Raj can sustain otherwise it will collapse. There was a time when good people, honest people-be they poor or sundry-but who believed in service, were able to

defeat even the stalwarts. But such an atmosphere is no longer there. Things have changed so rapidly that if you have conducted a discussion on constitutional review, I think, it will be of any use or of any importance only if you make amendments in the Constitution.

I have a few more suggestions. I did not listen to you, but I have managed to know the contents of your speech. My other colleagues also spoke very well. I am solely interested in suggesting that the Block Pramukh and the Chairman of the District Panchayat should now be elected directly by the people. Big districts have been dividing into small ones. Kanpur district is so big that it has 21-22 members. It has also divided into three districts. By making three districts you have seen the rate, the rate of one member of the district panchayat reached upto Rs. Nine lakh, and this was so meager an amount, this you and I have seen. Our candidate also won, but how? He was a poor man. People collected donations for him, and bought the district panchayat. The situation has become so bad now. MLAs and MPs have been alienated from those elections. I raised my objection before Aiyar Saheb that when the MLAs and MPs were there, the District Boards had a dignity. I have seen the days when District Board used to be very important and when the meetings of the District Board were held it used to be a topic of discussion in the entire premises of the Court (Kutchehari) because all the MLAs and MPs used to assemble there and attended the meetings. You removed them all. Earlier MLA was a member in the Block level meeting and the MP was an ex-officio member. They were also removed. Now the Block Pramukh has lost all importance. At that time the MLA or the Lok Sabha member took interest in that because he was interested in meeting the people. My party is a small one but I know and I have seen how important, how dignified the Block Pramukh used to be, and how important the Chairman of the District Panchayat used to be when MLAs and MPs used to be their members and they presided over them. MLAs and MPs used to seek the permission of the Chairman to speak. They were so important then that people hardly preferred to become MLAs or MPs. They rather preferred to become the Head of the District Panchayat. I have seen so many such persons in the Congress regime. There were such honest people as are referred to even today. In my district Etawah, such an ideal was set by Thakur Akbar Singh who was a freedom fighter. He came of a very poor family. His offsprings still live there. Have a look at his house and you cannot imagine that it belongs to a Chairman of District Panchayat. Throughout his life he remained District Panchayat Pramukh. He never asked for MLA or MP ticket. He liked to be in the District Panchayat. Similarly, in my vicinity there is one Chaudhry Suraj Singh, M.P. who also liked to be in the District Panchayat itself. He never wanted a ticket. This speaks of the importance of Panchayats at that time.

17.32 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

We can rejoice on this ground that this will give the people belonging to the weaker sections of the society an opportunity to be on the Panchayat. Women also got an opportunity to be elected to the Panchayat. This is a very good thing but in the days to come, no such post, no such Chairman of District Panchayat will be there who has no money and no weapons to wield his power. So, if you want this discussion to be meaningful, we would urge the hon. Minister to consider it seriously. We will even meet the Prime Minister for your convenience. He was convinced in principle but I do not know as to what he is going to say in the House. I know that a number of Members in the House will be ready to accept that the District Panchayat Pramukh and the Block Pramukh should be elected directly by the people. If they are elected indirectly, no poor or weaker person can ever be able to get elected. The aim, the objective, the spirit which the Panchayati Raj was expected to have in the democratic system will never be fulfilled. So, only this much, I should suggest to you that you just do it. As regards the resources to be given by you, we can take up this at a later stage. What I want to drive home today is that elections to the Panchayat heads directly by the people will make the Panchayati Raj meaningful. This is what I think. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN (NILGIRIS): Sir, all the clocks in the House are not showing the correct timings. They should be repaired immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. Now, Shri A. Krishnaswamy will speak.

Before I call him, I want to make it clear to the House that today all the Members, who have given their names, will speak on the present Motion, and the reply by the hon. Minister to the Motion will be tomorrow. So, at 2 o'clock tomorrow, the hon. Minister will reply to the debate. So, I request the Members to be brief, to speak for five minutes so that we can conclude the debate today.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on Panchayati Raj Institutions.

[Shri A. Krishnaswamy]

It is one of the good systems in India. It has given powers to the villages. Women and dalits have been given powers to execute and develop their villages. It is our experience that villages have been developed through these institutions.

In 1996 when the DMK was in Government, we conducted a fair election. We have given chances to 33 per cent of women and dalits. In this way, we have given good governance in 1996.

But most of the women who have been elected as Village Presidents and other councillors without any experience, faced many difficulties. In the same way, the Dalits who were elected have been dominated by the people of upper castes. Therefore, without building up any type of courage among the Dalits and without any training to the women, they are not able to execute and discharge their powers. I would, therefore, request this august House that there should be some training programme to be given for the women in the local body authorities and some help to be given to the Dalits for building up courage.

When hon. Member Shrimati Margaret Alva spoke, she noted that in four villages of Tamil Nadu, election was not conducted or election was not allowed to be held. I would like to mention that in two villages, Paparapatti and Keeripatti, the Dalits were not allowed by the upper caste people even to file the nominations and even if it was allowed to be filed, the nominations were withdrawn. Once the Dalits were elected, they resigned because of the threats given by the upper caste people. I want to know from the Ministry as to what steps they are going to take in this regard and what law they are going to make to prevent such types of threats from the upper caste people to the Dalits.

This Panchayat Raj institution is a three-tier system and because of this three-tier system our experience has been that there was huge confusion in the villages. When the Member of Parliament makes allotment of some money for a village, particularly for a community centre, the village President is not able to inaugurate the community centre. The Chairman of that Block dominates and he is not permitting the village President to inaugurate the community centre. The village President is very much interested in inviting the Member of Parliament or the MLA. But the Councillors and the Chairman are not permitting the village President to inaugurate the community centre. My request to the hon. Minister is that the village Presidents should be given more powers to inaugurate any buildings in that local area. Then only it will be easier. The benefits of the community centres go to the villages. But the Chairman and the Councillors, as they belong to other Parties, are not giving permission to the village President to inaugurate the buildings. This may be noted down and action taken.

I want to mention about the SGRY scheme. In all the villages, the village Presidents are not able to do the selection of work for 'food-for-work' scheme. This selection is done by the Block Development Officer and the Block's Union Chairman. In this process the village Presidents suffer a lot. They are not given powers to select the works. Their requests are denied. In this connection, my request to the hon. Minister is that in regard to selection of works for the schemes under SGRY the village President should be given equal powers. Also, in regard to the Nagarpalikas or the municipalities, the Councillors are also to be given equal powers because today the Chairmen dominate the Councillors. The Chairman does what he thinks and he is not hearing the views and requests of the Councillors.

I submit that because of this three-tier system, the administration is not good in the villages. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to kindly make an amendment to it as a two-tier system with the village President and the Union Chairman. The Union Chairman should be directly elected by the people or by the village Presidents. That will be enough. Having these district Chairmen and Union Councillors is not necessary as they do not have any work and they are just wasting the money and time of the Government and creating confusion. The village President and the Union Chairman are enough to execute the work properly and to spend the money of the Government. I would also request the Union Government to send money directly to the village President and not through State or district administration. They should also have a special and separate agency to distribute money to village President. That is my request.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, when Rajiv Gandhiji was Prime Minister he brought this Panchayati Raj System, and it was his study that in a country like India strong villages could give a strong country and that more powers should be given to the village panchayats and municipalities. So we accepted the Panchayati Raj System, but with an experience of years I would also like to say that Rajiv Gandhiji had said that the funds allotted for the villages do not reach there, and if the villages are not developed, the country cannot develop, so the Panchayat should be given more powers. But merely giving powers and no money is not going to do any good to the villages. The Government need to consider ways as to

how more and more funds can be given to the villages. I would like to urge both Shri Kashiram Rana, the Minister and Shri Atalji to think of the need to constitute a Cabinet in the villages if we really want our villages to prosper. Every village should have a Chief Minister as there is one in the State, and he too should have a Cabinet of 6-7 persons so that the funds of a particular department could be sent to the Minister concerned and if the villages have Cabinets, they will get the experience to rule. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: A Speaker should also.be there.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: As regards the suggestion of Mr. Speaker, this Cabinet will be there to work but whenever meetings will be held, a Speaker will be needed. So if we want to run the village administration, a Speaker is needed there too. Similarly, there is a need to consider the other system also.

The condition of the dalit basti in the village is quite pitiable. Woe are generating power in our own country, but we are not able to electrify all the villages. And the villages already electrified have to remain dark for 2-3 days as there is no power supply, and as regards the dalit basties, there are the electric poles but no power. We have seen that the slums in cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Banglore, Lucknow and Varanasi are mostly occupied illegally and on this very basis power is not provided to them and they live in dark. Such is the situation in all the villages. So this is my submission that the villages should be developed.

The condition of women in the villages is also very pitiable. We have not been able to provide toilets for them even today. Toilets should be provided for the women. The villages are faced with the problem of drinking water. The pipeline is there but there is no water supply. Even today there is acute shortage of drinking water. I can say it with pride that during the rule of Chadragupta the country's economy was so sound that gold fumes emanated everywhere. The per-capita income was the highest in the whole world. Be it Americans, the English, the Portuguese or the Dutch - all these people came to our country to do business, because we had huge reserves of gold and minerals. But today we are lagging far behind in the world. What is the reason therefor? The Government should pay attention to it. Poverty and inequality are growing in the country. To overcome this situation we need concerted efforts. I want to know from the Government as to when our villages would get drinking water, will they get it when the Government of Atalji will be removed. The Government should try to provide drinking water to the villages. I support this motion and hope that the Government will make plans to provide justice to the village people and implement them. If you work properly, you can remain in power for longer. If you do not work we will have to come forward. Crores of people need justice. Today you are on the ruling side and we in the opposition. A time may come when this situation gets reversed. So if you work well we will support you and if you do not we will oppose you.

With these words, while supporting this motion, I conclude my speech.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM): Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to place my views on behalf of my party, All India Anna DMK and also on behalf of my leader the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing in this very important Motion. Of course, it is very late to discuss; debate; and evaluate as to what we have achieved in the last 10 years. Sir, my suggestion would be that evaluation should have been done, if not every year, at least, in the middle of the term or at least it should have been audited once in five years, and according to the achievement, the financial assistance should have been given.

Sir, the 11th Finance Commission recommended Rs. 1,600 crore per annum for the local bodies, out of which the total grant of Rs. 197.06 crore was earmarked for the development of database on the finance of the Panchayat. It also included an amount of Rs. 98.61 crore for maintenance of accounts of Panchayats as the first charge on this grant.

Sir, what I would like to know from the hon. Minister is this. How much cost benefit ratio we have achieved after having allocated so much money; after having spent so much money only for database collection; for preparing the papers; and for maintaining the account, leave alone the achievement at the grassroots' level?

Secondly, the Commission recommended that audit of accounts of the local bodies should be entrusted to the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG). Was it done? Is the Audit Report being placed on the Table of the House? If it was not done before, at least, now after 10 years will the hon. Minister come out with a White Paper on the achievement of Panchayati Raj institution? What does the Audit Report say; and what is the achievement? How can we improve the Panchayat Raj institution? We should try and

[Dr. V. Saroja]

understand as to where we are going wrong, so that we will be able to correct it, at least from now onwards. This should be done in order to see that the fruits of the Panchayati Raj institution reach at least everyone.

Sir, we are proud to say that there are 30 lakh elected representatives as a result of the Panchayati Raj (Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth) Amendments. Of course, ten lakhs of them are women. I have no hesitation in saying that there is social, political and economic empowerment of about 20 lakh women, especially in my State. Through the self-help groups and along with the elected lady representatives, we have created awareness.

Apart from the funds allocated for the training programme by the Government of India, the State Government had taken special interest to train the elected representatives, especially the lady representatives, to create awareness and also to understand the schemes of the Government of India as well as of the State Government so that they will be able to understand the schemes, that is, how soon they can get the schemes, how the benefits can reach the people at the grass-root level, how it can be audited and how it can be brought to the notice of the higher authorities.

I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the funds allocated for the training programme are very meagre. We should understand the lacunae. Before we implement a scheme, we should give wide publicity about the scheme. Before doing the budget allocation, we have to see as to how the fruits of the particular scheme will be reaching the people at the grass-root level.

According to the Constitution, the Panchayats will be given powers and authority to function as an institution of self-government. The powers and the responsibilities to be delegated to the Panchayats at the appropriate level are as follows:

(a) Preparation of plan for economic development and social justice;

(b) Implementation of the schemes for economic development and social justice in relation to 29 subjects mentioned in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution of India; and

(c) To levy, collect, appropriate taxes, dues, and toll fees.

Did we ever have the intention on the above subjects? Have we got any paper that can be placed on the floor of the House so that we, as Members of Parliament, are able to contribute our experiences and share our ideas so that the fruits of the Panchayati Raj reach the people? We, the Members of Parliament, would request the hon. Minister, at least, from now onwards, to place before the House a paper on this. Ten years have passed, but we have not taken stock of what we are doing and whether what we have done is satisfying the needs of the people. We are yet to assess this.

Under the Panchayats Act, 1996 there is a provision that extends Panchayats to tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan. It was implemented on 24th of December, 1996. All the States have passed laws to give effect to the provision contained in this Act. It is now more than five years. You can, at least, concentrate on these tribal areas. They will form the basis to find out whether we can contribute more so that the tribal people will get the benefit. Now, five years have passed. Maybe, in all the States, the next elections are due. Before the next elections, especially in the tribal areas, we should have an idea as to whether the tribal people need more training, more budget allotment and so on and so forth.

We had a conference on the 5th and 6th of April, 2002 of the elective representatives of all Panchayati Raj institutions in the country. What was the declaration that was made in that conference? Was that declaration fulfilled? That declaration says:

> "... unanimously resolve to urge the Government of India to quickly initiate the process of bringing an appropriate amendment to the Constitution to bring about speedy and effective devolution of financial and administrative powers to the PRI."

More than one and a half years have passed since that declaration was passed in that Conference. Has the Government of India moved in that direction at all? I would like to have a concrete reply to this question from the hon. Minister.

A critical evaluation of the budget and the elected representatives of the Panchayati Raj institutions of all stages is necessary. Funds are being released to them. Has the Government ever audited the works they are selecting, the cost benefit ratio, etc.? If these things have not been audited so far, at least from now onwards we have to have a proper system of auditing. There are lacunae in the monitoring system. I would say that auditing should be done through independent agencies. They should be under the direct control of the State and Central Governments. I would even

welcome the idea of bringing Panchayati Raj system into the Concurrent List.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I must congratulate the Minister for having taken the initiative of moving this motion. It is a good step.

After the passing of 74th and 75th Constitution Amendments, Panchayati Raj institution has become a reality. Personally speaking, I am very much connected with Panchayati Raj. I was elected as Panchayat President in July, 1953 - exactly half a century ago - when I was only 26 or 27 years old. Throughout my life extending over half a century, I worked for decentralisation of power, bringing power to the man in the street. As a legislator and Member of Parliament, throughout my life my attempt has been to bring power to the common man who is in the street. He must realise the day to day administration. For that purpose, many things have been done in my home State.

In the last administration by the LDF Government, they have gone a step further in this direction. It was during that regime that we adopted the people's plan. It was criticised. The People's Campaign is the most important thing which I would like to focus on before this House. It has been written in the editorial of The Hindu of yesterday, 23rd July, 2003, as follows:

"... But considering the scale of transformation in the governance that was attempted, these shortcomings were no more than part of a learning process. They must not be exploited to do the Panchayati Raj in. Perhaps the biggest irony is that earlier this month even as a relentless attack was launched on the People's Campaign, decentralisation in the State received international notice. In 2003, in the Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme, the Kerala experiment was praised for its involvement of citizens and for its contribution to a city."

This is the certificate given by the United Nations Development Programme.

18.00 hrs.

They have applauded the Kerala model. They have said that the common man's involvement in the people's plan has become a reality in Kerala. I have made this reference for the simple reason that some allegation is made against them.

Now, about the Kerala plan, I will explain in a few words, as to what is being attempted. Thirty-five per cent of the total amount will be distributed among the Panchayats directly for implementation. The process of implementation is through Gram Sabha. The entire village community will be assembled. They will discuss as to what developmental works would be executed and in what manner they would be implemented. All these things would be discussed threadbare in the Gram Sabha. Priority is fixed. The amount is given to them. The beneficiaries have selected the Gram Sabha, and the people's involvement has become a reality. That is why the United Nations has also applauded the scheme. No other State in India could do it. I am proud of my State.

But, Sir, unfortunately, the present Government mistook the idea. The UDF Government is there. Yet, there are some political forces in Kerala opposed to devolution of powers to the local bodies and they are ready to use any stick to beat the Panchayati Raj. The ruling Democratic Front has always been less than enthusiastic about its support for the people's plan. It is less than forthcoming in defence of decentralisation.

Sir, there were some allegations that a foreign agency is involved in this process, and so, the Panchayat Minister had to reply in the Assembly that there was no foreign agency involvement, that there was no foreign investment made in the implementation of the people's plan. The Panchayat Minister of Kerala, day before yesterday, had to admit on the floor of the Assembly that there was no foreign agency involved in the implementation of the plan. So, all these allegations, all these propaganda had gone to the wind. Now, the people's plan is highlighted throughout the world through the agencies of the United Nations.

In this respect, Sir, I would like to mention one or two points. We have decentralised the departmental process. About the primary schools and high schools, the administration is given to the local bodies.

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is over now. Please conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am just concluding.

In the case of primary health centres and taluk headquarters hospitals also, their administrative control is given to the local bodies.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Radhakrishnanji, in one sentence you can say that Kerala Panchayat Raj system is applauded everywhere. That would be sufficient. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, in the social reforms also decentralisation has taken place. But unfortunately, it is the bureaucracy that curtails it. They have taken away all these things. Thirty-five per cent of the money that was allotted to the Panchayats was given at the last hour, that is, in the month of March only. Now, they say that they want to recover the amount as it has not been spent. If the money had been allotted in March only, how could it be spent? But they have taken a stand that 'you did not spend the money, and so, we are taking it back.' So, there is a peculiar situation in Kerala.

