

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

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



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CONTENTS

[Eleventh Series, Vol. X, Fourth Session (Part-I), 1997/1918 (Saka)]

No. 12, Monday, March 10, 1997/Phalguna 19, 1918 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
OBITUARY REFERENCE	1—2
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :	
*Starred Questions Nos. 201, 202, 204-207, 209 and 210	2—24
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :	
Starred Questions Nos. 208 and 211-220	24—40
Unstarred Questions Nos. 2210-2385 and 2387-2439	41—222
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	222—225
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	225
RESIGNATION BY MEMBER	225
STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS	
Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Reports	225—226
UTTAR PRADESH BUDGET — 1997-98	226
SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS — UTTAR PRADESH - 1996-97	226
RE : DETAINEES UNDER TADA	226—228, 229—232
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	234—238
(i) Need to declare support Price of Potato and take measures for promoting its export Shri Chandrabhushan Singh	234
(ii) Need to take preventive steps to check closure of industries in Kota, Rajasthan Vaidya Dau Dayal Joshi	235
(iii) Need to provide central assistance to State Government of Madhya Pradesh for setting up industries for development of backward district of Balaghat Shri Vishveshwar Bhagat	235
(iv) Need to ban use of plastic bottles used by soft drink manufacturers Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi	235—236
(v) Need to evolve effective mechanism to solve the problems of workers of sick PSUs particularly in West Bengal Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay	236—237
(vi) Need to sanction the proposal of Government of Maharashtra to increase the amount of grant for construction of latrines under Rural Sanitation Programme Shri Ram Naik	237
(vii) Need to recognize Tamil as a Classical language Shri Tirruchi Siva	237—238

* 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
RAILWAY BUDGET — GENERAL DISCUSSION — 1997-98	
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (RAILWAYS) — 1997-98	
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS — RAILWAYS — 1994-95	
SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS — RAILWAYS — 1996-97	238—244, 245—308
Shri Sriballav Panigrahi	239—244, 245—251
Shri Nawal Kishore Rai	254—261
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	261—274
Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	274—277
Kumari Uma Bharati	277—283
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	283—291
Shri S.K. Karvendhan	292—294
Dr. B.N. Reddy	294—298
Shri Suresh Prabhu	298—308

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 10, 1997/Phalguna 19,
1918 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Three Minutes Past
Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House with a deep sense of sorrow of the passing away of our esteemed friends, Sarvashri Shyamlal Dhurve and B. Gopala Reddi.

Shri Shyamlal Dhurve was a Member of Sixth Lok Sabha representing Mandla Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh during 1977-79.

Earlier, he was a Member of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1972-77.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Dhurve was a prominent political and social worker. He worked tirelessly for the upliftment of the downtrodden sections of the society, particularly the tribals of the State.

Shri Shyamlal Dhurve passed away at village Amarpur, Mandla, Madhya Pradesh on 21 February, 1997 at the age of 63 years.

Shri B. Gopala Reddi was a Member of Third Lok Sabha representing Kavali Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh during 1962-67.

Earlier, he was a Member of Madras Legislative Assembly during 1937-39 and again in 1946.

He was also a Member of Rajya Sabha during 1958-62.

He was Minister of Finance in the Government of erstwhile Madras State during 1947-52 and also the Leader of the Madras Legislative Assembly during 1948-52.

Shri Reddi was a Member of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1955 and served as the Chief Minister of the State during 1955-56.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Reddi served the country as Minister in the Union Government and held various portfolios during 1958-63.

Shri Reddy also served as Governor of Uttar Pradesh.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Reddi participated in Satyagraha movement, civil disobedience movement and suffered imprisonment for several years.

Having graduated from Vishwa Bharathi at Shantiniketan and translated Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's works into Telugu, he represented the composite culture of India. He has a significant place amongst the Telugu litterateurs of the country as well.

Shri B. Gopala Reddi passed away at Hyderabad on 9 March, 1997 at the age of 90 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and, I am sure, the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.06 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.07 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

+
*201. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mid-day meal scheme launched by the Government has not yielded results as per expectation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry to find out the cases of irregularities, if any;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the details of expenditure incurred on the scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (d) The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, commonly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, launched on 15 August, 1995, in the country, is intended to give a boost to universalisation of primary education by increasing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously impacting on nutrition of students in primary classes. It

is being implemented in all States and Union Territories. 5.57 crore children in about 5 lakh schools in 4426 blocks in 475 districts have been covered by the scheme so far.

As the scheme has been launched last year, no evaluation of its impact has been conducted so far. However, initial reports received from States/UTs reveal a favourable impact on enrolment and attendance of children in primary classes.

(e) Expenditure incurred on the scheme, so far, is as under :

	Rs. in crore
(i) 1995-96	441.21
(ii) 1996-97 (Upto 28.2.97)	506.59

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Sir, I would like to make a correction in the answer. At the end of the reply the expenditure incurred for 1996-97 (28.02.97) has been shown as 506.59 crore. The latest figure is Rs. 613 crore.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Patel, you please ask the supplementary now.

[Translation]

SHRI JANG BAHADUR PATEL : Hon'ble Speaker, mid day meal scheme has been implemented only in the schools of Basic Education Council. It has not been implemented in recognised schools. Schools run by societies and aided schools.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Actually it is not being implemented even in the schools where it should have been implemented.

SHRI JANG BAHADUR PATEL : Where it has been implemented, there also uncooked foodgrains - three kilogram rice or wheat is being distributed and that also such foodgrains which has got rotten in the store. A question was raised with regard to the inquiry into the irregularities. It has also not been replied. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether this scheme would also be introduced in aided schools, recognised schools and the schools being run by societies where attendance is good and good education is being provided.

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Sir, this scheme is now restricted to students of Class I to Class V in the Government schools, local bodies and Government aided schools. The Government is not thinking of extending it to the other schools at the present moment.

So far as the supply is concerned, regular supply is done by the Food Corporation of India. The State Governments would have to lift it. We give Rupees 25 per Quintal transport charges. For hill stations, we give higher charges. It is for the State Government to decide

whether to give cooked food or to distribute foodgrains. Some States are giving cooked food, but most of the States are giving foodgrains.

[Translation]

SHRI JANG BAHADUR PATEL : Sir, whether the arrangement for fire wood for cooking meal would be made by the state Government or Central Government.

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : As it is, the Government of India is not doing it. Some States are doing it and some States are not doing it. In some places, village panchayats and voluntary organisations are doing it. But, there is a proposal that cooked food should be supplied to all the schools. For this, fifty per cent expenditure will be borne by the State Governments and fifty per cent expenditure by the Central Government.

[Translation]

SHRI JANG BAHADUR PATEL : Sir, it is being said that the number of children has increase in schools due to Mid day Meal Scheme. I would like to ask the Minister whether he funds would be increased keeping in view the increased number of children.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAGAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two-three retail shops in a block in Uttar Pradesh which have been assigned the responsibility of distributing nutritional support. I am sure about it. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the foodgrain is being sold in whole sale. Where it is not being distributed properly. It is not being monitored by the Government. It should be monitored by the Government so that this scheme may be implemented for children in schools. I would like to ask the Minister whether the Government would take concrete steps for implementing this scheme so that this scheme may be implemented for children.

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : So far as foodgrains are concerned, they are supplied through the PDS shops. It is for the State Governments to lift it and hand it over to the schools. Monitoring is also done by the Deputy Commissioner at the district level and by the village panchayat at the village level. We have asked the State Governments to assign this to a particular Department which can monitor it regularly.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT : Sir, this scheme was introduced to attract the children for coming to schools and to give a boost to their attendance, boost the attendance of the children but two-two and a half-three kilogramme rice is being given for the whole of the month and the Mid Day Meal Scheme is not being

implemented. The attendance of children is also not increasing due to this fact. There is no attraction in children. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister, whether the Government would make arrangement to ensure availability of meal in schools and at the same time would issue any direction providing rice for the month with a view to provide food daily.

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I appreciate the point raised by the hon. Member. I have already stated that some States are giving cooked food. For example, the Delhi Government is giving bread and the Tamil Nadu Government is giving cooked rice. Some States are doing it at their own cost.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Some States are digesting it.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : It is meant for digestion. Foodgrains are meant for digestion.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : But not by adults, but by children.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : The matter was discussed in a conference of state Education Ministers held on 10 August, 1997. The Committee held six or seven meetings. They have recommended that cooked food should be given so that it directly helps the children and the cost should be borne by both the Central Government and the State Government on fifty-fifty basis. The matter has to be considered by the Central Government. I am taking up the matter with the Cabinet.

[Translation]

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Minister has stated, this scheme is being run for more than two years. All these are Government statistics. People's representation are present here. This scheme has not been successful at any place. Will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to state any other way than the Government statistics whereby its correct position could be ascertained. This scheme has certainly given boost to the number of school going children. But, have they got meals? It is a fact that this scheme has failed in whole of the country and the Government have spend Rs. 526 crores. This scheme would be more successful, if meal is provided in schools. But, if foodgrains are provided, it would definitely be a failure. You leave the Government figures and you can take the opinions of the people's representatives. Will the Minister think over it?

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Sir, I do agree with the hon. Member's view that it would be better to give cooked food as then only it would directly reach the child. Some States are already doing it, as I have already said and I will repeat it. For example, the Delhi Government is giving bread and every child gets it. In Tamil Nadu, it is being done for the last 20 years, since the days of Shri K. Kamraj. Rice is being given there.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Is there any other state except the two states?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Let me answer.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Whether it is provided in any other state except Delhi and Tamilnadu...*(Interruptions)* In which state you propose to provide cooked food?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have to answer the hon. Member.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Even Haryana and Madhya Pradesh tried to give cooked food but they have stopped it now. I would repeat again. There is a proposal of the conference of State Education Ministers. Saikia, that cooked food should be given and its cost should be borne both by the Central Government and the State Government. I am taking up the matter with the Cabinet. The scheme needs revision, according to me also.

Baby Food Law

*202. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Was Baby food law flouted with a Vengeance" appearing in the 'Times of India', Mumbai dated February 8, 1997;

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

(c) whether Government are aware of the contents of the study conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) wherein 198 samples of commercial brands of infant food were included;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to enquire into defects observed by ICMR and award deterrent punishment to the guilty manufacturers; and

(f) whether the Government propose to consider to ban the manufacture and advertisement of these defective products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

The news item which highlights the alleged violation of some of the provisions of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 has been seen.

ICMR had conducted a multicentric study which *inter alia* pointed towards the presence of some pesticide residues and some heavy metals in the samples of infant formula taken up for study. The presence of pesticide residues and heavy metal contaminants is a worldwide phenomenon and total elimination is not feasible. Residues continue to remain in the soil for decades and the use of DDT in India has been going on right from 1953 onwards. BHC has also remained in use for several years. In order to protect the consumer from exposure to health hazards maximum tolerance limits have been prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and rules thereunder. The study has recommended that samples of infant formula be assessed in a critical manner keeping in view the raw material and type of packaging used.

In the above study conducted by ICMR the methodology etc. was found to contain a number of flaws. The Council constituted a Core Committee to re-examine the report which gave its findings in December, 1996. The findings and recommendations are now to be placed before the Scientific Advisory Board which generally meets once in a year where wider issues like the magnitude of the problem, likely health hazards, international comparisons, validity and accuracy of the measurements, would be taken into consideration. ICMR has been directed to place the matter before the Board at the earliest.

The State Governments and Union Territories have been asked to administer the Infant Milk Substitute, Feeding Bottles and Infant Food (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 with all earnestness and steps have been taken to see that advertisement of these products is banned. Government has also adopted the WHO code in respect of promoting breast feeding and restricting the propagation of infant milk substitutes/infant formula.

Government has already banned the use of DDT and BHC in agriculture. A notification has been issued stopping the use of BHC even for public health from 01.04.97. It has also been decided to phase out the use of DDT which is only being used now under the National Malaria Eradication Programme in limited quantities. Pesticides would only be allowed to be used sparingly in the areas where the mosquito vector is particularly susceptible e.g., Bihar for Kala-azar and the North Eastern States for Malaria.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I raise the question, I would like to point out a typing mistake in it otherwise it would mean something else. My question at "A" is

[English]

"Whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Waah! Baby food law flouted with a Vengeance".

[Translation]

It is written, which means.

[English]

'Waah', that means, it is an exclamation and then it continues, 'Baby Food law flouted with vengeance'.

[Translation]

It should be rectified and alongwith it is Question No. 202.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Members of the 10th Lok Sabha know that I had presented this Private Member's Bill in this House. Mamta ji was the Minister at that time. At that time she had agreed and later on the Government Bill was introduced and it was converted into a law. Now after all this I have raised the question and the reply has been given. It is stated that the modification system of Indian Council of Medical Research is defective while it is a competent institution. Again, it is stated that a core committee has been set up to look into this matter and that committee has submitted its report in December, 1995. The scientific advisory board would study the recommendation of this core committee. The meeting of this board takes place once in a year. My question is that what are the recommendations of this committee, the details of the report and the views of this scientific advisory board in this regard. If the board has not held its meeting by when it is likely to be convened.

[English]

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : Sir, I share the hon. Member's concern that this matter has already taken too long. The report had been submitted, as mentioned here, by December, 1996. After going through the matter, I have now asked ICMR that this meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee should be called next month itself. They are meeting in April to look into this aspect of the matter.

SHRI RAM NAIK : What are the findings of the Core Group?

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : The Core Group has given certain findings which they want to be verified by the Scientific Advisory Committee. So, unless the Scientific Advisory Committee goes into the findings and gives its recommendations, I will not be in a position to tell you exactly what it is. But I have asked the Scientific Advisory Committee to meet next month itself and give its deliberations to us. We will be putting our time-bound programme on them so that they can come within the next, probably six to eight weeks.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has many provisions with a view to impose ban on baby food advertisement. It has a section.

[English]

The Act clearly stipulates that no container or label relating to infant milk substitute shall have a picture of an infant, or a woman, or have pictures of other graphic material or phrases, designed to increase the saleability of infant milk substitute.

[Translation]

Now the legal provision is clear in it. What is there in the sample of 198, would be studied by the Medical Research Institute. My question is whether anything adverse to the law has been found on the outer picture of the advertisement? It has been stated that this work is done by the state Government but Doordarshan is under the control of the Central Government. So, whether it is telecast on Doordarshan in this way. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if something has come to his mind after observing the outer sample of the advertisement. If so, I would like to know whether any action has been taken by the Government and if anyone has been punished in this regard and if some fine has been imposed?

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : The Government has not received any such information.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : You have seen 198 samples from outside.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : Yes, I am just replying to that. The Infant Milk Substitute, Feeding Bottle, Infant Food (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 was enacted by the Department of Women and Child advertisement lies with the parent Department, i.e., the Department of Women and Child Welfare. It does not lie with us. In the meantime, what we do is, we coordinate with them and we try to take certain action. According to information available with me, four voluntary organisations have been authorised to check the enforcement of the provision relating to advertisements and no incident of violation of law on advertisement has been brought so far to the notice of the Ministry of Human Resources. This is the feedback that I have got from them.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : You have seen the sample. An advertisement is given outside the sample. Photos are given, there is a photo of children on it. What more do you think you should be shown? Everything is clearly given on it, what more do you want to be shown?

[English]

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : It has been brought to my notice that, as of today no one has filed anything against it. Regarding the point raised by the hon. Member that we can see it for ourselves, I will ask

the Ministry to examine if any such violation has taken place because it is too soon for me to reply on this. I will ensure that action is taken.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Shri Ram Naik has drawn the attention of the Hon'ble Minister towards a mistake and I will draw your attention towards another mistake.

It has been said in the fourth para of Hindi reply that the Government has already issued a notification on 1.4.97 for banning the use of DDT and BAC in agriculture. Either there is something wrong with Hindi version or else I am wrong. Please rectify it.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : In place of 'Kar Di Gai Hai' (has been done) it should be 'Adhisuchna 1.4.97 'Ko Jaari Hogi' (Notification would be issued on 1.4.97).

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Use of DDT and BAC has been banned through out the country but still you consider that Kalazar and Malaria in Eastern India could be checked only by DDT and BAC. I have told earlier also that a 'Jadhari Doob' has been produced in Ayurved Research Institute, which is based on Neem (margosa). Whether the Hon'ble Minister will inform if his Department propose to procure the said 'doob' in large quantities and to distribute it as DDT. If so, by when it is likely to be materialised. DDT must be banned completely. It has failed to control malaria and instead it has spread in more areas. Please do inform us by when the 'doob' is likely to be adopted.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : I want to tell the Hon'ble Members that we have already banned it but it will come into effect from 1.4.97.

[English]

The order for ban has already been passed.

[Translation]

The other thing is that we have banned DAC but we have not banned DDT so far. A High Level Committee comprising of Health Secretary, Secretary Culture, Secretary Bio-technology and Planning Commission has been constituted which will restrict use of DDT carefully. It will be used to check the Kalazar in Bihar and Malaria in Eastern States where it is rampant.

So far the matter raised regarding Ayurved is concerned, I have already told that we had convened a meeting on Indian System of Medicines on 19th. We have formulated an action plan regarding the number of days in which any disease recurs and we have also passed a resolution in regard to Malaria. I also want to tell you that I am not going to confine use of Ayurved only to malaria but also for many other diseases. I will

personally send it when its action plan comes so that you can yourself see the field in which the Ayurved is used.

[English]

Independent Chartering of PSUs

*204. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to make it mandatory for all public sector undertakings to route their cargo through centralised chartering in the Ministry of Surface Transport;

(b) whether this decision has been taken to settle the stand off between his Ministry and other Ministries and PSUs;

(c) whether PSUs were demanding independent chartering rights to streamline their operations;

(d) the extent to which this decision is likely to be cost effective and ensure judicious use of foreign exchange; and

(e) the other terms and conditions fixed for Ministeries and PSUs under this decision?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, The Government policy of importing on FOB/FAS and exporting on C & F/CIF basis with centralised shipping arrangements through Chartering Wing of M/o Surface Transport has been in existence since 1958 and was recently reviewed and re-affirmed.

(c) Some of the PSUs were demanding import on C & F/CIF and export on FOB/FAS basis.

(d) This policy helps in utilisation of Indian vessels to the maximum extent possible, thus saving foreign exchange to that extent and strengthening of national merchant fleet, chartering of foreign vessels at most competitive rates resulting in saving of foreign exchange, ensuring timely arrivals and to make shipping arrangements to suit indentor's requirements.

(e) The other terms and conditions of the decision are as under :

- (i) Prior permission is required to be obtained from Ministry of Surface Transport on a case to case basis in case of any departure from the above policy. However, Ministry of Surface Transport shall ensure disposal of such requests within four working days on

receipt of the complete within four working days on receipt of the complete information/request from the concerned Ministry/PSU.

- (ii) Ministry of Surface Transport, Chartering Wing to ensure full utilisation of suitable Indian vessels in case they are able to meet the indentor's requirements at competitive rates and are able to maintain the time schedule.
- (iii) In case of import of bulk quantities like fertilisers, coal, foodgrains etc. where freight element is substantial, a representative from Ministry of Surface Transport may be invited to participate in the discussions for advising on the shipping aspects of import/export contracts.
- (iv) Ministry of Surface Transport should make all out efforts to finalise vessels, Indian or foreign, at the most competitive rates and before fixing the Vessels, prior approval of the indenting department/PSU should be obtained.
- (v) In order to make imports and exports cost-effective and for judicious use of foreign exchange, Ministries/Departments should ensure imports on FOB/FAS and exports on CIF basis failing which necessary. No Objection Certificate (NOC) should be obtained from Ministry of Surface Transport (Chartering Wing) while applying for release of necessary foreing exchange for the purpose of chartering foreign vessels and for making freight payment in foreign currency.
- (vi) The tendering system to be followed by Ministries/Departments/PSUs will be standardised.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Several amendments have been made to the law enacted in 1958. This is causing difficulties to people. But there has been no intervention from your side. Why not, this would be informed.

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the Government policy of importing on FOB/FAS and exporting on C & F/CIF basis with centralised shipping arrangements through Chartering Wing has been in existence since 1958. This policy was enunciated recently from February, 1996 and it is being followed.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : You have done it in 1996, however, thereafter there have been drastic changes. Have you made any new policy in the

changed circumstances as people are facing a lot of difficulties. People have submitted numerous representations. But still you have not taken any decision. Please let us know your programme in this regard.

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : The information furnished by the hon. Member is not correct.

In December, 1996 a decision was taken to import 1.4 MT from Australia. The hon. Member will be happy to know that about 67 have been finalised. They have been taken over by the Indian vessels. So, there is a saving of Rs. 20 million on account of freight. This system is working quite all right. So, there need not be any review or change of this system.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a specific question to the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister, in his reply, has stated :

"The Ministry will ensure disposal of such requests within four workings days on receipt of the complete information/request from the concerned Ministry/PSU."

If that is so, I want to know whether any format has been prepared. What do you mean by "all information"? It means, they have to send all the information immediately. Then, a letter will go. After four days or ten days or even one month, you will ask for some other information. Therefore, I want to know whether any format is there so that while applying they can fully fill up that format and then the Government can take a decision.

Those vessels are chartered vessels. They are other than the flag ships. I want to know whether the Government has made any comparative study by which they can indicate the number of Indian flag ships used, to what extent they were used, and when they were used. Which were the flag ships used during that period?

SHTI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Previously, we used to give four days' time. Now, to avoid all these delays, within four days, the Ministry passes on the information to the concerned people.

Indo-Russian Nuclear Deal

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*205. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any discussion took place with regard to sale of two nuclear reactor/weapons to India during the recent visit of External Affairs Minister to Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have examined the Press Reports that US puts pressure on Russia on Indo-Russian Nuclear deal;

(d) whether Russia was to supply two nuclear reactors to India under the earlier Agreement;

(e) whether this subject was discussed between the Russian Prime Minister and the US authorities during the former's visit to United States;

(f) if so, whether there is any change in the attitude of Russia on this deal after the US visit of the Russian Prime Minister; and

(g) if so, by what time the deal is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Indo-Russian cooperation on setting up a nuclear power station in India was referred to by the Russian side during the visit of the Minister of External Affairs to the Russian Federation from 9-13 February, 1997.

Government have seen reports in the media indicating that the US has exerted pressure on Russia as regards the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project.

An Agreement was signed on 20 November, 1988 between India and the erstwhile USSR on "Cooperation in the construction of a Nuclear Power Station in India". By it the USSR was to cooperate in the construction and operation of a 2x1000 MW Nuclear Power Station in India.

Government does not have any information from either the Russian or US sides as to whether this subject was discussed during the visit of the Russian Prime Minister to the USA in February, 1997.

There has been no change in the Russian attitude towards the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project following the conclusion of the visit to the USA by the Russian Prime Minister.

Negotiations between India and Russia on the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project are yet to be completed.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Sir, in the Statement, it is mentioned :

"An Agreement was signed on 20 November, 1988 between India and the erstwhile USSR on "Cooperation in the construction of a Nuclear Power Station in India". By it the USSR was to cooperate in the construction and operation of a 2x1000 MW Nuclear Power Station in India."

Now, we are in the year 1997.

At the end of the Statement, it is also mentioned :

"Negotiations between India and Russia on the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project are yet to be completed."

Already nine years have elapsed. India is short of power. In view of the urgency, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he had any discussions with them? What are the causes of the delay of nine years? When are then likely to complete these projects?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, it might sound cynical for him to say that nine years have elapsed. Out of those nine years, for five years, my hon. colleague was dealing with the subject.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Sir, is this the answer?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : But the fact remains that the original Agreement was signed with the Soviet Union in 1988. Then, the Soviet Union collapsed. Therefore, the talks were again initiated when Mr. Yeltsin came here in 1993. From 1993 to 1995, different clauses were again examined. When I went to Moscow recently, the idea was reactivated. Now, we are discussing and negotiating with them various clauses regarding financial backing of this subject.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Sir, while giving details of his visit to Moscow, he has stated Indo-Russian relations as partnership of strategic cooperation based on shared interests. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the strategic partnership and shared interest between the two countries?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I have confined myself to this question under the strategic partnership. I am confining myself to this question to say that this is one of the very unique agreements which really does not bind the Russians by any law with a change subsequently internally or internationally. But there is a safeguard in our favour. At the moment, we have a DPR to be negotiated and the Cabinet, I think, would be examining this in the near future.

During my stay in Moscow, the First Deputy Prime Minister was very keen that this should go ahead. It is a very large project and is costing approximately about Rs. 14,000 crore. Therefore, naturally various dimensions have to be examined.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, my question is of a little technical nature and could have been put to the Department of Atomic Energy. But it involves a policy matter also which has to be dealt with by the Foreign Ministry. So I am putting it to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The erstwhile Soviet Union was willing to cooperate with India in developing fusion technology. My impression is, the present Russian Government is also willing to cooperate with India in developing fusion technology. The fusion technology is one of the most advanced technologies which can help any country to

generate power. Now, if the present Government in Russia is willing to cooperate with India to develop fusion technology, what would be the stand of the Indian Government on this point?

I was told that even the American scientists are working with the Russian scientists to develop this technology. They have three tocomarks-Tocomark I, Tocomark II and Tocomark III. They are using it to develop this technology. This depends on the attitude taken and the policy made by the two Governments more than the technology itself.

So, I would like to request the Minister of Foreign Affairs to respond, if he can and if he is willing to.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, it is not a question of willingness. It is a question of knowledge. Since I am not an expert on this subject, I do not have data available with me. But I assure the hon. Member that I take his point very seriously and I will check up on this point.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. Is it not correct that since 1988, the Cooperation Agreement has remained unimplemented because our Department of Atomic Energy did not find favour with the Agreement on the grounds of the fact that such an agreement of supply of nuclear power reactor or power supply to India will retard indigenous efforts by the Indian scientists and by our Department of Atomic Energy?

May I also know from the hon. Minister, has the proposed scheme, now re-energised, been fully discussed with the Department of Atomic Energy or is the earlier objection of the Department of Atomic Energy now no longer valid or is the question of indigenous efforts by our Department now completely placed on the shelf or is this a part of the overall effort of somehow revitalising 10,000 MW by 2000 AD?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, I might assure my hon. friend that the Department of Atomic Energy is fully involved in this. We have been told by that Department that this particular type of technology for setting up of such high capacity, that is, 1,000 MW, is not available with them.

As a matter of fact, our Department of Atomic Energy is very keen that we acquire this technology because they feel that this is a window of opportunity which was must utilise.

[Translation]

Funds for Removal of Illiteracy

*206. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to provide hundred per cent grant to educationally backward States like Bihar, Orissa and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce any new schemes during 1997-98 for the removal of illiteracy in these States so that the target of full literacy would be attained by the year 2005; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Government have taken up in hand a time-bound programme aimed at eradication of illiteracy by the year 2005 A.D. The implementation of this programme is done through Zilla Saksharata Samitis who chalk up area-specific, time-bound, outcome-oriented, volunteer-based programmes to achieve total literacy. National Literacy Mission and State Literacy Mission authorities provide the necessary direction and support to the programme. The programme is run on a collaborative basis under which the expenditure is shared by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 2:1. In tribal districts, the corresponding cost-sharing ratio is 4:1.

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have raised a question about Bihar, Orissa and Rajasthan as these are educationally very backward states. Has the Union Government made any promise to provide 100 percent grants to these states? What measure the hon. Minister intend to take to provide free of charge education in these states?

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Sir, so far as aid is concerned, the Government has not taken any decision to completely fund education in these three States. The general policy of the Government to have universal education applies to the States and special assistance is given to Bihar particularly. The World Bank aid is there. Bihar is the most backward State in Hindi-belt. Uttar Pradesh has been almost covered. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have been covered, but Bihar is the most backward State still. We are trying to intensify the literacy programme in these States.

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Hon. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in his reply that the expenditure of the literacy Mission is share by the Union Government and the State Government in 2:1 ratio. The Union Government is running the Literacy Mission, however the fact is that in no part of the country any permanent programme is being carried out to eradicate illiteracy and to achieve the target of full literacy by

2005. I would like to know as to what kind of programmes are being mooted to eradicate illiteracy and how is the Government going to achieve the target of full literacy?

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Sir, in the month of July, there was a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the country wherein seven minimum needs programme was adopted, one of which was to achieve full literacy by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan. It has been endorsed by all the Chief Ministers. Thereafter, I had a meeting with the Education Ministers, Education Officers and experts in the country and we came to the conclusion to have a Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State in the Department of Education in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shri Saikiaji. Eleven State Ministers were also there in the Committee and after deliberations for six months they submitted a report last month. They have made a number of proposals to achieve universal education. They have also said that we require a sum of Rs. 40,000 crore to achieve this objective and that so many schools, so many teachers and teaching materials are required. They have given a report. I am taking it to the Cabinet.

Also we have written to the Chief Ministers. After hearing their views, we will take a decision in that matter.

[Translation]

SHRI ILIAS AZMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister that has he not received such reports through Parliament and there sources to the effect that 90-95 percent funds meant for the Literacy Mission goes into the pockets of the officers and the staff. Apart from printing monograms of Mission on the walls. Have you found a single person in the country who became literate through Literacy Mission.

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Sir, I do not completely agree with the hon. Member. There are instances where for only namesake a district is declared fully literate. But there are States and districts where they have achieved it, partially achieved and partially not achieved. Therefore, we are thinking of a different policy. We have to revise the entire policy.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister in his speech a few days back stated that Bihar is the most backward state and today the Minister for Human Resource Department is also stating that Bihar is a backward state. We have also demands on many occasions that Bihar should be given special assistance to combat its backwardness. Shri Shatrughan Prasad Singh also just raised a deal question, he has also talked above Bihar and has asked whether the Government intends to give 100 percent grants to Bihar,

Orissa and Rajasthan for this work and the Minister has replied that the Union Government and the State Governments bear expenditure on this work in 2:1 ratio. Hon. Speaker, Sir, in the recent report of C.A.G. it is clearly written that the money given to Bihar Government under this head by Government of India has been cent percent diverted to other heads. When this amount has been misutilised in other heads by the Bihar Government, I would like to know whether this fact has been brought to the notice of Hon. Minister and whether hon. Minister wants to give cent-percent grant to Bihar state to get rid of the financial constraints?

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I have not received the C & AG's report. After receiving it, I will go through it and take necessary action. I will write to the State Government for necessary action.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister this thing? I have gone through a small book written by Planning Commission where they have said that allocation to the education sector of GNP or GDP ratio is much higher in our country compared to other developing countries including China. The allocation is higher, but the literacy rate going up is much lower than other countries. Is it that the money is being spent more on infrastructure, or is it that the money is again being misused in some other form? Because if we see the allocation which is higher, then the rate must also go higher. What is Government's view on this subject?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : The most important reason is the increase in the growth of population. China has reduced its population for the last 20 years. That is the main reason... (Interruptions) The population growth rate is coming down in China. We will be having a population of more than China by the end of this century. That is one reason. As you say, in some cases, the money is not properly utilised also. I must admit it. The State Governments are not coming forward to contribute their share. Unless there is a proper coordination among the States, the Centre, NGOs, the voluntary organizations and the Panchayats, we will not be able to do full justice. Why is it successful in Kerala and in most of the Southern States? Why is there failure in the Hindi belt only? It is because of the general awakening, voluntary organization, social reform as well as cooperation between the States and the Central Government which is necessary. Therefore, I am rethinking as to what to do. This Committee has given certain proposals. I am placing it before the Cabinet.

Trade Treaty Between India and Nepal

*207. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty which has been renewed recently;

(b) whether as a result of the trade treaty, free entry for Nepalese export is allowed; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The three main features of the Treaty are :

- (i) removal of material content requirement for duty free entry of Nepalese articles into India;
- (ii) rationalisation of countervailing duty structure in respect of Nepalese goods manufactured in small scale units; and
- (iii) provision of automatic renewal of the Treaty after 5 December, 2001, for further period (s) of five years.

Articles of Nepalese manufacture except alcoholic liquor, perfumes and cosmetics of non-Nepalese/non-Indian brands and cigarettes/tobacco, will be allowed preferential entry into India.

Nepal has been having a trade deficit with India for a long time. The agreed changes would increase bilateral trade, offer a chance for achieving a greater trade balance, as well as enable Nepal, a close and friendly neighbouring country, to offer a greater range of articles of Nepalese manufacture.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to say that under the new trade agreement between India and Nepal, the Government of India has allowed duty free entry of goods imported from Nepal. So, I would like to know whether Nepal has also allowed duty free entry of Indian goods in Nepal?

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : The new agreement that the Government of India and the Government of Nepal have signed gives considerable concessions to the Government of Nepal and this is a part of our policy. So far as Indian goods going to Nepal are concerned, I will not be able to give the details just now and I will need notice for it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that besides Nepalese goods, the goods of other countries can also be imported to India in the name of Nepal. I would like to ask whether Indian Government have made any provision to check such things?

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : The agreement clearly lays down that a certificate has to be produced about the origin and the contents. The details are given in the statement itself.

MR. SPEAKER : Qn. 208. Shri D.P. Yadav is absent.

Indian Museum, Calcutta

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*209. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :

SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that funds crunch is causing immense hardships for the Indian museum, Calcutta;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to act fast and allot required quantum of funds to salvage the damage;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Indian Museum, which is one of the oldest Museums of India, has been getting a substantial grant from the Government of India which has grown over the years as would be revealed from the following figures for the last five years :

	(Rupees in lakhs)
1992-93	Rs. 120.60
1993-94	Rs. 313.00
1994-95	Rs. 312.45
1995-96	Rs. 319.05
1996-97	Rs. 319.05

Besides, the Museum has its own sources of income in the shape of entrance fee, sale of publications, sale of replicas etc., and various fees for use of auditorium and other facilities in the Museum.

For the current year a total provision of Rs. 319.05 lakhs have been made for the Indian Museum out of which Rs. 189.29 lakhs has already been released and the balance would be released before the expiry of the current financial year subject to audit verification etc.

[Translation]

SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir the condition of National Museums is deteriorating due to lack of funds. In this connection the Minister has replied that the Government is giving funds. But the amount the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 is the same. If adequate

funds are not provided and its monitoring is not done scientifically then the museum will face destruction.

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : So far as the Museum is concerned, there is no dearth of funds. Not only is the Government giving sufficient funds, but they are also generating their own funds. In fact, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that as on 31.3.1996, the Museum had an unspent balance of Rs. 138.02 lakh out of which Rs. 53.71 lakh was earmarked for the construction of the annexe building. Not only have they got an unspent amount, but they are getting funds through the entrance fees and by other means. They are generating their own income. They have got sufficient money.

[Translation]

SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, all the paintings and ancient relics and remains of Indus Valley Civilization, are getting destroyed. The hon. Minister has said that some funds remained unspent. The hon. Minister must think about this that why this money has not been spent. Proper steps should be taken to check the damage causing to the museum and restoring its originality?

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : If a proposal for higher funds comes, the Government would sympathetically consider it and try to help them.

[Translation]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Hon. Minister has told that there is no dearth of funds but as far as I know, the expects committee has recommended that it should be made fully air-conditioned. At present only a small portion of museum is air-conditioned. The entire museum is not air-conditioned as a result of which the ancient objects and archeological remains are getting destroyed. I would like to know. Whether it is known to the hon. Minister or not? When funds are available then why it is not being made air-conditioned. I would like to know whether government will like same steps for making it air conditioned or not and the time by which the museum will be made fully air-conditioned?

Secondly, many new ancient and archeological remains are to be displayed in the museum but due to paucity of funds they still lying at other places and getting destroyed. So I would like to ask as to what arrangement are being made by the Government. In display them in the museum? In excavation we are getting many important objects and remains which are to be displayed in the museum. So I would like to know as to what arrangement is being made by the Government to install them in the museum?

[English]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Sir, I have already said that the Museum has sufficient funds. If they want some more funds for preservation and if a proper proposal is made, the Government would definitely consider it and try to help them.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I think, there are some problems with the figures. In 1993-94, the allotment was Rs. 313 lakh and then after four years, it is Rs. 319.05 lakh. In the meantime, the prices have risen by 40 per cent. So, in fact, in real terms, the grant has come done.

Secondly, in the reply it has been said that there is a balance and it is one of the problem on which the C & AG also has commented. An amount of Rs. 189 lakh out of 319 lakh has already been released. We are discussing it in March. He says it will be released before the expiry of the current financial year. So, between today and 31st, the rest of the amount would be allowed and that would be either misspent or would be accommodated for the next year. The C & AG has made a very severe comment about this. I want a response from the hon. Minister.

The third part is very awful. This is not the way to spend. The third part of the reply is that the Science City in Calcutta is part of the Indian Museum. I met the concerned person the other day and he said that comes under this Museum. They are facing problems in terms of funds also. The completion stage in respect of second phase would come next year. Would he also consider to expand funds for that also?

MR. SPEAKER : Luckily you do not have part 'D'!

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : That is the criticism.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : By the end of March, all the amounts would be released. Money has been spent. We have to receive the receipts. Unless we get the certificate, we cannot release the money. I can assure the hon. Member that the money will be released before 31st of March.

So far as the Science City is concerned, that is a separate matter and that matter is also under the consideration of the Government.

National Academy in Calcutta

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*210. SHRI CHITTA BASU :

SHRI JAG MOHAN :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has since been drawn to the resolution passed by the West Bengal

Legislative Assembly on February 8 last urging upon the Union Government to set up National Academy in Calcutta in commemoration of birth centenary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) A copy of the relevant Resolution of West Bengal Legislative Assembly was obtained from the Secretariat of the Assembly after the receipt of this Question. In the Resolution, the Legislative Assembly has unanimously resolved that the State Government should take up with the Central Government the matter regarding establishment of a Netaji National Academy at an All India Level.

No reference nor any detail has so far been received in this behalf from the Government of West Bengal.

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chitta Basu. You can ask one Supplementary.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I am not asking Supplementary.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, I want to ask whether the hon. Minister is aware that in one of his earliest letters to his mother, Subhash Chandra Bose had expressed anguish... (Interruptions) Let me complete first and then you can speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Anyway, the Question Hour is over. I am sorry.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Women Health Organisations

*208. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up Women Health Organisations for active participation of women at community and village level;

(b) the names of places where such organisations have been set up in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the instructions being issued by the Government for the improvement of women and children's health through these organisations and the annual expenditure being incurred on these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. In 1990-91 Central Government has recommended to States for establishment of Mahila Swasthya Sanghs for active participation of village level women community.

(b) Uttar Pradesh has established 3052 Mahila Swasthya Sanghs.

(c) Guidelines have been issued for the constitution of Mahila Swasthya Sanghs. Following are the main activities to be undertaken by Mahila Swasthya Sanghs for the improvement of women and children's health :

- (i) To facilitate health education at village level;
- (ii) To develop as a forum for discussion on health and family welfare among women;
- (iii) To motivate acceptance of Family Welfare measures among women.
- (iv) To promote convergent action amongst ICDS, Health, School and other level functionaries;
- (v) Organisation of discussion/dialogue between monther-in-laws and daughter-in-laws on health related issues;

The details of expenditure incurred on this programme during the last three years throughout the country is as under :

Year	Rs. in lakhs
93-94	Rs. 252.13
94-95	Rs. 529.53
95-96	Rs. 515.76

Renovation of Newly Constructed Dams

*211. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken certain decisions for the renovation of the newly constructed dams;

(b) if so, the names of the dams for the renovation of which the Government have formulated a scheme and the time when the original construction of each of the dams was completed;

(c) whether any estimate has also been made of the expenditure likely to be incurred on the construction of these projects; and

(d) if so, the total cost involved therein and the manner in which the Government propose to mobilise the same?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) World Bank assisted Dam Safety Assurance and Rehabilitation Project (DSARP) for an estimated cost of Rs. 456 crores was taken up by the Government in 1991 in order to take up remedial and other measures and strengthening of 54 dams in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

(b) to (d) The details are given in the attached Statement. In addition, National Committee on Dam safety has been set up under Ministry of Water Resources to oversee Dam Safety Activities in various States and suggest improvement to bring these in line with the state of art technology.

Statement

S.No.	State	Name of dam	Category	Estimated cost of works in (Rs. in crores)	Year of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Madhya Pradesh	Pagara	I	8.24	1927
2.	(18 dams- 8 Category I	Pillowa	-do-	13.79	1914
3.	10 Category II	Kaketo	-do-	7.93	1935
4.		Kotwal	-do-	11.95	1919
5.		Aoda	-do-	2.03	1934
6.		Tigra	-do-	13.79	1917
7.		Gandhi Sagar	-do-	14.46	1960
8.		Barna	-do-	3.50	1976
9.		Ravishankar Sagar	II	2.72	1978

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.		Sondur	II	1.55	1988
11.		Dudhawa	-do-	0.18	1963
12.		Murumsilli	-do-	1.16	1923
13.		Tawa	-do-	1.55	1975
14.		Chandora	-do-	1.13	Under Construction
15.		Sukta	-do-	2.99	1985
16.		Sampna	-do-	0.97	1956
17.		Barchar	-do-	.22	Under Construction
18.		Rajiv Gandhi Tank (Maniyari)	-do-	.61	1930
Sub-total (1)				86.87	
19.	Orissa	Hirakud	I	51.80	1957
20.	(9-Category I	Derjang	-do-	8.60	1978
21.	1-Category-II	Bhanjanagar	-do-	15.70	1901
22.		Sorada	-do-	27.60	1901
23.		Ghodahada	-do-	9.50	1978
24.		Jharnai	-do-	3.10	1975
25.		Ganianala	-do-	2.00	1975
26.		Alikuan	-do-	4.80	Not available
27.		Behera	-do-	0.30	1982
28.		Khangsabahal	II	2.00	1986
Sub-total (2) :				125.40	
29.	Rajasthan (11 dams-	Parbati	I	34.00	1963
30.	7-Category I, 4-Category II)	Galwa	-do-	11.20	1961
31.		Maitrikundia	-do-	0.81	1957
32.		Alnia	-do-	18.32	1962
33.		Ranapratap Sagar	-do-	1.00	1969
34.		Jawahar Sagar	-do-	1.60	1973
35.		Kota Barrage	-do-	10.00	1960
36.		Gambhiri	II	15.78	1959
37.		Morel	-do-	15.78	1959
38.		Jawai	-do-	0.50	1957
39.		Sei	-do-	0.85	1977
Sub-total (3) :				128.06	
40.	Tamil Nadu	Pechiparai	I	0.80	1906
41.	(15 dams-9-Category I,	Manimuthar	-do-	0.50	1958
42.	6-Category II)	Sathanur	-do-	16.00	1958
43.	.	Vidur	-do-	11.90	1959
44.	.	Gomukhi	-do-	5.50	1965
45.	.	Uppar	-do-	1.37	1968
46.	.	Ponnaniar	-do-	1.78	1974

1	2	3	4	5	6
47.	.	Periyar	I	7.20	1897
48.	.	Kodaganar	-do-	0.00	Under Construction
49.	.	Gunderipallam	II	0.43	1978
50.	.	Willingdon	-do-	1.00	1923
51.	.	Siddhamalli	-do-	3.97	1987
52.	.	Sholayar	-do-	1.70	1971
53.	.	Perunchani	-do-	7.20	1952
54.	.	Manimukta Nadhi	-do-	4.00	1970
Sub-total (4) :				63.35	
Grand Total :				405.59	

Surface Irrigation Projects

Land Under Irrigation

*212. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had undertaken the construction work of 246 big surface irrigation projects since 1951 to develop means of irrigation in the country;

(b) if so, the number of those projects, which have been completed by the end of March, 1996 out of the above;

(c) whether the construction cost of the remaining projects under construction has escalated due to delay in their completion; and

(d) if so, the percentage of increase in the cost of construction of these projects and the target fixed for their completion?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Out of 292 major irrigation projects taken up by the State Governments for construction since beginning of the Plan era in 1951, 129 major irrigation projects have been completed upto March, 1996.

(c) Yes, Sir. The construction cost of remaining projects under execution have escalated due to delay in their completion.

(d) The percentage increase in the cost of construction varies from project to project. Irrigation is a state subject and target for completion of Projects depends upon the funds made available to this sector and priority assigned by States to the Projects. However, Central Government is now making special provisions under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme and Rural Infrastructure Development Fund to assist States in speedy completion of projects.

*213. SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any fresh estimate during last year regarding the area of land, which could be covered under irrigation;

(b) if so, the area of such land and its percentage in relation to total agricultural land in the country;

(c) whether the Government have made any estimate in regard to the total area of land covered under irrigation in the country till March, 1996;

(d) if so, the area of the said land; and

(e) the scheme of the Government for providing irrigation facility for the remaining land?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the estimated ultimate irrigation potential was worked out in 1981 as 113.5 Million hectares, which is about 62% of the total culturable area.

(c) and (d) The total area of the land likely to have been covered under irrigation facilities by the end of 1995-96 is 89.42 million hectares.

(e) To extend the irrigation facilities to unirrigated areas, a number of major, medium and minor irrigation schemes are under implementation. To expedite the process, the Central Government has launched a programme namely, Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97. Under AIBP a provision of Rs. 500.00 crores has finally been kept in the Revised budget estimate of the Ministry of Water Resources for 1996-97. An amount of Rs. 1300.00 crores has been earmarked for AIBP in the budget estimates of the Ministry for the year 1997-98.

[English]

Dredging at Kandla Port

*214. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kandla Port Trust has formulated a plan or project for dredging the silt;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof;

(c) whether the National Ship Design Research Centre has been asked to design the dredger for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the present position and the total time required to build up the dredger and to hand over the same to the Kandla Port Trust?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The estimated cost is Rs. 29 crores for 1996-97 and Rs. 30 crores for 1997-98. Maintenance dredging is done by Dredging Corporation of India throughout the year.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) It is proposed to replace dredger M.D. Kutch Vallabh at a cost of Rs. 150 crores during the 9th Plan period.

[Translation]

Hepatitis

*215. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRI MANI BHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Desh mein Hepatitis Rog Bade Paimane par Failne ki Ashanka" appearing in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated January 7, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item talks of the danger posed by Hepatitis-B Virus in the country and suggests remedial measures for prevention.

(c) An Expert Committee has given certain recommendations in regard to the introduction of Hepatitis-B under the immunization programme. It has been decided to immunize the hospital workers of Central Government Hospitals in the first instance.

[English]

Population Control

*216. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any targets have been fixed to control population during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether uniform laws do not exist to control the population;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether there are certain communities, which have been exempted or are not bound to accept the advice to check the population and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The IX Plan document, which will include Department-wise policies and outlays has not yet been finalised by the Planning Commission. The Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan prepared by the Planning Commission has duly emphasised the urgent need to control rate of growth of population.

(c) to (e) The National Family Welfare Programme is voluntary in nature. The Programme aims to provide information as well as facilities to all the eligible couples irrespective of community. The strategy adopted under the programme is to motivate the people to accept the small family norms.

National Sports Federation

*217. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Sports Federation has failed to lead the country towards rapid development in the field of sports;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to broadbase the sporting activities to bring a sense of national pride?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) It would not be correct to say that the National Sports Federations have failed to lead the country towards rapid development in the field of sports. While it may be difficult to pinpoint any definite set of reasons for India's poor performance at the International level, they could broadly be identified as under :

(i) Lack of long term commitment for the development of sports in India at the National and State level;

- (ii) Non-availability of infrastructural facilities right upto the grass root level including training areas, standard sports equipment etc.;
- (iii) Inadequate monetary resources; and
- (iv) Lack of integration of Physical Education and sports with educational curriculum.

(c) The measures proposed to be taken for broadbasing of sports activities to bring a sense of national pride include : effective integration of sports and games with the educational curriculum; particular emphasis on promotion of sporting activities in rural areas and on creation of sports infrastructure throughout the country; and a set of various incentives and awards to sports-persons who win medals at the International level.

[Translation]

Visit by Cyprus President

*218. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the President of Cyprus had visited India recently;
- (b) if so, the details of talks held between him and Indian leaders regarding trade and economic matters; and
- (c) the extent to which relations are likely to be strengthened between India and Cyprus as a result of this visit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes Sir, The President of Cyprus, Mr. Glafcos Clerides visited India from 10-15 February, 1997.

(b) The talks between President Clerides and Indian leaders were wide-ranging, encompassing different aspects of Indo-Cypriot relations as well as cooperation between the two countries in the multilateral arena. The talks covered, inter alia, a number of political issues, including those of special interest to either side. It also afforded an opportunity to our two countries to build on the traditionally close political ties between us by deepening our economic relations. Recognising the opportunities ahead for increasing Indo-Cypriot trade and economic co-operation, President Clerides brought with him a business delegation from Cyprus. Discussions were held on ways that Indian companies could expand business relations with Cyprus in the context of the latter's impending admission into the European Union. During the visit an agreement was signed between the Cypriot Foreign Minister and our Minister of Surface Transport on Maritime cooperation.

(c) The visit of the Cypriot President has strengthened bilateral ties between India and Cyprus by re-enforcing a traditionally close relationship. The two sides reiterated their traditional support to each other on bilateral and multilateral issues of particular importance to either country, including the question of permanent membership of the UN Security Council. The visit of President Clerides also provided an opportunity to reaffirm our shared commitment to NAM. In this context the Cypriot Foreign Minister confirmed that he would attend the NAM Ministerial Conference in New Delhi next month. The visit also paved the way for a closer economic partnership which will be particularly useful as Cyprus moves towards joining the European Union. Our future ties should be considerably enhanced by the role Cyprus can play as a gateway for expanding India's economic relations with Europe.

[English]

Tolls on National Highways/Bypasses and Bridges

*219. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Government to levy tolls on national highways, bypasses and bridges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount likely to accrue to the Government annually on account of this toll tax; and
- (d) the justification and reasons for levying such a toll tax by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to levy toll on improved 4 lane sections of National Highways, bypasses and bridges.

(c) As the toll will be fixed considering the cost of facility, savings to the user and the period of concession, it will vary from case to case. It is, therefore, not possible to give the accrual annually.

(d) As improvements to the National Highways would result in substantial savings to the road user, a part of such savings will be collected as toll.

Financial Assistance to Private Hospitals

*220. CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance to certain private hospitals; and

(b) if so, the criteria being followed for providing financial assistance in this regard and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The Government provides

financial assistance under defferent Schemes to voluntary organisations running hospitals.

The details of the schemes and the criteria being followed in general, for giving grant-in-aid to the voluntary organisations is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Criteria	Amount of Grant-in-aid ADMISSIBLE
1	2	3	4
1.	IMPROVEMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICES	<p>(a) It must be registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 or any other statute.</p> <p>(b) It should not be run for profit to any individual or group of individuals.</p> <p>(c) It should be non-official and under non-propietary management.</p> <p>(d) It must offer services to the general public without any distinction of religion, caste creed or colour.</p> <p>(e) It should have personnel, resources, experiences and managerial ability to carry out the purpose for which the grant of financial assistance has been asked for.</p> <p>(f) Its work and financial position should be reported as satisfactory and payment of grant-in-aid should be recommended by the State Government.</p> <p>(g) It should normally be engaged in the treatment of tuberculosis, leprosy, Cancer, eye and other diseases.</p> <p>(h) It should agree to reserve a minimum of one fifth of the beds as free beds as per the definition of free bed/free medical care given as a part of the application form.</p> <p>(i) It must be of sound financial standing and agree to meet its share of non-recurring expenditure, wherever applicable.</p> <p>(j) It should have furnished to the Government of India utilisation documents in respect of the earlier grants after they have become due.</p>	Rs. 4.00 lakhs

1	2	3	4
2.	NATIONAL LEPROSY-SURVEY, EDUCATION & TRAINING SCHEME	<p>(k) Assistance shall ordinarily be given to an institution once in three years.</p> <p>(i) The grantee institution should be a society, registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.</p> <p>(ii) The application for release of grant is required to be forwarded by the concerned State Government with their recommendation.</p>	Recurring-Rs. 4.47 lakhs Non-Recurring-Rs. 1.91 lakhs
3.	NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL PROGRAMME	<p>(I) <i>Procurement of Cobalt 60</i> :</p> <p>(a) Financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 1.00 crore is provided to the State Government\Institutions (Government/Charitable) subject to the condition that the institution possess the required staff i.e. Radio therapist (1), GDO (1), Registrar (1), House Surgeons (2), Physicist (1), Physics Technician (1), Mould Room Technician (1), Senior Radiotherapist (1).</p> <p>(b) The lay out plan is approve by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay.</p> <p>(c) The institution has to bear the replacement cost of the cobalt source after its normal span of life.</p> <p>(d) The request of the institution\hospital is required to be routed through the concerned State Government and is finally approved by the Standing Committee on Radiotherapy Development Programme headed by Director General of Health Services.</p> <p>(II) Financial assistance is given to Registered and bonafide charitable hospitals\NGOs for early detection of cancer cases and awareness activities. A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs is given to each such NGO which is in existence for more than three years and is actively involved in the early detection and awareness activities. The request of such NGO is also required to be forwarded through the concerned State Government.</p>	Rs. 1.00 crore
			Rs. 5.00 lakhs

1	2	3	4
4.	MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH CARE PROJECT	<p>Regional Institute of Maternal and Child Health was established at Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad with the following objectives :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Conduct studies and surveys on health status of mothers and children. (ii) Identify the major causes of morbidity and mortality among the same group. (iii) Monitor MCH programme in the region and provide feed back to State and Central Government. (iv) Conduct operational research for problem solving and suggest suitable measures subject to local modification\adoption. (v) Act as a documentation centre for all health problems related to women and children. (vi) Provide continuous monitoring and evaluation of health measures adopted. (vii) Improve skill and knowledge of health workers for reduction of morbidity and mortality through a system of training and retraining. (viii) Provide level I and II care to mothers and develop a suitable referral system in atleast three PHCs. (ix) Develop low cost models for delivery of MCH care in rural areas and urban slums. (x) Develop suitable curriculae and manuals for training of medical and para-medical personnel; and (xi) Provide health and nutritional education to the community. 	<p>Non-Recurring-Rs. 29.00 lakhs Recurring-Rs. 7.00 lakhs per annum for three years.</p>
5.	SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF SMALL FAMILY AND POPULATION CONTROL-SIX-BEDDED SCHEME	<p>The Six Bedded Scheme is applicable in such rural areas of the country where Operation Theatre facilities are distant and not easily accessible and in slum areas in the city. The NGO is required to contribute 10% cost of the project. Preference is given to areas where couple protection rate is less than 35%. Under this scheme the Organisation is, interalia, supposed to conduct vasectomy and tubectomy sterilisations, MTP and IUD Insertions.</p>	<p>Non-Recurring-Rs. 4.50 lakhs Recurring : For Urban Areas-Rs. 1.20 lakhs For Rural Areas-Rs. 0.60 lakhs</p>

Denying Hospitalisation to Critical Patients is a contempt says SC

2210. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Denying hospitalisation to critical patients is a contempt case, says SC" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated september 21, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued any instructions to hospitals, both Government and private, in this regard, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private hospitals are not offering cannot afford free outdoor and indoor facilities to poor patients; and

(d) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to ensure that private hospital may be able to do such services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(b) The direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court have been communicated to the Health Secretaries of all States\UTs as well as to the Central Government hospitals to take appropriate action for carrying out orders of the court.