Sir, I would like to remind my friends on that side with due respect that I always respect Rajiv Gandhi for taking the initiative on Panchayati Raj system. But the persons who are claiming to be the followers of Rajiv Gandhi are doing just the opposite things. ...*(Interruptions)* If Rajiv Gandhi was alive, these people would not have been in the Congress. ...*(Interruptions)* They are doing just the opposite to the stand taken by the late Rajiv Gandhi, whom I respect in all these matters. I pay respect to him but unfortunately, the people who are governing Kerala have forgotten about Rajiv Gandhi and they are thinking about any other things. To them, decentralisation is not material.

They want a bureaucratic form of Government. Until and unless the power is decentralised, and the poor man in the street feels that he has a part to play in the governance of the country, we cannot claim to be a democratic country. So, I strongly plead with the Minister for bringing in a legislation to make it imperative that the powers be decentralised.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please sit down, your time is over.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Power should be decentralised in the administration of almost all the departments, that is, Public Health, Education, Social Developmental Plans, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The issue of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes has also been taken away. All these social reforms should be left over to the Panchayats. Let the people decide. There must be transparency in the administration.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Your time is over.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: That is why I say that the new legislation would lead to transparency in the entire country. All these delays will be avoided; corruption will be avoided.

With these words, I support the Bill. I thank you for giving me this opportunity for speaking about the people of Kerala.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): What is the time now, Sir? The clocks have stopped.

MR. SPEAKER: I am getting the time corrected. The exact time is 6.05 p.m. I am extending the time of discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am extending the time by two hours. The debate has to be completed by 8 o' clock.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Your election symbol was clock, that is why it is happening like that. Those whose election symbol was 'clock', cannot stick to one ideology, they keep on changing.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (SABARKANTHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this clock is an indicator of time ahead. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to place my views. I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward this motion relating to Panchayati Raj.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I offer my tributes to Late Rajiv Gandhi because I have been associated with numerous training programmes for the elected representatives of Panchayati Raj institution. I feel proud to see elected women representatives in Panchayats. Before this, women were never elected to Panchayats in thousands. Although, they tend to commit many mistakes but as they get opportunities in due course of time the Panchayati Raj institution will improve more and more. Secondly, the greatest achievement of this institution is that lakhs of people have been involved in decision making process.

At the same time, I would like to say that we always have good views about Panchayati Raj but the institution is not functioning in the manner in which it should function. I have seen in my home State Gujarat that if a particular party is in power in the State and another party is there in Panchayat, then a different technique is adopted towards Chairman and the members of that Panchayat. It is unfortunate that they are given a little funds with delays and in a number of cases funds are sometimes not given at all. That is not the limit. In my State, a system has been evolved to have a Cabinet Minister as in-charge.

[English]

The Cabinet Minister is put in charge of a district. I do not know under what law it is being done.

[Translation]

He is put in-charge.

[English]

He presides over the District Planning Board.

[Translation]

Due to this system, he takes all decision himself by by-passing the Pradhan. Its adverse effect is directly reflected in the Annual Plan. A list of the State sponsored schemes indicating the amount of funds allocated under these schemes is sent to the District Planning Board when it meets to formulate its schemes. The said Minister in-charge comes there and the elected members of the District Planning Board have no choice but to fix a stamp on it. Here, the role of the District Planning Board in the District or Tehsil is not actually what it should be, as a result of which it has to fix its stamp only on the schemes directed to it by the State Government according to Annual Plan. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

You may disagree. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is not yielding. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: All the district panchayats are being ruled by the Congress and at the State level, we have the BJP Government, which is trying to make each district panchayat ineffective in one way or the other. The best examples are the purchases; that is, purchases which should be done by the district panchayats are being done by the State officials. What they do is simply this.

[Translation]

The expenditure is simply debited to the accounts of the panchayat, the President of the panchayat places it before the general body and puts his signature to expenditure for approval while the entire purchases are done by the officers in the State Government. Hon. Minister, I want to give you a suggestion. Most of the panchayats face a lot of problem for want of funds. A number of States have appointed State Finance Commissions. In many of those states State Finance Commissions have given their reports too. But, I do not know whether any of the State Governments have accepted these recommendations.

[English]

It is an irony that the State is fighting with the Union Finance Commission for devolving more resources to them; and the situation is the other way round in their own cases - they are not ready to devolve more resources to district panchayats.

[Translation]

State Finance Commissions in every State including Gujarat have recommended that the revenue collected on account of entertainment tax, cable tax, land revenue tax, taxes of stamp and registration should go to the districts, the districts should have their share in this revenue collection, but no State wants to devolve these taxes. Moreover, earlier, the municipal corporations and the panchayats had some income on account of octroi but the States have abolished octroi. The funds given to the panchayats by the States. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not delivering a lecture here, I am just giving a suggestion to the hon. Minister. I want to say that this income should be enhanced, a provision should be made to compensate the loss, on regular basis, suffered by the panchayats and the municipal corporations on account of abolition of octroi. The decisions of the Union Government are mandatory for the State Finance Commissions and the Centre has to give funds to the States. Similarly, the funds should be given to the districts according to the report of the State Finance Commissions.

[English]

Not only that, but also certain taxes should be transferred to the districts through which they can raise money.

[Translation]

They have to obtain sanction of the State to spend their own funds also. Such provisions should be done away with.

I have one suggestion, the panchayats have been entrusted certain works, they should get money for these works in advance in quarterly or four monthly instalments which at present, they get it at the end of the year. There should be no Minister in-charge. The panchayats are not viewed as an autonomous unit. We see the way how the panchayats use their common property resources. The position of irrigation water, potable water and environment and their policy and planning are not actually what it should

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

be and the process in Planning Boards specially in Gujarat should be devolved to the panchayats according to which the State Governments should allocate resources to them. Such vision does not seem to have been developed. It is felt specially in the rural areas that the elected representatives should be imparted training on their powers and the laws pertaining to the panchayats.

[English]

I do not know why the Ministry of Rural Development has not taken up a massive programme for training the elected representatives.

[Translation]

A massive training programme should be conducted in the entire country for them on how they should run the panchayats and what are the powers of the panchayats.

My third suggestion is that the officials of district panchayats, taluka panchayats and gram panchayats,

[English]

They should not have powers over the elected representatives.

[Translation]

Today, the situation is such that D.D.O. has more powers, he is in a position to defy a tehsil president. In the present system, D.D.O. is the Chairman of the Governing Board of the D.R.D.A. and the M.P. and other people are its members, the D.D.O. is the decision making authority. This system needs to be rectified. The panchayats should be given more powers particularly financial powers.

The last point I want to make in relation to the Municipal Corporations. I have studied finance and accounts of three or four municipal corporations. The CAG has given such a coding system to the district panchayats that there are separate heads for each sector, all are major heads, minor heads are not there, then, there are detailed heads. Accounts are maintained in this system. The district panchayats get the funds through the same accounting system. But the grant which goes to the district from the State is in the shape of a lump sum amount. There is no detailed head for this in the district as to show the expenditure separately for salaries and other activities, these things are not maintained in the district panchayats nor these are published. Therefore, the accounting system should be rectified and implemented.

There is unified accounting system in panchayats in our State. This type of system is not practised in municipal corporations in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai. My final suggestion is that in this accounting system expenditure on different items is not reflected separately as on the women and the children. Such information is reflected at State level with regard to dalits and tribals but not at panchayat level. For this, I would like to suggest the hon. Minister for Rural Development that this department should request the CAG to create a special head for the expenditure on women in the country like common heads 794 for the tribals and 793 for dalits in Special Component Plan, so that the entire money is accounted for that head which would reflect the total expenditure incurred on the women and children under different schemes. These are a few suggestions and I hope, you will consider and implement these suggestions in order to strengthen the Panchayati Raj institution.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Sir, I support the motion moved by Shri Kashiram Rana, hon. Minister of Rural Development for considering the progress of implementation of Part IX and Part IX-A of the Constitution (dealing with Panchayats and Municipalities as institutions of self-government) during the last ten years.

18.21 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

Once the late Rajiv Gandhi had said that out of every one rupee which I give to the rural areas only 19 paise reaches them. From this you can evolve how much corruption was there in the system then.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI): Sir, it is very important. Let me make one clarification. Shri Rajiv Gandhi did not say that 81 per cent goes in corruption. He said that 81 per cent is spent by the administration on itself. That is why, they are not getting the funds.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: He said that out of one rupee allocated to the Panchayati Raj institution in rural India, only 19 paise used to reach them. That is was the quote of the Prime Minister in those days. We were in the Opposition at that time. We used to fight for this. We were arrested during the Emergency. We know about it. Therefore, I would like to ask here why certain States in the country are reluctant to transfer those 29 subjects to the three-tier Panchayati Raj Department till today. A Task Force was appointed. I have a list of States with me. I would not like to read them out. But certain States have not given powers to the Panchayati Raj institutions.

As has rightly been pointed out by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, during the last 10 to 15 years, there has been a heavy migration from the rural areas to the urban areas. There has been heavy urbanisation. It is because the rural areas do not have the basic amenities and basic structure till now. Today when we are discussing about ten years progress, I would suggest that the Government should be very sincere in implementation of various rural development schemes which would uplift the 70 per cent people including poor people and farmers who are living in rural areas.

In article 243(G) of the Constitution, the powers of the States have been clearly mentioned for devolution as far as these 29 subjects are concerned. Article 243(H) vests the power to collect taxes and revenue. Article 243(1) clearly indicates that the State Finance Commission will be created and whatever revenue is collected by the State from rural areas will again be spent there. But this has not been happening since three-tier Panchayati Raj system was introduced through 73rd and 74th Amendments. Nothing is being implemented in letter and spirit. If you see the extent of utilisation of the Panchayat Raj funds which is being channelised through DRDAs, only 40 per cent is being utilised.

For example, in our State of Orissa when the PMGSY was sanctioned, we could only utilise 40 per cent of the allocated money. Panchayati Raj system should be given more autonomous status to make it more effective and efficient. The revenue generation which accrues from the Panchayati Raj institution should be honestly sent back there.

To cite an example, in the State of Orissa we have taken some progressive steps in regard to the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Like, we have given the job of minor forest collection and environment management to the Panchayati Raj Institutions. We have also reserved one-third of the seats for women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions. In fact, we have introduced this system of giving reservation to OBC candidates for the first time when the Panchayat elections were held. So, we have been progressing well with these Institutions in the State of Orissa. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister and this Government that while allocating funds for the Panchayati Raj Institutions and to the backward districts of Orissa, they should be considerate and very liberal, otherwise neither development of Panchayati Raj Institutions would be possible nor would the dream of Gandhiji ever materialise.

Sir, the three-tier system has remained only in name. In certain States the Ministers of the State Governments have been given charge of certain districts and the Chairmen of the Zila Parishads have been virtually rendered a titular head. They cannot act on their own. They have to act in accordance with the wishes of the Ministers. There is no autonomy. I think, this system of Ministers being given charge of one district is being practised in the State of Madhya Pradesh. In such an event, how could one expect the Chairmen of Zila Parishads and the Panchayati Raj Institutions to function with full autonomy? Instructions, like building a wall in a place or stopping the progress of some work, are given by them and consequently the independent nature of the Panchayati Raj Institutions gets diluted.

Sir, if you look at chapter I, where there is a mention about the Gram Sabhas, you would see that the Gram Sabhas in the backward districts are virtually treated like cattle. They are not allowed to voice anything. It is the gun that rules such areas. The musclemen are all powerful. To strengthen the Gram Sabhas there should be some type of a machinery that would protect the interests of these Gram Sabhas. They should be given enough powers in order that they can assert their rights. The Gram Sabhas are to meet three days in a year, namely, on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, on the Labour Day and on 15th of August.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It has to meet also on the Republic Day.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Yes, it has to meet on Republic Day as well. Thank you for the information. These are the four days when the Gram Sabhas should be held. But is it being followed? Are there any proper instructions to the District Collectors to look into this aspect? But this is not being done.

Sir, only roads and nallahs are being built with the grants that are given but the actual social commitments of the Government, like health, education, land reforms, are being neglected. Only construction of roads and repair of roads is what is being done with the grant. So, there should be proper orientation of the elected representatives right from the ward level to the Zila Parishad level. There should be orientation programmes for these elected representatives, like the ones that are held for MPs and MLAs in the respective States and in Delhi.

Secondly, as has been rightly suggested by the Task Force, an Ombudsman should be appointed at the Panchayati Raj level in order to ensure transparency and accountability, which is not there presently.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): This can only happen if you enforce the land reforms system.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: The State of West Bengal has done well in this regard. The State has been commended by the World Bank for their achievement in the field of land reforms.

Orissa is also doing well. Therefore, I hope that this *manthan* which is being done now, that is, the stocktaking debate which is being held now, would result in further strengthening of the Panchayati Raj system, so that true democracy is kept alive and springing in our country.

With these few words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (BIKRAMGANJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for the proposal put forth by him to review the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution. The Panchayati Raj System is being reviewed here after ten years of its implementation.

Mahatama Gandhi conceptualised the idea of Panchayati Raj and envisaged Gram Swaraj. Then Lohiaji gave the concept of Choukhambha Raj and lastly it was due to the efforts of late Rajiv Gandhi that the system of Panchayati Raj came into being. In Bihar Panchayat elections have been held after 22 years following the 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendments. Following these elections 1.40 lakh representatives have been elected and out of that 45 thousand women representatives have been elected for Mahila wards, Mukhiyas and for the Zila Parishads. 10 thousand women out of them belong to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Women in Bihar have been given 33 per cent reservation in Panchayat seats. It is because of that 45 thousand women candidates have been elected. Out of that 45 thousand women candidates 10,045 women belong to the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes.

We talk of women empowerment here and in that context I would like to say that it is a matter of pride that women candidates have been elected in large numbers in Bihar from ward level to the District Board level. Under the Bihar Panchayati Raj Act, 1993 there was a provision of reservation for the posts of Mukhiya, Pramukh of Panchayat Samiti and the Chairman of District Board but no such reservation could be made for these posts in the recent Panchayat elections following the verdict of the Supreme Court pronounced in 2001. Even though 9 women candidates have been elected as Chairmen of the District Board, 11 women candidates have been elected as vice-Chairmen, 51, women candidates have been elected as pramukhs of Panchayat Samitis 121 women have been elected as up-Pramukh and 86 women have been elected Mukhiyas of different Panchayats. This has been possible due to the growing awareness among women and the changed attitude of the society towards women. We have also been elected for Lok Sabha. We are talking of 33 per cent seats being reserved for women for the Parliament and state Legislatures. However, no one knows as to when will it really be done. At present we are only talking about it. Similarly when elections for local bodies were held, women candidates were elected Chairman of the District Council. But now it is being alleged that there is a large scale irregularities in elections for the post of Chairman of the District Boards. In such a situation money power becomes more dominating. A person who commands money power, becomes Chairman of a district board. He wants to undertake the development work on his own. Selection of schemes are then sent to the block. After getting through the block, these are sent to the district board. The concept of Panchayati Raj emphasised on participation of people at the village level in the development process. Thus, the expectations I of the people have increased many folds from the newly elected representatives. Every representative wants to have an upper hand in the development process. The pace of development get impeded in this tug of war. Though we draw benefit from it but at some time there are some losses too. The sense of brotherhood and mutual understanding among the Panchayat and ward members become strained. We are facing some of its repercussions.

Hon. Minister has asked Panchayats to mobilise their internal resources. Whether it involves the elections to urban bodies or Panchayats, they are advised to mobilize internal resources. The development works take place with the money allocated for the purpose. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the elections conducted at village level and the public representatives who have won these elections are facing a lot of problems because they belong to poor sections and as a result of this they fail to mobilize the internal resources and development process get impeded there. They have only one thing on their mind and think that they have come here through elections and would it be proper for them to levy are on their electorates for everything. People also think in a different manner that we have elected them and they are asking us to mobilize resources. This also leads to impediments in the pace of development.

As far as mobilizing internal resources in civic bodies is concerned, it is okay. That is an urban area and which officers various means of livelihood. If the tax would be levied in this manner, we can mobilize internal resources but in rural areas it is impossible to mobilize internal resources.

Today we are holding discussion on how the civic bodies could be strengthened. Our Government in Bihar has provided all facilities to the panchayats which should be given to them as per the constitutional provisions. We have empowered the gram panchayats to carry out inspection of primary and middle schools, to appoint, regularise and ensure their attendance, to construct the building for schools, providing of scholarship to the students etc. Selection of 'Anganbari Sewikas' is also being made through Gram Panchayats. The responsibility of selection of site for handpumps alongwith installation and repairing thereof is also being done through the gram panchayats. The public health department is providing funds to the Panchayats for this purpose from the non-plan head. Several important responsibilities related to health, food supply, relief and rehabilitation and environment and forests etc. have also been assigned to Panchayats.

I would also like to mention that after implementation of the report of Fifth Pay Commission the economy of several states have shattered. In such economic scenario of the State governments, as Shrimati Margaret Alvaji has pointed out that in our country rural and urban ratio is 70 and 30 per cent and there is paucity of funds with the State Governments due to which development of Panchayats cannot take place. In regard to amount allocated by the centre, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that several times this issue has been debated here in the House that Bihar is being discriminated when it comes to the issue of fund allocation. As you know, Bihar is second to Uttar Pradesh in terms of population. The amount sanctioned by the Ninth and Tenth Finance Commissions was not released to the state on the plea that Panchayat elections have not been held there. When the Panchayat elections were held and the said amount was sought by our state then it was said that now that amount has lapsed. Still Rs.400 crore are pending wit the Union Government which was allocated during the years in 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000. I would like to request the hon'ble Member if you are reviewing the things then it should also be kept in view that the amount allocated to Bihar which has been withheld by the centre should be released immediately only then we can strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions and the dream of Gandhiji about gram Swaraj can realised and people can be benefited. If they do not do so despite all efforts development cannot take place because developmental activity cannot take place when there is paucity of funds. This is the reason as to why developmental works are stalled.

The elected members have to face a lots of difficulties in the Panchayat meetings. People say corruption is on the rise but where the corruption stems from, the elected members are facing economic problems. They are given meagre amount and they are even not in a position to properly look after their families. In a certain state a woman Pradhan or District councillor was in severe financial crises. She resigned from her membership following this and she accepted a job of Rs.4000/- monthly salary. We come across such incidences frequently. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister as other people are given some fixed amount similarly the elected member of the civic bodies should also be given certain fixed amount so that they do not feel they are not getting anything for what they do so that they should be able to look after their families. You do have some accountability to them also. I, therefore, request you to immediately release the pending funds to our state. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (JAHANABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the motion brought by hon. Rural Development Minister Shri Kashi Ram Rana is on a very important subject.

18.44 hrs.

(SHRI K.YERRANAIDU *in the Chair*)

Today we are having discussion in regard to the strong unit of democratic system. Several hon. members have given their opinion. This motion is a chain of that procedure. Which was started by people connected with their line of thought in nation building from the Gandhian era till date with a view to strengthen the democratic system. In 1946 Gandhiji opined that we will attain complete independence only when we will conceptualize Gram Swaraj. It is imperative in case of India because 80 per cent of our population lives in rural areas. I express my gratitude towards this Government for the sensitivity it has shown towards this matter even after a long period of Independence which shall definitely prove to be an important factor in nation building.

Corruption is a different issue. It does not depend on the system but on the person who is at the helm of affairs in an institution. It may be regarded as the only factor for dissolving a system, but it is not justified. There is shortage of time. Therefore, I would like to give certain concrete suggestions to the Government one of them being the election procedure. As has been pointed out just now by hon. member Shrimati Kanti Singh that elections were held in Bihar after much efforts i.e. after 22 years and the Government which has come to power in the state now is trying its level best lest democratic system be strengthened. I do not wish to discuss in detail the present scenario, the funds being given by the Central Government, the way it is being utilised but they are very well aware of it. Therefore, I would like to point out that there is a loot going on in all the centrally

[Shri Arun Kumar]

sponsored schemes, be it Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojana or Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and there is abject non-cooperation in the committee set up by the State Government as it does not want that these things be highlighted, evaluated, proved or it may be exposed. Thus, I would like to submit that the Central Government has definitely a role to play therein as has also been stated by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyerji and if we happen twice its history we find that several high-ups of the social sector from Gulzari Lal Nanda, Lal Singh Tyagi etal. have contributed in implementing the Panchayati Raj System and when we have the will power to revamp this institution then we should definitely make an arrangement to incorporate it in the concurrent list. So long as it is not included in the Concurrent List, it is certain that the Government of India will have no control over it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. Many hon. Members are there to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Sir, I am just concluding. So, I want to say that there must be a monitoring cell and the hon. Minister should make a provision to make it effective. If such a provision is not made, the purpose of this resolution will never be served. As regards the existing election procedure which we have just seen in the States. I would like to suggest that the Block Pradhan and the District Chairman should be elected in the same manner as the Panchayat Mukhia is elected. Otherwise, the process which has been adopted like bringing no-confidence motion and the way money and power is used and business is stalled if such things continue, the purpose of this resolution will not be fulfilled ultimately. That's why, the Block Pramukh and the District Chairman should also be elected through direct voting as the Panchayat Mukhiya is elected. Then, we could be able to remove the stigma of horse trading and mistrust.

Mani Shankar Aiyar ji said a number of things in his speech. I differ with him on some of them. He also said something about the bureaucracy which he himself belongs to. I am not a bureaucrat, but I have felt that a person may he be from the legislative, bureaucracy or judiciary, whenever the legislative finds itself unable to do something or it wants to misuse, it get it done by the bureaucracy. I have seen many bureaucrats who are more accountable to the public than to the public representation. I do not agree that all the bureaucrats are corrupt or all of them are honest. So, if we want to keep this alive in a system, the legislators also are expected to accept there responsibility.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He did not refer to all.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: He said that we have come from the system of animals. That system is not such where animals live. He told a tale of the jackal and the tiger. It may be his own logic. In the context of Bihar I would like to submit that the Caste Certificate should be issued by the State Government. However, this right has been vested with the bureaucracy rather than with District Magistrate or Gram Panchayat. Any individual should get caste certificate or age certificate from the very Panchayat where the person resides. For want of such an arrangement people keep making rounds of the District Headquarters. Therefore, this issue should be included in the Concurrent List. This way the system could be streamlined. Further for strengthening the monitoring system, talks should be held with the State Government and if need be Constitution should be amended to ensure proper coordination between the Central Government and the State Governments. Moreover, the Central Government must have full control in regard to the Central funds provided to the State Governments and there should be regular audit so that the public funds are not misutilised.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): Thank you, Sir. I saw the Motion by the hon. Minister Shri Kashi Ram Rana, the wording of which is to consider the progress of implementation of Part IX and Part IX A of the Constitution. This is a very important aspect, which we are reviewing after ten years. This country was ruled by eminent people like Panditji, Indiraji, Rajivji, Morarji Desaiji, Lal Bahadur Shastriji. But when we look into the approach of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to the problems he had a scientific approach. He used a scientific method. When he wanted to look into the educational policy, he approached the teachers in the schools; when he wanted to do something about the agricultural policy, he divided the country into 27 agro-climatic zones. Similarly, he wanted to look into the grassroot-level democratic institution 'Panchayat'.

He wanted to build it up. He studied about it for one year. He found that there was no role in the local bodies for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, women and youth in the villages. He also found many defects like financial embezzlement etc. It is for this reason that he had gone to various parts of the country to see the situation for himself. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was one of the lieutenants who was with him at that time. Shri P. Chidambaram was another

lieutenant with him. As one of our Members was telling, Rajivji went round the country to know about the things and finally he came up with amendments to the Constitution and created a constitutional position for the panchayats.

Sir, panchayat is an age-old institution in our country. People say that this system existed right from the age of Vedas and even no king could interfere with panchayats in those days, but later on, the situation has changed drastically. Then, many Committees were constituted to study the whole system of panchayats and they were headed by people like Shri S.K. Dey, Shri Ashok Mehta, Shri Vengal Rao, Shri Balwant Rai Mehta, etc. After studying the reports of all these Committees, Rajivji chose the best method and brought amendments to the Constitution. Nobody had opposed it except my friends from the TDP in the Rajya Sabha who voted against it. But now they themselves have accepted that it is one of the best way of Panchayat System in our country.

Sir, I do not want to repeat the points made by hon. Members and particularly the points made by our Panchayati Raj Pandit, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. As rightly said by Shri Manda Jagannath, when Shri Venkaiah Naidu was the Minister of Rural Development, they wanted to bring an amendment. As a matter of fact, we also fought for it along with Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. The very purpose of having the five-tier system is to involve more number of people in the Panchayati Raj system to be involved.

Sir, as Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was mentioning, 10 lakh women are involved in the Panchayati Raj institutions in our country. The demand to reserve 33 per cent of seats for women in the legislative bodies of our country is made repeatedly in this House. But Rajivji had the vision to give 33 per cent reservation to women in Panchayati Raj institutions in our country longback. Almost all the States have conducted elections twice to local bodies now. As a matter of fact, I can say from my experience that for the first time when we had chosen women for the local bodies from the villages, their husbands also used to come along with them, sit behind them and help them, but it is not happening now. The situation has changed and women are able to perform their role in the local bodies on their own. This is the kind of progress we have made.

19.00 hrs.

Sir, people say Brahma has created universe. Vishwamitra has created another universe - Pratha srishti. The whole country has got panchayati raj system of Rajivji. Some States have got lapses, some plus or minus points. But my State has got 'Chandra Babu Naidu panchayati raj system'. This is unfortunate. He has conducted the elections. A Sarpanch is got elected as per the Panchayati Raj Act. But various institutions have been created to make that Sarpanch a 'zero'. This Sarpanch has no control over the school. There is Vidya Committee. There is no control from him over the village tank. There is Irrigation Committee. There is no control over 'Anganwadi'. There is Mothers' Committee. Finally, there is a Secretary appointed in the village. The Village Secretary is controlled by Govt. and Sarpanch has been made a 'zero'.

The next step is in our State 'Mandal'. A Mandal has got funds and programmes but no role to Mandal President. It is managed by Janmabhoomi. A 'Janmabhoomi' is controlled by a nodal officer appointed by the District Collector. He is subordinate to the Collector but not to the Mandal. As a result, the Collector is controlled by the Chief Minister or the Chief Secretary. The panchayati raj institution is at the second level and has become a zero. I am still unable to understand what 'janambhoomi' is. My janambhoomi is Vakadu. For others, the janmabhoomi will be their 'janmasthalam" - native place. After all, what is janmabhoomi? I am going on requesting the Chief Minister to explain its concept.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will explain it later on. If I have an opportunity, I will explain it from there.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: I was really waiting for him to be here to know from him about the concept of janmabhoomi. Anyway, I am not raising an accusing finger. I want to know what janmabhoomi is. As far as I know, you know and everybody else knows, janmabhoami is the 'birthplace'. He named it as a programme. There are: Mahila Janmabhoomi, Old Age Janambhoomi, Children's Janambhoomi, etc. Recently, there was another Janambhoomi: Koti Varalu Janambhoomi, that is, one crore gifts. As a result, the people have gone and given the applications. In the district of our friend, Shri Yerrannaidu, the papers were torn out. ...*(Interruptions)* People used to come and give their representations, and it is named as 'Janambhoomi'. Anyway, it is there as programme.

Finally, there is the Zila Parishad. A Zila Parishad is the District Planning Body. According to the Act, the Chairman of the Zila Parishad is the Chairman of the District Planning Body. In Andhra Pradesh, the Chief Minister has created District Development Review Committees where a Minister of the Cabinet is the Chairman of the D.D.R.C. That Chairman of the Zila Parish ad is only a Member. Not only that, all the MLAs of the District are the Members of the Zila Parishad with voting rights. The MPs are Members of the Zila Parishad with voting rights. The MPs can vote here. They can vote for

[Shri N. Janardhana Reddy]

Zila Parishad and Mandal also. As a result, Zila Parishad has also become 'zero'. So, from Sarpanch to Mandal and Zila Parishad, all have become zero.

This is the progress. My dear hon. Minister may kindly note down. Sir, his predecessor, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, told us in the same House that he had spoken to the Chief Minister, A.P. and that the devolution of powers would be done by March 2003, if I remember correctly, it is there in the record. So far, not more than 19 subjects were transferred and those 19 subjects are being controlled by a nodal officer. The first Minister for Rural Development was from Andhra Pradesh. He was Shri Venkataswamy. The hon. Minister can kindly note down the progress and speak to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh about this.

I do not know whether the hon. Minister is going to take any action or not. Some gentleman has studied the Andhra situation and said what can the Central Government do. No one can stir Shri Chandrababu Naidu. If the Centre wants to stir Shri Chandrababu Naidu, he will stir the Central Government. He remarked something like that, if the Centre wants to handle firmly Shri Chandrababu Naidu, he will handle the Centre. I do not know whether they are in a helpless situation or we are in a helpless situation. But the situation is such and the Panchayati Raj system is not functioning properly. I do not want to speak more on this.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of this motion. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing such a motion in this august House. It is in the interest of any progressive nation to review the ongoing schemes. Today, in this august House, we are reviewing the performance of the Panchayati Raj System during the last ten years and trying to ascertain as to what we have lost and what we have gained through these institutions during this period. Even now persons like Nanaji Deshmukh are striving to translate into action their dream of rural upliftment of Mahatma Gandhi, Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Vinobabhaveji. The 73rd and 74th amendments made in the Panchayati Raj Act are proving to be a milestone in the functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country. In accordance thereof, at present two lakh thirty two thousand and two hundred seventy eight Panchayats, 6022 Blocks and about 535 District Councils are functioning in the country. More than twenty two lakh elected representatives are now working therein. Likewise, 3656 Municipal Committees are functioning in urban areas. Another amendment was also enacted in 1996 so that the benefits of this Act trickle down to the women, Scheduled Castes and tribal areas. This has definitely proven to be a boon for these people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for convening the Panchayati Raj Conference at all India level on 3rd December, 2002, to reflect the commitment of the NDA Government to follow the ideals of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay to ensure that the benefits of the Government scheme trickle down to the poorest of the poor in the villages, as India is a country of villages. We shall not stop our endeavour till we extend the benefits to the poorest among the poor in the villages. Shri Kashiram Ranaji is running so many schemes in this direction and the performance of his Department during the tenure of Shri Venkaiah Naidu has been so great for rural areas that it was appreciated not only in India but also in other countries. Even the Ambassador of Japan congratulated Shri Venkaiah Naidu and assured to extend full cooperation to the Panchayati Raj institutions of India.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the 11th Finance Commission has provided Rs.16,000 crore for these institutions thereby facilitating various developmental works in rural areas. On the one hand, the Panchayati Raj institutions have transformed the life in the rural areas and at the same time some of our hon. colleagues have pointed out some of its shortcomings like the need to reserve 33 per cent seats for women at local level for empowerment of women. My friends said that whenever a woman is elected the Chairman of Zila Parishad, Block or Municipal Council, her husband is mockingly addressed as S.P. meaning 'Sarpanch Pati'. It implies that he would be the de facto Sarpanch. And if the lady Sarpanch gets a car at district level, I regret to admit that she is never allowed to sit in that car by her husband. If she remains in office for three-four years, her husband would play politics in his own style. Even if she tries to sit in that car she is pushed out and asked to mind her domestic duties. Today, there is a need to pay attention towards this trend.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Members have been constantly heard saying in this House that the recommendations of the MLAs or the ruling party in a State govern the performance of work. The District Magistrate never bothers for the MPs in the implementation of Centrally sponsored scheme. In view of this Vigilance Committees were set up in the rural areas. But I regretfully admit that an MP is never made the Chairman of the Vigilance Committee and even if he is selected he is never allowed to assume office because there is an apprehension that if an MP would become the Chairman, then he will have his say in the administration. Therefore, I would urge the hon. Minister that since one and a half years are left for the elections, this direction be implemented in all the Vigilance Committees.

I would like to draw your attention to the Rural Development Ministry's performance. Nowadays, there are approximately 3656 municipalities functioning in the urban areas. But due to the shortage of funds, several democratic primary institutions are becoming defunct because the State Government has gradually seized their several sources of income like Octori and other duties. As a result these local bodies have become handicapped. It is the need of the hour that more funds should be allocated to these local organisations so as to strengthen them and make them independent. In the absence of assistance from the State Government, these local bodies sign MoUs with several other organisations in other major cities.

19.16 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a Mayor's Conference was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Anant Kumarji on 12th November, 2002 in which certain declarations were made under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister that an infrastructural scheme be formulated for the development of Urban areas so as to revamp these organisations.

I would like to make a submission in regard to the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana which provides for recommendation of MPs. As far as my State Haryana is concerned, no road has been constructed on our recommendation. Rather, the Chief Engineer came to me for my signatures over the project of doubling certain roads, since all the roads had already been constructed. The alliance is some how being kept working in Haryana. Being an alliance partner, I had to sign it but not even a single road was constructed on my recommendation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the need of discussing it now when you have already signed it.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: What do I do. I was under the compulsion of the alliance. That duty should be fulfilled. I would like to urge that we must be given some help in this matter.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a lot of rural development works are being done through CAPART. I would urge upon you to fully empower the women to revamp this Panchayati Raj System. Similarly, the Government should take whatever steps it can to empower the elected representatives of the downtrodden, exploited community and tribal areas of the country, so that these do not remain merely rubber stamps. The policy of the Government that 90 steps will be taken by the Government if 10 steps are taken by the Gram Panchayats would only be fruitful when the Gram Panchayats are able enough to stand by it. Several times, it has come to our notice that against an announcement seeking the Gram Panchayat to mobilise a minimum of Rs. One lakh for the installation of a tubewell, they are unable to do so. I would like to urge the hon. Minister to make such a provision that if we want to donate Rs.one lakh against an expenditure of Rs.10 lakh in the installation of a tube well we are allowed to do so out of our Rs.2 crore fund so that arrangements for drinking water are made in the village.

Similarly, there is the Public Distribution System in the villages through which 90 per cent of the country's population are being served. We have the largest Public Distribution System functioning throughout the world. The Gram Panchayats play a very important role in making it a success. Similar role can be played in the cities by Municipalities. Today, only fifty per cent of population is availing the drinking water facility. So, I would urge the hon. Minister that maximum drinking water schemes should be implemented to facilitate development.

I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (BETTIAH): Sir, there is a point of information. There are four clocks in the House and each of them gives a different time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been taken note of. There is some snag in the Clocks. Please make use of your wrist watch only. And in case you are not wearing it you can ask your neighbour to help you.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): I thank you very much for giving this opportunity. Our hon. Minister of Rural Development is here. The former Chief Minister of our State and a senior Member had taken the name of our Chief Minister. He called it Chandrababu Naidu's Panchayat Raj system. Regarding this Janmabhoomi, it is not a programme at all. Janmabhoomi is a concept. It is the concept of our motherland. We are rousing the people to develop our own motherland. So far, from 1997 to till date, we have conducted 19 Janmabhoomi programmes. If the Congress people have love for foreign land, I cannot do anything, but in Andhra Pradesh, Janmabhoomi is a motherland concept. ...*(Interruptions)* Why are you against this motherland concept? We love our motherland. That is why, everybody is appreciating this Janmabhoomi concept. Even people from Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and some other States

[Shri K. Yerrannaidu]

also came to Andhra Pradesh and they had studied about all these programmes. According to this Janmabhoomi programme, every six months, the elected representatives, the officials in that particular Mandal and everybody will go to the villages under the chairmanship of the village Panchayat President. We are giving full honour. The Chairperson is convening the meeting. All the officials at the Mandal level will be present in the meeting. So, that is the concept. ...*(Interruptions)* I have to clarify this. The Minister should know it.