(c) and (d) 'Health' being a state subject, the State Government are responsible for regulating the services of private hospitals for which some States have laws including, land use law.

[Translation]

Supply of Indented Medicines

2211. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the indented medicines are usually supplied to the CGHS beneficiaries within two working days; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to issue guidelines to the CGHS dispensaries particularly in Sarojini Nagar and Laxmibai Nagar in this regard to ensure supply of indented medicines to the beneficiaries within a prescribed period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Normally, the indented medicines are supplied to the CGHS beneficiaries within two working days.

The guidelines in this regard have been reiterated on 21.5.96 to CGHS Incharges of all CGHS dispensaries under CGHS delhi\New Delhi for strict compliance of the instructions.

[English]

Vector Control Research Centre

2212. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any report by Indian Council of Medical Research regarding closing of Vector Control Research Centre in Alleppey, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) The Vector Control Research Centre project at Cherthala in Alleppey (Kerala) was launched as a Technology Mission project with the objective of eliminating the transmission of filarial parasites from the endemic belt. Having achieved the objective, the Indian Council of Medical Research is planning to transfer the technology to the Government of Kerala through a Memorandum of Understanding. The Council would, however, continue to provide technical guidance and expertise till the project becomes totally self-reliant.

Sports Protocol

2213. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the sport-wise names of countries who have signed various sports protocol with India during Eighth Plan period alongwith the number out of them executed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : During the Eighth Plan Period, a Sports Protocol was signed with Russian Federation of 20th February, 1996 for the year 1996-97 having the provision for exchange of sports experts, sports scientists, sports medicine experts, experts on physical exercise and highly skilled coaches in the sports disciplines of Athletics (Middle & Long Distance running), Throws, Archery, Cycling, Gymnastics, Rowing and Greco-Roman Wrestling. There is also a provision for exchange of sports teams in the disciplines of Archery, Athletics, Boxing, Football, Judo, Hockey (Men and Women), Volleyball, Rowing, Wrestling and Canoeing and Kayaking.

As regards implementation of the protocol, negotiations are in progress between both sides for finalising the visits of the sports specialists, experts and teams. Regarding appointment of Russian Coaches, Government have approved the appointment of Russian Coaches on contract basis in the sports disciplines of Athletics, Greco-Roman Wrestling, Throwing and Sports Physiology.

Effects of DDT

2214. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any research or study had been undertaken by the Indian Council of Medical Research on the effect of D.D.T. on women;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to an ICMR-study on the effect of DDT on women, further studies are required to evaluate the exact role of DDT compounds in uterine leiomyomas. Another study on pesticide residues in pregnant women indicated presence of pesticides in breast milk, maternal blood, placenta blood and placenta.

(c) Use of DDT in agriculture is already banned. The use of BHC has been banned from 1.4.97. Although restricted quantities of DDT are being used in areas where malaria vector mosquitos is responding to DDT and for Kala-azar control, several alternatives such as new generation insecticised and bio-environmental have also been identified now out the use of DDT is being phased out. However pesticidl residue remain in the soil for several decade and find their way into the food Chain. This phenomenon is world wide and not restricted only to India.

Medical Facilities

2215. SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that M.B.B.S. doctors and other specialists of the country do not like to work in the rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce a two years middle ring condensed course for the doctors working in rural areas so that rural people may not be deprived of medical facilities;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to lay the condition of three years rural area service before giving permission to do M.D. courses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Earlier short-term courses like Licentiate Medical Practitioner (LMP) was available. The Licentiate Medical Course has been discontinued from 22.1.1980 by the MCI with the approval of the Central Government.

(d) and (e) The State/UT Governments have been advised to consider introducing regional decentralised recruitment policy for doctors for filling up vacancies of doctors in rural areas and reserving a certain percentage of post graduate seats for Medical Officers who have put in two to three years service in rural areas.

PRS at Educational Institutions

2216. SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide Public Relations Services in educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) Each Central University and Deemed University have post of a Public Relations Officer. Similarly, most State Universities too have posts of Public Relations Officers.

Tribute to Subhas Chandra Bose

2217. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to pay tribute to Subhas Chandra Bose in his centenary year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have decided to celebrate the birth centenary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose through year-long programmes and activities beginning from 23rd January, 1997. To mark the commencement of the celebrations, a public function was organised at the

Red Fort on 23rd January, 1997 which was attended among others by the President of India, the Vice President and the Prime Minister. The Programmes and activities of the centenary year are being guided by a National Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. A Sub-Committee of the National Committee under the chairmanship of the Minister of Human Resource Development has already prepared an Action Plan in this behalf.

23rd January, 1997-the birthday of Netaji-has been declared Desh Prem Diwas (Day of Patriotism) and will be commemorated as such every year. A commemorative postage stamp in the memory of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was released by the President of India on 23rd January, 1997. Commemorative coins of Rs. 100/- Rs. 50/- and Rs. 10/- and a circulation coin of Rs. 2/- were also released by the President of India in a special ceremony held on 19th February, 1997.

All State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have also been requested to celebrate this momentous event in a befitting manner.

(c) Does not arise.

Technical Institutions

2218. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of degree level and diploma level technical institutions located in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether regional concentration of technical institutions has some connection with commercialisation of technical education by private trusts and societies in those States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of engineering colleges and management institutions located in N.E. States, State-wise;

(e) whether regional imbalance in technical education is harmful for the development of technical education in the country; and

(f) if so, the action taken by All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) to correct the imbalance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (f) A statement giving the number of degree level and diploma level technical institutions in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and North Eastern States as on 31.12.1996 is enclosed. It is a fact that concentration of institutions in a few States is more as compared to others. AICTE is seized of this problem and is encouraging those States lacking such facilities to set up appropriate level technical institutions based on manpower needs. At the same time, the Council is

discouraging starting of new technical institutions where the concentration is more.

Statement

State\UT	Number of Degree Institutions	No. of Diploma Institutions
1. Maharashtra	106	157
2. Karnataka	51	179
3. Tamil Nadu	90	161
4. Andhra Pradesh	34	82
5. Meghalaya	-	02
6. Assam	03	09
7. Manipur	-	03
8. Mizoram	-	01
9. Nagaland	-	01
10. Tripura	01	01
11. Sikkim	01	-

Development of College in Kerala

2219. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether University Grants Commission has received any request from the Government of Kerala for assistance grant for the development of the college in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rashtriya Barh Ayog

2220. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 2634 on August 11, 1994 regarding "Rashtriya Barh Ayog" and state :

(a) whether the recommendations of the Ayog have since been considered and implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have enquired into the recent flood destruction caused in Southern parts of Andhra Pradesh;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken to check such flood fury in future?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The 207 recommendations on long term and short term measures made by the Rashtriya Barh Ayog had been sent to the State Government for 8th Plan had identified 25 important recommendations out of the above for implementations during the 8th Plan. The Union Ministry of Water Resources has constituted Five Regional Task Forces on flood management on 30.9.96 with the participation of Senior Central and State Government officers to review the measures already taken by the State Governments including Rashtriya Barh Ayog recommendations and to recommend comprehensive measures for flood management.

(d) and (e) The Union Ministry of Agriculture had deputed two Central Teams to visit the flood/cyclone affected areas of Andhra Pradesh during October-November, 1996. The first team from 21-28 October, 1996 and the second team from 27th November to 1st December, 1996 to assess the damages due to cyclone/floods.

Based on the recommendations of the two teams, an amount of Rs. 142 crore was released from National Fund for Calamity Relief as decided by the Inter Ministerial Group Meeting. This amount is in addition to Rs. 124.19 crore from Calamity Relief Fund during 1996-97

(f) The Flood Management is a state subject. The Planning, implementation\execution of such schemes are undertaken by concerned State Govt. as per their inter-se priority out of their own State Plan Funds. The Central Government has a coordinating and advisory role and provides technical assistance to states including appraisal of schemes prepared by the State Govt.

[Translation]

Constitution of Management Committee in Colleges of Delhi

2221. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Management Committees in the colleges of Delhi University have not been constituted so far; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Medical Colleges

2222. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to take over all the Private Medical Colleges in order to achieve the target of health for all; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Durgavati Irrigation Project in Bihar

2223. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the implementation of the Durgavati Irrigation Project in Bihar;

(b) the total amount sanctioned and spent during each of the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Plan Period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 75.40 crores against an estimated cost of Rs. 147.40 crores have been spent on Durgawati Project of Bihar creating an Irrigation Potential of 23.670 ha. upto March, 1994.

(c) The completion of the project will depend upon the priority attached to it by the State Government.

Health Guide

2224. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether lump sum payment of Rs. 50/- p.m. only for Community Health Guides (C.H.G.) is not being paid by the Ministry particularly in Karimganj area of Assam;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to clear up the payments of C.H.G.s; and

(d) the action being taken to revise the rates of payment made to the Community Health Guides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The Village Health Guides who are on roll are to be paid an honorarium @ Rs. 50/- per month through the State Government. The Ministry has

been regularly releasing funds to the State of Assam under the Village Health Guide scheme.

(c) The Centre Government has advised the State of Assam to ensure the regular payments to Village Health Guides who are on roll.

(d) There is no such proposal at present to revise the rate of payment to the Community Health Guides.

Functioning of AICTE

2225. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Fresh Rules for approval of new Technical Institutes likely" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated January 30, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken to restructure\reorient the functioning of AICTE;

(c) the details of the proposals pending clearance with AICTE; and

(d) the action plan formulated for its effective\efficient and transparent functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) Approval of Technical institutions and programmes by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is a continuous process. At the moment 354 proposals are with the Council. Certain modifications in the procedure, time schedule and methodology in the existing regulations have been worked out which will take effect after their notification in the official Gazette.

Iodine Deficiency

2226. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Observer of Business and Politics' dated October 22, 1996 under the heading 'Iodine deficiency';

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government are seized of the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) and are already implementing Nation Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme. The main components of the Programme are :

a. Universal iodisation of salt;

b. Establishment of IDD Control Cell in State and Union Territories;

c. Publicity and Health Education;

d. Conducting of IDD Surveys\re-surveys;

e. Establishment of IDD Monitoring Laboratory; and

f. Monitoring the quality of iodised salt.

Sale of edible non-iodised salt has also been completely banned in all States\Union Territories except in Kerala, Goa and Union Territory of Pondicherry and partially in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Development of Ports by Private Sector

2227. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the ports that have been developed or being operated by private companies in the country along with the names of such firms\companies etc.;

(b) whether some such private port operators are unable to pay-off usual charges either to the Government of the concerned port trust;

(c) whether the Government have not made any infrastructural support policy to enable these operators of private ports to survive in the trade; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d) Private ports are being developed by maritime State Governments. The Central Government has not developed any private port.

Funds to Universities in Orissa

2228. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the grant-in-aid provided by University Grants Commission to the universities in Orissa during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) whether such grant has not been utilized fully by the universities;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor indicating the unutilized amount remaining with the universities; and

(d) the amount allocated to each university of the State for the period 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Over Bridge in Allahabad, U.P.

2229. DR. AMRIT LAL BHARTI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned funds in October, 1989 vide construction order No. 199-89-28 Public Works Department/9/18/R/88 for the construction of an over bridge on Chaufatka Railway Crossing in Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of funds sanctioned therefor;

(c) whether any steps have been taken for early commencement of construction work of this bridge;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (e) The Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. Bridges in the country and all other roads/bridges are essentially the responsibility of concerned State Governments. The over bridge in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh falls within the purview of State Government of Uttar Pradesh and as such responsibility for its construction lies with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Foreign Universities

2230. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign universities presently running their B.Tech., M.B.A., M.C.A. and other courses on technical education in India;

(b) the average fees being charged by these universities;

(c) the number out of these foreign universities recognised by the Association of Indian Universities;

(d) whether entry of these universities in the country is in the interest of proper development of technical education;

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to make any law for the control and regulation of these universities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (f) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is vested with the power to accord permission

to conduct programmes in technical education at diploma, degree and post-graduate levels. No Foreign affiliated programme has been approved by them. The Association of Indian Universities have also not recognised any foreign university for running any technical education course in India. The details of foreign universities running technical courses in India are not, therefore, available. In order to create awareness among the public against such foreign affiliated programme, the Council has been issuing public notices in the newspapers from time to time.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects in Tribal and Backward Areas of Gujarat

2231. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes launched in the tribal and backward regions of Gujarat for irrigation projects during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether any assistance has been provided by the Union Government for these irrigation projects during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of irrigation projects going on with the above assistance in the said regions of Gujarat as on date;

(e) whether these are likely to be completed in specified time-frame; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Port Policy

2232. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken initiative to amend the present port policy for optimum utilisation of existing private ports, providing additional facilities etc. to them, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage and open up port sector for private investment;

(c) the details of direct foreign investment approved in port development and progress of the ongoing major project, project-wise; and

(d) the details of investment cleared/proposed for modernisation of ports and other related network facilities to keep pace with the global trend?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Private Ports are being developed by Maritime State Governments. The Central Government has not developed any Private Port.

(b) The Government has issued clear and transparent guidelines for private sector participation in Major Ports to cover the following areas :-

- (1) Leasing out existing assets of the port.
- (2) Construction/Creation of additional assets, such as:-
 - (i) Construction and operation of container terminals.
 - (ii) Construction and operation of bulk, break bulk, multipurpose and specialised cargo berths.
 - (iii) Warehousing, Container Freight Stations, storage facilities and tank farms.
 - (iv) Cranage/Handling Equipment.
 - (v) Setting up of captive power plants.
 - (vi) Dry docking and ship repair facilities.
- (3) Leasing of equipment for port handling and leasing of floating crafts from the private sector.
- (4) Pilotage.
- (5) Captive facilities for port based industries.

(c) The Government has recently approved the award of the licence for the construction and operation of a Two-berth Container Terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in favour of a consortium consisting of P&O Ports, Australia, Konsortium Perkapalan Berhad (Malaysia), & DBC Port Management Private Limited India.

A list of approved private sector participation projects is enclosed as statement.

(d) An outlay of around Rs. 15,465 crores-Rs. 9111 crores in central sector and Rs. 6354 crores in private sector-has been proposed in 9th Plan (1997-2002) for modernisation of major ports and other related network facilities.

Statement

List of Approved Private Sector Participation Projects

LEASING OF EXISTING BERTHS/ASSETS OF THE PORT

1. Leasing of berth No. 6 at Kandla Port to M/s. Geepee Corporation Limited, Bangkok for handling bulk and break bulk cargoes.
2. Madras Port Trust has entered into a long term berth reservation agreement with M/s. Bengal Tiger Lines.

3. Leasing of berths at Haldia Dock Complex to Steel Authority of India Limited and TISCO.
4. Bombay Port Trust entered into an agreement with M/s. American President Lines for use of berth No.1. Indira Dock Complex.
5. Leasing of NS Dry Docks 1 and 2 with adjacent lands and wet berths etc. to M/s. Chowkhani Shipyard (Bengal) Limited for ship repair facilities at Calcutta Port.

CREATION OF STORAGE FACILITIES/WAREHOUSES

6. Leasing of land to M/s. SPIC for storage and despatch of LPG in Tuticorin Port.
7. Leasing of land to M/s. Suraj Agro Private Limited at Madras Port for creation of storage facilities for non-hazardous liquid bulk cargo.
8. Leasing of land to M/s. Ganesh Benzoplast Limited for creation of storage facilities for Class "B" and "C" liquid chemicals.
9. Leasing of land to M/s. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited for creation of storage facilities for Class "B" and "C" Liquid Chemicals.
10. Land has been leased to various parties at various major ports for creation of new storage facilities/ warehouses.
11. Leasing of Transit Shed at Visakhapatnam Port to M/s. Tinnu Oils & Chemicals Limited, Bombay for setting up mechanical cargo handling facilities. etc.

CREATION OF DRY DOCK, SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES AND SHIP BREAKING

12. Setting up a floating dry dock and ship repair facilities at Mormugao Port by M/s. Western India Shipyard Limited.
13. Setting up of ship repair facilities at Madras Port by M/s. Chowkhani International Limited.
14. Land allotted to M/s. Western India Maritime Division for setting up of Ship Breaking Yard.

LEASING OF EQUIPMENT BY PORT FROM PRIVATE SECTOR

15. Container Handling equipment taken on lease by Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust.
16. Container handling equipment at Bombay Port.
17. Hiring of Tugs at Visakhapatnam Port.

CAPITAL DREDGING FROM FUNDS PROVIDED BY OIL COMPANIES

18. Capital Dredging at New Mangalore Port Trust funded by M/s. MRPL.

CREATION OF FRESH BERTHS

19. Creation of crude handling and POL product facilities for M/s. MRPL's Refinery at New Mangalore Port. Funding of project arranged by M/s. MRPL through SCICI.
20. Virtual jetty by IOC at Kandla.
21. Virtual jetty by HPCL at Kandla.
22. Approval to M/s. Reliance for construction of Asia Bulk Terminal off Goa coast.
23. Liquid jetty at Kandla through IFFCO.
24. Creation of LPG facility at New Mangalore Port through.
25. Creation of off shore stackyard and berth (OSB) off Marmugao Coast.
26. Captive Jetty for M/s. SPIC Electric Power Corporation at Tuticorin.
27. Captive Jetty for Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals at New Mangalore.
28. Container Terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Port.

Technical Institutions in Tripura

2233. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :
SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up educational, technical educational and polytechnic institutions in Tripura and Assam; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Technical and Educational Institutions to be set up in a State\Union Territory depends upon the proposals from the State\Union Territory Governments based on manpower needs and their overall viability. No proposal has been received from the State Governments of Tripura and Assam for establishment of technical institutions.

Strike by Resident Doctors in RML Hospital

2234. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Work affected at RML Hospital" appearing in the "Statesman", dated February 14, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Resident doctors went on token strike for 24 hours on 12-13 February, 1997. The hospital authorities have reported that they resorted to this action in protest of cases filed by Police against a few doctors on the basis of FIR lodged last year.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Bye Passes in U.P.

2235. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bye passes planned to be constructed on National Highways in Uttar Pradesh during 1997-98;

(b) whether a bye-pass in Bareilly on National Highway No. 24 is under construction;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Ninth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised, as such it is not possible to give details.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The proposal is still at the stage of survey and investigation.

(d) Does not arise at this stage.

Opening of IIT

2236. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of I.I.T.s in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open new I.I.T.s for Kodarma, Hazaribagh and Giridih districts of Bihar;

(c) if so, the time by which these are likely to be opened; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) There are six IITs located at Mumbai (Maharashtra), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Delhi Kanpur (U.P.), Kharagpur (West Bengal) and Guwahati (Assam).

At present, there is no proposal to set up more IITs in the country.

[English]

Hepatitis-G Virus

2237. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item caption "Killer Virus Hepatitis-G in India" appearing in the "Asian Age" dated December 17, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the killer virus has been found blood borne, if so, the extent to which this virus has spread indicating the number of persons found infected with the virus;

(e) whether any specific section of people, age group, class or vocation have been identified as vulnerable to and carriers of this virus, if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the main causes to which the virus or the spread of it is traced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Government is aware of the news reports regarding Hepatitis-G Virus (HGV) infection in India.

(b) to (f) The transmission of HGV through blood transfusion and by other parenteral routes of exposure, such as through intravenous drug use, have been clearly established. A study conducted by medical scientists in AIIMS, New Delhi reported 2 out of 16 patients with acute and chronic cases of liver failure as positive for the infection. HGV genome was also detected in two patients with P. falciparum infection. More detailed studies are necessary to determine the disease dimension in the country.

Rehabilitation of People of Indian Origin in Hong Kong

2238. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take appropriate action to reinstate the people of Indian origin becoming Stateless in Hong Kong after its transfer to China; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) According to statistics released by the Immigration Department of Hong Kong, the number of persons of Indian origin who are permanent

residents of Hong Kong and who hold British Dependent Territories Citizens (BDTC) or British National Overseas (BN(O)) passports but do not have any other nationality is approximately 3,200.

It has been the consistent position of the Government of India that the British Government has basic responsibility towards BDTC and BN(O) passport holders and that it should take British citizens. The British Government has announced on 4.2.1997 that solely British ethnic minorities residing in Hong Kong could apply for registration as British citizens, giving them right of abode in the United Kingdom, after 30th June, 1997. It is expected that, following this announcement, most Indians holding BDTC and BN(O) passports, but not having any other nationality, would qualify to apply for registration as British citizens.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

2239. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the German Foreign Minister Mr. Klaus Kinkel during his recent visit to India, called upon India to join the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

(b) if so, in what precise terms this suggestion was made; and

(c) reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dr. Kinkel conveyed that it would be desirable if India signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). However, he appreciated India's position on the Treaty.

(c) External Affairs Minister categorically conveyed to the German Foreign Minister that India would not now or later sign the CTBT and the NPT in their present form. India's stand on the CTBT has been principled and consistent. India believes that the CTBT should be an integral part of a nuclear disarmament process leading to total elimination of nuclear weapons within a timebound framework.

Flood Control

2240. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
DR. G.R. SARODE :

Will be Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of different flood prone areas in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether any survey has been made to ascertain the causes of floods in these areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds allocation made for flood control during the Eighth Plan and Ninth Plan, State-wise;

(e) whether there are increasing demands from various States particularly Orissa to enhance fund allocation for flood control;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the measures undertaken by the Government to control floods in the country particularly Orissa during the Eighth Plan and the projects/programmes finalised for the same in the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The flood prone area in the country as assessed by the Rashtriya Barh Ayog is 40 million ha. statewise breakup is given in the Statements-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) The various causes of floods are :

(i) Streams carrying flows in excess of the transporting capacity within their banks.

(ii) Backing up of waters in tributaries at their outfalls into the main river.

(iii) Heavy rainfall synchronising with river spills.

(iv) Ice jams or land slides blocking streams.

(v) Synchronisation of upland floods with high tides.

(vi) Typhoons and cyclones.

(vii) Inadequate drainage to carry away surface water with the desired quickness.

In any given area, the flood may be due to one or more of the above factors.

(d) to (f) The details of funds allocation made for flood control during Eighth Plan and proposed allocation for Ninth Plan (as per Working Group recommendations) statewise is given in the at Statement II enclosed. ninth Plan is yet to be finalised.

The amount of additional allocation sought by different states and the amount sanctioned are given in Statement-III enclosed. No request has been received from Government of Orissa.

(g) Planning, investigation and implementation of flood management works are the responsibility of State Government. Rashtriya Barh Ayog constituted by Government of India has made 207 recommendations on long term and short term measures. These have been sent to the State Government for implementation. The Working Group on Flood Management for 8th plan has identified 25 out of 207 recommendations for implementation during 8th Plan. Government of India has also constituted 5 regional task forces on flood management on 30.9.96 with the participation of senior central and state Government officers to examine the flood problem, review the measures already taken by the State Government and recommend comprehensive short term and long term measures for flood control. Eastern Regional Task Force is examining the flood problem of Orissa. The reports of the Task Forces are likely to be submitted by 31.3.97.

Statement-I

Area Liable to Floods in the Country

(Area in lakh ha.)

S.No.	State	Area liable to floods
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.9
2.	Assam	31.5
3.	Bihar	42.6
4.	Gujarat	13.9
5.	Haryana	23.5
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2.3
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.8
8.	Karnataka	0.2
9.	Kerala	8.7
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2.6
11.	Maharashtra	2.3
12.	Manipur	0.8
13.	Meghalaya	0.2
14.	Orissa	14.0
15.	Punjab	37.0
16.	Rajasthan	32.6
17.	Tamilnadu	4.5
18.	Tripura	3.3
19.	Uttar Pradesh	73.36
20.	West Bengal	26.5
21.	Delhi	0.5
22.	Pondicherry	0.1

Total 335.16

(Say 34 Million ha.)