When I was an MLA, he was the Chief Minister. The District Planning Committee was not formed by Shri Chandrababu Naidu. The then Chief Minister also continued the system. Even when Shri Janardhana Reddy was the Chief Minister, I was an MLA in the State Legislative Assembly. I used to attend the District Planning Board meetings for some other purpose. There are different powers. The Zilla Parishad local bodies are different. The District Planning Boards are different. ...*(Interruptions)* So, this system is not created by Shri Chandrababu Naidu. The then Chief Minister had created that system. So I want to clarify the position to the hon. Minister of Rural Development.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, I must thank the Minister as he has brought this Motion here. But I must say that it is a Motion brought in a casual manner and it is late. Of course, it is better late than never. A little over a decade ago, the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution were passed, but the dream of Panchayat Raj is standing sound. A few States like West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh were able to register notable examples in this field. Several hon. Members of this House had rightly said about the great contribution of the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. But I would like to say that before the enactment of this Panchayat Raj system at the Centre, West Bengal had introduced the Panchayat Raj system more than a decade before.

In the year 1978, the three-tier panchayati raj system was successfully introduced in West Bengal inducting women and also inducting Scheduled Castes. The voting right at the age of eighteen was first introduced in West Bengal. So, we have gathered experience of not only a decade but we have gathered experience of 25 years in panchayati raj system in West Bengal but what is the position in major parts of our country and how is the system being introduced in other States? The States should delegate powers to the panchayati raj institutions because panchayati raj institutions constitute local self-government. May I know from the hon. Minister how many States have passed legislation for devolution of powers to the panchayati raj institutions? I think, most of the States have not done it so far. So, what is the achievement if most of the States have not enacted a law for devolution of powers to the panchayati raj institutions?

Some vital aspects of democratic functioning of the local bodies have to be looked at closely. There should be regular elections. There should be adequate representation of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, women, etc. In West Bengal, we have recently finished our three-tier panchayat elections. I am pleased to say here that not just 33 per cent but more than 42 per cent women have occupied seats in panchayats. I am very glad to inform this august House that in my constituency and in my district, two gram panchayats are completely controlled and run by women. ...*(Interruptions)*

When we are talking about local self-government, we say that local self-government should have adequate legislative powers, executive powers and judicial powers. So, we should introduce the system of *nyay panchayats* at the grass-root level. Nothing has been done so far about this. This should be looked into.

Some hon. Members have raised the point of direct elections for the post of pradhans and pramukhs. I oppose that idea. No direct election should be there for the district heads or to the heads of blocks. The other point is regarding reservation for the posts of pradhans, pramukhs or district heads or panchayat samiti heads. This should be thought over and should be changed. This idea should be dropped. If we talk about reservation for the posts of pradhans and pramukhs at the district level, why can that system not be introduced at the level of the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers? Reservation of seats is all right but reservation should not be there for the post of head of institution. So, this should be reviewed.

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has raised the point that Panchayat is in the State List and we should think over to bring it in the Concurrent List. I oppose to that idea. We should think of strengthening the local system. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Chairman Sir, I am sorry. I must clarify. I did not say that we should think about transferring it. I said that if they have the courage, they can think about it. I did not say that we should transfer it. That is all I want to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: It is very kind of you.

The most important point about the Panchayati Raj System is the participation of the people. We are talking about democracy. Democracy means the participatory democracy

where the people are involved in the panchayat system. This should be the main thing.

In the State of West Bengal, the commitment for decentralisation of power is already in progress. So, keeping this thing in mind, they have passed the legislation. They are also emphasising for strengthening the local administration, the local self-government. ...*(Interruptions)* I know what you are trying to say. But your leader has already said that panchayat is irrelevant to her. She does not think about the panchayat system. She made a public statement like that.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister, through you, to see how far the panchayat system is running all over the country. The hon. Minister should take an initiative to have a meeting of all the State Ministers to assess and to monitor everything for the better performance of Panchayati Raj System.

Last but not least, without land reforms, the Panchayati Raj System will not be meaningful. So, that should be taken as a priority.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Nitish Sengupta.

[Translation]

Names of appropriately 18 hon. Members are remaining in the list. It would be proper to say little keeping this in view.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (CONTAI): Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I also thank the hon. Minister, Shri Kashiram Rana for taking the initiative for a discussion on this topic.

Sir, automatically my mind goes back to a fond recollection of the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, whose bold vision and whose willingness to take any unpopular steps -- in larger interests -- led to this Constitutional Amendment. But we still remember him. Now, what was his vision and how has it been translated into the ground reality? To my mind, I am sorry to say that there is a lot of difference. I would have said exactly like what my friend, Shri Prabodh Panda said, if I had to speak here on this subject five or six years ago because I did not have the benefit to go to the rural West Bengal and have direct interface with the way the panchayat system is working.

I mentioned about Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, who was the first person to introduce panchayat legislation in West Bengal. But his idea was never to politicise it. His idea was that elections should take place to Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti and others on a non-political basis. To my mind, the present rulers in West Bengal should not have gone into turning the panchayat institutions into a political battlefield. That has been a very wrong step. Then, panchayats have become just institutionalised local corruption in many cases.

I know of many cases where women have come to power. If there was one idea of the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi of empowering the women, certainly Panchayati Raj Institutions have, to a large extent, done that. But after that this politicisation has been a very bad thing. One of the other things they did was to make the Collector of the district the Chief Executive Officer. Well, I have been a Collector and I have dealt with the Panchayat Zila Parishad as Sabhapati and all those bodies. But for the Collector to be turned into a Chief Executive Officer has been a very suicidal step, as it happened. That means there is no supervision and nobody at the local level is even remotely concerned with the mass-scale corruption that is going on and the Collector cannot discharge his duties properly.

Also he cannot do justice to his duties as the chief person for maintenance of law and order or as Collector of the district and collection of revenue and all that kind of things.

In the elections that took place in the Panchayats very recently, I know and I have seen that in about 20,000 seats the Left Front candidates won them uncontested. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): No, it is totally wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: No, it was only in about 6,000 seats. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: In the Zila Panchayats, there were contests. Please do not tell wrong things here. The elected Presidents were there in 17 districts. ...*(Interruptions)* Elections were held. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, we cannot provide them with candidates.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Sir, it is only a euphemism. They say that we cannot find candidates because none of our supporters is there. It is only a euphemism. The whole point is and we know that, at least in my own area there is one pocket called Khejuri where the armed gangs went to the houses of the people and threatened the womenfolk. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: It is all wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: They said: 'If your husbands file the nominations, you will be a widow.' ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, he is spreading all canons of untruths. The people have refused all these things. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: No, I have seen it. I have been told by the people. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You are seeing the things with coloured glasses. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: No, it is not like that. I have seen it. Women told me that they were threatened with the words: 'If you have to live the life of a widow, let your husband file his nomination tomorrow; but then, you will have to be ready to live the life of a widow'. This is the kind of thing which happened. This is the kind of Panchayat which is there, which is certainly not the desire of Shri Rajiv Gandhi or Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy or Shri Balwant Rai Mehta or Panditji or Gandhiji. So, politicisation has not been a correct thing.

Secondly, I will say that the Collector should not have been made the Chief Executive Officer. In fact, I was there in the Government of West Bengal when that was being done and I had discussed with the then Chief Minister who appreciated my point of view. But he said that unless the Collector is involved, nobody will give respect to the institution. Well, he had some point in that.

Today, at the end of it, I feel that that was a wrong step and they should try to reverse their step by making a separate officer equivalent to Collector as incharge of it, as something which happened in Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): In such a case the development would be zero. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD MAHARASHTRA): In Maharashtra the CEO is there. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Then, talking about corruption and politicisation, because of the in-built inefficiency, every year crores of rupees which go from the Centre are returned unutilised because they do not have the system to really spend the money. That is why I am saying that corruption has taken deep roots.

On politicisation, just yesterday I got a letter regarding the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana. I was shocked to see that - they have given the figures - not one of my proposals has been accepted by the Zila Parishad. They went on saying no. In the case of my good friend, the M.P. from the neighbouring area, who is from CPI(M), there was 'yes' all through for his proposals. All his proposals have been accepted and all my proposals have been turned down by simply saying 'no', on the ground that it does not conform to whatever they call as core reality or core plan or something like that. The point is that if that is the decision, they should have told me. This is another example, as I was telling you, of what is happening.

Then comes the question of auditing. I do not know whether those Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads are at all audited. If they are audited, why are not the reports published or brought out? I had tried in vein to get the audit reports of a number of Panchayat Samitis. I had written to the BDOs, SDOs, DMs, etc. They are just not able to give it. There is something very seriously wrong with that system. I see that the Comptroller and Auditor General was requested to give some guidelines and some guidelines were given. But then, I do not know what happened thereafter.

About the State Election Commission, the less said the better it is. There was a meeting at Khejuri, the same place that I was talking about where not one person from the Gram Panchayat could file his nomination. Then, when the all-Party meeting held by the BDO took place, the representative of the CPI(M) walked out because he wanted a particular school as the venue which is situated at the heart of the troubled, disturbed, terror-struck area.

That was to be the way. All others suggested some other places and I suggested some other places. The DM said that he was convinced and he would do that, but he said that the Election Commission turned it down. I had also spoken to the officials in the Election Commission. Normally, I do not interfere in these things. They said, 'Sir, would you please write something or send a fax?' I did that. Still, the Election Commission intervened to select that particular school which was at the heart of the terror struck area, where nobody from outside would go, as venue for the counting. So, this is the kind of rural democracy that we are living in.

I agree about land reforms. As I said, in fact, if I had to speak on the subject six years ago, I would have said exactly what I have said now, but I am afraid that my exposure to the ground reality. ...*(Interruptions)* has given me a new perspective.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Now, he has his political compulsion. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: No, I have no political compulsion. I have seen that.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: (RAJGARH): Respected Chairman, Sir, the first Panchayat in the country was constituted during the period of Mahatma Gautam Buddha. Following that and turning the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi into reality, Shri Rajiv Gandhi initiated this discussion of Panchayati Raj throughout the country and the Congress Government set up the Panchayati Raj system throughout the country by adopting 73rd Constitution Amendment.

India is now fully self reliant in the field of production of foodgrains. In the field of industrial development, we have been placed at No. ten in the world. We stand at No. six in the field of space programmes being run in public interest as well as in the interest of the country. Now, it is the time when we should strengthen Panchayat System and Municipality System of India by making employment oriented. India is the largest democracy of the world.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are 2 lakh 32 thousand and 278 Gram Panchayats, 6022 Nagar Panchayats and 535 district Panchayats in the country. To run all these Panchayats, there are 29.2 lakh Panchayat representatives who are bound to run this system. Today, we have gathered here in this House to discuss and assess as to what we have lost and gained after implementing the Panchayati Raj System during these ten years. During this period of 10-11 years, the Rural Development Ministry of the Union Government has been implementing a number of employment oriented programmes with the help of other Ministries. What I want to suggest is that if all such programmes are brought under one Ministry and if we name the Ministry of Rural Development as the Ministry of Panchayat and rural development, then in my opinion it would be more appropriate. Apart from it, if we cover all the employment oriented schemes being implemented through other Ministries, it would be a good step. If you follow Article 240(g), it will facilitate better coordination among the Union Government and various State Governments and it would lead to strengthening of the Panchayati Raj.

You have constituted Research Advisory Committee for your research and development work. I am pained to say that Research Advisory Committee has not been taken seriously. The Chairman of that Committee is the Secretary Rural Development. I wonder if a single officer can do research on all Panchayats of the country while sitting in an office of the Ministry of Rural Development. The issue seeks to be addressed seriously. You must take the people of Opposition in confidence. We have started the Panchayati Raj campaign. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and other people were also with us at that time. You should take those people in confidence and if you act after consulting them, it can be strengthened all the more.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Article 240(h) empowers the Panchayats to levy and fix taxes but number of Panchayats have not been provided this power so far. Article 243(i) empowers the State Governments to constitute State Finance Commission. A number of State Government have constituted this Commission but some Governments have not done so. As such it is necessary that you should order all the State Governments to constitute the Finance Commission positively. There are several State Governments where the State Finance Commission was constituted once but it has not been constituted again. You should also order them to constitute it.

I am sorry to point out that the independent Auditors appointed by the Government are not performing their duties properly. A Member of Parliament was also just now saying that auditing work of Panchayats is not being done properly. There is a need to implement the recommendations made by Ashok Mehta Committee. This Committee has suggested internal Auditor-cum-Financial Advisor to be appointed in Panchayat System so that financial management of Panchayats could be strengthened. In some State Governments the C.O. of district Panchayats has got huge powers. Sarpanch complain that he does not bother about anyone and that he acts arbitrarily. If such system would be there, then it would harm the Panchayati Raj institution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what I want to say is that the Chief Secretary of a State may differ with the Chief Minister of that State but he should be accountable to the Legislative Assembly. This is wrong-likewise the C.O. of any district is accountable to the Panchayat Raj, but if he is not accountable to the head of the Zila Panchayat, that system is not proper. It must be rectified. As regards Madhya Pradesh which is the first State to implement Panchayati Raj System, there we are trying that Confidential Report of District Panchayat Officer be written by the Members of Zila Panchayat so that we may keep some checks on him.

I would like to mention only two-three points since the time is very short. Many of my friends have talked about gender equality. Women Sarpanch, women members are not given their full rights. Efforts are made that they should not attend the meeting. Just now a Member was saying that husband of a woman Sarpanch also accompanies her. Keeping all these things in view, we must address the empowerment of women.

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

A large number of people are migrating from the rural areas to the cities in search of employment. It is because of the reason that we have not been able to make the Panchayats employment oriented. As such there is a need to make the Panchayats employment oriented.

Recently, the Government of Japan has made a lofty offer to the Government of India. We must take the advantage of that offer. They have initiated. I do not know at what stage that matter is, whether you have cleared or not but they have offered to give money for empowerment of women, for promotion of horticulture and food processing in Panchayats. If you are really serious about strengthening of Panchayats, then you must come forward and avail the advantage of this offer and take assistance from the Government of Japan. This is what the World Bank has also said.

The Municipalities and towns are turning into slums gradually because job seekers are running towards these places. There is a problem of drinking water there. The drainage has got choked. The water logging problem is also there. This is the position in a number of cities. Municipalities should be equipped with financial powers. Powers to levy tax has been given to the municipalities but that is not implemented. It needs to be strengthened.

At last I would only like to say that you should take the opposition in confidence and appoint such officers and include such people, there are a number of good NGOs. There are a number of workers who do not want anything from you but they are working while being in Panchayats and living in villages. Unite such people. If you run the Panchayats by including such people in the mainstream, then they will provide a lot of strength.

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO (JAMSHEDPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank our Government and the Minister in view of the issue we are discussing today. We have brought this proposal regarding conducting a review for the last ten years. I come from a State where Panchayat elections have not been held for the last twenty years and that State is Jharkhand. Our's is a democratic country and there should be decentralisation of powers in a democratic country. It is only then we can reach the last person in the process of development and the Panchayati Raj is covered under that set up through which development of villages and the last person could be effected. Panchayat elections have not so far been held in the State to which I belong. Our Minister has stated that Panchayat elections have not been held in Pondicherry and Jharkhand. I would like that the Panchayat elections also be held there. The benefit of powers and rights should reach down to the last person but there are some points which are required to be addressed and I would like to bring these points to the notice of the Minister.

There is scheduled area in our Jharkhand State and as per the existing provisions, there is a provision of reservation wherever Adivasis comprise fifty per cent of our population. But my colleague Shri Pradip Yadav has spoken on behalf of our Government. He has also brought it to our notice that such a provision has been made in respect of Scheduled Area in our Jharkhand State that if there is even one Adivasi house, that Panchayat will be earmarked as reserved. This has been done even in Waghweda in my Parliamentary Constituency where there is one Adivasi house and rest of the people belong to general categories. If there would be people belonging to SC and ST community, then there could be some amendment in the provisions and the way the reservation has been made applicable, this facility should be provided wherever fifty percent population comprise of people belonging to ST community. This will pave the way for social equalisation and create brotherhood and harmony amongst the people of villages. As such, these points are essential. Likewise, in our Jamshedpur city, the municipality has provided less services and TELCO company of Tata Steel manages the services. The arrangements are very good in the area maintained by Tata Company - TELCO but there are many persons in the area/localities not maintained by this company because there are neither Tata men nor municipality to maintain these localities/areas. As such I would like that arrangements should be made to cover such areas under municipality and there should be elections for the municipality so that we could strengthen the set up available there.

Many Members were just now asking as to how the facility could be provided there. Mani Shankar Aiyar ji also expressed his views in a very nice way which made me feel that he has nursed agony somewhere. He was emphasising upon the officer. He termed the officers as slaves of second grade but what I want to say is that officers are not slaves and they have got no enmity against us. They use the machinery through which we have to work. They are there to cooperate us. Be it B.D.O. of the block or C.O., there is nothing like terming them as slaves or owners and kings or the subjects. They are there to help us. They do only that what they are ordered to do. Their designation is Block Development Officer and their duty is to take up the development work. We should assist them in carrying out their duties and they should also work with the sense of cooperating others. Then I think other Members like Shri Mani Shankar ji will not be perturbed.