Flood pruned area as per data from States for period 1953-78

34 Million ha.

A-rea protected till then (1978)

10 Million ha.

Total :

44 Million ha.

Area flooded due to failure of protection works which might have been added in the reported flooded area (assumed) (-)

4 Million ha.

Total Flood Prone Area in the country

40 Million ha.

Statement-II

S.No.	Name of State/UTs	Approved outlay (Rs. in Crore) for VIII Plan	Proposed outlay (Rs. in Crore) for IX Plan
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	143.54	735.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.71	153.04

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	86.85	296.49
4.	Bihar	251.71	637.50
5.	Goa	0.90	4.63
6.	Gujarat	10.00	52.60
7.	Haryana	52.00	145.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6.00	12.75
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	40.75	49.09
10.	Karnataka	11.00	136.00
11.	Kerala	65.00	317.27
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8.53	20.00
13.	Maharashtra	1.46	105.41
14.	Manipur	20.00	60.00*
15.	Meghalaya	8.54	25.62*
16.	Mizoram	0.25	0.75*
17.	Nagaland	1.50	5.00
18.	Orissa	42.05	339.50
19.	Punjab	125.00	125.87
20.	Rajasthan	25.30	75.90
21.	Sikkim	0.00	200.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	30.00	30.00
23.	Tripura	8.00	24.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	70.00	498.75
25.	West Bengal	280.00	500.00
	Total of States	1,293.09	4550.17
26.	A&N Islands	0.05	0.15*
27.	Chandigarh	0.00	Nil
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.02	Nil
29.	Daman & Diu	1.17	5.70
30.	Delhi	40.00	200.00
31.	Lakshadweep	2.60	10.00
32.	Pondicherry	4.44	42.47
	Total U.Ts	48.28	258.32
	Grand Total	1,341.37	4808.49

* Proposed outlays have been taken as three times the Eighth Plan approved outlays as the State did not furnish the details

Statement-III

S.No.	Name of State	Amount Requested	Amount Sanctioned
		(Rs. in crore)	
1.	Assam	6.95	3.95
2.	Bihar	1.28	1.28
3.	Kerala	28.53	3.00
4.	Madhya Pradesh	1.00	1.00
5.	Meghalaya	10.50	10.50
6.	West Bengal	1.63	1.63

Cell for North-Eastern Education Schemes

2241. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a cell to scam North-Eastern States education scheme was set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said cell has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (e) There is no such Cell to scam educational schemes in the North Eastern States. A Cell has, however, been set up under the Minister of State for Education to monitor the progress of schemes comparing the four Departments, Education, Culture, Youth Affairs & Sports and Women & Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Educational Cess

2242. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to impose Educational Cess;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cess is likely to be shared with the State Governments also; and

(d) if so, the percentage thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) The Committee of State Education Ministers constituted by this Department to consider implications of the proposal to make elementary education a Fundamental Right has inter alia recommended that State Governments should consider measures which will enable local bodies in urban and rural areas to raise revenues for improvement of facilities in schools. The Committee's report mentions that States should consider the proposal to levy an educational cess in this regard. It is thus for the State Governments to take appropriate action in this regard.

[Translation]

Mahila Vikas Nigam

2243. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mahila Vikas Nigam has been set up in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number and names of the districts where said Nigam has been set up; and

(c) the works undertaken by the said Nigam so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Madhya Pradesh Mahila Arthik Vikas Nigam is working in the entire state of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) The works undertaken by the Nigam so far are :—

- (i) Implementing GRAMYA scheme under which women desirous of undertaking small business are given an interest-free loan of Rs. 500/- by the Nigam.
- (ii) Implementing PHOTOCOPIER MACHINE scheme under which women setting up a photocopier machine through Bank loan are given a subsidy of 10%, not exceeding Rs. 10,000/-.
- (iii) Implementing SAMARTH scheme under which training expenses in recognized institutions of widowed, divorced and deserted women are borne by the Nigam.
- (iv) Implementing TYPING TRAINING schemes under which free training with stipend is imparted to women in District Headquarters and other bigger towns of the State.
- (v) Implementation of NQRAD schemes like Computer Training assigned to the Nigam.
- (vi) Nodal Agency for Rashtriya Mahila Kosh.
- (vii) Implementation Agency for STEP project.
- (viii) Implementing agency of World Bank-IFAD funded centrally sponsored Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Programme for 6 districts (Hoshangabad, Dewas, Sehore, Betul, Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur) of the State.
- (ix) Arranging sale of goods produced by DWCRA groups by holding Mela
- (x) Organising training of women for income generating activities.

[English]

Special Hospital for AIDS

2244. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AIDS patients are presently treated in the General Government Hospitals and there are no separate hospitals-like that for infectious diseases - to treat the AIDS and HIV positive cases;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to set up separate hospitals for the AIDS victims to make specialized medical treatment facility easily available to such patients;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there are some private hospitals also in the country who have set up facilities to treat such patients; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) There are no separate hospitals for treating AIDS patients. The AIDS patients are treated like other patients in the General Hospitals.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Dose not arise.

(e) and (f) There are no private hospitals in the country which have set up facilities for treating AIDS cases exclusively.

CTE Scheme to Teachers Training Colleges

2245. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned funds to the Teachers Training Colleges under CTE Scheme during the Eighth Five year Plan;

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

(c) whether any assessment of the utilization of the funds has been made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The details of financial assistance sanctioned for teachers' Training Colleges (Colleges of Teacher Education and Institutions of Advanced Study in Education) during the VIII Plan are indicated in the statement enclosed.

(c) Under the provisions of the scheme, States are required to submit a Quarterly Progress Report which includes information on utilization of funds.

(d) According to information available Rs. 2654 lakhs have been utilised by the state Governments under this Scheme.

Statement

S.No.	Name of State/UT	No. of CTEs/ IASES sanctioned during VIII Plan	Amount sanctioned for CTEs/IASEs during VIII Plan (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	549.34
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
3.	Assam	7	203.31
4.	Bihar	2	63.90
5.	Goa	-	-
6.	Gujarat	1	56.00
7.	Haryana	-	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	48.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	149.00
10.	Karnataka	8	515.24
11.	Kerala	2	103.86
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10	352.75
13.	Maharashtra	-	-
14.	Manipur	1	40.50
15.	Meghalaya	2	69.00
16.	Mizoram	-	-
17.	Nagaland	1	40.50
18.	Orissa	4	542.00
19.	Punjab	-	20.00
20.	Rajasthan	7	530.51
21.	Sikkim	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	-	92.50
23.	Tripura	1	43.25
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3	189.00
25.	West Bengal	2	53.25
26.	Andman & Nicobar Islands	-	-
27.	Chandigarh	-	-
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	-	-
29.	Daman & Diu	-	-
30.	Delhi	-	141.37
31.	Lakshadweed	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	-	-
Total :		67	3803.28

Ship Building and Repairing Units

2246. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up ship building and repairing units at Haldia in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Funds to UGC

2247. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to University Grants Commission for further allocation to Universities/Colleges during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there has been gradual decline in the share of funds corresponding to the ever increasing number of Institutions, Colleges and Universities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the concrete steps taken/being taken to achieve the excellence in higher education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) Plan grants allocated to UGC in 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under :—

	(Rs. in crore)
1994-95	Rs. 234.20
1995-96	Rs. 207.77
1996-97	Rs. 200.63

The grants provided by the Government to UGC for disbursement to the eligible universities and colleges have been steadily increasing from Plan to Plan. The Government has provided an amount of Rs. 921.24 crores to UGC during 1992-93 to 1996-97 as against a sum of Rs. 576.00 crores released in 7th Plan.

(d) The Government and UGC have taken several measures to achieve excellence in higher education. Some of the major steps taken in this direction are as follows :—

- Revision of pay scales of college and university teachers w.e.f. 1.1.1986.
- Opportunities provided for training and career advancement for teachers.
- All-India Eligibility Test introduced to attract best talent to the teaching profession.

- Academic staff colleges established for re-orientation of newly appointed university and college teachers.
- 27 Curriculum Development Centres in Sciences and Humanities established to modernise curricula. Model curricula has been prepared for 27 disciplines in under-graduate and post-graduate courses.
- Financial assistance provided by UGC for improvement of teaching and research under Special Assistance Programmes.
- Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the university system.
- Higher priority given to grant of autonomy to selected colleges.
- Guidelines for implementation of and Academic Calendar circulated. These guidelines emphasize observance of at least 180 teaching days by universities/colleges.
- Regulations for minimum standards for the award of first degree, minimum working days etc. notified by UGC.

[Translation]

Navodaya Vidyalaya in Ghatampur

2248. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Ghatampur in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) A proposal for opening of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Village Jaghagirabad, Tehsil Ghatampur alongwith some other alternative sites, in District Kanpur Dehat was received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. This proposal is however not as per norms of the Samiti in respect of temporary accommodation. State Government has been requested to send a suitable proposal fulfilling Samiti's requirements.

[English]

Indians in the Jails of Gulf Countries

2249. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that large number of Indians are languishing in various jails of Gulf countries; and

(b) if so, the number of such Indians Country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Government are aware that a number of Indian nationals are in jail in Gulf countries. According to our records, as on 30.11.1996 the country-wise break up of Indians in jails in Gulf countries is as follows :

1. Bahrain	82
2. Iraq	3
3. Kuwait	135
4. Oman	38
5. Qatar	383
6. Saudi Arabia	1169
7. U A E	144
8. Yemen	3

[Translation]

Conference on Reservation in Delhi University

2250. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any conference on reservation in Delhi University organised in December, 1996 or January, 1997; and

(b) the decisions taken in the said conference and the outlines of their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Project on Construction Engineering

2251. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Soil and Materials Research Station, Delhi has awarded a project on Construction Engineering to Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi;

(b) whether IIT, Delhi has entrusted the job to a relatively junior Faculty member; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken by the Government to uplift the standard of handling consultancy projects by IIT, Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) No project on Construction Engineering has been awarded to Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi by Central Soil and Materials Research Station, Delhi. However, the Indian National Committee for Construction Materials and structures (Ministry of Water Resources) has awarded a research project on Micro-structure Modelling of Pozzolanic Construction Materials in May 1996. Dr. B. Bhattacharjee, Associate Professor who has been instrumental in setting up the Building Materials Lab in Civil Engineering Department is the principal investigator.

Family Welfare Programmes

2252. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress made in family welfare programme is upto the mark in the country;

(b) if not, whether the Government proposal to take any steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) As a result of implementation of the Family Welfare Programme, the birth rate has declined from 41.7 per thousand population over the decade 1951-61 to 28.3 in 1995. The total Fertility Rate has declined from 5.97 over 1951-61 to 3.5 in 1993. The infant Mortality Rate has declined from 146 over 1951-61 to 74 per thousand live births in 1995. It is estimated that as a result of the Family Welfare Programme 197-39 million births have been averted upto March, 1996.

(b) and (c) The current focus of the Programme is on decentralisation and improvement in the quality of services. The system of setting contraceptive targets from the top has replaced by decentralised planning of services at the level of Primary Health Centre.

Funds for Boat Jetties

2253. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any existing scheme for providing funds for modernising and maintaining the boat jetties;

(b) if so, the funds allotted to Kerala for the above purpose during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to undertake the developmental activities of any jetties in the National Waterway in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Funds allotted to Kerala for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last three years are as under :—

	(Rs. in crores)
1993-94	0.50
1994-95	0.02
1995-96	0.33

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Development of jetties/terminals at 12 locations viz. Kottapuram, Kochi, Ernakulam, Aluva, Kakknadu, Vaikom, Cherthala, Alappuzha, Thirukkunnappuzha, Kayamkulam, Chavara and Kollam on National Waterway in Kerala is proposed to be undertaken during 9th plan period.

Funds for Education to Minority Communities

2254. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently received a Memorandum from dignitaries of the Minority Communities on plan allocation for educational development of the educationally backward and deprived Minority communities;

(b) if so, the main suggestions made in the Memorandum; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Main suggestions made in the memorandum are :

(i) Establishment of schools under the Area Intensive Scheme of development of minority institutions and modernisation of Madarsa Education. As Special case and in relaxation of normal rules, the requirement of recommendations of the State Governments could be dispensed with and the schemes could be transferred to some NGOs.

(ii) Establishment of Urdu University.

- (iii) Presentation of Bill in the Parliament to elaborate the scope and procedure for recognition of Muslim Educational Institutions.
- (iv) Right of minority institutions specially in regard to the reservation of seats be decided as per settled law.
- (v) Setting up of 8 Central Government supported residential schools at Patna, Darbhanga, Ranchi/Hazaribagh, Bhagalpur/Godda, Siwan/Chapra, Kishanganj/Purnea, Biharsharif/Gaya and Arrah.

(c) Item at serial No. (iv) is subjudice. Action has been initiated to examine othe issues.

[English]

Recruitment in Defence Forces from Karnataka

2255. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of recruitment made in the three wings of the Defence forces from Karnataka in the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the total number of such recruitment in Karnataka is less as compared to the other States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) The total number of recruitment centres in Karnataka, their locations and the number of centres in which the recruitment was done during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : Details of recruitment made in three wings of Defence Forces from Karnataka during the last three years are given below :—

ARMY

Year	Intake
1993-94	1517
1994-95	2259
1995-96	2712

NAVY

Year	Intake
1994	63
1995	23
1996	39

AIR FORCE

Year	Intake
1993-94	63
1994-95	63
1995-96	76

(b) and (c) In the case of Army, recruitment is done in proportion to the Recruitable Male Poulation (RMP) of Karnataka as in the case of the rest of the country. However, the total intake from Karnataka is less than demand as per the RMP.

In the case of Navy, the number of sailors recruited from a particular state depend upon the number of eligible applicants who are able to qualify in the written test, physical fitness test and medical examination.

In the case of Air Force, the recruitment of Airmen is done on All India Merit basis.

(d) Details of recruitment centres are given below :—

ARMY

Recruiting Office (HQ), Bangalore
 Branch Recruiting Office, Bangalore
 Branch Recruiting Office, Mangalore
 Madras Engineering Group & Centres, Bangalore
 Parachute Regimental Training Centre, Belgaum
 Maratha LI Regimental Centre, Belgaum
 ASC Centre (South), Bangalore
 ASC (MT), Bangalore
 CMP Centre & School, Bangalore
 Pioneer Corps Training Wing, Bangalore

Over and above, recruitment from Karnataka is also carried out by other training centres for all India, all class vacancies as per their RMP percentage authorisation and class composition of the Regiments/Corps.

NAVY

Naval Recruitment Centre, Bangalore

AIR FORCE

Airmen Selection Centre, Bangalore

U.S. Visa Rules

2256. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "New US law worries India" appearing in "The Times of India" dated February 20,1997;

(b) if so, whether the US administration propose to enforce strict visa rules resulting in exodus of hundreds of Indians from there;

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

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check extra exodus of Indians from United States of America?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The news-items under reference is a report on the "Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996" which was part of the omnibus Authorization Bill passed by the US Congress and signed by the US President on September 30, 1996 from which date it comes into force. It is reported that the process of framing rules for implementation of this Act is still underway. The Law applies to all foreign nationals staying in the US beyond periods authorized in their non-immigrant visa. The Law does not target Indians specifically and those staying in the US legally are not affected by the law.

(d) Government are alert to all development having implications for Indian citizens abroad, including in the US.

Manuscripts on Siddha

2257. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that manuscripts on "Siddha" system written in Tamil had been taken away by Germans about 300 years ago from Tamil Nadu and kept in Martin Luther University in Germany;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take immediate action to retrieve those Tamil manuscripts for use in our country; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected. It will be laid on the table of the Sabha as soon as available.

Re-registration and Re-certification of Doctors

2258. Lt. Gen. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to enact legislation to take re-registration and re-certification of doctors mandatory every five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to change the syllabus of Under-graduate and Post-graduate courses to improve the standards of medical education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The Committee on Sub-ordinate Legislation (10th Lok Sabha) in its 13th Report had recommended that the Central Government/Medical Council of India should prescribe for a compulsory renewal of registration by doctors every five years. The Committee was informed that there will be administrative difficulties in the renewal of registration of about 4.5 lakh practitioners all over the country, particularly, where Medical Council of India (MCI) does not have adequate *wherewithal* and the State Medical Councils are also not fully geared up to undertake this responsibility. However, the modalities of meeting this requirement is being examined by the M.C.I.

(c) and (d) The Medical Council of India Recommendations on Graduate Medical Education containing curriculum of M.B.B.S. course has been approved by Central Government as a regulation under Section 33 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and this has been conveyed to M.C.I. on 4th March, 1997. The detailed syllabus for post-graduate courses on each subject is prepared by the Universities.

Improvement in Road Sector

2259. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the delay in issuing guidelines for private enterprises has slowed down investment in road sector;

(b) whether the Government have been urged to finance the national highway projects and also that efforts should be made to make more funds available through alternative means;

(c) whether the Ministry had earlier devised prolonged strategy i.e. augmenting Central Road Fund, private sector participation and enhancement of vehicle registration fee;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether all these schemes have not been implemented so far, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the road sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) A Revised Resolution for augmenting the Central Road Fund has been passed by the two Houses of Parliament in the year 1988. However, its implementation is still under the consideration of the Government. As regards private sector participation, the Government has recently approved guidelines for taking projects under BOT to attract private investments in the

road sector. There is no long term strategy for augmentation of vehicle registration fee.

(f) Government has recently taken steps for speedy implementation of National Highway Projects by simplifying the land acquisition procedure and the exemption of clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forest for the improvement of existing National Highways.

U.S. Policy on Kashmir

2260. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent statement of the Assistant Secretary of State Ms. Robin Raphel that the elections in Jammu & Kashmir have not resolved the issue and that Kashmir remains a disputed territory for the U.S. Government;

(b) if so, whether her statement reflect U.S. policy on Kashmir; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Government have seen press reports regarding remarks on elections in Jammu & Kashmir reportedly made by US Assistant Secretary Robin Raphel in her interaction with the press during her visit to India in February 1997. This subject was not discussed in the official meetings during the visit.

(c) Government of India has made it clear that Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India. This position is well known to the US Government.

Foreign Trips by Prime Minister

2261. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :
SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign trips undertaken by the Prime Minister since he assumed office and the purpose of these trips;

(b) the details of the non-official persons who accompanied him during these trips;

(c) the total expenditure, if any incurred by the Government on those non-official persons;

(d) whether these expenses have been recovered; and

(e) if so, the head of account under which the money was paid in the first instance?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The foreign trips undertaken by the Prime Minister since he assumed office are listed below. The purpose of each trip is also indicated.

- (1) Zimbabwe - for the G-15 Summit held in Harare
- (2) Italy - for the World Food Summit held in Rome
- (3) Bangladesh - Bilateral Visit
- (4) Switzerland - for the World Economic Forum meeting held in Davos
- (5) Mauritius - Bilateral Visit

(b) On all the tours listed above, the Prime Minister was accompanied by members of the official delegation, security personnel and other officials as well as representatives of the media. Smt. Deve Gowda accompanied him on the visits to Harare, Rome and Davos and Mauritius. Members of the PM's family also accompanied him on the visits to Harare and Rome.

(c) to (e) Expenses on the members of the Prime Minister's family and the non-official media were directly settled by the persons concerned. Government did not incur any expenditure on non-official persons.

Facilities to Ex-Servicemen

2262. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ex-servicemen who are re-employed in Central Government jobs after their retirement are given any special opportunity to post them in their home States;

(b) if not, whether keeping in view of various difficulties being faced by them, the Government propose to issue guidelines for their choice transfers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) Ex-Servicemen who seek re-employment in the Defence Services after their retirement are to the extent possible posted at the places of their choice by the respective Service Headquarters. However, ex-Servicemen who are re-employed in other Departments of Central Government are governed by the terms and conditions of Service as applicable to civilian employees of those Departments and, therefore, are treated at par with other employees in their cadre in the matter of postings and transfers.

Turbo Generating Equipments

2263. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a loan agreement between Government of India and OECF for financing 6 Nos. of 200 MG reversible units in the River Bed Power House (RBPH) of Sardar Sarovar Project for 2.85 billion Japanese Yen was signed way back in November, 1985;

(b) whether contract was awarded to M/s Sumitomo Corporation and amount of 2.85 billion Yen from OECF was utilised for payment for model test;

(c) whether Government of India had requested the OECF to sign further loan agreement for the amount of 17.2 billion Yen for procurement of turbo generating equipment, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this project has been delayed, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to resolve the stalemate in order to expedite the work?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The unilateral decision of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan to suspend the release of further instalment of loan after disbursement of first slice of Yen 2.85 billion in 1986 due to certain environmental considerations created an impasse in this regard.

(e) To sort out the deadlock several meetings were held at various levels both in the State and in this Ministry with all concerned. On 13th November, 1996 a meeting of the Review Committee of Narmada Control Authority (RCNCA) was held. Accordingly negotiating team has already been set up by this Ministry to hold talks with M/s Sumitomo Corporation, Japan, the suppliers of the TG Set for the river bed power house of Sardar Sarovar Project.

[Translation]

Conference of Dentists

2264. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a conference of Dentists was held in Chandigarh last year in which it was said by experts that none of the tooth-pastes being used in India has the quality to protect gums and there is no difference between paste and water;

(b) whether the Government have looked into it or will get this investigated; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) As per a news paper report, a Conference of Dental Experts was held in Punjab in which reference was made to leading advertisements and exaggerated claims of different brands of tooth-paste.

(b) and (c) Government have initiated steps to advise all the State Licencing Authorities in the States/UTs to ensure that the companies manufacturing tooth-pastes do not carry on their labels any misleading and exaggerated claims concerning effectiveness of their products, especially if they do not contain any germicidal agents, or if the products are not taking care of deficiency of flouride or strengthening of gums.

Appropriate action is required to be taken by the State Licencing (Enforcing) Authorities in the States/UTs against the defaulters for not complying with the specified standards of advertisement/claim and further to scientifically test the claims of various brands of tooth-pastes to know the genuineness of the manufacturers' advertisement claims.

[English]

Cauvery Tangle

2265. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cauvery basin States have agreed to share the information data of their respective State to various facts of the Cauvery water dispute;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to scrap the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Statement

On 28.1.97 during the hearing of the Tribunal a common suggestion was given on behalf of the Party States as well as Union Territory of Pondicherry that opportunities should be provided to different States including the Union Territory of Pondicherry to exchange data/information and the inspection of Project sites, basin areas (including trans-basin areas) by the Advocates, Engineers and other Officials of one State in so far the project area and the basin areas of other

States and Union Territory of Pondicherry are concerned. Ultimately a memorandum of joint Statement has been filed on behalf of the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Union Territory of Pondicherry agreeing to the following terms :—

1. That the information under "Common Format", shall be updated till end of 1995-96.
2. That the Party States shall exchange data/information on :
 - (a) Daily rainfall, in respect of mutually agreed stations;
 - (b) Daily inflows and outflows (with level and storage), in respect of all the major reservoirs in the basin;
 - (c) Dates of opening and closing of the major and medium reservoirs in the basin;
 - (d) Ayacut thrown open for irrigation, under the major, medium, and diversion schemes, from 1996-97 season onwards; and
 - (e) Data pertaining to the location, quantum and all the relevant aspects on trans-basin diversions made by each State.
3. That a party State shall make available, within the reasonable time, documents, publications etc., if requested by any other party State, which is relevant and necessary for determination of the dispute.
4. That the documents already asked for by any party State, shall be supplied within two weeks.
5. That a Party State shall permit inspection of the project sites and basin areas (including trans-basin areas) to the Advocates, Engineers and other Officials of any other Party State, whenever requested, with four weeks prior notice.

[Translation]

Ban on use of Gambier

2266. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the use of 'Gambier' in Pan masala is the cause of oral cancer and since gambier is easily available to Pan masala manufacturers in Kanpur due to a large number of tannery industries there, cases of leukoplekia and submucous-fibrosis are five times more in Kanpur as compared to other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) There is no epidemiological data to indicate that use of Gambier in Pan-masala is the cause of Oral Cancer in Kanpur or has resulted in five-fold increase in leukoplakia and submucous-fibrosis in Kanpur as compared to other parts of the country.

Treatment of Patients

2267. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the patients coming from outside, are not treated properly in Ram Manohar Lohiya Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and All India Institute of Medical Sciences due to which these people go to the members of Parliament with the complaints;

(b) the number of Members of Parliament who have sent complaints to the Government in this regard during the last three years and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) whether any doctors and officers have been punished in this regard and if so, the details thereof for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Irrespective of place of residence of patients, every effort is made by hospital authorities to ensure that all patients are provided with proper treatment.

(b) During the last three years, 5 complaints were received from MPs. Decisions have been taken in respect of 4 complaints.

(c) No, Sir.

Recognition of Private Hospitals

2268. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recognised any private hospitals and diagnostic centres in Mumbai for the benefit of CGHS beneficiaries for availing themselves of specialized treatment, if so, the names and details there of including the procedure and the charges in each hospital, etc.;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which Government propose to recognize such private hospitals etc. for CGHS beneficiaries in Mumbai and other metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) At present the following private hospitals stand recognised for CGHS beneficiaries in Mumbai :—

1. Bombay Hospital
2. Dr. B. Nanavati Hospital.
3. N. Wadia Hospital.
4. Radhibai Watumull Chest Hospital.
5. Children's Orthopaedic Hospital.
6. Tata Memorial Hospital.

However, fresh recognition of private hospitals under CGHS, Bombay, is under process, and orders are likely to be issued soon.

Condition of Women in the Country

2269. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Union Government to improve the condition of women in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to bring about any such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) In addition to the ongoing schemes, the Government of India has finalised a draft National Policy for the Empowerment of Women. A Statement is enclosed.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Government of India

Ministry of Human Resource Development

Department of Women and Child Development

National Policy for the Empowerment of Women 1996

(Draft)

Introduction

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles.

Within the Framework of a democratic polity, our laws, development policies, plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. From the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-78) onwards, there has been a marked shift in the approach to women's issues from welfare to development. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognised as

the central issue in determining the status of women. The National Commission for Women was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women. The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the Constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of Panchayats and municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local levels.

India has also ratified various international conventions and human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights for women. Key among them is the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW-1979) in 1993.

The Mexico Plan of Action (1975), the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (1985), the Beijing Declaration as well as the Platform for Action (1995), have been unreservedly endorsed by India for appropriate follow up.

The women's movement and a wide-spread net work of non-Government Organisations which have strong grass-roots presence and deep insight into women's concerns have inspired many initiatives for the empowerment of women.

However, there still exists a wide gap between the goals enunciated in the Constitution, legislation, policies, plans, programmes, and related mechanisms on the one hand and the situational reality of the status of women in India, on the other. This has been analysed extensively in the Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India, "Towards Equality", 1974, and highlighted in the National Perspective Plan for Women, 1988-2000 and the Shramshakti Report, 1988.

Gender disparity manifest itself in various forms, the most obvious being the trend of continuously declining female ratio in the population in the last few decades. Social steno-typing and violence at the domestic and societal levels are some of the other manifestations. Discrimination against girl children, adolescent girls and women still persists.

Consequently, the access of women - majority of whom are in the rural areas and in the informal, unorganised sector — to education, health and productive resources, among others, is inadequate. Therefore, they remain largely marginalised, poor and socially excluded.

In this background, having taken stock of national and international developments and after a series of consultations with *Members of Parliament*, State Governments, non-Governmental Organisations, *Womens' Organisations*, social activists, researchers and other experts in the country, this Policy has been drawn up.

The goal of this Policy is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. This is to be achieved by changing societal

attitudes and elimination of all forms of gender based discrimination, active participation of women in all spheres of life, incorporation of gender perspectives, translation of de jure equality of women into de facto equality and affirmative action, as necessary.