As far as participation of women is concerned, I believe that women have got the participation through Panchayat. We cannot deny it. I would like to convey thanks to the Government for this. We are very much linked with the villages and the villages have also elected women as their representatives in Panchayats. Panchayat elections have not so far been held in Jharkhand but women have contested and won the Panchayat elections in Bihar. I have heard that some one had to move to the court for the rights. I do not know whether it was some man or woman. But such things should not happen. They should get their rights. The work should be done through the rights and work mindset of women. Nowadays a number of women have associated themselves with the villages. The women, who were not fully in position to leave their houses, now go and sit in Panchayat offices and do their work. In this connection I would like to submit that arrangement should be made to impart training to them at the district level. The training should be imparted irrespective of any discrimination on the basis of gender and they should be told as to how the funds would be available and how they could do their work. They will be able to do their work more efficiently if such training is imparted in the districts once in six months or a year.

As regards funds, the MP can inform the people and count the works undertaken by him/her under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme. More funds are provided to the districts. Keeping that thing in view the funds provided under the MPLAD Scheme are very meagre. But such arrangements should also be made at the Panchayat level and funds should be provided to the Panchayat heads so that they could get their work done and utilise the funds.

I would like to convey thanks that today we are discussing this subject. I hope that the Minister would attend to what I have said.

[English]

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (TRIPURA WEST): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important motion.

With the passage of the Constitution (Seventy-Third) Amendment Act and the Constitution (Seventy-Fourth) Amendment Act in 1992, the Panchayati Raj Institutions were given Constitutional status and the three-tier Panchayati Raj system was formed to ensure people's participation in rural development. PRIs may be the bedrock of India's rural development but, has this new area in our federal democratic system delivered the results expected from it? Unfortunately, PRIs are not equally effective everywhere in the country. Lack of political will and class interests stand in their way. It is a crude reality.

Political indifference on the part of the Central Government as well as several State Governments has delayed matters and created difficulties. It may be pointed out that PRIs are forced to accept funds under Centrally-sponsored schemes under the financial clout of the Central Government. It is certainly a deplorable situation. I would like to speak about the weaknesses of the PRIs which have been identified through several mechanisms over the years but have not yet been removed. I will not go in to the lacunae due to paucity of time.

The National Commission to review the working of the Constitution has suggested an amendment to the Constitution to devolve financial powers to Panchayats.

20.00 hrs.

The objective stated to be is to develop them as institutions of self-governance.

Sir, two conferences of the Panchayati Raj Ministers have been held by the Central Government -- one in July, 2001 and the other in April, 2002. These conferences had rightly identified many lacunae. All these are on record. I would request the hon. Minister to go through the minutes of these Panchayati Raj Ministers' Conferences. It was also decided in the meetings that an Amendment to the Constitution shall be brought about to ensure speedy and effective devolution of financial and administrative powers to Panchayats. This was followed by several statements by the Union Ministers in support of the Amendment to the Constitution. It was also stated that the meetings shall be held with all the Chief Ministers followed by a meeting with all the political parties under the chairmanship of the hon. Prime Minister to evolve necessary consensus in this regard.

So, Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to ponder over it. What has happened after that? All these things have remained as mere talks. There is a feeling that the Central Government is not really serious about the strengthening of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. I would strongly urge upon the Government to get out of the lethargy and actively initiate discussions to evolve a consensus for strengthening the PRIs.

Sir, coming to the functioning of different Panchayati Raj Institutions, I would proudly say that Tripura is the second State in the country to hold elections to the Panchayati Raj for all the three tiers. In fact, even prior to the Constitutional Amendment, Tripura has been holding Panchayat elections

[Shri Khagen Das]

regularly from 1978 onwards after the Left Front Government came to power in Tripura, and these bodies were effectively involved in all the decision-making. I can proudly tell this hon. House that the Tripura Government has taken every step to implement all the schemes, decisions as per Seventy-third Amendment of the Constitution, except one. What is that? That is the constitution of District Planning Committees.

Sir, in Tripura, substantial parts of State are covered under the Sixth Schedule Areas where provisions of Article 243 (ZD) could not be found feasible to be extended for constituting these District Planning Committees. The matter has been brought to the knowledge of the Central Government but the decision of the Government is still awaited. Till today, there is no decision. I would again submit to the House that in Tripura no decision or project can be implemented without the full involvement and participation of the PRIs.

Sir, with regard to the utilisation of funds, I would proudly say that Tripura is one of the best States in the country. Over the years, the PRI system has become strong and vibrant in Tripura, and all these facts have been appreciated by the Government of India.

Now, I come to the Panchayat elections which were very recently held in West Bengal. The sixth Panchayat election in West Bengal marked a resounding victory of CPI(M) and the Left Front as a whole, in view of the all-out heinous campaign and false allegations of violence against the Left Front, CPI(M), as well as the formation of joint alliance by opposition parties. It is also a significant and positive response to the glorious success of the Panchayati Raj system in West Bengal. Massive victory has been achieved because of the Left Front's firm stand to defend the interest of the people and to safeguard and strengthen the democracy at the grass root level. Today, no decision or project can be implemented in rural West Bengal without full involvement and participation of PRIs. Operation Barga has created a social and economic miracle for the weaker sections in West Bengal. Panchayat elections in West Bengal drew a close attention from the people and the Media allover the country because of the fact that it has put into practice the most democratic and centralised systems so far.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Thank you Chairman, Sir. I stand here to support the Motion moved by the hon. Minister. Practically, today, the motion is mainly dealing with the progress of the implementation of Part IX and Part IX(A) of the Constitution during the last 10 years. Practically, we are discussing about a Progress Report. We are discussing as to what we have done within the last 126 months. With the introduction of three-tier Panchayati Raj system to enlist people's participation in rural reconstruction, the Panchayati Raj institutions have a great role to play. According to the Constitution, Panchayats shall be given powers and authority to function as institutions of self-governance. That is the basic idea on which the amendment was done. The powers and responsibilities delegated to these institutions are basically three.

One is the preparation of a plan for economic development and social justice.

The second is the implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice in relation to 29 subjects given in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.

The third is to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees.

At this juncture, according to the 73rd Amendment, two things have been demonstrated within the last 126 months.

One is that elections have been ensured.

The second is that Gram Sabhas have been effected.

Earlier, though elections were there, after Independence Panchayats have come into force. After Balwant Rai Mehta's Report, in early 60's or late 50's, these institutions came in a big way. Earlier Mr. S.K. Dey came in with the idea of community development. I am reminded of certain names, because they are mentioned here. In the mid-50's, Bhagini Nivedita was totally opposed to the community development project, that was launched by Pandit Nehru. She categorically had stated:

> "The community development does not go in tune with Gandhiji's Gram swaraj."

She had stated that. She was a true Gandhian. She had said that in mid-50's. Now, we have taken a lot of time. Already five decades have passed. Practically, now we are discussing about Panchayatiraj. I have been hearing for the last four or five hours. What I have been hearing is as to how to give more power to the Panchayati Raj institutions to make them self-reliant. Gandhiji's idea during freedom struggle was to attain *Swadheenta*, as we used to say it. Firstly, you have to be aware about your *Swadhikar*.

Then you become *swabalambi. Swabalamban* was the word used for self-reliance. Then, you can attain independence or Swadheenta; and then *swaraj* will come. These are the four stages which he used to say in his speech.

I would confine my speech to basically two aspects with which the Resolution is concerned. Many good things have been said about gram sabha. I have a different viewpoint totally. Of course, some hon. Members have mentioned how the gram sabha was functioning. My experience has been that gram sabha is a sham, a hoax. I need not explain that. It is said that gram sabha would exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the legislature of a State. This is not happening. No power has been given to the gram sabha in that respect.

Secondly, it is also said that all the villagers above the age of 18 years would have an inherent right to determine their own destiny. They do not determine which project is going to be implemented, where and who is going to do the job. Are they going to determine their own destiny by deciding this programme?

Thirdly, it is also mentioned that gram sabha is the forum where marginalised poor can influence decisions affecting their lives. Is it happening anywhere at all? Let us ask ourselves. Is it happening anywhere? I would like to ask this House as to how the system has worked during the last 126 months. Let us truthfully analyse our experience in this regard. My experience is no less than others. Let us not fool ourselves. It is of course an utopian idea to expect the people to prepare their own plan of development. Nobody is against it nor am I. But the moment fund is allotted for a specific job and gram sabha is called, the village is divided into two groups, if not three; and no decision is taken.

Finally, it is the observer or the employee from the Block level or the panchayat samiti who is deputed to oversee the meeting, decides whether a job is to be done or not done Then, how can we say that the marginalised poor influence the decisions that are affecting his life? Rather it is the authority which decides. So, why do we do all these things under the garb or in the name of the people?

As I have mentioned earlier, there are three stages to make the gram sabha successful. Firstly, gram sabha would exercise powers and perform such functions as the legislature. Let those powers be given first and it should be allowed to function as such. Secondly, it should be in a position to generate its own resources. Funds being provided by the Centre or the State do not create responsibilities. Nowadays, panchayats are just a mechanism to utilise funds. This mechanism does not create responsibilities; rather, it is only a delivery point. Thirdly, during the last 57 years, one thing that we have learnt fully and truthfully is that we have became aware about our rights. We seldom remember about our duties and responsibilities. Panchayati raj as conceived by Gandhiji was something else. It is not the panchayati raj of today. Gandhiji had said about *swabalamban*, self-reliance or self-sustenance, which would make us non-dependent on others. But today, we talk of Japan and we talk of World Bank, etc. What is happening today?

Panchayats are dependent on the State machinery. Unless money comes from the Centre or the State, there is very little work for them to do. Today, the Executive is expected to do all sorts of rural development through Panchayats. In many districts, by-passing the district administration, gram sabha is being pampered. But as far as I understand, the moot point of gram sabha is to make the functioning of the administration more transparent. That is what has been mentioned here. Gram Sabha has a key role in bringing about transparency in the functioning of the Gram Panchayats. I would request the hon. Minister through you that we should give more stress on making the functioning of the Panchayats more transparent through Gram Sabhas. I would come to that point a little later.

People should know what the programme is, how it is being implemented and at what cost. But the moment you allow Gram Sabha to prioritise the development projects or works, all hell is let loose.

Selection of beneficiaries of various schemes of the Central Government undertaken for rural development is also done in a hush-hush manner. My humble request to this august House is that Gram Sabhas should be a mechanism to make administration transparent and not the decision making body.

The Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended Rs.1600 crore per annum for rural local bodies of this country. As has been mentioned earlier, at present there are about 2,32,278 Gram Panchayats, 6022 Panchayat Samitis and 535 Zila Parishads. These panchayats are being manned by about 33 lakh elected representatives. If we calculate about one-third of this to be reserved for women, one can understand the number of women who have been elected. But the problem not lies with the election but with the dummies, as has been mentioned here.

Today with the three-tier system, the members who are elected jointly either to Panchayat Samitis, or as in Andhra Pradesh, for Zila Parishads, the nominees have a little role to play in the functioning of Panchayati Raj System throughout the country. We have one system in Andhra Pradesh and another in Bihar, Orissa or Maharashtra. Why can we not have a uniform elected body throughout the country irrespective of the States?

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

I would now come to the second aspect of my discussion. Though elections are being held regularly with ample participation of the people, there is only minimum administrative and fiscal decentralisation, which is still under the control of the State Governments. I would suggest that the recommendations of the State Finance Commissions be accepted fully by the Government. Powers be given to the State Election Commissions to deal with all matters relating to Panchayat elections, namely, delimitation of constituencies, rotation of reserved seats in Panchayats, finalisation of electoral rolls, etc. Thirdly, Gram Sabhas should be the nodal agency to make the functioning of the panchayats transparent.

Lastly, there is a need for audit. The officials and non-officials in the Panchayati Raj bodies who handle public money will have to satisfy the taxpayers about the proper utilisation of the amounts placed at their disposal. This necessitates the audit of accounts of all such bodies by an agency not subordinate to the expending authorities. It is with this object in view that an independent Auditor is required on behalf of the taxpayer. The Auditor has to certify the amounts advanced to the Panchayati Raj bodies as grant-in-aid. He has to ensure regularity and propriety of expenditure of public money and its proper accounting. Further, the account is an instrument of detecting cases of wastage, misappropriation and mis-application of funds and leakage of revenues. Therefore, Gram Sabha as the primary body can act as a very significant and interesting dimension so far as accountability of these bodies is concerned. The annual accounts including the audit report be submitted to the Gram Sabha for review and approval of the people's body.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please conclude. You may send your suggestions to the Hon'ble Minister in detail in writing.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Sir, I just need another two minutes. The aspect of accountability is most central for the success of the system because of the fact that massive funding is being made available to the local bodies both by the Centre as well as by the States. If we take 22 December, 1992, which was the landmark day of passing 73rd Amendment as the basis, more than a decade has passed. Gandhi ji's vision of making every village a self-reliant unit is yet to be translated into reality. But the 73rd Amendment is the bedrock of India's rural development and poverty alleviation efforts. It has the potential of building a progressive India in harmony with the felt needs and aspirations of the people. The time has come that we should go for second generation Panchayati Raj reforms now.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL): Sir, first and foremost, I would like to compliment the hon. Minister for Rural Development, Shri Kashiram Rana and his Ministry for bringing this very comprehensive paper, the background note, and the motion that this House do consider the progress of implementation of Part IX and Part IX-A of the Constitution (dealing with Panchayats and Municipalities as institutions of self-government) during the last ten years. I also compliment him for his patience as he has been cheerfully bearing with us all the points. These two comprehensive papers have shown that the progress, whether it is elections, reservation, constitution of State Finance Commissions -- which should be mandatory -- State Election Commissions as well as the progress in the implementation of the discretionary provisions of the 73rd Amendment Act, preparation of plans for economic development, social justice and implementation of schemes as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to matters referred to in the Eleventh Schedule, is very slow and disappointing.

Sir, I would like to take this opportunity also to pay my humble tribute to the conviction, courage, determination, ethos, and vision of our late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi who introduced the two - 72nd and 73rd Amendment Bills which later became 73rd and 74th Amendment Bills where I was also associated with one of the Joint Committees as Chairman. He did not live to see the day but he gave us the courage and inspiration. I appreciate Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao also. Although he was carrying on a minority Government, yet he could get the combined wisdom of the House to support the Bill.

Here I would like to compliment my colleague, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. It had been a mission with him since the day he has come to Parliament and today power to the people and decentralisation of democracy is a reality.

There are many things which are unsatisfactory. One gets some indication from these two background notes. One is the functions and the functionaries. Therefore, I compliment the Department, including your former Ministers Shri Shanta Kumar as well as Shri Venkaiah Naidu, for setting up a Task Force on the devolution of powers and funds, which had made social audit of untied funds mandatory. It has also given importance to Gram Sabhas. The Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Employment has also given recommendations on 22 September, 2002. The Ministry of Finance has realised it and it has made provisions to raise extra budgetary resources.

The Tenth and the Eleventh Finance Commissions and the C&AG had to give the Government guidelines since the

fiscal discipline and accounting was not satisfactory. The Ministry of Rural Development had to give further instructions. The Government had two meetings with the Ministers of Rural Development of the States. I am complementing the Government for this initiative because in the last ten years the implementation has been tardy. It has not been as per the spirit of either the 73rd or the 74th amendments. It has not been implemented in letter and spirit. It has either been by violation or the State Governments have been recalcitrant or reluctant to implement it, as is indicative from the two papers that the Government has given. So, I compliment the Ministry for this initiative. But we should not be helpless. I would come to that a little later.

Sir, the same thing is there in the other background note for IX-A as well. But here the audit and accounts of the municipalities has been left totally to the discretion and wisdom of the State Governments, unlike the ones for the Panchayati Raj Institutions and C&AG. Here it is delightfully vague. The Committee for District Planning and Metropolitan Planning still has not seen the light of the day. This was in the 74th amendment.

Sir, amendment to article 280 of the Constitution now makes it mandatory for the Central Finance Commission to give devolution. The Tenth Finance Commission gave rupees one thousand crore to the municipalities, as has been mentioned by the hon. Minister. I am not talking of the Panchayati Raj institutions. That was about rupees four thousand odd crore and this time it is Rs. 8,000 crore. The Eleventh Finance Commission has given Rs. 2,000 crore to the municipalities. But what about the State Finance Commissions? It is not mandatory. It is only recommendatory in nature. So, the municipalities and panchayats have been left to the whims, fancies and patronage of the State Governments and others. They still have to go with a begging bowl because their finances are in a precarious condition. Therefore, what is required is a time-bound action plan for Panchayati Raj and the municipalities, specially at a time when Panchayati Raj institutions and the municipalities, that is the local self-government, have become irreversible and have made some way towards institutionally making India not only the world's largest democracy but also the most representative democracy of achieving a very high significance.

Sir, today we have 30 lakh representatives. This was the vision that the late Rajiv Gandhi had. Ten to twelve lakhs people vote for one Member of Parliament whom they may see once in five years or even may not see. One and a half lakhs people vote for an MLA, whom they may not see for more than a dozen or two dozen times in that period. But here is someone who will be nearer their homes, who will be known to them intimately and who they will see daily. Today we have ten lakhs women who are representing us and this is a great step towards participatory democracy.

Sir, what we lack today is empowering these elected bodies to function as institutions of local self-government and it is at best disappointing as the two background notes have brought out. I compliment the Government for giving us this objective note. What is required is a draft road map for five years. In the Sports Ministry you have a long term development plan for four years coinciding with the Olympics or the Asian Games. But here on a subject that touches the heart and soul of everyone - the Panchayats -- we do not have a road map. There is no effective devolution. What is required today is subsidiarity, that is, small things that they can do and for bigger things that are beyond them, the Centre or the State Government can help. What is required is not discretion but a mandatory, statutory legislation to make it absolutely permanent. What is required is clearly demarcated subject-wise areas, which is known as activity mapping, and what is also required is a symbiotic process - not discretionary but with a discussion.