The positive features of Indian culture and tradition which reiterate the dignity of and respect for women, will be reinforced in the endeavour to achieve social harmony. Through appropriate programmes, women and men will be made aware of their social responsibilities as change agents. Their role as promoters of progressive values and respect for humanity will be emphasised therein.

The Policy will be widely disseminated so that a meaningful partnership is established with all sections of civil society, to achieve its goals.

2. Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

The de jure and de facto enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women on an equal basis with men shall be ensured both in letter and in spirit and all factors which impede the realization of such rights and freedoms eliminated.

3. Elimination of Violence against Women

All forms of violence against women, physical and mental, whether at domestic or societal levels, particularly sexual abuse and violence, including through recourse to customs, traditions or practices, shall be eliminated. Mechanisms/schemes for assistance will be created and strengthened for the rehabilitation of the victims of violence. Institutions and mechanisms responsible for elimination of violence against women and taking action against the perpetrators of such violence will be strengthened.

4. Ending Discrimination Against Women

Recognising the equal entitlement of women and men to human rights and fundamental freedoms in all spheres, political, economic, social, cultural, civil etc. no discrimination shall be allowed in law or practice against women. Equal rights for women will be ensured in respect of access to health care, quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security and public office.

5. Elimination of Discrimination Against and Violation of the Rights of the Girl Child

All forms of discrimination against the girl child and violation of her rights shall be eliminated by undertaking strong measures including punitive ones. These relate to strict enforcement of laws against prenatal sex selection and foeticide, female infanticide, child marriage, child abuse and child prostitution. Removal of discrimination in the treatment of the girl child in the family and outside and projection of a positive image of the girl child will be actively fostered.

There will be special emphasis on the needs of the girl child and earmarking of substantial investments in the areas relating to food and nutrition, health and education, including vocational education. In implementing programmes for eliminating child labour, there will be a special focus on girl children.

6. Empowerment of Women

A synergy of development measures will be effected and affirmative action designed for the holistic empowerment of women. Women will be given complete and equal access to and control over factors contributing to such empowerment, particularly, health, education, information, life long learning for self-development, vocational skills, *employment* and income earning opportunities, technical services, land and other forms of property, including through inheritance and matrimony, common property resources, credit, technology and markets etc.

7. Women in Decision Making

Women's equality in power sharing and active participation in decision making, including political decision making at all levels and in all processes will be ensured for the achievement of the goal of empowerment. All measures will be taken to guarantee women equal access to and full participation in all decision making bodies at every level, in the private and public sectors, including the legislative, executive, judicial, local, corporate, statutory bodies, as also advisory Commissions, Committees, Boards, Trusts etc. *Affirmative action, such as reservation/quotas including in higher legislative bodies, will be considered whenever necessary, on a time bound basis.*

8. Women and the Development Process

Policies, programmes and systems will be established to ensure mainstreaming of women's perspectives in all developmental processes, as *catalysts, participants and recipients.* Co-ordinating and monitoring mechanisms will be devised to assess from time to time the progress of such mainstreaming. Women's issues and concerns will as a result be specially addressed and reflected in all concerned laws, sectoral policies, plans and programmes of action.

9. Sensitization to Women's Issues

Specially planned and well funded sensitization programmes will be conducted on a regular basis for all sections of society. There will be special focus on functionaries of the State in the executive, legislative and judicial wings and in all developmental agencies, governmental and non-governmental. These programmes will be, in a phased manner, integrated as part of all on-going training programmes, both in the public and the private sectors.

10. Women and Mass Media

Media will be used to portray a positive image of girls and women. *It will strive to remove* demeaning, degrading and negative, conventional stereotypical images of women and violence against women. Legislation, media policies and regulatory mechanisms, including codes of conduct etc. will be put in place to address these aspects.

11. Eradicating Poverty and Ensuring Provision of Women's Basic Needs :

11.1 Poverty Eradication

Since women comprise the majority of people below the poverty line and are very often in situations of extreme poverty, given the harsh realities of intra-household and social discrimination, macro economic policies and poverty eradication programmes will specifically address the needs and problems of such women. There will be improved implementation of such programmes as are already women oriented or have special targets for women. New programmes will be devised, based on mobilization of poor women and convergence of services, by offering them a range of economic and social options, alongwith necessary support services to enhance their capabilities.

11.2 Food Security

In order to satisfactorily cater to the nutritional needs and requirements of households, the Public Distribution System will be strengthened. Intra-household discrimination in this regard vis-a-vis girls and women will be sought to be ended through appropriate strategies. Women's participation will also be ensured in the planning, superintendence and delivery of the system.

11.3 Housing and Shelter

Women's perspectives will be included in housing policies. planning of housing colonies and provision of shelter both in rural and urban areas. Special attention will be given for providing adequate and safe housing and accommodation for women including single women, heads of households, working women, students, apprentices and trainees. This will be in the form of special facilities such as hostels, dormitories, short stay homes and reservation in housing colonies and townships etc.

11.4 Education

Equal access to education for women and girls will be ensured. Measures will be taken to eliminate discrimination, universalise education, eradicate illiteracy, create a gender - sensitive educational system, increase enrolment and retention rates of girls and improve the quality of education to facilitate life-long learning as well as development of occupation/vocation/technical skills by women. Sectoral time targets in

existing policies will be achieved, with a special focus on girls and women.

11.5 Health

A holistic approach to women's health will be adopted and special attention will be given to the needs of women throughout their lives, including in terms of nutrition and basic services during infancy, childhood, adolescence, reproductive years and services during old age. Sectoral time targets in existing policies will be achieved with a special focus on girls and women.

11.6 Women and the Economy

Women's perspectives will be included in designing and implementing macro-economic and social policies by institutionalizing their participation in such processes.

Women's contribution to socio-economic development as *producers and workers* will be recognised in the formal and informal sectors and appropriate policies related to employment and other working conditions will be drawn up.

There will be reinterpretation and redefinition of conventional concepts of work wherever necessary e.g. in the Census records, to reflect women's contribution as *producers and workers*.

Satellite Accounts will be prepared by Government, consistent with National Accounts to highlight women's work. This will be done by the development of appropriate methodologies.

11.7 Support Services

Support services for women, like child care facilities, including creches at work places and educational institutions, homes for the aged and the disabled will be expanded and improved. *Women friendly personnel policies will also be drawn up to encourage women to participate effectively in the developmental process.*

11.8 Drinking Water and Sanitation

Special attention will be given to the needs of women in the provision of safe drinking water, sewage disposal, *toilet facilities* and sanitation within accessible reach of households. Women's participation will be ensured in the planning, delivery and maintenance of such services.

12. Women and Environment

Women will be involved and their perspectives reflected in the policies and programmes for eco-systems management. Considering the impact of environmental factors on their livelihoods and the distribution of labour and time within households, *in connection with the collection of fuel and fodder*, women's participation will be ensured in the conservation of the environment and control of environmental degradation.

13. Women and Science

Programmes will be strengthened to bring about a greater involvement of women in science and technology. These will include measures to motivate girls to take up science and technology for higher education and also ensure that development projects with scientific and technical inputs involve women fully. Efforts to develop a scientific temper and awareness will also be stepped up.

14. Needs of Specially Disadvantaged Women

In recognition of the diversity of women's situations and in acknowledgement of the needs of specially disadvantaged groups, measures and programmes will be established to provide them with special assistance. These groups include women in extreme poverty, women in conflict situations, women affected by natural calamities, women in less developed regions, dalits, tribals, minorities, the disabled, widows, elderly women single women in difficult circumstances, women heading households, those displaced from employment, migrants, the internally displaced and prostitutes etc.

15. Resources

Additional resources for expanding and strengthening the existing institutions/mechanisms for women's development and empowerment will be provided. There will be an enhancement in the budgets for the Department of Women and Child Development and earmarking of funds for women in the budgets of Ministries/Departments implementing development programmes in different sectors like education, health, welfare, rural development, urban development, labour, agriculture, industry, science and technology etc.

A synergistic modality of resource mobilisation will be effected to ensure flow of funds and related services from banking/financial institutions, corporate bodies and community organisations at the grass roots level.

16. Involvement of NGOs

The involvement of voluntary organizations, associations, federations, trade unions, non-governmental organisations, women's organisations, as well as institutions dealing with education, training and research, will be ensured in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and review of all policies and programmes affecting women. Towards this end, they will be provided with appropriate support related to resources and capacity building and facilitated to participate actively in the process of the empowerment of women. Their participation in effecting societal reorientation towards women will also be ensured.

17. Gender Development Indices

Gender Development Indices will be developed by Government by networking with specialised agencies and be based on specially established criteria to support

planning, implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation of laws, policies, plans, programmes and for determination of resource devolution from a gender just standpoint.

18. Gender Disaggregated Data

Gender disaggregated data will be collected by all primary data collecting agencies of the Central and State Government as well as Research and Academic institutions in the public and private sector. Data and information gaps in vital areas reflecting the status of women will also be filled in by these Agencies.

All Ministries/Departments/Corporations/Banks and financial institutions etc. will collect, collate and maintain/publish data related to programmes and benefits on a gender disaggregated basis.

19. International Cooperation

International, regional and sub regional cooperation towards the empowerment of women will continue to be encouraged, through sharing of experiences, exchange of ideas and technology, networking with institutions and organisations and through bilateral and multi-lateral partnerships.

PART - II

STRATEGIES AND ACTION POINTS

1. Grass-Roots Level

At the grass-roots, women, will be helped by government through its programmes to organise into self-help groups at the Anganwadi/Village/Town level. Existing womens' groups and womens' organisations working at the grass-roots level will also be appropriately strengthened. The womens' groups will be helped to institutionalize themselves into registered societies and to federate at the Panchayat/Municipal level. These societies will bring about synergistic implementation of all the social and economic development programmes by drawing resources made available through Government and non-Government channels, including banks and financial institutions and by establishing a close interface with the Panchayats/Municipalities.

2. District and Sub-District Levels

At the District and Sub-District levels, the services of the existing agencies, Zilla Parishads/District Rural Development Agencies/Municipal Bodies will be available to the womens' groups for coordination and facilitating smooth flow of resources for the advancement and empowerment of women.

3. State and National Levels

3.1. At the National and State levels there will be Councils for the Empowerment of Women to review implementation of recommendations of National and State Commissions for women and to give broad policy advice, guidance and

- direction; these National and State Councils will also oversee the operationalisation of the Policy on a regular basis. The National Council will be headed by the Prime Minister and the State Councils by the Chief Ministers. The Councils will be broad in their composition, having representatives from the concerned Department/Ministries, National and State Commissions for Women, Social Welfare Boards, representatives of Non-Government Organisations, Womens Organisations, Corporate Sector, Trade Unions, financing institutions, academics, experts and social activists etc.
- 3.2 All Central and State Ministries will draw up time bound Action Plans for translating the Policy into a set of concrete actions, in consultation with Centre/State Departments of Women and Child Development and National/State Commissions for Women. These Action Plans will be reviewed at regular intervals. The Plans will specifically include the following :
- 3.2.1. Commitment of resources for women in key sectors relating to education, vocational training, employment and income generation, health, all support services, gender sensitization programmes and information dissemination etc.
- 3.2.2. Time targets to achieve the mandates, strategies and action points of the Policy, *for the short term and the long term after determining relevant priorities.*
- 3.2.3. Fixing up responsibilities for implementation of action points.
- 3.2.4. Structures and mechanisms to ensure efficient implementation, monitoring and review of action points.
- 3.3 To ensure mainstreaming of women's concerns and issues, every Ministry/Department of the Centre/State will provide for the equal participation of women in their programmes/activities, as *catalysts, participants and recipients.*
- 3.4 The National Development Council will review all development programmes and targets on the basis of gender disaggregated data and ensure, with the support of the Planning Commission, flow of funds for programmes undertaken for women in various sectors.
- 3.5 Planning Commission/State Planning Boards/Commissions, will ensure that the Central and State Governments identify separately, specific physical and financial resources for women and men, in all sectors, particularly in health, nutrition, education, housing, water, sanitation, environmental conservation, training, skill development and employment/income generation in agriculture, industries and allied sectors.
- 3.6 Every Ministry/Department at the Centre/State will ensure equal flow benefits in physical and financial terms to women, including specially disadvantaged groups of women, through their different plans and programmes, executed directly, or through autonomous organisations and public undertakings working under it and will report annually to Parliament/State Legislatures in this regard.
- 3.7 To affirm the full and equal participation of women *of all sections and categories* and to ensure their rights, equal access and equal control over resources, the following will be undertaken :
- 3.7.1. All existing laws, including personal, customary and tribal laws, subordinate legislation, related rules as well as executive and administrative regulations, will be reviewed *in consultation with the National/State Commissions for Women.*
- 3.7.2. All new laws, subordinate legislation, related rules as well as executive and administrative regulations will be formulated with a gender perspective.
- 3.7.3. All existing policies, including sectoral policies, plans and programmes will be reviewed.
- 3.7.4. All new policies, including sectoral policies, plans and programmes will be formulated with a gender perspective.
- 3.8 The contribution of all sectoral policies, plans and programmes to the development, advancement and empowerment of women, will be subject to Parliamentary and Legislative review by appropriate mechanisms and structures to be created in Parliament and in State Legislatures. Suitable structures and processes will also be created in Panchayats and Municipalities to enable them to oversee and monitor the implementation of sectoral policies on women.
- 3.9. Women's rights will be guaranteed by strict enforcement of all relevant legal provisions and speedy redressal of grievances, with a special focus on violence and gender related atrocities. *Measures will also be taken to prevent and punish sexual harassment at the place of work.*
- 3.10 Crimes against women, their incidence, prevention, investigation, detection and prosecution will be regularly reviewed at all Crime Review Fora and Conferences at the Central, State and District levels and by the Home Ministry/Department.
- 3.11 Recognised, local, voluntary organisations will be authorised to lodge complaints and facilitate registration, investigations and legal proceedings

- related to violence and atrocities against girls and women.
- 3.12 There will be strengthening and expansion of Women's Cells in Police Stations, All Women Police Stations, Family Courts, Mahila Courts, Counselling Centres, Legal Aid Centres and Nyaya Panchayats, to eliminate violence and atrocities against women.
- 3.13 There will be widespread dissemination of information on all aspects of legal rights, human rights and other entitlements of women, through specially designed legal literacy programmes and rights information programmes. Legal literacy will also be included in the academic curricula of schools and colleges.
- 3.14 All steps will be taken to protect the interests of the girl-child and adolescent girls according to the Convention on Rights of the Child and the Decadal National/State Plans of Action for the Girl-Child.
- 3.15 There will be affirmative action, by way of reservations and quotas, as may be considered appropriate, in all bodies of the public and private sector, including the law making bodies, to facilitate active power-sharing by women and their meaningful participation in decision making at all levels.
- 3.16 Gender Sensitization programmes will include :
- 3.16.1 *Training of personnel* of executive, legislative and judicial wings of the State, with a special focus on policy and programme framers, implementation and development agencies, law enforcement machinery and the judiciary, as well as non-governmental organisations.
- 3.16.2 Societal awareness to gender issues and *women's human rights*.
- 3.16.3 Review of curriculum and educational materials to include gender education and human rights issues.
- 3.16.4 Removal of all references derogatory to the dignity of women from all public documents and legal instruments.
- 3.16.5 Use of different forms of mass media to communicate social messages relating to women's equality and empowerment.
- 3.17 *There will be strict enforcement of laws and codes of conduct relating to positive portrayal of women in the mass-media, so that commodification of women and demeaning images of women are effectively checked. Suitable measures will be considered to check public utterances derogatory to the dignity of women.*
- 3.18 *To ensure that women are provided with all support services, drinking water, and sanitation, sectoral policies will be suitably reviewed and amended.*
- 3.19 *To improve the nutritional status of girls and women and provide them with food security, awareness generation and other related programmes will be strengthened.*
- 3.20 *Women will be actively associated in the conservation of the environment and in the management of common property resources specially relating to fuel and fodder collection so as to utilise them optimally and in a sustainable manner.*
- 3.21 Labour protection for women workers in the organised and unorganised sector will be ensured. There will be strict enforcement of relevant laws such as Equal Remuneration Act and Minimum Wages Act, scientific measurement of women's work for determination of their wages and review of all labour legislation from a gender - just standpoint.
- 3.22 *Skills related to technology management will be imparted to women through appropriate programmes, governmental and non-governmental so as to enable them to utilise effectively, among others, infrastructure/services provided by development projects, e.g. those relating to provision of drinking water, irrigation, non-conventional energy sources etc.*
- 3.23 The progress in the advancement of the status of women will be reviewed once in five years. These reviews will be based on objective criteria and Gender Development Indices (GDIs), and also carry Situational Profiles on the status of women at the National and State levels. These reviews will coincide with the Five Year Plans. Appraisals at shorter intervals than five years may also be undertaken, as may be required from time to time.
- 3.24 To analyse and study relevant Gender Development Indices, gender auditing and evaluation mechanisms will be established. *Information derived therefrom will be widely disseminated*
- 3.25 National and State Resource Centres will be established with mandates for collection and dissemination of information, undertaking research work, conducting surveys, implementing training and awareness generation programmes, etc. These Centres will link up with Women's Studies Centres and other research and academic institutions through suitable information networking systems.
- 3.26 Institutional mechanisms which exist at the Central and State levels, to promote the

advancement of women, will be strengthened. These will be through interventions as may be appropriate and will relate to, among others, provision of adequate resources, staff training and advocacy skills to effectively influence macro-policies, legislations, programmes etc. to achieve the empowerment of women.

Handicapped Persons

2270. SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handicapped persons in the country at present;

(b) the funds allocated to provide facilities to these persons like their rehabilitation, infrastructural facilities, education, employment and awareness, out of the multi-crore budget of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare during 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(c) the details of the per capita amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) As per the National Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991, there are 16.15 million disabled persons in the country suffering from visual, speech, hearing and locomotor disability. The survey did not include mental disability. However, research studies conducted to assess the population of mentally handicapped in the country showed that around 2 to 2.5% of the population are affected by mental disability.

(b) An amount of Rs. 65.11 crores (Rs. 45.90 crores Plan and Rs. 19.21 crores Non-plan) has been provided for the current financial year 1996-97 under different schemes for the welfare of disabled persons being implemented by the Ministry of Welfare (being the nodal Ministry in the regard) out of their budget.

(c) It is not possible to calculate per capita amount for want of exact estimates of the population of mentally handicapped persons.

Assistance to U.P. Public Transport

2271. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'Nidar' : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance for development of various means of public transport in the Urban areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of such assistance provided to the State, so far;

(c) whether any international agency has made an offer to provide the financial assistance Public transport system in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

Money for Miss World Contest

2272. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of money spent by the Union Government and the State Government separately for the Miss World Contest held in Bangalore;

(b) the details of benefits achieved by the State or nation from the event;

(c) whether there was criticism that such events are against our culture; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) and (b) The Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India and the State Government of Karnataka have not provided financial assistance for the Miss World Contest held at Bangalore on 23rd November, 1996.

(c) Yes, Sir. Social activists and women organisations had protested against the event for a variety of reasons ranging from commodification of women to disparagement of Indian womanhood.

(d) The Government acknowledges the right of freedom of expression of all sections of society.

Indian Territory under Chinese Possession

2273. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) total area of India occupied by China;

(b) whether China do not recognise Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim as part of India; and

(c) the policy of India for taking back her territory from China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The area under occupation by China in Jammu & Kashmir is approximately 38,000 sq. kms. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan "Boundary Agreement" of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded approximately 5120 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

(b) The Chinese Government have laid claim to large parts of Indian territory in Arunachal Pradesh. They have also refrained from formally recognising Sikkim as part of India.

(c) Both sides are committed to work towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question. Both countries are discussing the boundary question in the framework of the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) and India-China Expert Group (EG). The Agreement on maintenance of Border Peace and Tranquillity, signed in 1993, and the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures, signed in November 1996, will contribute to maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

Integrated Child Development Scheme

2274. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount released by the Government for the implementation of Integrated Child Development Scheme in Karnataka during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that large scale misappropriation had taken place in the purchase under the above scheme;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such misappropriations; and

(d) whether the Government intends to refer it to CBI for enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) An amount of Rs. 2874.87 lacs, Rs. 4153.54 lacs and Rs. 1400.73 lacs has been released by the Central Government to the Karnataka State for implementing Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, respectively.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. The Central Government releases funds to the States under the ICDS Scheme only for meeting the operational requirements of the ICDS projects which chiefly include payment of salaries to the Project staff, honorarium of anganwadi workers and helpers, expenses on account of petrol, oil and lubricants and rent of Anganwadi/CDPO buildings. The pattern of Central funding under the ICDS Scheme, therefore, does not have scope for the States to misappropriate central funds through purchases.

(d) Does not arise.

Working Condition of Teachers

2275. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a committee has been set up to study the working conditions of teachers in unaided schools;

(b) if so, the composition and terms and references of the said committee; and

(c) the time by which the report is expected to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The Department of Education in the Ministry of Human Resource Development have set up a Task Force with the following members :-

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Prof. A.K. Sharma | Chairman |
| Director,
National Council for Educational
Research and Training (NCERT) | |
| 2. Prof. B.K. Passi, | Member |
| Vice-Chairman, National Council
for Teacher Education (NCTE) | |
| 3. Prof. B.P. Khandelwal, | Member |
| Chairman, Central Board of
Secondary Education (CBSE) | |
| 4. Prof. G.L. Arora, | Member-Secretary |
| Head,
Deptt. of Education, NCERT | |
| 5. Dr. P.H.S. Rao, | Special Invitee |
| Joint Educational Adviser,
Deptt. of Education,
Ministry of Human Resource
Development. | |

The Task Force would study the functioning of private schools and evolve a

1. Model Code -

(a) For the service conditions of teachers and other related matters

(b) Transparency in the administration of private schools and their admission policies.

2. A mechanism for the disposal of grievances and possible punitive measures.

The Task Force plans to submit its report by the end of March, 1997.

New Defence Policy

2276. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a three day national seminar on National Security was held in Goa recently at which a gathering of former members of India's defence establishment expressed concern over the country's defence preparedness and stressed the need to evolve a new defence policy;

(b) if so, the names of participant's in the seminar;

(c) whether any conclusion were arrived at in this seminar and whether they were communicated to the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) Government have seen reports in the Press on a Seminar organised in Goa in mid-January, 1997, by the Centre for Policy Research, which is an autonomous body. Government have not been apprised of the conclusions of the Seminar.

[Translation]

Death/Disease Caused by Poverty

2277. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether poverty is an important factor for causing disease and death as per the World Health Organisation report;

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

(c) the steps suggested by the World Health Organisation to prevent deaths occurring due to poverty; and

(d) the follow up measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (b) As per the World Health Report 1995 - 'Bridging the gaps', poverty affects every aspect of human life including health. To eradicate poverty, Government has initiated several measures like income generating schemes, food subsidies to the poor etc. besides all round socio-economic development programmes.

(c) The steps suggested by WHO to prevent deaths due to poverty inter-alia include efficient and optimum utilisation of available resources, better access to primary health care, increased investment in health sector and strengthening of national capabilities for emergency relief in the health sector.

(d) Several National disease control programmes are under implementation which are directed mainly to the poor people afflicted by diseases like Leprosy, T.B., Malaria, Blindness Iodine deficiency disorder etc. To augment the infrastructure and the outreach of programmes, external assistance have been availed from the World Bank and other External agencies. There has been increase in Plan allocations during the successive Plan periods.

[English]

Disciplinary Action Against Officers of K.V.S.

2278. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has recommended any disciplinary action against certain officers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) Central Vigilance Commission has recommended disciplinary action against eight officers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for various acts of misconduct during 1996. The charges relate to irregularities in appointment of staff in all the cases. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has already initiated action as per rules prescribed for the purpose.

[Translation]

Shortage of Pace Maker

2279. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether thousands of persons die every year due to shortage of pace makers in the country;

(b) if so, whether Union Government propose to manufacture pace maker in the country itself in view of the high prices of imported pace maker, which a common man cannot afford, so that the pace maker can be made available in the country at a low price and thus the lives of thousands of persons can be saved;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be started; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir. There is no reported death due to shortage of pace makers in the country.

(b) and (c) The pace makers are already being manufactured in India. The Society for Bio-Medical Technology, in collaboration with Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad; Defence Research Development Organisation, Department of Sciences &

Technology and the National Institute of Rural Development has been developing an indigenous pace maker. An Indore based Company, Pacetronics, is also manufacturing these. Depending on the type of Pace Maker the cost ranges from Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 1,25,000/-.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Irrigation Projects

2280. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of financial assistance provided by

Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Bank separately for implementation of irrigation projects and for providing drinking water in different States during the last three years and to be provided during 1997-98, State-wise; and

(b) the names of schemes out of them executed so far alongwith the present status thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) There has been no on-going project in irrigation or drinking water sector with Asian Development Bank or International Monetary Fund assistance launched in the last three years. However, a statement indicating state-wise irrigation and drinking water projects undertaken with World Bank assistance during last 3 years for implementation is inclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Project	State	Amount/ Present Value	Date of Signing/ Effective/ Closing	Cummulative Drawal upto		Total	Undrawn Balance as on 1.2.97.
					31.3.96	31.3.97		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A. IRRIGATION								
1994-95								
1.	Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project (Credit No. 2592-IN)	Haryana	294.29	06-04-94 24-06-94 31-12-00	32.26	16.46	48.72	245.57
1995-96								
2.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project (Credit No. 2801-IN)	Orissa	290.90	05-01-96 30-01-96 30-09-02	14.21	9.37	23.37	267.32
3.	T.N. Water Resources Consolidation Project (Credit No. 2745-IN)	Tamil Nadu	282.90	22.09.95 14.12.95 31.03.02	12.44	2.29	14.73	268.17
Multi-State Project								
4.	Hydrology Project (Credit No. 2774-IN)	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh	142.00	22.09.95	4.00	0.37	4.37	137.63
B. WATER SUPPLY								
5.	Bombay Sewage Project (Ln. 3923-IN/Cr. 2763-IN)	Maharashtra	192.00	28.12.95 22.03.96 30.12.02	5.00	13.40	18.40	173.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6.	2nd Madras Water Supply Project (Ln. No. 3907-IN) 1996-97	Tamil Nadu	275.80	20.12.95	5.99	00.00	5.99	269.81
7.	UP Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project (Ln. No. 4956)	Uttar Pradesh	59.6	22.07.96	0.00	2.18	2.18	57.42

Indians in Bangladesh

2281. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Human Rights Commission has recommended that people, who are living in Indian Enclaves in Bangladesh may continue to be Indian citizens and their interests be looked after by the Government of India; and

(b) if so, when such a recommendation was made by the Commission and what interests of these Indian citizens have been looked after by the Government of India, till-date?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) National Human Rights Commission by its proceedings on 13.3.1996 had expressed the view that the people who are living in the Indian enclaves in Bangladesh, continue to be Indian citizens and their interests have to be looked after by the Government of India. India has no administrative control or access to its enclaves in Bangladesh. Therefore, it has not been possible for the Government to look after the interests of the people living in Indian enclaves in Bangladesh. The exchange of enclaves is directly linked to and will necessarily follow the demarcation of boundary between India and Bangladesh. The demarcation of about 41 Kms. of Indo-Bangladesh land boundary is yet to be completed. During the third meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group held in Delhi from January 28-31, 1997, the two sides have agreed on the need to increase the number of survey teams for early completion of the demarcation of land boundary.