The Eleventh Finance Commission has started giving awards. Let me take a little pride and privilege of having been associated with this Joint Committee. What we require is that we must preclude diversion of the Finance Commission awards temporarily or permanently. We have seen that even the Defence Ministry funds approved by Parliament are diverted towards drought. Last year Rs.9300 crore could not be spent. Therefore, we must ensure that there is no diversion, there is no centralisation in the name of decentralisation and that the Centre as well as the State Finance Commission grants should be mandatorily and strictly monitored and social audit done, which is not so as far as the State is concerned.

As far as the functionaries are concerned, it should be subordination of the bureaucracy to the elected representatives. I am sorry, I cannot agree here with my very eminent friend, Dr. Nitish Sengupta because I also come from a State where we see how these officers are being used or misused by the threat of carrot and stick policy. Therefore, there should be a legislation and the DRDA should be totally merged with the Zila Parishad. We should not have two parallel bodies or dichotomy like the Government of India Act of 1935 so that authority and discipline are ensured and the municipalities as well as the Zila Parishads should have the freedom to decide what should be the number and the size of the bureaucracy or the technical persons on their

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

role. We should free them from the excess staff burden as is prevalent. There should be a review system not by the bureaucrats or the elected representatives, but it should be replaced by a peer group like we have in Parliament and in the State Assemblies.

Then I come to the question of planning. The District Planning Committees, as the background note indicates, is only a pious intention. But it is not being implemented so far except in two or three States. Therefore, the planning for economic development and social justice should be indicative rather than coercive from above. This has been the sense of the House for the last fifty years. We are getting an opportunity of discussing this after ten years. So, this must be ensured by legislation because discretion has not worked in the last ten years.

Since we are living in an age of information technology, since the Panchayats and Zila Parishads and the municipalities may not be having as gigantic an expert body like the Planning Commission, we could share through information technology the data and information which is reliable, independent and timely at our disposal because that is the essence of all planning. So, the attitude of the Planning Commission must change. It must recognise that Panchayati Raj and municipalities have a crucial role to play as far as the grassroots planning and grassroots economic democracy is concerned and power to the people is concerned.

As for the implementation that is going on, the paper indicates what the Zila Parishad and municipalities are doing. They are not elements of local self-governments. They are only implementing the orders of the Central and the State Governments. This must change. There is nexus between bureaucrats and the vested interests or the elected persons. That is why corruption is decentralised and therefore it invites a participatory role for all elected representatives. There should be more participation. This is where effective participation can come and people's parliament can come. The Gram Sabhas should be given statutory recognition. Today it is a sham. Today Gram Sabhas are meeting in contractors' homes with gunmen going around. So, they are forced into agreeing. They do not give their own opinion.

It is happening not in Bihar but in Orissa. Sir, I am sorry that we are competing with your State as to who will be better. There must be total transparency as far as selection of beneficiaries is concerned. So, Gram Sabha must be empowered. Only then, we will know as to who is under BPL or APL and who is not. It cannot be done from an air-conditioned room from the district headquarters.

Sir, about 50 per cent of our people are women. Shri Rajiv Gandhi, a young man, was barely 40 years old when he became the Prime Minister of our country. He had the vision to involve the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and women in the process. Today, India is the oldest civilisation which is 5000 years old and is also the youngest nation in the world. Nearly 40 per cent of our population consists of youths. Therefore, they must be totally involved in the process, which is not happening today. The reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is in an anomalous situation. There is a lot of anomaly because, as Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab was saying, there is no uniformity in approach. As far as the Scheduled Tribes are concerned, the less said the better because, in the most insensitive and non-humanitarian way, the Forest Conservation Act is being clamped on them. They have been uprooted from their places. For centuries, they have been staying there before the Forest Conservation Act came in 1980.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, I am concluding after giving a few suggestions. What is required today is the entire review of the whole thing and it should be continuously reviewed. What is required is, restructuring of the rethinking process as well as the apparatus which has been there for the past ten years which has not served us fully and effectively. What is necessary is to legislate and empower them. What is necessary is effective monitoring, responsibility and accountability. What we require is a smart Government.

Before I conclude, I would like to speak on one point which is about the Members of Parliament and MLAs. I would like to speak about the MPs. The distinguished predecessor of the hon. Minister, Shri Shanta Kumar, very kindly responded when the hon. Members raised the issue here. You know that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan had stated that not a single penny was being spent in his constituency in this regard. I am sorry that it is your State. Shri Dasmunsi raised the point that he was humiliated by the district administration in Raiganj. Shri Shanta Kumar wrote a letter to me in February. I had written to him in December. Two successive Finance Ministers, Shri Yashwant Sinha and Shri Jaswant Singh, and he himself had given a solemn assurance on the floor of the Parliament that this is a centrally sponsored scheme and therefore, the hon. Members of Parliament will be associated right from the conceptual stage, that is, when the RD programmes are going on and that they will be associated when the foundation stone will be laid as well as during inauguration. It is implemented by not following any of the assurances. I do not wish to bring the matter under privilege but Members of Parliament are being humiliated everywhere. Sir, why do they humiliate us? You may take us

out of the purview. We are spending Rs.1 crore everyday. We are sitting here in Parliament till 9 p.m. But please do not humiliate us. You have appointed us as the Chairmen of the Vigilance Commissions. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab is the Chairman in one district and I am the Chairman in both the districts. We are not consulted and not even treated properly. Is there nothing that you can do? You will take some plea or the other as Shri Arun Shourie does when we raise the question of MPLADS. May I suggest to invoke article 256 of the Constitution where you have the residuary right to direct the State Governments and take it along with article 365, if the State Governments are not listening to you and the Parliament.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Natchiappan may please lay his written speech on the Table of the House. Other Members who want to submit their written speech, can do so.

[English]

*SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Respected Chairman, the motion moved by the Government has asserted that 3-tier system of Governance accepted as part and parcel of the Constitution of India by effort of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The youngest Prime Minister of Indian Republic had a dream of the Superpower - India in 21st century.

Mahatma Gandhiji had succeeded in Freedom Fight by telling the people of India and throughout the world "Rama Rajya is Gram Rajya". Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru implemented the slogan of Mahatma Gandhi by giving powers to Panchayat. Smt. Indira Gandhi followed by pumping the Central fund to the Panchayat through the State Government having slogan of "eradicate the poverty - Garibi Hatao".

Shri Rajiv Gandhi made a direct funding to Panchayat from Government of India by sending D.D. to the Presidents of Panchayat. That is the best showed the roadmap for the Constitutional Amendment creating three tires of Governance. The 73rd and 74th Amendment to the Constitution of India has been implemented by different Governments of States. But the real implementation in certain States such as West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra had given different lessons. The rural poverty is tackled when 29 powers were vested to the Panchayat.

The State such as Tamil Nadu has utterly failed in this aspect as they never devolved the 29 powers to Panchayat as per the Constitutional Amendment. The elected representatives in Tamil Nadu are powerless. The development of the rural areas, towns and cities are at the lowest level due to this situation. Hence, the Government of India should bring amendment to Article 243 G by placing the word 'shall' in place of 'may'.

Then the system of election should have the reform so that political parties should participate in general election by which ward member of Panchayat to Member for Assembly and Member of Parliament in one ballot paper, just like U.S.A. This type of election will bring the same party from Panchayat, State and Nation so that within five-year period, they can discharge the duty with all accountability.

That day will be the day for real democracy in India.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the Government of India for assessing the progress and implementation of and hurdles faced by the Panchayati Raj during the last 10 years with reference to parts 9A and 9B of the Constitution.

I strongly support this motion. We all are aware that in Article 40 of the Constitution, it is said that the State shall take steps to organise village Panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government. Shri Balwant Rai Mehta Committee was appointed in this context followed by Shri Ashok Mehta Committee. Despite the implementation of their recommendations in regard to Panchayati Raj System, many evils have been casting their shadow on it. Particularly, Panchayat elections have been delayed and deferred time and again. They had no powers relating to official and financial autonomy. Marginal and weaker sections were adequately represented but there was no grant from the Government. For all these reasons the 73rd amendment was brought in the year 1992 which came into force in the year 1993. This Panchayati Raj System has been in place for the last ten years. I would like to say something in respect of the factual position in Rajasthan. You have once said in this august House that - "tu Kahata kagaj ki lekhi, main kahata akhiyan ki dekhi." People say what they have come to know by reading but I want to say what I have seen.

In the present three tier panchayat system, we are talking much about Gram Sabhas, but the fact is that when the Sarpanch of my village calls a meeting of Gram Sabha there is very poor turn out. Due to lack of awareness they fail to prioritise their work in the interest of village and which

* Speech was laid on the Table.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

should not be taken up at all. On which scheme we should spend money, should we meet to discuss or not. There is very pocr turn out. Some times even the Sarpanch plays trick. He purposely deviates from the time fixed for the meeting so that people cannot attend the meeting. Afterwards, people are made to sign the register and proposals, whatsoever, are included later on, conveniently at home. With such a state of affairs at Gram Sabha level, we can understand how development will take place. We can imagine it. This is just an example of ground reality.

Halanki, is path ka uddeshya nahin hai,
shant bhawan mein tik jana,
Parantu pahuchana us manil tak,
jiske aage rah nahin.
But, the ground reality compels me to say that -
Jnan dur kuch kriya bhinn hai,
Ichchha kyon puri ho man ki,
ek dusare se na mil saken,
yahi vidambana hai jivan ki.

The ideals of Panchayati Raj is very great. As Mahatma Gandhi thought, the Mother India lives in the villages. The progress of villages will be the progress of the nation. A Villager should feel that our Government is the controller of our destiny, that is Swaraj or self-reliance. We have given all powers to the Panchayats but they still have to make aware of their rights so that they attend the Gram Sabha meetings, take appropriate decisions cutting across the party lines and act in the interest of the village. Who will take this responsiblity? Have the Government paid any attention to this aspect also as to who will make the common people aware of the powers, duties and responsibilities of the members of Panchayati Raj Institution at various levels, who are getting education in the name of literacy only. There is a need to bring awareness among them, then only they will understand the things and will unite otherwise they will remain unconcerned with the Sarpanch. With the entry of party politics in village panchayats, naturally there are two factions. One is pro-sarpanch and the other anti-sarpanch. They indulge in leg pulling as a result of which development of village is hampered.

Through you, Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government to seriously consider as to whether it is desirable to hold elections under party-banners or independently for the posts of Sarpanch and Ward Members at Gram Panchayat level. In the earlier system, all the Sarpanches elected the Pradhan but now all the members of Panchayat Samiti elect the Pradhan after which they are left with no power, no responsibility. When they attend the meeting of Panchayat of the Sarpanch, the members of Gram Panchayat object to their attendance. They are asked as to why they have come. Unceremoniously, they are allowed to attend the meeting. But when they go to the meeting of Panchayat Samiti, their suggestions are welcome. They have no responsibility other than this. There are 31 members of Zila Parishad in Ajmer. Meetings are held on quarterly basis. The Zila Pramukh has been elected, he would obtain approval of certain proposals in the meeting called on his own without taking the MP in confidence. The members of Zila Parishad have no responsibility other than this. After a period of ten years, the need is felt to assess as to whether the spirit and the ideals of Panchayati Raj that is, the dreams of self-reliance, self-government and swaraj are coming true. If these are not coming true, then what are the reasons? Man is the major factor. The people in villages should be imbibed with Sankars. Their personalities should be developed to inculcate the spirit of service in them. There has been no endeavour in this direction due to which there is growing corruption. Funds meant for construction of rooms in the school are diverted to the construction of house of the Sarpanch. There is bungling of funds everywhere, they give bribe at various levels and formalities of measurement and passing by the J.E. are completed. As a result of which only fifteen paise out of Re. one sent from the Centre reach the aimed level, as was observed by the former Prime Minister Late Rajiv Gandhiji. ...*(Interruptions)* I want your protection. Decentralisation of democracy took place through Panchayats but corruption too accompanied it. There is a need to put a check on it. For this, there is a need to bring about awareness among them so that they could understand that it is their own money, own village and own development, the entire affair is their own, until this situation is reached, they will continue to think that this is entirely a governmental affair which will go its own way. They should be made aware of the fact that the money, Government is spending on us, has been collected from us as taxes, therefore, should be utilised by us. There is a saying in Marwad, Rajasthan which goes like this - "Gram hai Jahan - Ram hai Wahan." which means that there lives God in the villages. There should be brotherhood, intimacy and sense of sharing joys and sorrows of each other in the villages. When the practice of party politics is removed from the Panchayat level, then only the welfare of the villages will take place.

I would like to say another thing which nobody has said. For the panchayats which elect their Sarpanchs and ward members uncontested and unanimously, there was provision to give them lacs of rupees as grant. Earlier, this money was

given but after introduction of three tier system of Panchayati Raj, the Panchayats, in which elections are made unanimously and without contest are not getting this grant. In this situation how can they be encouraged to follow the way of unanimous election, not based on party politics, leading to atmosphere of unity and love in the society? For this, there should be provision of special grant.

There is a post of Group Secretary in Panchayats. There is only one Secretary for a group of four Panchayats. There is a lot of work in Panchayats. The Sarpanch gets funds directly from the Centre, from the District Board from M.P. and MLA as well, which has to be spend through the Panchayat. There is only one Group Secretary for a group of three or four Panchayats, they are short of staff. As a result of which he finds himself unable to keep the accounts uptodate. How can we imagine smooth functioning of this system in such a situation? It should be mandatory for every Panchayat to appoint a Group Secretary and a J.E. for every Panchayat Samiti otherwise a situation arises when the work gets completed but measurement is not done. Then in the name of heavy work load they engage person on temporary basis for two months or so. Work on so many projects is in progress and you can hardly imagine how one can be able to keep the accounts, get the bills passed, fill up the MB and see the Sarpanch a number of times before the final payments are made.

There should also be proper arrangement for audit. National Institute for Rural Development, Hyderabad undertakes research on Panchayats, brings out journals, imparts training. Elected representatives of Panchayats should be nominated for training on regular basis so that they are apprised of various aspects of different schemes. The State Finance Commissions have been constituted but they have limited means. They release their part of funds but subsequently the States give no assistance and the grant extended on the basis of population needs to be enhanced. Money has devaluated. The grant to municipalities, Municipal Corporations and Gram Panchayats should be enhanced. The Government should decide on some permanent source of revenue generation for Gram Panchayats and Municipalities otherwise, they will look forward to the Government for some assistance to do some work otherwise they will be helpless. This situation should be rectified. What will be the source of revenue? There should some system in place. Gram Panchayats are the foundation of democracy. If the foundation is strong, the democracy will be strong. Therefore, in order to strengthen the democracy we shall have to do away with the corruption and the evil of party politics rampant in Panchayats. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (PURULIA): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. Before coming to this highest Panchayat of India, I had the opportunity to be a member of the Zila Parishad for fifteen years and I was also the Vice-Chairman of a particular Zila Parishad. Now, the Gram Panchayat office has become the office of the Gram Panchayat Government, the Panchayat level Government. Panchayat Samitis have become the offices of the Governments of the block level and the Zila Parishad and Nagar Palikas have become the Governments of the districts. Now, it is seen that some of the State Governments are not generous to the Panchayat institution but the Finance Commission is going to play a major role in making the Panchayat financially stable and viable. So, the funds recommended by the Finance Commission, as suggested by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar should go directly to the Panchayat and the Centrally-sponsored schemes and the State recommended schemes should go directly to the Panchayat bodies.

Another item that needs attention is generation of resources by the Panchayats themselves. The Panchayats should not shy away from the tax collectors. They are not interested because of the fear of erosion of their votes. Panchayat should not escape from this responsibility. Government should give some incentive for those Panchayats who generate some resources for their own. There is also another problem related to the relationship between the Panchayat and bureaucracy which has already been mentioned by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. Now, in most of the States the DM is not given the control of the Zila Parishad. BDOs are also not under the control of the Panchayat Samiti. So, there is a clash between the bureaucracy and the Panchayat. Some bureaucrats should be educated and trained as to how to function in the Panchayats. So, one of the major reasons of the decline of the Panchayat institution is the lack of people's participation. In most of the Gram Sabha when meetings are held, attendance is very poor and there is need to create awareness and educate the rural masses for attending the Panchayat meeting.

Sir, panchayats should not be projected as mere instruments for implementation of developmental programmes or schemes, but they should be projected as a people's movement for rural reconstruction. The election to panchayats has become very expensive these days. Therefore, a ceiling on the panchayat election expenses should also be fixed by the Government.

Then, legal reforms will also not bear fruit until and unless there is a real will to enforce and implement the reforms and the political leadership is committed for

[Shri Bir Singh Mahato]

decentralisation of powers. We have the experience of West Bengal before us. The Government of West Bengal has the political will and, therefore, panchayat elections are regularly there. In West Bengal the DMs are under the control of the Zila Parishads and the DDOs are under the control of the Panchayat Samitis. I do not agree with Dr. Nitish Sengupta's view that the DM should not be the Executive Officer of the Zila Parishad. I differ with him on this point, because wherever the DMs are the Executive Officers of Zila Parishads, there is no problem whatsoever and the Chairman of the Zila Parishad is given the status of a Minister of State in West Bengal.

Sir, I agree with the proposal made by Shrimati Abha Mahto who has suggested that panchayat members should also be given some discretionary funds for carrying out developmental works like MPs and MLAs who are given such funds. So, if the panchayat members are also given some funds, they can also do some developmental work for the people of their area.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (BALIA, BIHAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I give my thanks to the hon. Minister for he has moved this motion alongwith some suggestions to review the progress of implementation of part IX of Constitution. I support this. Several our colleagues have discussed on this issue and there discussion has got some contents. Various dreams of Gandhi ji visualised have been discussed here. And I think that the Gandhi's dreams were neglected the most for the first time when our constitution was being framed. Our Constituent Assembly did not frame the Constitution of India in consonance with Gandhi's dreams. Had our constitution been framed in keeping his dreams in view, the panchayat elections which had been held in 1992 by the 73rd constitutional amendment could have been held in 1952 itself along with the Lok Sabha elections.