[Translation]

Reservoir Schemes in Jamui, Bihar

2282. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details and present status of Barnar, Nagi and Keiul reservoir schemes in Jamui district (Bihar);

(b) the quantum of funds approved and released by the Union Government so far for these projects, project-wise and year-wise;

(c) the steps taken so far/the progress made as on date in the completion/commissioning of these projects;

(d) the reasons for the delay in the completion of those projects;

(e) whether, the Government have conducted or propose to conduct any inquiry in this regard and to fix responsibility for the delay;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken against the persons responsible for it; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Lower Kiul and Nagi Projects were completed during second Five Year Plan. Expenditure upto March, 1994 in respect of Barnar and Upper Kiul Projects is Rs. 32.60 crores and Rs. 62.97 crores respectively. No potential has been created so far on Barnar Project where as irrigation potential of 13,500 ha. has been created in Upper Kiul Project upto 1994-95.

(b) to (g) The Ministry of Water Resources has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 5.00 crores to Upper Kiul Project under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme during 1996-97 and released Rs. 2.5 crores as first instalment. Irrigation is a state subject. The irrigation projects are implemented by the State Governments from their own resources and completion of the projects will depend upon the priority attached to them by the State.

Joint Shipping Service between India and Russia

2283. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed to introduce joint shipping services between India and Russia;

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement; and

(c) the date from which this agreement is likely to become effective?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) An "Agreement on the establishment of a Joint Liner Service between ports of Black Sea (Novorossiysk) and ports of India" was signed in Moscow on 11 February, 1997.

(b) The Agreement provides for establishment of a Joint Liner Service between the basic ports of Novorossiysk and Mumbai and the optional ports of Constanza, Varna, Bourgas, Ilyichevsk, Odessa and Ust-Dunaisk in the Black Sea and Chennai, Kochi and Calcutta in India. By this Agreement, India and Russia are to deploy one or two vessels for carriage of conventional cargoes and containers, and have also provisionally agreed to provide a monthly sailing in each direction. The Agreement also provides for reciprocal privileges to both Novorossiysk Shipping Company and the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., including for port services in India and Russia.

(c) The Agreement became effective upon its signature on 11 February 1997; the operation of the Joint Liner Service is expected to commence from June, 1997.

[English]

Centrally Protected Forts in Rajasthan

2284. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a request for development of Centrally Protected Forts in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (e) The centrally protected Forts in Rajasthan are maintained, preserved and environmentally developed as per their requirements based on archaeological norms and availability of funds.

National Sports Policy

2285. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new national sports policy has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, when the Government propose to finalise it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) to (c) A draft New National Sports Policy has been formulated. It has been circulated to all the concerned organisations inviting their comments and is yet to be finalised. Its main features are as under :-

- (1) Broad-basing of Sports;
- (2) Creation of Sports Infrastructure;
- (3) Mobilisation of Mass-media in introducing a Sports Culture in the country;
- (4) Achieving excellence at the National and International levels;
- (5) Scientific back-up to sports persons;
- (6) Training and Development of Coaches, Sports Scientists, Judges, Referees and Umpires;
- (7) Incentives to Sports persons;
- (8) Resource Mobilisation for Sports; and
- (9) Easy access to International quality sports equipment.

Indian Museum, Calcutta

2286. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide fully air conditioned facilities to the Indian Museum, Calcutta;

(b) whether it is also a fact that experts have suggested that air conditioning of all the buildings of the Museum is necessary for proper conservation and preservation;

(c) when it is likely to be taken up;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken for proper maintenance and care of the National Museum?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (d) The Government do not have any such proposal under consideration since neither any request has been received from the Indian Museum for providing air conditioning facilities for the full building of the Indian Museum nor any such suggestions have been made by any of the experts of the High Powered Building

Committee which is entrusted with the proper maintenance/upkeep/repair of the existing building of the Indian Museum. Moreover, the two existing buildings of the Indian Museum, Calcutta are quite aged, porticoed, plastered and dome-type in elegant structure, and, therefore, the superstructure of the building is not conducive for Central air conditioning. None-the-less, special care has been taken to install split type/window type air conditioning facilities for proper conservation and preservation of the highly sensitive objects.

(e) The National Museum building is a new one and is centrally air conditioned for the proper care and maintenance of the museum holdings. Besides, the National Museum Conservation Laboratory is regularly monitoring the control of temperature and humidity for the same purpose.

Seminar on Roads

2287. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a national seminar on "natural disasters reduction on roads" was held in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of countries participated in the Seminar;

(d) the suggestions made by the experts;

(e) whether the Government propose to implement the suggestions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Seminar was held from January 29-31, 1997 and was organised by Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi on behalf of World Road Congress (PIARC), G-2 Group and in association with Ministry of Surface Transport. The Seminar provided an opportunity to the Asian Experts to present and exchange information as well as practices being followed in their respective countries dealing with evaluation and prediction of hazards; laws and regulations; pre-event measures; disaster preparedness; emergency planning and management; repairing of infrastructure; post-event measures.

(c) The Seminar was attended by over 150 distinguished delegates including 33 foreign delegates from 15 countries, including Hon'ble Deto Seri S. Samy Vellu, Minister of Works, Malaysia.

(d) The major recommendations of the experts included the following :

(1) Development of National Commission on Natural Disaster Mitigation in various countries.

(2) Strengthening of Regional Co-operation in the area of Natural Hazard Mitigation.

(3) Creation of National Data base on Natural Disasters related to Roads and to prepare suitable guidelines to mitigate these disasters in future as well as sharing of data on regionals basis.

(4) Strengthening of Research and Development Activities to enhance the ability of prediction as well as forecast about the occurences of natural hazards.

(5) Complete information dissemination and public awareness programmes.

(6) Budgetary provisions to meet the emergencies arising due to natural disasters related to roads.

(e) and (f) The recommendations by the experts are general in nature. As and when specific proposals are received these will be duly considered.

Irrigation Projects in Gujarat and Maharashtra

2288. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether irrigation facilities in Gujarat and Maharashtra are insufficient;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/ being taken to solve the problem;

(c) the details of the major and medium irrigation projects in Maharashtra and Gujarat which have so far been completed and those which are still incomplete alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to ensure timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Against Ultimate Irrigation Potential assessed for Gujarat and Maharashtra of 4.75 million hectares and 7.30 million hectares respectively, the irrigation potential likely to have been created in these States by the end of 1995-96 is 3.34 million hectares and 4.83 million hectares respectively. The major reasons for the gap between ultimate irrigation potential and irrigation potential created so far, is thin spreading of funds on irrigation projects and consequential delay in completing ongoing irrigation projects. The steps taken by the Government to increase irrigation facilities inter-alia include emphasis on (i) early completion of ongoing projects, (ii) greater users' participation in irrigation projects, (iii) making command

area development programme more effective, (iv) conjunctive use of surface and ground water and (v) S&T component through research organisations.

(c) and (d) During Plan period upto the end of 1991-92, 10 major, 88 medium and 1 Extension, Renovation & Modernisation (ERM) projects of Gujarat and 18 major, 153 medium and 1 ERM projects of Maharashtra were completed. During the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97), 9 major, 25 medium and 12 ERM projects of Gujarat and 32 major, 70 medium and 6 ERM projects of Maharashtra are in progress. To expedite completion of selected ongoing major and medium projects. Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 101.72 crores and Rs. 28.00 crores have been sanctioned to Gujarat and Maharashtra respectively under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97.

Membership of UN Security Council

2289. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of permanent and non-permanent members of Security Council and other countries which have so far indicated their support for India's claim for permanent membership of UN Security Council;

(b) the steps which have been taken and are being taken for securing permanent membership of UN Security Council; and

(c) the present status of the proposals in respect of membership of Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC), particularly its expansion?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Discussions on restructuring of the UN Security Council are continuing in the Open Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly. So far there is no consensus on individual candidates or criteria for expansion. Mauritius, Bhutan, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Lao PDR have made statements at the UN in support of India's candidature for permanent membership. The Government is in touch with other Member States of the UN both bilaterally and at the UN. We have indicated that any proposal to expand the UN Security Council should be comprehensive in nature, and non-discriminatory.

(c) India is presently a member of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The membership of the Economic and Social Council was last increased in 1973 to the present 54 members. No new specific proposals for further expansion of the ECOSOC is currently being discussed in the UN or in the Open Ended Working Groups.

[Translation]

Anganwadi Workers

2290. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from organisations of Anganwadi workers, particularly from Madhya Pradesh, regarding improvement in their working conditions, revision of rates of honorarium, declaring them as Government employees and other issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of representations have been received from various organisations of anganwadi workers including from Madhya Pradesh regarding the status and employments of anganwadi workers. These representations contain a request to the Government to consider following major demands :

(i) enhancement of honorarium of anganwadi workers/helpers and regularisation of their services in the regular pay-scales;

(ii) declaring anganwadi workers as Government servants and providing them allowances as applicable to Government servants; and

(iii) promotion of anganwadi workers to supervisors.

(c) The representations received from various Anganwadi Associations have been examined by the Government and it has been decided to maintain the status-quo.

Upgradation of Guwahati Medical College

2291. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to upgrade the Guwahati Medical College in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the anticipated investment and time schedule;

(c) whether the total cost of the project is proposed to be provided by the Union Government as grant to the State Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the proposed upgradation is to be implemented by and under the supervision and control of the Union Government or it would be left to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (e) A request was received from the Government of Assam for Central assistance of Rs. 72.00 crores for upgradation of Guwahati Medical College, Guwahati. Later, on the suggestion of an expert team from Directorate General of Health Services, the State Government requested that while the project may be approved for implementation during 9th Plan period, part of the amount may be approved for attending to priority areas during 1996-97. Accordingly, Planning Commission has agreed in principle to provide Rs. 9.50 crores for the purpose in the Annual Plan 1996-97 or 1997-98. The Planning Commission has also asked the State Government to send the detailed proposal for upgradation for its consideration alongwith the Annual Plan document.

Projects in Nehru Yuvak Kendras

2292. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various projects started and completed so far in Nehru Yuvak Kendras of Maharashtra during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total amount sanctioned for each project year-wise during the last three years and progress made in this regard in each district of Maharashtra;

(c) the names of the proposed schemes/projects likely to be undertaken in each district of Maharashtra during 1997 to 2000 AD;

(d) the details of the sources of income required for carrying out the activities of Nehru Yuvak Kendras; and

(e) the details of the grounds on which financial assistance is provided to these Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Policy on Admission on Technical/ Engineering Institutions

2293. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised a comprehensive national policy on admission to technical/ engineering courses in Government/private institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), a statutory body responsible for proper planning and coordinated development of Technical Education system throughout the country has laid down regulations for admissions to technical institutions which were notified in the Gazette in May, 1994.

[Translation]

Ex-Servicemen

2294. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of ex-servicemen in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) the funds provided for the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(c) the facilities extended by the Union Government, for the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase the amount sanctioned for the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) As on 31.12.96, a total number of 2,39,455 ex-Servicemen were registered with various Zila Sainik Boards in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) During the last three financial years, loans/ financial assistance were provided to the ex-Servicemen of the State under three Self Employment Schemes (SEMFEXs) as under :-

Year	Amount
	(Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	65.51
1994-95	134.32
1995-96	175.31

Besides, an expenditure of Rs. 9,60,931 has been incurred under PEXSEM Scheme in Uttar Pradesh for training of ex-Servicemen during 1993-94 and 1994-95.

(c) The Central Government schemes and programmes for rehabilitation of ex-Servicemen are applicable to the ex-Servicemen residing in all the States

including the State of Uttar Pradesh. These rehabilitation schemes/programmes are as under :-

- (i) Central Government has provided following percentage of reservation in Government jobs for ex-Servicemen :-

	Central Government	Central PSUs/ Banks
Group 'C' posts	10%	14.5%
Group 'D' posts	20%	24.5%

- (ii) Besides, in Para Military Forces, a reservation of 10% is also provided in posts of Assistant Commandants. Recruitment in Defence Security Corps is earmarked for ex-Servicemen.
- (iii) Relaxation in age and educational qualifications for ex-Servicemen for employment in Government jobs.
- (iv) Training Programmes for improving their employability in Government job or to enable them to take self-employment after retirement.
- (v) Loan facilities under SEMFEX-I, SEMFEX-II and SEMFEX-III schemes for setting up self - employment ventures.
- (vi) 7.5% of petroleum product agencies reserved for allotment to widows/dependents of posthumous gallantry award winners, war disabled, war widows etc.

(d) to (f) The schemes regarding reservation of jobs for ex-Servicemen in Government Departments, relaxation in Age and educational qualifications, reservation of petroleum product agencies for war widows/war disabled etc., do not require specific allocation of funds, and are in the nature of concessions/preferences provided to ex-Servicemen. The amount of loan/financial assistance provided to ex-Servicemen in a particular financial year depends on the number of ex-Servicemen applying for the same and fulfilling the conditions therefor.

Facilities to ex-servicemen

2295. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the facilities being provided to ex-servicemen, the widows of soldiers and their families;

(b) whether there is any scheme for providing medical facility to them as is being provided to Central Government Employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether the Government would consider it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) The important facilities being provided to the ex-Servicemen, the widows of Service personnel and their families are briefly as under :

RESETTLEMENT FACILITIES

- (i) Central Government have reserved 10 per cent of Group 'C' posts and 20 per cent of Group 'D' posts for ex-Servicemen. 10 per cent posts of Assistant Commandants in Para Military Forces are also reserved for ex-Servicemen. Central Public Sector Undertakings and Nationalised Banks provide 14.5 per cent reservation in Group 'C' and 24.5 per cent in Group 'D' posts to ex-Servicemen.
- (ii) Loans/financial assistance for setting up small scale industries, Service industries, Agro-based industries, Khadi & Village industries are provided to ex-Servicemen under three self-employment schemes known as SEMFEX-I, SEMFEX-II and SEMFEX-III.
- (iii) Government have reserved 7.5% of the Oil product agencies i.e., LPG Kerosene Oil agencies and Petrol Pumps for widows/dependents of posthumous gallantry award winners, war widows, war disabled and for personnel disabled during peace time with disability of 50% and above.

WELFARE FACILITIES

- (i) Ex-Servicemen can avail of Canteen facilities from the nearest CSD canteens.
- (ii) Children of Defence Personnel killed or permanently disabled in action who are studying in institutions under the Department of Education, are granted complete exemption from tuition fee and other fee levied by the institution.
- (iii) Reservation of 25 seats in MBBS and one seat in BDS have been made for the wards of ex-Servicemen killed or disabled in action or during in peace time due to attributable causes.
- (iv) Two seats in each of the six IITs are reserved for children of the Defence/Para Military Forces personnel killed or permanently disabled in action.
- (v) Twenty five percent seats are reserved for wards of serving and retired Armed Forces personnel in Sainik Schools.
- (vi) 50% concession is provided in air fare for travel in domestic flight of Indian Airlines to recipients of gallantry awards of Param Vir Chakra, Mahavir Chakra, Ashok Chakra and

Kirti Chakra; permanently disabled officers and dependent members of their families; and to the war widows of post Independent era. Rail travel concession is also being provided to the war-widows by the Ministry of Railways.

- (vii) 35 War memorial hostels have been constructed to provide accommodation to wards of war bereaved and disabled personnel to enable them to pursue their studies. Kendriya Sainik Board also provides education grant to the children staying in these hostels.
- (viii) Kendriya Sainik Board and Rajya/Zila Sainik Boards provide financial assistance from Welfare Funds to old and infirm ex-Servicemen and their widows in indigent circumstances. Financial assistance is also provided to needy ex-Servicemen for medical treatment, daughter's marriage, repair of house etc.

MEDICAL FACILITIES :

Defence personnel after retirement are provided adequate medical cover under a comprehensive package. The package consists of the following medical facilities/concessions :-

- (i) Ex-Servicemen are provided free outpatient treatment in Military Hospitals. They are also provided in-patient treatment in Military Hospitals, except for psychiatric treatment, cancer treatment, kidney transplantation and coronary bypass surgery.
- (ii) For ailments in respect of which treatment is not available in Military Hospitals, medical cover is provided under the Group Insurance schemes of the Armed Forces. Under the Group Insurance scheme, an amount of Rs. 100 lakh is paid for heart treatment, Rs. 75,000/- for Cancer treatment, Rs. 100 lakh for Renal transplant and Rs. 75,000/- for hip and knee joint replacement.
- (iii) Those ex-Servicemen who are not covered under the medical insurance schemes, are provided financial assistance upto 60% of total expenditure on treatment of serious diseases, e.g., by-pass surgery, angiography, kidney renal transplant, cancer, coronary artery surgery, etc., by the Kendriya Sainik Board.
- (iv) Ex-Servicemen can also take treatment in State Government civil hospitals.
- (v) 24 MI Rooms and 12 Dental Centres have been set up for providing medical facilities exclusively to ex-Servicemen and their dependents.

- (vi) Needy ex-Servicemen are also provided financial assistance for medical treatment from Raksha Mantris Discretionary Fund upto a maximum of Rs. 15,000/-.

Government have set up 127 Military Hospitals exclusively for Armed Forces serving personnel, ex-Servicemen and their families. These hospitals are based on regionalised patterns of health care delivery system and grouped into large Command Hospitals, Zonal hospitals, Medium hospitals and small hospitals.

There is no scheme at present on the pattern of Central Government employees for providing medical facility to ex-Servicemen, as they are provided adequate medical cover under the above mentioned schemes of the Ministry of Defence.

[English]

Passport Office, Bangalore

2296. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passport applications pending with the passport office at Bangalore as on December 31, 1996;

(b) the number of passports issued by the said office during the last three years as on December 31, 1996, yearwise;

(c) whether the said office has sufficient staff to clear the workload;

(d) if not, the steps being taken to post sufficient number of employees;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to open passport offices in other cities like Hubli/Belgaum/Mangalore in Karnataka; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) 6600 passport applications were pending with the Passport Office, Bangalore as on 31 December, 1996. Of these, 703 were pending for more than one month.

(b) The number of passports issued by the Passport Office in Bangalore during the last three years is as follows :

1994	1995	1996
77646	95672	105905

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no proposal presently under consideration of the Government to open any more Passport offices in Karnataka as the existing office is able to cater to the needs of passport applicants from

the state and issue a passport within a reasonable time. A Passport Collection Centre is already functioning at Mangalore.

(f) Does not arise.

Ayurvedic College and Hospitals

2297. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Ayurvedic colleges and hospitals in the country at present;

(b) the total financial assistance provided to these colleges and hospitals during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to open new Ayurvedic college, and hospitals in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) As per information available there are 118 Ayurvedic colleges and 2136 Ayurvedic Hospitals in the country.

(b) The total financial assistance provided under Central Scheme for upgradation of P.G. Department and improving and strengthening of existing under Graduate colleges of ISM&H during the last two years is as under :

1994-95	-	114.92 lakhs
1995-96	-	236.17 lakhs

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Violation of Air Space

2298. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of violation of Indian air space by aircrafts of other countries, especially Pakistan, during 1995 and 1996;

(b) the measures taken to stop such intrusion in terms of both detection as well as defensive capacity;

(c) whether the cases of violation were brought to the notice of the countries concerned; and

(d) if so, their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) During the years 1995 and 1996, the number of violations of Indian airspace by the aircraft of other countries was 22 and 12 respectively. Of these, 16 violations in 1995 and 9 violations in 1996 were by Pakistani aircraft.

(b) Appropriate air defence measures exist to check such violations. These are also reviewed from time to time.

(c) and (d) Such violations are taken up with the country concerned as and when considered appropriate.

Highway Ambulance Project

2299. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched Highway Ambulance Project recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and salient features of the project. funding arrangement, objective, coverage and target for the current year-extension plans etc;

(c) the details of National Road Safety Plan worked out for accident prone areas; and

(d) the details of action plan worked out to provide Road side amenities along the national highways during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no separate Road Safety Plan for accident prone areas of National Highways. However, various improvement works which have a bearing on road safety are taken up on a continuous basis alongwith other developmental works.

(d) Under the scheme of wayside amenities along National Highways, during the current year an estimate costing Rs. 62.50 lakhs have been sanctioned for providing passenger oriented wayside amenities at Kms. 439.0 on NH - 8 in Maharashtra.

Regional Offices of KVS

2300. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of regional offices of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan functioning in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up a new Regional office in Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) 19 Regional Offices of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan are functioning in the country at present.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The existing Regional Offices are found adequate to effectively administer the Kendriya Vidyalayas in Kerala.

[Translation]

Diabetes Disease

2301. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sought the cooperation of the voluntary organisations for organising camps to spreadge the knowled and information regarding Diabetes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of these Organisations thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Sports Control Board in KVS

2302. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Sports Control Board is existed in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS);

(b) if so, since when and by which resolution/ decision it had been set up;

(c) the sources of its income and amounts spent, year-wise since its inception;

(d) whether amounts received and spent by the Sports Control Board are subjected to annual audit by or at the instance of CAG etc.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan decided to set up Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Sports Control Boards at National and Regional levels in September, 1975.

(c) The sources of income of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Sports Control Board are contribution from Kendriya Vidyalayas and interest on bank deposits. The details of its income and amount spent year-wise are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) The audit is carried out by Internal Audit section of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

Statement

Year	Receipts	Payment
1979-80	3,34,690.17	2,85,692.34
1980-81	3,71,855.71	2,82,491.30
1981-82	4,68,042.05	3,00,878.37
1982-83	1,84,993.12	2,77,894.67
1983-84	5,44,066.58	4,10,669.85
1984-85	2,65,291.49	2,69,475.95
1985-86	33,557.66	3,63,924.80
1986-87	1,66,735.35	1,68,436.75
1987-88	1,29,576.90	3,46,720.00
1988-89	2,08,585.60	1,00,000.00
1989-90	2,21,205.50	5,49,680.00
1990-91	42,591.00	2,48,892.00
1991-92	82,451.00	-
1992-93	No collection and expenditure was made	
1993-94	30,709.00	-
1994-95	29,374.00	200.00
1995-96	7,26,370.65	8,31,581.00

Monuments in U.P.

2303. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the monuments of Uttar Pradesh particularly in Agra are in a dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for preservation of these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The centrally protected monuments in Agra are in a good state of preservation with regular maintenance and upkeep; Structural repairs, chemical preservation and environmental development works are carried out periodically by the Archaeological Survey of India, according to the requirements of these monuments.

[Translation]

Road Accidents in Rajasthan

2304. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cities in Rajasthan where road accidents occurred on National Highways due to lack of bypasses during the last three years and the number of persons died in these road accidents;

(b) the measures taken by the Government to check such accidents;

(c) whether these measures are adequate; and

(d) if not, the efforts being made to take better and effective measures in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Accidents Statistics are collected state-wise and not city-wise. No statistics are available about accidents caused due to lack of bypasses on National Highways in Rajasthan.

(b) The steps generally taken to check accidents include widening of single lane sections to two lanes, reconstruction of weak and narrow bridges and culverts, replacement of level crossings by overbridges, provision of retroreflective road signs, thermoplastic road markings, laybys, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

CPT Schemes

2305. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether time overrun in different major and minor schemes over the last couple of years has cost Calcutta Port Trust (CPT) crores of rupees;

(b) whether in the latest physical and financial progress report prepared by the CPT, it has mentioned that most of the schemes sanctioned before the Eighth Plan spilled over beyond the Eighth Plan causing loss of huge sums of money to CPT;

(c) if so, the reasons for these delays; and

(d) the measures being taken to prevent further time slippage and cost escalation and draw up comprehensive strategy paper even if necessary by commissioning an internationally reputed consultancy firm?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) A very few schemes of Calcutta Port Trust have suffered time over-run. No

extra payment has been made on account of cost over-run corresponding to time over-run in any of the major schemes.

(c) and (d) The major reasons for delay in the completion of the projects are due to tardy progress by the suppliers. The delays/slippages have been brought to the notice of the concerned public sector undertakings, to whom the contracts have been awarded by the Calcutta Port Trust to avoid any time/cost over-run.

Improvement in Emergency Service

2306. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "With a bullet still in his back hospital discharges him" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 8, 1997;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to bring about improvement in the Emergency Service of Safdarjung Hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the news item, it has inter-alia been reported that one person who was rushed to Safdarjung Hospital with bullet injury, was discharged after being administered some antibiotics on 4th February, 1997 without making any effort to remove the bullet.

(c) The case was investigated by a Committee constituted under the chairmanship of Consultant and HOD (Ortho), Dr. RML Hospital. The findings of the Committee are being examined.

(d) Steps are taken to improve the facilities in the Emergency services as, and when considered necessary.

[Translation]

National Open School

2307. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Open School had earmarked 20 marks for T.M.A. in the Secondary School syllabus for 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons for not adding the marks of T.M.A. in the Secondary School Examination conducted in November, 1995;

(c) whether the Study Centre, 2746 Bharati Public School of National Open School situated in Delhi had sent the marks of T.M.A. to the controller of the examination in 1995;

(d) if so, whether the National Open School has taken any decision to give concession to the students affected by the said T.M.A.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Curvery Water Dispute

2308. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cauvery River Water Dispute Tribunal has started its proceedings;

(b) the details of the claims made by different concerned State Governments submitted to the Tribunal/ Government;

(c) whether the Tribunal have issued any directions to concerned State Governments regarding resolution of Cauvery Water Dispute;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Tribunal/Union Government to resolve the dispute amicably as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The actual share of water claimed by basin States in the Tribunal is as under :

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| (i) Karnataka | - | 465 TMC |
| (ii) Tamil Nadu | - | Flows to be ensured in accordance with the terms of the Agreement of 1892 and 1924. |
| (iii) Kerala | - | 99.8 TMC |
| (iv) Pondicherry | - | 9.3 TMC |

(c) to (e) The Tribunal has conducted 104 hearings upto 28.2.97 and the basin states are participating in the proceedings of the Tribunal.

Further steps can be taken by the Union Government only after the final adjudication by the Tribunal.