I would like to thank Shri Ram Krishan Hegde. He got the panchayat elections conducted in Karnataka in 1983 when he was the Chief Minister of the state. Thereafter, panchayat elections were held in West Bengal and other states. Today, we talk of several works. I was listening to Mani Shankar ji's speech with rapt attention. I want to thank him because he put forth his views in a very right manner. He is rightly called the master of panchayati system. I also give him this title. I do not want to repeat the suggestions given by the hon. members during the course of discussion. Mahatabji also spoke his mind and lastly an hon. member concluded his speech by quoting Kabir, namely he spoke on all the remaining things.

Prof. Saheb was saying that meetings of the Gram Sabhas are not held. Their composition is not good. Certainly, it is also in my knowledge that it is provided in the constitution. In several states Pradhan is called Mukhia, as in Bihar, he is called Mukhia of Panchayat, in some states he is referred as Sarpanch and still in some states he/she is called Pradhan of Panchayat.

21.00 hrs.

Whatever it is, be it Pradhan or Mukhia, but it is said that whichever scheme or work is undertaken that should be only after getting the same passed in the meeting of Gram Sabha. But the meeting of Gram Sabha is not held, although it is publicised through loud speaker or by beating drums. It is said that meeting of Gram Sabha must be held once, but if it is not held due to some reason, then there is no need to call it again. This is really a drawback, how it should be removed, we will have to find a way out to this. The issue of general meeting was also touched upon. But it is seen that the General meeting always lacks quorum. Therefore, Gram Sabha should be constituted in such a manner that one person should be elected to represent the population of 100 people and he/she should be the member of Gram Sabha. In this way there will be 50 members for a population of 5000,60 members for a population of 6000 and 70 members for a population of 7000. As legislature of any state is formed as per population of any state similarly for panchayats also there should be one member for every hundred persons. Fifty members should be elected for a population of five thousand to form Gram Sabha. They should meet once or twice in a year to formulate the schemes so that a shape of the Gram Sabha could emerge. If it is not materialised it is not proper to call it a Gram Sabha, and as such this House also has no significance. Therefore, I suggest that the Gram Sabha should be constituted in this manner.

Several hon'ble members had said that Panchayats were enjoying powers earlier too. After 1949-50 on constitution of Panchayats the sarpanch or Mukhia was empowered to impose labour tax and wealth tax. I had also been the Mukhia of Panchayat since 1960 to 1967. I was aware of this power of Mukhia but nobody dare to exercise this power due to the fear that nobody will vote for him. If direct elections are allowed to be held, no elected member will be able to do anything concrete for fear of losing votes. On the contrary, if Gram Sabha is constituted and Mukhia is elected by the Members of Gram Sabha he will be able to exercise his powers. Therefore, I am of the view that there should not be a direct election of Mukhia instead he should be elected by Members of Gram Sabha.

It is also said that people with criminal bent of mind and rich people are elected to Panchayats. It is true and in this regard I suggest that the elections should be party based. Shri Jaiprakashji had advocated for the partyless democracy but the country in which party system is not strengthened. It is impossible to run the partyless democracy in that country. Acharya Narendra Dev used to talk about nationality in his classes whereas certain leftist parties used to talk about internationalism. He used to say until nationalism is strengthened, the feeling of internationalism cannot be strengthened. The partyless system can be strengthened only in that country where party system is strong because it is a continuous process. The human society shall remain in existence forever. We will have to evolve some system.

Therefore, I suggest that certainly the elections should be party based. Party based elections are held for Lok Sabha and State Legislatures but you like the Panchayat elections to be held independently or without party affiliation. It is not feasible be they Member of Parliament or Legislative Assemblies all are elected from villages on party basis. If the political parties do not give tickets to criminals and rich people, the number of criminals in politics will come down gradually. I want to know whether criminals and rich people are not being elected to Lok Sabha? Though the number of such people is less. Such people will be elected for panchayats also. This possibility is there even if the direct elections are held for panchayats. But such possibility should be minimized to the possible extent. No system can be flawless but it can be minimised.

My third point is that the hon'ble Vice President has given a good suggestion in this regard. If you want that the muscleman and rich people are not elected to such institutions, you should conduct elections for Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and village Panchayats simultaneously. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are well aware of the situation prevailing in Bihar, Now the menace of booth capturing has spread to other states also. If the elections for Panchayats are held simultaneously with the elections for Lok sabha and State Assemblies this problem will not be there. If we want to ensure development, we should start party based politics from grass-root level. You should not look down upon any political party. Dr. Lohia used to say that politics means fighting against the evil and religion means doing good for others. But unfortunately politics has got stuck into a quagmire of evil and evil is ruling the roost. Politics should be cleansed. It can be done only when party base is strengthened. Things can be set right if we go ahead by formulating a programme in this regard.

There should be a facility of reservation in Panchayats. Several hon'ble members have said that the car of a woman member is always driven by her husband. He does not allow her spouse to drive the car. It depends on individuals. If any elected woman has a good political stature then her husband follow her. Sir, there is a saying in Bihar which literally means that the country is fed up with the leaders and a father is fed up with his son. If any individual is elected for the Parliament and his son commands better position he tries to control his father. A person tries to influence other. Weakness of any individual cannot be linked with rules.

There should be reservation for Dalit women and it should be implemented vigorously. Shortcomings should be removed but the system should not be changed otherwise the country will suffer. Certainly powers should be devolved to panchayats. You have got conducted the panchayat elections but still full powers have not been given to them. Karnataka is the only state in which all the 29 subjects of the eleventh schedule have been implemented fully. West Bengal and Kerala did it later on. In most of the states elections for panchayats have been held and panchayati raj is very much working but you are not giving them full powers. It is considered here that Panchayats do not deserve such powers. It was thinking of the Britishers. Our people fought for freedom against the British rule but the Britishers used to say that Indians do not deserve freedom. I think it is not right to say a Pradhan of Panchayat, a sarpanch or Mukhia do not derserve these powers. Full powers should be given to them. Powers should be given to them on experiment basis. No one cannot achieve everything at once. A child after 8 to 10 months tries to get up on his legs and in this process he falls a number of time and he learns to stand up after falling several times. In life a person moves and falls at two stages first in childhood and secondly in old age. When an old person falls he dies and when a child falls it is said that he may get hurt and he could become a handicapped for rest of his life. He will not be able to move. The Panchayati Raj should be strengthened by removing the shortcomings in it and they should be given all the powers. As I have said in the beginning if we want to run democracy in the country it will be possible only when panchayats are run democratically. Unless the foundation i.e. Panchayats are not made strong our other democratic institutions cannot flourish. If we want to run democracy we will have to strengthen democracy in panchayats first. You should remove the shortcomings but powers of Panchayats should not be curtailed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as financial burden is concerned, I agree that the Panchayats should make efforts to mobilise their own resources. They should make efforts in this regard. The First Five Year Plan was worth Rs. 2000 crore and now the cost involvement of five year plans has

[Shri Ramjivan Singh]

increased to rupees four lakh crore. The size of the plans increased considerably but they failed, why? They failed because we could not achieve the target set thereunder. We could not succeed in our plans upto the desired extent. Size of the plans kept on increasing but participation of the people declined gradually. People fail to understand that these plans are meant for them. The thing towards which we do not have any attachment there cannot be feelings of affection for that. Once our national poet Shri Dinkarji asked some men who were taking away a railway slipper for their own use as to where they are taking that, they replied that it belongs to the government. Similarly the people don't have any concern towards the government schemes. They have no attachment towards them and unless the people do not have attachment towards government schemes, they cannot prove fruitful. The government schemes are succeed, only when people participate. As such there cannot be any other way out except linking them with the panchayats. It is because the schemes formulated in the Planning Commission and passed here in the House are ultimately implemented by the panchayats.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Members have said so many things which I do not want to repeat rather I support them. The panchayats certainly should get their share. The schemes pertaining to literacy and family welfare should be linked with panchayats directly. I have a vast experience behind me therefore I cannot agree with the hon'ble Members on certain points. The existence of NGOs was the dream of Gandhiji but this experience has not been very good. It is revealed by the audit report of the NGOs that 90 per cent NGO's are in bad condition. Money is being plundered. Therefore these NGO's should be disbanded and the amount of funds being given to them should be given directly to the Panchayats and the District councils. When people's own institutions are existing why fund should be given to the NGOs?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I agree that at present the Secretaries of Panchayats are not well educated they are only matriculate. Certainly the General Secretary of Panchayat should be appointed by the Finance Department. Training should be imparted to him and he should be at least a graduate so that he could maintain the accounts properly. Though the Mukhiya is the head of the Panchayat but financial powers should be vested in the secretary so that he could control the finance of the Panchayat.

In the end I would like to say when District councils have come into existence powers of the twenty point programmes and all the other committees should be given to them. I am of the view that if we want to run the democracy the powers of bureaucracy should be curtailed otherwise we cannot achieve anything.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, finally I would like to say as several other hon'ble members have also said that Bihar is a neglected lot. I agree with Shrimati Kanti Singhji. She has said that Panchayat elections have been held in Bihar so the amount of funds allocated by the Ninth Finance Commission to the state should be made available to the state. Sir, before concluding I would like to substantiate by giving some figures as to how Bihar is neglected. I have a paper with me with a title.

[English]

State-wise allocation of Local bodies grants by the Tenth Finance Commission.

[Translation]

The Tenth Finance Commission has allocated rupees one thousand crore for the entire country out of which Rs.67.09 crore have been allocated for Bihar. Thereafter Eleventh Finance Commission allocated two thousand crore rupees. But what has been done to Bihar. Like Tenth Finance Commission, Eleventh Finance Commission has also allocated Rs. 67 crore to Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you can see that Rs.73.94 crore were allocated to Andhra Pradesh by the Tenth Finance Commission but now Rs.164 crore have been allocated to Andhra Pradesh. Similarly Rs. 132 as against Rs.67.47 crore to Gujarat, Rs.124 crore against Rs.70.19 crore to Karnataka, Rs. 75 crore as against Rs.25.43 crore to Kerala, Rs. 127 crore as against Rs.61.74 crore to Madhya Pradesh, Rs. 316 crore against Rs. 132.95 crore to Maharashtra, Rs.39 crore against to 19.11 crore to Orissa, Rs.193 crore as against 115.52 crore to Tamil Nadu, Rs. 227 crore as against 121.18 crore to Uttar Pradesh, Rs.197 crore as against Rs.120.32 crore to West Bengal have been allocated. I want to say that allocation to almost all the states has been doubled but allocation to Bihar has not been increased at all. I can understand that you may have difference of opinion with the government of Bihar but what is the fault of the people of the state. Therefore, we should think over it. With these words I conclude.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Panchayati Raj System is based on the ancient Indian traditions. The credit for according constitutional status to this institution goes to only Shri Rajiv Gandhi. He felt the need to strengthen the local institutions of Governance to make it a success at national and state level. Only then we

can achieve success in future. It is because of his farsightedness and resolve that thirty lakh people in the country, out of which ten lakhs are women and around six lakh people belonging to the dalit and backward sections, are now representing the people. I have the papers, which shows how this provision has been used in the states and how progress take place there because this subject has been included in the state list under seventh schedule.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House but would like to mention one thing that the responsibility to directly handle the administration of all Union territories lies with the union Government. Sir, I feel a bit sorry for that no Union territory has been mentioned therein. If we are willing to strengthen the system of autonomy, the union Government should at least play a role model in executing the task which has been handed over to it. I am sorry to say that nothing of that sort happened till date and perhaps no attention has been paid as to whether the Union Territories have been empowered regarding 29 panchayat subjects and 18 municipalities subjects. Repeatedly at regular intervals, we have been trying to raise voice in this regard, they have taken us into confidence also, but no concrete action has been taken to materialise it. Since I belong to Chandigarh, I would like to give an example of Chandigarh. Not only Chandigarh, all union territories must have been undergoing the same situation.

Hon. Minister must be knowing that Panchayats have not been given any authority since last ten years till date and they have been kept out of scene on one or the other pretext. Panchayat samitis and district councils have been constituted but these are only for the name sake. These have not been equipped with any power. They neither have funds nor resources so as to enable themselves to undertake even a small task.

Sir, in this regard, I would like to emphasise on one more point that the money earmarked for them should not be given to them through the state or district collector instead it should be directly deposited in their accounts and the right to use that amount should vest with them. It has been rightly said that this decision could not be taken in the air-conditioned rooms of the Union Government as to which village needs what they might not be knowing the name of the village or mohalla then how they would come to know about their requirements as to where they need a well, where they need to construct a wall in the school or any other small work. The residents are aware of these requirements. Moreover, there is the need to set up district planning committees although the provision has been made in the Constitution but they are still to be constituted. You are reviewing after 10 years as to what has been our progress in this regard. Have you not yet received information to this effect that district planning committees have not been set up hitherto?

Sir, Finance Commission has been constituted. What are the functions of the Finance Commission? Finance Commission has been set up with an aim to distribute the financial resources like taxes, revenues etc. collected by the State Governments. Finance Commissions have been set up but since the panchayats and municipal committees have no say anywhere, so these are not taken care of.

Sir, again I would like to cite the example of Chandigarh in this regard. This is related to the toll tax. Administration is charging it whereas the major part of maintenance and repair of roads is looked after by the municipal committees and still it does not get any of its due share in the revenue collection. It was decided only after repeated request and emphasis on it that the council would get 17 per cent of the total revenue collection made by the union territory whereas the Finance Commission recommended that the 23% of the revenue collection, i.e. the net income should be given to the municipal corporation but it is not being taking place.

Sir, first of all I would like to say that the recommendation given by the Finance Commission is not sufficient. Nevertheless, it is not getting money as per the recommendation while the administration is incurring it extravagantly. On the other hand, municipalities and corporations in a state are being pressurised to levy fresh taxes. Whether it is not within their due rights that they get their due share in the revenue collection made by the union territory or the State Government in the city or the area which falls under their jurisdiction.

I would like to repeat the point that issues, which are creating difficulties for the people and the tasks which are needed to be done there, are not being undertaken, the Government should at least make an announcement today in this regard that all the union territories would be subjected to a periodical review. Meeting would be convened and directions would be issued that they would get their due share in the revenue collection so that they may undertake work there. Repeatedly, I overhear here that reforms should be made and that too in each and every respect. They ask for reforms in true sense and it is thrust upon them with this condition that until and unless they won't levy tax, they would not get their due share out of central revenue collection. In whatever form the people say the money, is it proper on part of the Government to behave in such a manner? I have been told about Ludhiana that it is the Manchester of India. As far as, Chandigarh circle is concerned, the people of Chandigarh pay more tax on their income as compared to Ludhiana. Even

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

after that they are compelled to pay several types of taxes because of the very existence of corporation there. People are compelled to think on these lines that since they demanded a corporation in their area and their demand is materialised, they are subjected to pay several fresh taxes. Whether the funds collected earlier, are not sufficient to meet the needs there. Repeating the point, I would like to place before you this point, which is the need of hour that first of all you should handle the administrative responsibilities in an efficient manner if you are desirous of devolving all the powers from the states to the Central Government bodies. You please consider over it yourself. You transform and bring forward them as a role, only then future course of action can be decided.

With these words, I thank you very much.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude towards the hon. Minister for providing me an opportunity to take part in discussion on such an important issue. I would like to confine myself to certain suggestion by not delving much into it. My first point is regarding the provision made in the Section 243-D of the Constitution relating to the Constitution of a state election commission. Such provision is there in several states like Orissa that all liabilities concerning delimitation, reservation and the rotation of reservation have been entrusted to the state administration. State Government defers the elections several times on this pretext. I, therefore, would like to suggest that this liability should be entrusted to the state election commission. Some members have already expressed their views on the topic of reservation, which I am talking about. For example, reservation is made for tribals Where there are none. So, the elections are postponed there and again after several months, the elections are held there by de-reserving the reserved quota-where the need arise for it when no tribal exist there. Such a reservation was made regarding our village panchayat. When they found no tribal candidate, they searched for it in the voters list which was prepared one year back and found the names of some snake charmers thereon who had left therefrom by then. We had to bring them from Cuttack at a distance of 200 km. To fulfil the formalities of filing nomination papers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Which has been provided in section 243-D of the Constitution. If you read it carefully, you will find the mistake that it has been mentioned in the constitution that the reservation should be made on the basis of the population of the concerned area wherein the elections for gram panchayat or the middle level panchayat are being held. But what is happening there, reservation is being made on the basis of the population of the state. So, I am of the opinion that this issue be looked into and the unnecessary problem can be solved.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Thanks. What you are saying is right.

The second thing is that the voters' lists are prepared separately for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas, and a third voters' list is prepared for the Panchayat elections. To cut down the expenditure, I would like to suggest that the voters' list prepared for the Lok Sabha elections and Vidhan Sabha elections should also be used for the panchayat elections.

The Chairman of Zila Parishad and the Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti are not elected directly by the people, but the Panchayat Sarpanch is elected directly by the people. Why is it so. The Panchayat Sarpanch is elected directly by the people, but when it comes to his removal, it is done by the panches. I fail to understand this. If people have elected him, how can he be removed by the members of the Panchayats. In this regard I would suggest that he also should not be elected directly as is the case with Chairman of Zila Parishad and Chairman of Panchayat Samiti. Similarly, the Mukhiya or Pradhan may oppose it, the Sarpanch should also be elected indirectly, this is my suggestion.

Hon. Shri Rasa Singh ji was telling that the member of the Panchayat Samiti is also elected directly by the people along with the Sarpanch but he has no power. Once he has cast his vote for the Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti, he starts complaining that he has got no power, people come to him but he can do nothing. I would like to urge the hon. Minister give some thought on this and on how to give some power to them. The budgetary allocation for Panchayat elections should be charted, and not voted.