[English]

Indian Workers in Gulf Countries

2309. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to assist Indian Workers in Gulf Countries who are in grief due to accidents or other mishaps; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Indian Missions take a number of steps to ameliorate the condition of Indian workers in distress due to their involvement in accidents or other mishaps. These are, inter alia;

- (i) in case of death, arrangements are made in coordination with the employers, the local police authorities and the next of kin for disposal of the mortal remains either by despatch to India, or otherwise, in accordance with local laws and procedures;
- (ii) in case of serious injury arising out of accident or other mishaps, Indian Missions arrange for the required medical treatment through the employer locally or if necessary to send the person back to India for treatment;
- (iii) in cases where compensation, service benefits, outstanding salary, etc., are due to the deceased or injured, Indian Missions take up each case with the sponsor for speedy settlement. Whenever necessary, cases are taken up with the concerned authorities of the foreign Government to intervene with the employers for a fair settlement of dues of the worker. The dues realised are sent to the concerned district authorities for disbursement to the workers/legal heirs in India;
- (iv) the Consular, Passport and Visa Division of the Ministry of External Affairs coordinates follow-up action, in case the Indian workers are still dissatisfied with the efforts made by the Indian missions abroad.

[Translation]

Receipt of Project Report

2310. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been sharp decline in annual receipt of project reports in Central Water Commission for evaluation while the number of directorates engaged in this work have been increased five times; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of proposals to stop the misuse of public funds by reducing the number of directorates?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

KV AGCR Delhi

2311. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of students in Kendriya Vidyalaya, AGCR Delhi;

(b) whether the number have gone beyond the sanctioned strength;

(c) if so, the arrangements being made to deal with the problem;

(d) whether the Government propose to allocate additional finance keeping in view the strength of students; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) The total number of students in Kendriya Vidyalaya, AGCR is 3325 as on 28.2.1997.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Vidyalaya is functioning in two shifts to deal with the problem.

(d) and (e) Allocation is made to the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan based on requirements and general availability of funds.

Tobacco Related Disease

2312. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of persons in India who consume tobacco;

(b) the amount spent by the Government annually on combating diseases caused by tobacco; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ban the use of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) It is estimated that nearly 14.2 crore men and 7.2 crore women use tobacco in India.

(b) No such data is available at present. However, Government have constituted an expert committee which would inter-alia study the economic cost of Tobacco use.

(c) Government do not propose a ban on the use of tobacco. However, steps are being taken to discourage consumption of Tobacco.

[English]

Indo-Mauritius Agreement

2313. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Mauritius have signed any credit agreement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and benefits likely to be gained by India out of this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Agreement, signed on February 5, 1997, provides a credit of US \$ 3 million to the Government of Mauritius for importing from India capital goods, consultancy services and consumer durables. The credit will cover 90% of the F.O.B. value of the goods imported from India. The credit agreement is expected to promote increased exports of goods and consultancy services from India to Mauritius.

[Translation]

Repair of Damaged Bridges and Canals

2314. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bridges on the various canals of Ajamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh have been damaged;

(b) whether the irrigation department is not repairing these bridges due to which many accident can take place at any time;

(c) whether inspite of repeated requests for repairs of the bridges of Dheckma Bazar and Jamuvanva and Mahuari Villages the same have not been carried out so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to repair those damaged bridges?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Indian Mission Abroad

2315. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the countries where Indian Missions do not exist at present;

(b) the countries where Indian Mission is likely to be opened in near future; and

(c) the mode of diplomatic understandings with countries where missions do not exist?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) A statement showing countries where resident Indian Missions do not exist is enclosed.

(b) There are some proposals under consideration for opening new resident Missions in some countries. Formal announcements will be made once our assessment and preparation are complete.

(c) Relations with countries where we do not have resident Missions are conducted through the channels of concurrent accreditation, special envoys, Honorary Consul Generals/Consuls and contacts at various international forums.

Statement

Countries (UN Members) where there are no Resident Indian Missions.

Afghanistan (Temporarily close)

Albania

Andorra

Antigua and Barbuda

Armenia

Azerbaijan

Bahamas

Barbados

Belize

Bolivia

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Burundi

Cameroon

Cape Verde

Central African Republic

Chad

Comoros

Congo

Costa Rica

Djibouti

Dominica

Dominican Republic

Ecuador

El Salvador

Equatorial Guinea

Eritria

Estonia

Fiji

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Gabon

Gambia

Georgia

Grenada

Guatemala

Guinea

Guinea Bissau

Haiti

Honduras

Iceland

Latvia

Lesotho

Liberia

Liechtenstein

Lithuania

Luxembourg

Malawi

Mali

Marshall Islands

Mauritania

Micronesia

Moldova

Monaco

Nicaragua

Niger

Palau

Paraguay

Rwanda

San Marino

Sao Tome and principe

Sierre Leone

Slovenia

Solomon Islands

Somalia

St. Kitts and Nevis

St. Lucia

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Swaziland

Togo

Uruguay

Vanuatu

Zaire

Engineering Colleges in Andhra Pradesh

2316. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposals from Andhra Pradesh for opening of Engineering Colleges are pending for clearance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c). Approval of Technical Institutions and programmes by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is a continuous process. The Council has made regulations laying down procedure and time schedule for processing such proposals. At the moment there are 87 proposals from Andhra Pradesh with the Council.

[Translation]

External Internal Assistance for Irrigation Projects of Maharashtra

2317. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of irrigation projects financed by internal and external resources in Maharashtra during each year of Eight Plan;

(b) the schemes and programmes launched for completion of the said projects and introduction of new irrigation projects;

(c) whether priority has been given to the medium and small irrigation projects in tribal and famine prone areas by the State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) During the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) 33 Major, 49 Medium and 6 Extension, Renovation and Modernisation (ERM) projects are ongoing in Maharashtra. Out of these 5 Major and 1 Medium projects are externally aided. To accelerate completion of the selected ongoing Major and Medium projects, Central Loan Assistance amounting to Rs. 28.00 crores has been sanctioned under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for three projects namely Gosikhurd, Waghur and Surya of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) To extend irrigation facilities to the tribal and drought-prone areas in Maharashtra, 22 Medium projects in tribal areas and 16 Medium projects in

drought-prone areas are ongoing in the State. The details of Minor irrigation projects are not maintained at the Central Government level.

[English]

Opening of Primary Schools with World Bank Aid in MP

2318. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of districts of Madhya Pradesh where primary schools are proposed to be opened with the World Bank assistance;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to request the World Bank to provide more financial assistance to promote primary education in some other districts of Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) 15 districts of Madhya Pradesh namely, Bhind, Morena, Seon, Mandla, Shivpuri, Jhabua, Bastar, Shajapur, Khargone, Datia, Dewas, Vidisha, Damoh, Raipur, Khandwa have been selected for inclusion under District Primary Education Programme with World Bank assistance. The programme component includes opening of new primary schools.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Marconi Fire Control System

2319. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Marconi fire control system computer was bought alongwith the Bofors gun;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this computer system has ever been used; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) 155 mm FH 77B Gun System which was contracted with M/s Bofors includes the Marconi Fire control system. This System consists of the Battery Computer Module (BCM), Observer Data Computer and Gun Computer System (GUN COS). The System has been in usage for the last ten years alongwith the Gun System and its performance has been satisfactory.

Composite Sonar and Tactical Weapon Control System

2320. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Composite Sonar tactical Weapon Control System developed and deployed on a submarine is lying idle for the last many years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said system was to be deployed in the year 1993; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not deploying the same so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The system was required to be developed and installed on board as submarine and its user trials were to be completed by November, 1993. However, due to foreign exchange crunch and restrictions imposed in 1991 on import of some critical components, the date of completion of the above tasks has been extended by the Government to December, 1997.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Assistance for Pilgrimage

2321. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide any grant or financial assistance to the pilgrims undertaking travel to the religious places abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms prescribed for providing such financial assistance by the Government; and

(d) the financial assistance provided to the Pilgrims who visited religious places, Nankana (Pakistan) and Manasarovar (China) during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d) No State assistance is directly given to the pilgrims.

2. For Haj pilgrims who perform Haj under the auspices of the Central Haj Committee, Government fixes a Haj pilgrim fare which is generally lower than the fare calculated on the basis of actual expenditure. The difference is borne by the Government as subsidy on account of Haj transportation arrangements and paid directly to the Air Charter. In addition, Government depute administrative and medical contingents (doctors and para-medics) to Saudi Arabia and also supply medicines and attendant medical facilities such as

ambulances, camp dispensaries etc. to attend to the needs of the Haj pilgrims. It has to be appreciated that annual Haj is a pilgrimage of unprecedented magnitude in which million of pilgrims from the Muslim world congregate at one venue on given dates and, therefore, require special attention. No such facility is extended for Umrah, a pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina round the year.

3. In case of Sikh/Sehejdhari and Hindu Jathas from India to Pakistan, Government extends all required assistance, obtains approval of the Government of Pakistan for the visit of each Jatha; coordinates with various State Governments/Ministries/Authorities and forwards the lists of intending pilgrims to the Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi for visas; arranges with the Ministry of Railways special train services for the pilgrims both for onward/return journey; expedites release of foreign exchange from Reserve Bank of India as a special case in view of the fact that permission for Jathas is given at short notice and visas are stamped on the pilgrims' passports just one or two days prior to the departure of the Jathas; attaches a Liaison Officer from the High Commission of India in Islamabad to render assistance to the visiting pilgrims when they contact for any kind of help, etc.

4. For Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, Government decided in 1996, to peg the amount payable to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) by pilgrims at the rate of Rs. 5000/- per pilgrim. The total cost charged by KMVN was Rs. 8250/- per pilgrim. The difference was paid as subsidy by Government to KMVN. Otherwise, Government have been providing facilities to pilgrims which include medical assistance, security and escort cover through ITBP and UP State Police, communication links between Delhi and places en route on the Indian side and with China and a Liaison Officer at Government cost with each batch of pilgrims.

Joint Ship Service between India and Russia

2322. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Russia to start a joint ship service;

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement; and

(c) the date from which this agreement will be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The agreement on the operation of a Joint Liner Service between ports of Novorossisk, Russia and the ports of India was signed between the Shipping Corporation of India and NOVOSHIP of Russia on 11th February, 1997. The salient features are :

(i) The Joint Liner Service would be operated between the ports of Russia and India with

basic ports being Novorossisk and Mumbai and the optional ports being Constantza, Varna, Bourgas, Ilyichevsk, Odessa, Ust-Dunaisk in the Black Sea and Chennai, Kochi, Calcutta in India.

- (ii) The parties agreed to provisionally provide monthly sailing in each direction.
- (iii) Each contracting party would deploy vessels of DWT 10/15000 MT suitable for carriage of conventional cargoes and containers.
- (iv) The Joint Maritime Commission will co-ordinate operation of the liner service.

(c) The agreement came into effect from the date of its signing.

[English]

Fee Structure in Private Professional Institutions

2323. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have chalked out any policy guidelines for determining fee structure in private unaided professional educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments have been consulted on this issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d) As a sequel to the judgement of the Supreme Court dated the 9th August, 1996 arising out of the implementation of the Unnikrishnan case, draft guidelines have been framed after consulting the State Governments and other agencies with regard to the fee structure in private unaided professional colleges. The final outcome depends upon the approval by the Competent Authority.

[Translation]

Infection in Milk of Indian Mothers

2324. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the report of the World Health Organisation the milk of Indian mothers has been infected by the toxic contents upto 21 per cent due to consumption of vegetables, fruits and foodgrains which get poisoned by the use of chemical fertilizers are pesticides; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) According to some studies, presence of pesticide residues have been reported in human milk samples. This is a world-wide phenomenon and not confined to India alone as the residues remain in the soil for several decades and are passed from the soil then the found into mother's milk.

(b) Use of DDT is already banned in agriculture and safer pesticides have been identified. The import, manufacture and use of pesticides are regulated under the Insecticides Act which provides for registration of pesticides for use after their safety to human beings on various parameters of toxicity is established.

[English]

Kashmir Issue

2325. SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's policy has undergone any change with regard to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken note of Dr. Farooq Abdullah's statement to made the present border in Kashmir as International Border; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. The issue which remains to be resolved is the vacation of the territory of the State of J and K which is under Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation. India is committed to the resolution of all India Pakistan issues in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

[Translation]

Survey on Goghra Jaiversan Project

2326. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times on which survey has been conducted on the Goghra Jaiversan Project in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh and the expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(b) the reasons for not granting approval to this project inspite of the above said survey and the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Irrigation is a State subject and irrigation projects are investigated, formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments. The State Governments are required to obtain investment clearance from the Planning Commission in respect of Major and Medium Projects only. No information is kept at the Centre regarding surveys carried out by the States.

Soil Erosion by Koshi

2327. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the soil erosion on the bank of Koshi River in Bihar particularly in Sopaul, Saharsa and Khagariya districts during the last three years;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to save the people from being rendered homeless due to it;

(c) whether any financial assistance has been provided to Bihar to check the same during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Anti erosion works are planned and implemented by the State Governments out of their own plan funds as per priority fixed by them. The State Governments have been taking various anti erosion measures in the form of bank protection, revetment, spurs/studs, bed bars etc. to check erosion.

Ganga Flood Control Commission has prepared comprehensive plans for flood management of river Kosi, Kamla Balan, Adhwara Group of rivers which are responsible for flooding and erosion in the districts of Sopaul, Saharsa and Khagaria districts. These plans have been sent to the State Government for implementation.

(c) and (d) Financial Assistance of Rs. 1.5 crore has been provided to the State Government of Bihar during the last three years for flood proofing schemes. In addition, Rs. 11.86 crore has been released towards maintenance of Kosi embankment in Nepal territory which are maintained by Government of Bihar.

[English]

Pollution Related Diseases

2328. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to press reports, an estimated 7500 persons died in Delhi alone in 1996 due to pollution related diseases;

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

(c) the number of people died premature death in the country by air pollution during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) No data is available about the number of deaths due to pollution. However, apart from providing health education and medical care for the patients, the Government have launched several measures to control pollution.

[Translation]

Development of Technical Education

2329. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take any action regarding investment by the private sector and their participation in the development of technical education and encouraging more and more educational institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) Investment and Participation by private sector in establishing non-commercial, financially viable and academically sound technical institutions conforming to the norms and standards prescribed by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) are always welcome. More than 60% of the existing technical institutions are in the private sector.

Works on NHs in UP

2330. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the National Highways in Uttar Pradesh on which the widening, extension and repair work has been started during the period from January, 1995 to till-date and the time by which such work is likely to be started on the remaining National Highways in the State; and

(b) the details of the estimated expenditure incurred in this regard so far, and the total quantum of funds allocated for this propose during 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Development and maintenance of National Highway is a continuous process and works on National Highways in the country including NHs 2, 3, 7, 11, 24, 25, 27, 29, 56 and 19 passing through the State of Uttar Pradesh are undertaken in a phased manner subject to the availability of funds.

(b) Funds are allocated to the State as a whole and not National Highway-wise. Funds allocated and expenditure incurred entire during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under :

	Development		Maintenance	
	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
	(Rs. in lakhs)			
1995-96	8842.00	8789.00	2529.94	2767.00
1996-97	8565.00	5439.00	2793.40	2117.00
		(Upto Jan. '97)		(Upto Jan '97)

[English]

Imposing of Special Fee in Private Institutions

2331. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UGC has proposed to levy a special fee in the Private Institution to meet the capital expenditure; and

(b) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Bridges on National Highways in Karnataka

2332. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any schemes are pending for clearance with the Government regarding the construction of new bridges on the National Highways in Karnataka for the last three years and upto December 31, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Theft of Passport

2333. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been reports of theft of passports in various passport offices in the country during 1995-96, 1996-97;

(b) if so, the number of pasports stolen, passport office-wise and date-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the stolen passports have been traced out and seized; and

(e) if so, the number of passports recovered?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

(c) Cases of missing passports were reported immediately to the police and circulars revoking them were issued to prevent their misuse.

(d) and (e) Some of the missing passports have been seized by the police. In the recent case of stolen passports from the Passport Office, Nagpur, a gang involved in the theft has been busted by the Police. Information regarding the number of such passports is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Admission of Minorities in Colleges

2334. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India have formulated any guidelines for the admission of minorities in the colleges and other institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the basis of these guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) The admission of all students including those belonging to minorities, to Medical and Dental/ Engineering Colleges, whether a Minority Institution or otherwise, are governed by the guidelines published by Indian Medical Council and All India Council of Technical Education respectively.

There are no general guidelines, in the matter of admission of minorities to other colleges. General

guidelines exist in the form of university ordinance in their application to 'minority institutions' which are subject to the pronouncements of the Hon'ble Supreme Court under Article 30(1) of the Constitution of India.

Relation with Namibia

2335. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to improve its relation with Namibia;

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

(c) whether Government of Namibia has sought Indian assistance for technical and industrial development in that country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d) Government is committed to further developing and building upon its traditionally close and friendly relations with Namibia in a genuine spirit of South-South cooperation. During the visit to India of the President of Namibia, Dr. Sam Nujoma, on February 13-18 1997, a Convention was concluded between the two countries on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital Gains. Namibia has expressed interest in Indian assistance in the development of drought resistant agriculture, and in the continuing development of its human resources. The President of Namibia also invited Indian businessmen to explore business opportunities in Namibia.

Passport Offices

2336. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending cases in Passport Offices in issuance of passport at end of year 1996 and the reasons therefor;

(b) the time since when the passport office at Jammu has started its function indicating number of pending cases at end of January, 1997;

(c) the number of cases detected about issuing of fake passports in each State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) A tabular statement is enclosed. The reasons for pendency in issue of passports are normally, receipt of negative or incomplete reports from concerned police authorities, discrepancies in documents submitted by the applicants particularly in respect of applications received by post, lack of response from applicants who are asked to submit additional documents.

(b) The Passport Office at Jammu started functioning with effect from 31.3.1994. At the end of January, 1997, 12978 applications were pending.

(c) No case of fake passports has been reported from any state to the Ministry during the last year.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

S.No.	Office	Total Pendency
1.	Ahmedabad	16049
2.	Bangalore	6600
3.	Bareilly	5497
4.	Bhopal	3185
5.	Bhubaneshwar	3725
6.	Bombay	13217
7.	Calcutta	11578
8.	Chandigarh	10923
9.	Cochin	7914
10.	Delhi	19455
11.	Goa	713
12.	Guwahati	3128
13.	Hyderabad	30156
14.	Jaipur	8600
15.	Jalandhar	11069
16.	Kozhikode	22368
17.	Lucknow	24311
18.	Madras	18233
19.	Nagpur	1457
20.	Patna	9245
21.	Trichy	22769
22.	Trivandrum	11590
23.	Jammu	13131
		274913

Expulsion of Diplomats

2337. SHRI KAMESHWAR PASWAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United States of America has recently expelled two Indian diplomats;

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

(c) whether India has registered its strong protest to U.S.A. in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) The US authorities have requested withdrawal of two Indian diplomats stationed in the United States, for activities allegedly incompatible with their consular status. This followed the Indian Government's decision asking for withdrawal of concerned US diplomats based in New Delhi following reports of their unauthorized contacts with a Home Ministry official.

(c) and (d) Government have deeply regretted this decision of the US authorities. The Indian diplomats concerned were discharging their normal responsibilities as consular officers. Government have categorically rejected any implication to the contrary.

(e) Does not arise.

Indo-Pak Relations

2338. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to improve Indo-Pak relations;

(b) whether some countries have offered their services to mediate between both the countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Government are committed to establishing a relationship of trust, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. To this end, Government are willing to have wide ranging and comprehensive talks, at appropriate level, with Pakistan on all issues of mutual concern.

(b) to (d) Government are aware that some countries have offered to facilitate dialogue between India and Pakistan, if both the countries so desire. It is, however, India's consistent policy that all issues between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally within the framework of the Simla Agreement. Government's consistent to the principle of bilateralism in relationship with Pakistan rules out any third party intervention.

Pre-Matric Scholarships

2339. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any evaluation on the implementation of centrally sponsored scheme to provide pre-matric scholarships for the children of those engaged in uncleaned occupation;

(b) if so, the details of the deficiencies found in the implementation of the above scheme; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed by the Government to remove these bottlenecks and improve the effectiveness of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) Research studies by independent research agencies on sample basis have been conducted in selected areas of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Bihar on implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations during Eight Five Year Plan period. The studies while covering functional aspects have recommended removal of certain deficiencies like removal of income ceiling as most of families engaged in unclean occupations have low income; timely disbursement of full scholarship; publicity of the Scheme to bring awareness in the community and activating the operational level of the directorate at the State level to reach out the community directly and if, necessary, restructure its organisation to be more effective and efficient.

(c) The income ceiling under the scheme has been totally removed with effect from 25.2.1994. The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been requested to take appropriate steps to ensure timely payment of scholarship to eligible students. It has also been emphasised that since the scheme is an important supportive instrument towards elimination of scavenging to which highest priority has been given, therefore, they are requested to ensure effective implementation of the scheme. The regulations governing the scheme also suggest that the State Governments/Union Territories to timely announce the scheme by giving advertisement in the leading language newspapers, local dailies and by using other suitable publicity media.

[Translation]

Foreign Tour for Treatment

2340. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Union Ministers, former Ministers, Members of Parliament, Governors and Ministers of the State Governments who undertook foreign tours for treatment of various diseases during the last year;

(b) whether funds were released from the exchequer for such treatments;

(c) if so, the amount of funds released; and

(d) whether the facility of treatment of such diseases is not available in the country for which the foreign tours were undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Eligibility certificate was issued for treatment abroad in respect of three Union Ministers of the last financial year. For Governors and Ministers of the State Government, the concerned State Government gives the permission for treatment abroad.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 75,90,759 in Indian Rupees and £ 54,885.88 in foreign currency was released from the Central Exchaquer for this purpose.

(d) Eligibility certificate for treatment abroad is issued on the recommendations of a Standing Committee, which examines the views of relevant specialists from leading hospitals in India and satisfies itself that treatment abroad is necessary in the circumstances of each individual case.

Linking of Rivers

2341. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a team of experts for the project of connecting the rivers with another and constructing dams on rivers in order to utilise the water for electricity generation and other purposes besides irrigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the report of the team is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A National Commission has been set up by the Ministry of Water Resources vide O.M. dt. 13.9.1996 and subsequent modification dt. 25.10.1996, 22.11.1996 and 14.2.1997. Dr. S.R. Hashim, Member, Planning Commission is the Chairman of the Commission.

The terms of reference of the Commission are as under :

- (i) To prepare an Integrated Water Plan for development of water resources for Drinking, Irrigation, Industrial, Flood Control and other uses;
- (ii) To suggest modalities for transfer of surplus water to water deficit basin by inter-linking of rivers for achieving the above objectives;
- (iii) To identify important On-going Projects as well as New Projects which should be completed on priority basis together with phasing;

(iv) Identify a technological and interdisciplinary research plan for the water sector with a view to maximise the benefits;

(v) To suggest physical and financial resources generation strategies for the water sector;

(vi) Any other related issue;

(c) The report is likely to be submitted in two years time.

[English]

Chakma Refugees

2342. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the recent visit of Prime Minister to Dhaka, Chakma refugees problem was discussed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Bangladesh Government has agreed to accept back the Chakma refugees taking shelter in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d) The issue of repatriation of Chakma refugees was discussed during the visit of Prime Minister to Dhaka from January 6-7, 1997. In response to a suggestion from India, the Government of Bangladesh had indicated that a delegation including Members of Parliament from Chittagong Hill Tracts area in Bangladesh would visit Chakma refugee camps in Tripura and encourage the refugees to return to Bangladesh. Accordingly a 13-member Bangladeshi delegation led by Chief Whip of Bangladesh Parliament visited Tripura from February 27 to March 2, 1997. The delegation visited the refugee camps in Tripura and had meetings with the Governor of Tripura, Chief Minister of Tripura and the Chakma refugee leaders.

[Translation]

Bridges on NH-16

2343. SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct bridges/culverts on National Highways No. 16;

(b) if so, the details with locations thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Bridges and culverts planned to be constructed/under construction along NH-16 are as per

following details :-

State	In Km/ Name	Stage	Sanctioned Cost (in lacs)	Target date of completion
A. Bridges				
Madhya Pradesh	178\8	-	21.68	6\97
-do-	288 Indravati bridge	Survey and investigation	10.468	3\98
Maharashtra	Pranhita and other minor bridges	Alignment and location from Maharashtra side to be finalised	-	Roughly five years after align- ment and loca- tion are finalised.
B. Culverts				
Andhra Pradesh	Km. 100\0 to 115\0	-	46.04	3\97
-do-	Km. 115\0 to 135\0	-	48.95	9\97
-do-	Km 171.3 to 205.8	-	24.99	3\97
Madhya Pradesh	Km. 493 to 504 (8 nos.)	-	14.77	3\97
-do-	Km. 289-443 (30 nos.)	-	25.45	3\97

Ayurvedic Research Institute

[English]

2344. SHRI RAMSAJEEVAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government has submitted a project report to the Union Government alongwith the recommendation to set up a Ayurvedic Research Institute at Neemsar in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) is so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in the setting up of the said institute in order to encourage the manufacturing of indigenous medicines and treatment in the country whereas 21 acres of land is being made available free of cost for this research institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial assistance of Rs 20.00 crores has been sought from the Government of India for establishment of Ayurvedic Research Institute at Neemsar, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh.

(c) The Proposal was carefully examined and the State Government of UP was indicated that since there is no provision for establishment of Ayurvedic Research Institute in the 8th Five Year Plan budget and the Government of India does not provide grant-in-aid for the purpose of establishment of Ayurvedic Research Institute, therefore it is not possible to consider the proposal during 8th Five Year Plan for sanction of financial assistance.

IIM in Andhra Pradesh

2345. SHRI VENKATARAMI REDDY ANANTHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to set up Indian Institute of Management in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There are four Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) located at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta and Lucknow and the Government have recently approved establishment of two new IIMs at Calicut and Indore.

People's Participation in Irrigation Capacity

2346. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gujarat Government has launched a scheme to facilitate irrigation capacity with people's participation in Junagarh district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to render financial assistance to the States for such schemes; and

(d) if so, the financial assistance provided to Gujarat for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Gujarat have adopted a policy to promote participatory irrigation management in the State. As a follow up to this policy, a number of pilot projects have been undertaken in different agro-climatic regions of the State. One such pilot project is Chandravadi Minor Irrigation Scheme in Junagadh District of Gujarat.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme taken up since 1974-75, there is a provision to provide financial assistance to the States for setting up farmers' associations in irrigation projects. However, no financial assistance was given for this purpose during the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) to the Government of Gujarat.

Facilities at Mumbai Port

2347. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mumbai port authorities have decided to privatise certain facilities in order to meet the trade and traffic requirements of the port; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI E.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of tank farm for storage of liquid chemicals on the plot of land at Ambapada at an estimated cost of Rs. 20.00 crores.