My third point is regarding Gram Sabha. At present in a State like Orissa there is no agenda for development and the Gram Sabha only discusses as to who will be contractor for whatever work the panchayat has to do. So people do not come to the Gram Sabha. The contractor manages that some people attend the meeting and tell that he (the contractor) will take the contract for a certain work. This is what goes in the Gram Sabha. I have to make a submission that people do not attend the meetings on most of the occasions and I have a suggestion as Mani Shankar Aiyar ji also has just said and I have heard it for the first time that Gram Sabha meetings should be held on the Republic Day, 15 August and Gandhi Jayanti. I had not heard it ever before. It never happens in the villages that Gram Sabha hold a meeting on these days. When an officer visits or the contractor calls for a meeting, only then the Gram Sabha

sits. Gram Sabha is not held, so the sarpanch goes from door to door and ask the people to do favours to him and for this favour he offers Indira Aawas units to them. This is what goes on, so this is my submission that the date, time and venue for the gram Sabha meeting should be fixed in advance and the same should be notified to all so that people could attend it and the quorum should be maintained. There should be another quorum for women. If the quorum is not full, the meeting should be cancelled and deferred for the next meeting. If people do not turn up even in the second meeting, the concerned Panchayat should not be given money so that people could be compelled to attend the meeting. What I want to drive home is that we cannot discuss here the implementation of development work in Gram Sabha, this can be done only in the Panchayat meetings. The Gram Sabha should be brought in to conduct social audit whether work has been done properly or not. Nothing else is possible in it.

I will conclude my speech after saying a thing or two. The state Finance Commission is not there in many states. Shri Trilochan Kanungo, MP from my state was sitting here. He is the Chairman of the State Finance Commission. It was constituted in Orissa a month ago. Today a letter has arrived asking for our suggestions. The report will be submitted within three months. After that the tenure of the commission will be over. My submission is that the action taken report on the recommendations of the commission should be obtained within six months of the recommendation.

In the end, I would like to say that the size of the Gram Panchayats should be made uniform. There are villages of 1000 people and also there are villages of 10 thousand people. So how can it be possible. For every three or five thousand people there should be one panchayat and it should be uniform in the whole country. But in reality the State Governments make the panchayats according to there own conveniences so that they could get their partymen elected.

I agree with what Shri Manishankar Aiyer ji said earlier. DRDA should be dissolved and merged in the Zila Parishad. Why DRDA if Zila Parishad is there? There are so many complications in the Zila Parishad which sometimes deter me from going there. My submission is that the Zila Parishad should be empowered, it should be given power.

And before I conclude I would like to say that the sarpanch and his relatives should not be engaged as contractors. It is there in the Planning Commission Report that all the Sarpanches have become contractors. One takes the contract in the name of his brother, the other in the name of his wife or father. This should be stopped. This causes embarrassment for us. Our workers keep on asking us to give them work. This happens so because the Sarpanch does so. I request you to kindly take all this into account. I share the views of Singh Saheb that the Secretary of the Panchayat should have some qualification. He should at least be a graduate. Besides, the powers regarding his salary and transfer should rest with the Government. I would also like to say that the MLAs think that they will be rendered useless if any of their powers is given to the Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samiti. That's why this power is not transferred there. That's why the State Government does not give this power. But according to the provisions of our Constitution, the MPs, MLAs may not have any powers but this power must be given to the Panchayati Raj Institutions. You gave me time to speak, thank you very much for that.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Rural Development Shri KashiRam Rana has moved a motion of amendment regarding the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Bill, which I rise to support. I also thank him for moving the motion.

Deliberations are underway here on the basis of experience of ten years. Before this Shri Mani Shankar Aiyer presented his views on the basis of his experience in an excellent way. I would like to be brief. I came from a state where no Panchayat elections have been held. That state was formerly a part of Bihar. Panchayat elections were held in Bihar after 22 years but Jharkhand is yet to witness Panchayat elections. I would like to say that the only reason for non-holding of Panchayat elections in Jharkhand is that in 14 districts the seats of Mukhiya, Pramukh and Chairman have all been reserved for SCs and STs. This has given rise to widespread resentment among the people. There is no opposition to 50 per cent reservation, but if the population of reserved category is more than 50 per cent reservation should be given there on that basis in a particular Panchayat. This is why election could not have been held there. There are backward, dalit and Muslim-all classes of people in Jharkhand. I think that until and unless there is a representation of each and every class in the Panchayat, the dream of Swaraj and self reliance as cherished by Rashtrapita Mahatma Gandhi cannot come true. So where the population is less than 50 per cent, the Panchayat should not be reserved so that the people could get a chance to elect persons of various classes. Only then development can take place in real terms. The tribal people, the good people are angry today because earlier they all used to sit and eat together but now the Government have made the situation so undesirable that they are not on talking terms with one another. Money cannot buy brotherhood, this is the greatest tragedy. To improve the situation reservation may be done

[Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary]

at places where the population is more than 50 per cent, and on the remaining seats the people of other classes such as backwards and dalits should get chance to contest. Most of the seats are already reserved. The people of other classes think that they cannot be able to win the seat of Mukhiya. So we should talk to the State Government or the Central Government for bringing about reforms and ensure early panchayat elections. The people of Jharkhand should also get the same benefits as the people of other States where Panchayat election have been held, are getting. Failing to do so will only worsen the situation and the most unfortunate damage will be the loss of brotherhood, and in a sense it will create a civil war like situation. So it should be taken seriously.

In my state the Panchayat elections may not have been held but development work has been quite remarkable. I will talk of my district. By holding a public meeting it is decided as to what is to be given priority in the Gram Panchayat. May it be the Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana, DRDA or the Vrihat Pension Scheme, the MLAs hold meetings and on their recommendation, work is being done there. And as regards the irregularities, there are both good and bad people in every section. It depends on them as to how the scheme is implemented and how the work is done. It has been experienced that the districts where the officers have been good, most of the block level officers and employees also are good there. Wherever the officers are dishonest and corrupt, irregularies take place, but where the officers are good, no irregularity takes place and the quality of work is also good. It all depends on the person in command. Nobody is good or bad in every field. It has been said here that in the states where panchayat elections have taken place, there is a fair representation of women and lower class people of society, but these elections may not have taken place in Jharkhand, but there are some voluntary organisations and some government organisations are also there which have succeeded a lot in creating awareness among the women. This has awakened the women through whom developmental work has been made possible and the women have also risen in terms of self-reliance. The seats reserved for the women, I think, will prove to be highly beneficial for them. As regards the allocation of funds, I should say, as I myself have been associated with the office of Mukhiya to Pramukh and Zila Parishad for a number of years, that the funds should be released directly to the Panchayats, and at present also the funds which is released in the name of Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, I am not talking of other states. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Still there are no Panchayats in your state. Your state has no Panchayats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Panchayat does not exist but funds are released in the name of panchayat. But the tragedy is that earlier cement used to cost Rs.10/- per bag but now it costs Rs.150/- per bag. Similarly, wages have also increased and amount should also be increased in that proportion, this is my request. Earlier also people had suggested that the amount should be increased sc that developmental work could be undertaken by panchayat.

As far as elections are concerned, we have posts of Mukhiya, Sarpanch, Pramukh and President. As the election of Mukhiya is held directly, similarly the election of President and Mukhiya should also be held directly as suggested by the people earlier. Since there are limited Members, so the chances of horse-trading are more. However, money and muscle powers are not used in Jharkhand. This practice is not in vogue in rural areas as of now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is the duty of the state government to enact law in this regard.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: It may be. But we want to advise the State Government through you that it should act as per law so as to prevent induction of wrong people in the machinery. Cities are facing difficulties due to non-holding of elections to Municipal Corporation. There is no developmental work at all. Roads are not being constructed. Cleaning and other works have been stalled there. Therefore, the election is a must there. You are going to give powers to panchayats thereby fostering unity among backward, dalit and weaker sections. Rajiv Gandhi ji is remembered in this context. I got an opportunity to attend the conference called by him and I listened to his views at the conference. He made efforts enough to give powers to panchayats and strengthen them. Our Government is also doing the same thing. Our Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has repeatedly announced that our government wants to connect villages with blocks, so that developmental activities could be undertaken there, bridges and culverts could also be constructed there.

Thus, the Prime Minister has allocated sufficient funds for rural development and lots of works are being undertaken with these funds. There cannot be two opinion on that. I would like to thank hon. Prime Minister for that. Besides, whosoever had been the Incharge of Rural Development Ministry, be he Venkaiahji, Shanta Kumarji or Kashiram Rana at present, they all have done good work and I hope that the hon. Minister would provide more funds for rural development.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale would lay his speech.

* SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Sir, I thank the Hon. Minister Ranaji for bringing forward the Motion for strengthening of Gram Panchayats. When he was the Minister of Textiles at the centre, he managed the functions of Textile Ministry diligently. However, the Finance Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh had created a serious crisis for the handloom sector, but Rana Saheb intervened in that and averted that crisis.

Cooperative institutions work for improving the economic system of villages. Gram Panchayats work for improving the condition of villages. Therefore, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi etc. focused more on strengthening Gram Panchayats. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi made funds directly available to Gram Panchayats for their development.

Late Shri Yashwantrao Chavan introduced Panchayati Raj in Maharshtra state in 1962. Thereafter, there was a good beginning in the entire country that about six years back the Presidents of Zila Parishads had been accorded the status of a Minister and a tribal become President there. There are several women occupying the posts of President and Vice-President in Gram Panchayats. Panchayats progressed gradually, but surely in Maharashtra Sir, the former Prime Minister Shri V.P. Singh and the then Finance Minister Shri Madhu Dandavate had earmarked fifty per cent of amount of the State exchequer for the development of Gram Panchayats so that various works including construction of schools and houses could be executed in villages.

Sir, we have given vide ranging powers to Gram Panchayats by effecting amendments in our constitution, which we often discuss here but they are facing financial crisis at present. They do not have funds to undertake developmental activities. Therefore, the Union Government should provide economic assistance to them for providing electricity, drinking water and other developmental activities etc. in villages. More and more funds should be provided under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for tribal areas giving relaxations in rules so that roads could be constructed there. Likewise, more attention should be given to providing safe drinking water. As far installing handpumps, people of that area have to bear its 10 per cent cost, but I would like to suggest here that his work should be done in tribal areas with cent per cent Government expense.

The funds provided by the Government under the Jawahar Yojana were used for construction of school buildings and undertaking other works as well. But in the current year, the union Government gave orders for using these funds for the watershed scheme as a result of which other usual works have been stalled. I would like to request the Union Government to withdraw the said order and the funds provided under the Jawahar Yojana should be utilised as earlier.

Earlier, Zila Parishad used to make payment of electricity bill of panchayats but that system has been done away with very recently. My request is that the said system should be restored.

Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (DAMOH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the concept of panchayat dates back to ancient times. There is a story about Raja Bain, when he unleashed the reign of terror and arbitrariness in the entire country, all intellectuals removed him from his post in unison with the public support and made Prithu, the King. And this gave birth to the concept of Panchayati Raj. There were improvements in it from time to time. Rajiv Gandhi also made efforts to ensure that elections are held in time, panchayats are given more powers. The situation before us is that there is a practical need to give more powers to panchayats and municipalities. The big problem before small municipalities and Nagar Panchayats is of finance. The urban population of the area I come from, the Damoh Lok Sabha constituency is two lakhs. There is drinking water problem in this area of Panna. Financial grant should be increased to tackle drinking water problem. The amount of grant to municipalities is meagre. Municipal councils get about 30 per cent. Slums which are an obstacle in the development of Panchayat and urban areas, should be provided with more grants to improve their condition.

Panchayats should be given more powers. Whatever might have been the intention of Rajiv Gandhi, but I think that it has been thrown to winds in Madhya Pradesh. The district government there have taken all rights in its hand.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Despite throwing it to the winds, we have formed our Government there and we will be doing so again.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: It remains to be seen. The district Government has been formed there. They are talking of good governance in villages, a separate treasurer has been appointed there and this has led to anarchy in villages. When I went to see one of my relatives in the hospital, there I saw a sarpanch with plaster lying on bed. When I asked him what had happened. He retorted that it was due to good governance of Digvijay Singh. Anarchy is reigning in Hathpuria village. You had said the God lives in

* Speech was laid on the Table

[Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria]

villages and where God lives there lies happiness and peace, but they have spread anarchy there. They have grabbed the powers of panchayats in the name of district government. The district government transfers the officials of village and Zila panchayats. The Minister Incharge and collector are given these rights in the district government. This way the rights of panchayats are violated. I would like to request that there should be some sort of check on the state governments also so that they do not violate panchayat's rights. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and the Swajaldhara yojana launched by the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee have provided drinking water facility in every village and construction of roads have resulted in increasing the employment avenues.

Now the rural women do not have to traverse upto the distance of 4-5 kilometres for fetching water and with the availability of roads sick people can be taken to the hospital for immediate medical treatment. Some years ago, the youths of a village faced difficulties in matrimonial alliances owing to absence of roads. But after the construction of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for the first time this year I received so many invitations that it was impossible to attend all. I would like to thank hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji that his scheme has enhanced the prestige of village, it has been elevated in the eyes of people. Owing to roads the prices of foodgrains produced in village have increased and people have started thinking to settle down and start some business in villages. Such people should be encouraged by granting more rights and funds for settling down in the villages and starting a business. When the villages will be self-reliant and their status and prestige would be elevated, then only the prestige of the country would be enhanced and it would become more powerful.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (BETTIAH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude to you that you gave me an opportunity to keep my views in the last. I would like to congratulate hon. Minister regarding the motion brought in respect of Panchayati Raj System and I rise to support this Bill. I would thank hon. Mani Shankar Aiyarji for he initiated the discussion on this subject in Hindi. Despite having a very good command on English language he spoke so fluent Hindi showing his equally good hold on Hindi language. I would also thank hon. Kharabela Swain. Although he speaks in English quite often but this time he too chose to speak in Hindi.

I have not joined Lok Sabha directly. Earlier I was Chairman of a Municipal Corporation, then I was elected as MLA and now I am Member of Lok Sabha for the third consecutive terms. When I was Chairman of Municipal Corporation, during the end of its tenure somebody asked me whether I would contest the election for another tenure. I refused saying that it was not 'Nagar Palika' but 'Narak Palika'. I used to suffer a lot. I know that we were not able to pay salaries to the employees of the Municipality. My house was gheroed several times and despite being a doctor I had to undergo that torture. That time Sumitra Deviji was our Minister. Once she held meeting of the Chairman of Municipalities. I told her that you give us grant alongwith loan for paying salaries to the employees of the Municipalities which we are never able to return and we consider that loan as grant. Municipality was in such a poor state at that time. In the year 1977 neither the Members of Parliament nor the MLAs used to get funds. My request is that there should be devolution of powers to the Panchayats as provided for in the 29th part of the 11th schedule.

22.00 hrs.

For this purpose, even if the Government of India has to bring any regulation or make an amendment or divest the states of the powers, it should be done. We have three types of Government here - Central Government, State Government and Local Self Government. At the lowest level the Governments should be fully empowered. The district boards which were set up at the time of Britishers, they do not have that power now.

Aiyarji rightly said that DRDO should be dissolved. Whatever he submitted about Government employees, I feel he voiced my sentiment. He rightly said that as long as the public representatives will not get the right to write CRs no progress is possible. Wherever some work is possible, there they are fighting amongst themselves. Take for example, Zila Parishad, there is groupism and they fight amongst each other. This is being done by the officers. It is not that there is some animosity amongst them. They seek favours from people and ask them to arrange for funds and they would do the work in this area. The way people at Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti are being harassed by the Government officials, I would recommend that there should be some system. You should dissolve DRDO and empower them. Earlier, when I used to go home some 200 people used to queue-up in front of my house for getting their work done. Some people sought help for Indira Awas, some for the red-card and some for foodgrains under 'Antyodaya Yojana'. I used to ask them as to whether it was a Members' job? And for two years since we have had Panchayat elections in my area, honestly speaking, hardly 10 or 15 people meet me in my office in the morning. These people come either for getting some work done from the MP's fund or for some other relevant work. I have told everyone to go to Panchayats for other

works. What is implied is that our burden has been reduced to a great extent. And for this, I would particularly congratulate the Government. I support whatever Mani Shankar Aiyarji has been stated.

Panchayats are the governing mechanism. There are Krishi Bazar Samitis throughout the country. One percent tax is levied on agriculture produce. Where is it produced? It is produced in villages not in urban areas. If 25 per cent of the income of Krishi Bazar Samitis is given to these Panchayats it will revamp their system and there would be no need for them to seek assistance from anywhere. The Government of India should also consider that the funds which are going from here must be given to them directly. In respect of Bihar, I express my gratitude particularly to Ram Jivan Singhji. There can be any party's Government in Bihar. We have federal Government here. We can be opposed to the Government but we cannot oppose the public. The 10th and 11th Finance Commission did injustice to Bihar. My request is that you do away with this injustice and make reforms. Please do not do any kind of injustice to Bihar. We do not have any industry here. We have agriculture-based products only. Injustice should not be done to any state. With these words expressing my gratitude to you and to the entire House I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the list of speakers is over.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: All the Members have expressed views here but how can this discussion be considered to have concluded unless the Chairman of the Committee on Urban and Rural Development, Shri Chandrakant Khaire, expressed his views. He has prepared this report. We want to listen to his views in this regard.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: It is very late now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Excluding myself the list of speakers is over. Now the House stands adjourned till 11 A.M.

22.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till eleven of the clock on Friday 25 July, 2003/3 Sravana, 1925 (Saka).

P.L.S. 40.XXXV.4/2003
572

© 2003 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Tenth Edition) and Printed by Sunlight Printers, Delhi - 110006