Sports Quota

2348. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons recruited against Sports Quota in the country during last ten years;

(b) if so, the State-wise recruitment of persons during last ten years; and

(c) the number of such recruitment in Assam Circle during last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) to (c) The Central Government does not operate any Sports Quota for employment of sportspersons. However, upto 5% Vacancies can be filled up by meritorious sportspersons in Group 'C' and 'D' Posts in the Ministries/Departments/ Establishments of the Government of India in relaxation

of the prescribed procedure/rules. The State-wise details regarding number of persons recruited in all such organisations are not compiled.

Audit Paras

2349. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) number of 'audit paras' received in his Ministry during the last one year from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India pertaining to his Ministry and to the departments under it located in Delhi;

(b) the details of the audit paras;

(c) the action taken on each of the audit paras; and

(d) the steps taken to check irregularities henceforth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) A total of 116 Audit Paras have been received in the Ministry of Defence in the last one year in respect of the Defence Services/Departments for the year ending on 31st March, 1995.

Audit Paras mainly relate to matters arising from the Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services together with other points arising from the test audit of financial transactions. Briefly, these paras address persistent savings/excesses, outstanding claims/dues, expenditure without appropriate sanction, cash losses, equipment/stores losses, defects in procured indigenous/injudicious use of manpower, equipment etc.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Defence have established systems in place for review of Audit Paras, timely remedial action and check on irregularities. Periodical review meetings are held and instructions/policy directives are issued from time to time.

Corrective/remedial measures to check irregularities are taken in consultation with Associated Finance and Audit.

World Bank Assistance for Guntur-Kurnool Road

2350. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank-aided project for widening the Guntur-Kurnool road seems to have run into rough whether because of another project "Project Tiger";

(b) if so, whether the State Government had planned to convert the 320 km road between Guntur and Kurnool connecting national highways 5 and 7, into a two-lane highway by widening the margins on both sides of the existing road;

(c) whether this scheme was projected to the World Bank for financial assistance and the Bank had agreed

to assist the scheme of strengthening the roads in the State;

(d) if so, the reasons for not undertaking this road so far with the World Bank aid;

(e) whether the World Bank has put certain conditions before providing the loan; and

(f) if so, the details of the conditions imposed by them?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The environmental clearance for widening of Guntur-Kurnool road excludes the portion Kurnool-Thokapally section, as this section of the road is passing in between the two Tiger Sanctuaries.

(b) In order to comply with the environmental clearance, it is proposed to improve Nandyal-Giddanur-Thokapally road, utilising Kurnool-Nandyal section of National Highway No. 18.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Environmental clearance is not available.

(e) and (f) Before the World Bank agrees for the loan for this project, environmental clearance is necessary.

[Translation]

Infiltration of Terrorists

2351. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that terrorists in large number from various camps across the Jammu-Kashmir border have been intruding in the country usually from Bogina situated in north of Jagdhak, Krishna valley in Mendhar and some areas in Rajori and Poonch;

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

(c) whether the Government have raised or propose to raise this issue in international organisations/institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are maintaining utmost vigil at the border and along the LOC to contain infiltration. Government will continue taking all necessary steps to safeguard the country's security.

(c) to (e) Government have suitably apprised the international community of Pakistan's support to cross border terrorism directed against India and there is widespread awareness of this issue. Our efforts in this respect will continue.

[English]

South Asian Federation Games

2352. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on South Asian Federation Games, 1995;

(b) the size of Indian contingent sent to Hiroshima, 1994, Barcelona, 1993 and Atlanta, 1996 alongwith the expenditure involved therein separately; and

(c) the expenditure involved in sending the officials in the above events?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) For the South Asian Federation Games, 1995, an expenditure of Rs. 43.00 lakhs was incurred by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

(b) The requisite information is given below :-

	Name of event	Size of Indian Contingent	Expenditure thereon
I.	Asian Games, Hiroshima, 1994	204 Persons	Rs. 128.00 lakhs
II.	Olympic Games, Barcelona, 1992**	82 Persons	Rs. 52.62 lakhs
III.	Olympic Games, Atlanta, 1996	53 Persons	Rs. 22.32 lakhs

** These Games were held in Barcelona in 1992 and not in 1993 as mentioned in the Question.

(c) Cost involved in sending officials in the above events is as under :-

1.	SAF Games, 1995 Madras	-	Rs. 10,836.00
2.	Asian Games, 1994, Hiroshima	-	Rs. 8,94 lakhs
3.	Barcelona Olympics, 1992	-	Rs. 2.40 lakhs
4.	Atlanta Olympics, 1996	-	Rs. 37.06 lakhs

Cancer Surgeon

2353. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no regular cancer surgeon in the Safdarjung Hospital and the patients are facing much difficulties due to non-availability of specialists;

(b) whether Radio Therapy is also done by male staff and not by female staff particularly while attending ladies; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Hospital authorities have made alternative arrangements to treat the patients suffering from Cancer in the department of surgery till the posts of Cancer surgeons are filled.

(b) Hospital authorities have reported that a female attendant is present at the time of giving radio therapy to the lady patient. in the department of radiology.

(c) Recruitment action is under process to fill up the posts of Cancer surgeons.

[Translation]

Tutorial Classes in Delhi University

2354. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any provision for tutorial classes in Delhi University;

(b) if so, whether these classes are held in all the colleges and if so, the percentage thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that half of the tutorial classes are not being undertaken by the lecturers in most of the colleges of Delhi University whereas these classes are shown in the college timetable;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Sher Shah Suri Tomb

2355. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Sher Shah Suri Tomb at Rohtas, Sasaram District in Bihar, is in a dilapidated condition for want of proper care and maintenance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have considered or propose to consider to develop the area as a tourist centre for domestic as well as foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The monument is centrally protected and regularly maintained and conserved as per established archaeological norms.

(c) and (d) The Archaeological Survey of India has provided facilities like supply of drinking water, toilet facilities, proper approach to the monument, and environmental development for the benefit of the public visiting the monument complex.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

2356. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether powerful US Congressmen have supported India's stand on Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether public opinion in US is favourable for India;

(d) whether almost all the countries have supported India's stand;

(e) the number of countries that have supported India's stand; and

(f) the largest development in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government are aware of the supportive stand taken by some US Congressmen on India's position on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, including Mr. Benjamin Gilman, Chairman of the International Relations Committee. There is considerable understanding of India's position on the CTBT within the press and academic community in the United States.

(d) to (f) The Indian approach enjoys widespread support among NAM countries and is reflected in the Cartagena Declaration adopted at the 1995 NAM Summit. India's stand on the CTBT has been principled and consistent. India believes that the CTBT should be an integral part of a nuclear disarmament process leading to total elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.

Allotment of land in Cantonment Areas

2357. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of rules followed by cantonment authorities in regard to allotment of land premises to trade union organisations to locate their offices and buildings just near the military installations;

(b) the rules that are invoked in setting up such building premises either in the vicinity of residential areas or on open lands where there has been public amusements of communities celebrations;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the cantonment authorities have been allowed to violate these provisions by Government's sanction in some cases;

(d) whether Government now propose to review its stand in view of some public litigations filed in different courts of law; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) As per existing land policy there is no provision for allotment of Defence land for locating offices of Trade Union Organisations in Cantonment. Requests for allotment of Defence land for such purpose are decided by the Government on merits of the case. The building plans on such lands granted on lease by Government are sanctioned by the Cantonment Board strictly in accordance with the building bye laws of that Cantonment.

(c) to (e) As a special dispensation, Government have granted lease of defence lands on payment of annual rent and premium to Indian National Defence Workers Federation in Kanpur Cantonment for Federation buildings and to All India Defence Employees Federation in Kirkee Cantonment for meeting hall and library.

A petition has been filed in the court of Civil Judge seeking relief against the Indian National Defence Workers Federation by way of injunctions for refraining the federation from carrying out digging and putting up any construction on the land leased to them. The Court, however, did not grant any stay and passed orders for maintaining status quo. In the circumstances cause of review by the Government does not arise.

Swasthya Melas

2358. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are providing any financial assistance for the organisation of Swasthya Melas at block and taluka level to improve the credibility of the health care delivery system and to promote the small family norm;

(b) if so, the total assistance provided to Orissa during 1995-96 for the purpose;

(c) the block/taluka covered in the State during the above period under the scheme;

(d) the achievements made in each block; and

(e) the amount allocated for 1996-97 for Orissa for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Financial assistance was being provided for organising Swasthya Melas at two levels :

(i) to State Governments

(ii) to the NGOs.

(b) (i) Rs. 31,00,000/- to the State Government;

(ii) Rs. 2,80,730/- to NGO

(c) and (d) Besides the one Swasthya Mela organised by one Non-Governmental Organisation in Orissa, the State Government of Orissa was released an amount of Rs. 31,00,000/- for organising Swasthya Mela in 1000 Gram Panchayats with the objective to bring about full scale utilisation of the under utilised health services and bring health services nearer to the people.

At the Melas, awareness about the health among the population has been increased and necessary curative treatment has been provided at the site of Swasthya Melas.

(e) No specific amount is being allocated to any State under the scheme.

Deaths of Children in Tribal Areas

2359. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1301 on December 12, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) The matter of the question No. 1301 dated 2.12.96 has been interalia referred to State/UT Governments having areas inhabited predominantly by tribal population. The responses are awaited.

[Translation]

Hospital Lying Closed in Allahabad District

2360. DR. AMRIT LAL BHARTI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a general hospital in 1974 and a women hospital were opened in 1984 at village Vainskanto in Maujhanpur

tehsil of Allahabad but due to lack of proper building and adequate number of doctors, these two hospitals are lying closed; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bring both these hospitals in operation by providing all necessary there urgently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) The Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that a Government Hospital (now named as new PHC) was established in 1974 and a Women's Hospital was established in 1984. These are functioning since establishment in rented buildings.

(b) Does not arise.

Scholarships to Foreign Students

2361. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives for developing good relations with foreign countries through cultural diplomacy;

(b) if so, the details of new strategies conceived and implemented recently and proposals and under consideration in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide scholarships and other facilities to students from developing countries for pursuing technical and professional education; and

(c) if so, the details of such facilities already made available during the last three years indicating proposal for expansion/upgradation of such facilities to foreign students in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) The Government attaches high importance to strengthening cultural relations with other countries. It constantly reviews the efficacy of the activities and programmes for promoting bilateral cultural exchanges with various countries with a view to maximise the effectiveness of these programmes in promoting India's interests abroad in a changing world. An annual programme of activities is drawn up every year taking into account the availability of budgetary resources, the commitments under bilateral cultural exchange programmes (CEPs) and the overall policy priorities. The special focus of our activities is South, South East and Central Asia. The major manifestations of Indian culture organised during the current financial year included the days of Indian Culture in Russia, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

(c) The Government offers over 1000 scholarships each year to foreign students under its various scholarship schemes. These scholarships are given for pursuing degree level courses at Indian universities/institutions of higher learning. The courses include

technical and professional disciplines other than medicine.

(d) The Ministry of External Affairs is also providing facilities to foreign students from developing countries to study in Engineering and Medical courses in India on a self-financing basis against a fixed quota of seats made available by the Deptt. of Education and Ministry of Health for this purpose.

Separately, short term training in technical and professional courses is arranged under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs.

The stipends for ICCR scholars under different categories have recently been enhanced w.e.f. July, 1995. Besides the tuition fee and the stipend, the scholars are also paid a house rent subsidy, annual contingency grant, medical and other benefits.

Mazagon Docks Limited

2362. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether full capacity of the Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL) is being utilised;

(b) if not, the details of the units in the Docks lying closed for the last many years;

(c) whether facilities developed at Nhava Sheva are also lying idle;

(d) whether submarine building unit is idle and if so, since when;

(e) whether there are future plan of the Indian Navy to build submarines;

(f) if so, the accumulated loss of Mazagon Docks Limited as on March 31, 1996; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure full utilisation of Mazagon Docks Limited Organisation and wipe out its accumulated losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (g) It is fact that full capacity of the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) is not being utilised. No unit of MDL is, however, lying closed for many years. The facilities at Nhava are not in use from 1995-96 due to lack of orders. The facilities dedicated to submarine building are not in use after 1993-94 due to no order from Indian Navy. Indian Navy has recently placed a Letter of Intent on MDL for construction of two submarines. As on 31-3-1996, the accumulated losses of MDL were Rs. 41.12 Crores. To wipe out its accumulated losses, MDL has proposed, as one of the steps, re-structuring of its capital base to reduce interest burden. As a part of diversification MDL has entered into construction of wind-mill towers. MDL is also rationalising its work force through implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS).

Signatories of Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

2363. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DALIPSINH GAEKWAD:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries which have signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the names of who have not signed the same;

(b) the names of countries who have ratified the treaty; and

(c) the details of safeguards provided for the non-nuclear weapon States in the treaty and the regulations and control imposed on countries having Nuclear Weapons?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) List of countries which have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is enclosed as statement.

(b) Fiji is the only country to have ratified the treaty.

(c) The treaty obliges all States Parties, Nuclear Weapon States and Non-Nuclear Weapon States alike, not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion, and to prohibit and prevent any such nuclear explosion at any place under its Jurisdiction or control. It also requires States Parties to refrain from causing, encouraging, or in any way participating in the carrying out of any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.

Statement

Country	Date of Signature
1	2
Albania	27 Sep 1996
Algeria	15 Oct 1996
Andorra	24 Sep 1996
Angola	27 Sep 1996
Argentina	24 Sep 1996
Armenia	1 Oct 1996
Australia	24 Sep 1996
Austria	24 Sep 1996
Bahrain	24 Sep 1996
Bangladesh	24 Sep 1996
Belarus	24 Sep 1996
Belgium	24 Sep 1996
Benin	27 Sep 1996
Bolivia	24 Sep 1996
Bosnia and Herzegovina	24 Sep 1996

1	2
Brazil	24 Sep 1996
Brunei Darussalam	22 Jan 1997
Bulgaria	24 Sep 1996
Burkina Faso	27 Sep 1996
Burundi	24 Sep 1996
Cambodia	26 Sep 1996
Canada	24 Sep 1996
Cape Verde	1 Oct 1996
Chad	8 Oct 1996
Chile	24 Sep 1996
China	24 Sep 1996
Colombia	24 Sep 1996
Comoros	12 Sep 1996
Congo	11 Feb 1997
Costa Rica	24 Sep 1996
Cote d'voire	25 Sep 1996
Croatia	24 Sep 1996
Cyprus	24 Sep 1996
Czech Republic	12 Nov 1996
Denmark	24 Sep 1996
Djibouti	21 Oct 1996
Dominican Republic	3 Oct 1996
Ecuador	24 Sep 1996
Egypt	14 Oct 1996
El Salvador	24 Sep 1996
Equatorial Guinea	9 Oct 1996
Estonia	20 Nov 1996
Ethiopia	25 Sep 1996
Fiji	24 Sep 1996 10 Oct 1996*
Finland	24 Sep 1996
France	24 Sep 1996
Gabon	7 Oct 1996
Georgia	24 Sep 1996
Germany	24 Sep 1996
Ghana	3 Oct 1996
Greece	24 Sep 1996
Grenada	10 Oct 1996
Guinea	3 Oct 1996
Haiti	24 Sep 1996
Holy See	24 Sep 1996
Honduras	25 Sep 1996
Hungary	25 Sep 1996

* Date of ratification

1	2
Iceland	24 Sep 1996
Indonesia	24 Sep 1996
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	24 Sep 1996
Ireland	24 Sep 1996
Israel	25 Sep 1996
Italy	24 Sep 1996
Jamaica	11 Nov 1996
Japan	24 Sep 1996
Jordan	26 Sep 1996
Kazakstan	30 Sep 1996
Kenya	14 Nov 1996
Kuwait	24 Sep 1996
Kyrgyzstan	8 Oct 1996
Latvia	24 Sep 1996
Lesotho	30 Sep 1996
Liberia	1 Oct 1996
Liechtenstein	27 Sep 1996
Lithuania	7 Oct 1996
Luxembourg	24 Sep 1996
Madagascar	9 Oct 1996
Malawi	9 Oct 1996
Mali	18 Feb 1996
Malta	24 Sep 1996
Marshall Island	24 Sep 1996
Mauritania	24 Sep 1996
Mexico	24 Sep 1996
Micronesia (Federated States of)	24 Sep 1996
Monaco	1 Oct 1996
Mangolia	1 Oct 1996
Morocco	24 Sep 1996
Mozambique	26 Sep 1996
Myanmar	25 Nov 1996
Namibia	24 Sep 1996
Nepal	8 Oct 1996
Netherlands	24 Sep 1996
New Zealand	27 Sep 1996
Nicaragua	24 Sep 1996
Niger	3 Oct 1996
Norway	24 Sep 1996
Panama	24 Sep 1996
Papua New Guinea	25 Sep 1996
Paraguay	25 Sep 1996

1	2
Peru	25 Sep 1996
Philippines	24 Sep 1996
Poland	24 Sep 1996
Portugal	24 Sep 1996
Qatar	24 Sep 1996
Republic of Korea	24 Sep 1996
Romania	24 Sep 1996
Russian Federation	24 Sep 1996
Saint Lucia	4 Oct 1996
Samoa	9 Oct 1996
San Marino	7 Oct 1996
Sao Tome and Principe	26 Sep 1996
Senegal	26 Sep 1996
Seychelles	24 Sep 1996
Slovakia	30 Sep 1996
Slovenia	24 Sep 1996
Solomon Islands	3 Oct 1996
South Africa	24 Sep 1996
Spain	24 Sep 1996
Sri Lanka	24 Oct 1996
Suriname	14 Jan 1996
Swaziland	24 Sep 1996
Sweden	24 Sep 1996
Switzerland	24 Sep 1996
Tajikistan	7 Oct 1996
Thailand	12 Nov 1996
Togo	2 Oct 1996
Tunisia	16 Oct 1996
Turkey	24 Sep 1996
Turkmenistan	24 Sep 1996
Uganda	7 Nov 1996
Ukraine	27 Sep 1996
United Arab Emirates	25 Sep 1996
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	24 Sep 1996
United States of America	24 Sep 1996
Uruguay	24 Sep 1996
Uzbekistan	3 Oct 1996
Vanuatu	24 Sep 1996
Venezuela	3 Oct 1996
Viet Nam	24 Sep 1996
Yeman	30 Sep 1996
Zambia	3 Dec 1996
Zaire	4 Oct 1996

Disposal of Hospital Waste

2364. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering an project submitted by Kerala Government for financial assistance for implementing the scheme for disposal of hospital waste for the district hospitals in Kerala at a cost of Rs. 3.56 crores; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala has informed that a proposal for waste disposal from General/District hospitals in the State was sent to the Planning Commission in October, 1995. The Planning Commission requested in Sept., 1995 the Government of Kerala to suitably modify the proposal. The Planning Commission has reported that the modified proposal has not been received.

Percentage of GNP for Education

2365. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the recommendation of Kothari Commission to raise the allocation of Centre and State for education;

(b) whether the Government have since taken action on that; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) The Education Commission, 1964-66, under the Chairmanship of Dr. D.S. Kothari Projected that the educational expenditure, in the country as a whole should rise to 6 per cent of the Gross National Product by 1985-86.

(b) and (c) The National Policy on Education 1986 had inter-alia stated that from the Eighth Five year Plan onwards, the outlay on Education should uniformly exceed 6 per cent of the National income. The Government has also committed in its Common Minimum Programme that 6 per cent of the Nation's GDP will be earmarked for Education. The budgeted expenditure on Education as percentage of GDP has increased from 1.9 per cent in 1967-68 to 3.3 per cent in 1994-95 (RE).

Passport Offices in Assam

2366. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passport offices in Assam, location-wise;

(b) the average number of applications processed every month in the said office;

(c) whether there is any delay in the issue of passport in the said office;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to open more number of passport offices in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) There is one passport office in Assam located at Guwahati.

(b) The average number of applications processed in Regional Passport Office, Guwahati is 694 per month.

(c) No, Sir. Passports are being issued within 35 to 40 days from the date of receipt of applications.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Allocation to Aids Treatment

2367. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of latest treatment of the AIDS and the HIV positive cases;

(b) whether any research or study had been conducted by Ayurvedic Colleges and other institutions to develop medicine for treating these diseases;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any specific financial allocation in the Ministry to carry out such activities; and

(e) if not, whether Government propose to make specific allocation for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) A statement on details of latest treatment of the AIDS and HIV positive is enclosed.

(b) and (c) In Ayurveda treatment for AIDS is being tried in T.B. Hospital at Tambaram, Chennai and JJ Group of Hospitals at Mumbai. Trials are also going on in homoeopathy medicines in Chennai and Mumbai and results are still awaited.

(d) and (e) An allocation of Rs. 3.39 crores has been made so far to carry out the research studies by the Government.

Statement

Details of latest treatment of AIDS and HIV positive cases

As soon as a case is detected to be HIV positive the treatment can be started depending on the clinical presentation of the case. The treatment of opportunistic infection has to be done as and when they occur. The treatment can be started with anti-retroviral drugs. There are two groups of anti-retroviral drugs approved by FDA (USA).

(I) Reverse Transcriptase inhibitor

These group of drugs stop the replication of viruses by acting on reverse transcriptase enzyme. These drugs are :

- (a) AZT-Azidothymidine
- (b) DDI-(Di-iodoionosine-Lamivudine)
- (c) DDC (Di-iodoionosine-Stanvudine)

(II) Protease inhibitors

These are the group of drugs which inhibit protease enzyme and there by stop the formation of new virions of HIV. The drugs are:

- (i) Saquinovir
- (ii) Indinavir
- (iii) Ritonavir

To start with only AZT (Azidothymidine) was used but it was detected that use of such drugs alone will produce resistant strains of HIV, so combination therapy has been started in Western developed countries which was more effective. The other advantages of the combination therapy is that it has got less of side effects and does not produce resistant strain. In late 1996, the protease inhibitor were discovered and early trials showed that combination of reverse transcriptase inhibitor with protease inhibitor were producing very good results in terms of reduction of viral load. So, it has come into conclusion that early attack on virus with combination of this anti-retrovirals is the more effective treatment for prolonging the life of HIV positive/AIDS cases.

But the cost of such treatment is very high and the infrastructure facilities for example estimation of viral load and PCR are requested for monitoring the progress of treatment of these patients.

Setting up of Colleges

2368. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for a moratorium on setting up of Colleges for general education with conventional subjects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been gradual deterioration in standard of higher education; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no concrete evidence to substantiate this. In pursuance of National Policy on Education, the Government and University Grants Commission (UGC) have been taking appropriate steps from time to time to maintain and upgrade the standard of higher education in the country. Some of the major steps taken in this direction are as follows :-

- Revision of pay scales of college and university teachers w.e.f. 1.1.1986. Opportunities provided.
- for training and career advancement for teachers. All-India Eligibility Test introduced to attract best talent to the teaching profession.
- Academic staff colleges established for re-orientation of newly appointed university and college teachers.
- 27 Curriculum Development Centres in Sciences and Humanities established to modernise curricula. Model curricula has been prepared for 27 disciplines in undergraduate and post-graduate courses.
- Financial assistance provided by UGC for improvement of teaching and research under Special Assistance Programmes.
- Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the university system.
- Higher priority given to grant of autonomy to selected colleges.
- Guidelines for implementation of an Academic Calendar circulated. These guidelines emphasize observance of at least 180 teaching days by universities/colleges.
- Regulations for minimum standards for the award of first degree, minimum working days etc. notified by UGC.

[Translation]

Funds for Cultural Heritage

2369. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated for creating awareness towards cultural heritage in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether funds have not been allocated for Kanpur rural and Kanpur Urban for cultural heritage;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the amount likely to be allocated for Kanpur rural and Kanpur Urban for creating awareness towards cultural heritage during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) A recurring grant of Rs. 4.17 lakhs was given to Vrindaban Research Institute, Vrindaban on equal matching share basis of Uttar Pradesh, Government for salary and maintenance from 1989-1995. The institute is engaged in Cultural Heritage in Uttar Pradesh. This year, the grant is proposed to be enhanced to Rs. 10.00 lakhs annually.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable

(d) Not applicable

[English]

Standard of Education in K.Vs

2370. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaints have been received regarding the quality of teaching/administration at some of the Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action, the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has received a few representations from Vidyalaya Management Committees and parents regarding unsatisfactory performance in some Kendriya Vidyalayas. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has taken a number of measures to improve academic performance of its Vidyalayas like better supervision of academic activities, streamlining of recruitment procedure of teachers and encouragement of co-curricular activities.

Emeritus Fellowship in IITs

2371. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) total number and amount of All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) Emeritus Fellowship given to various Engineering Colleges during the last three years;

(b) total number and amount of AICTE Emeritus Fellowships awarded to different Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) during the above period;

(c) whether the faculty members of IITs enjoy various grants from Government and other sources during their working period as compared to the Faculty members in the Engineering Colleges all over the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government would review its policy and stop awarding such Fellowships to IITs and divert the Fellowships to the Engineering Colleges; and

(e) if not, steps proposed by the Government to prevent the present injustice being done to the Faculty members of Engineering Colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (e) The AICTE scheme of Emeritus Fellowship is awarded to highly qualified and experienced superannuated professors (individual) in Institutions\Universities\Colleges who have been actively engaged in research and teaching in Technical Education. The scheme enables them to pursue active research in their fields of specialisation. The Institution\University\Colleges to work is proposed by the individual applicant which is expected to allow the Fellow to use Office, Library and laboratory facilities. The fellowship is for a period of two years only from the date of joining to the fellowship or upto 65 years whichever is earlier. The fellowship carries a fixed honorarium of Rs. 5,000/- per month in addition to provident fund/pension drawn by the Emeritus Fellow and a contingent grant of Rs. 20,000/- per annum.

During the last three years 54 Emeritus Fellowships have been awarded by the AICTE. 16 out of these Fellows are working in IITs and the remaining 38 are working in other institutions in the country.

Ancillary Units for Ordnance Factories

2372. SHRI K. KANDASAMY :

SHRI C. NARASIMHAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any proposal to set up Ancillary Unit in the country especially in South to meet and augment the needs of Ordnance Factories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any communication has been received from the Tamil Nadu Government in this regard and land provided for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Quilon Bypass

2373. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the revised technical proposals and estimates, from Kerala relating to construction of Quilon Bypass Plan-II on NH 47 from ch-8550m to 9875m;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have accorded approval for executing the above work; and

(d) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d) Estimates for the Quilon bypass Phase-II, received in December, 1996, may be considered during the Ninth Five Year Plan, subject to inter-se priority of works and availability of funds therefor.

Admission Capacity of Ayurveda Institutions

2374. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 354 on December 16, 1996 and state;

(a) the details of the total admission capacity of recognised institutions teaching Ayurveda, Homoeopathy and Unani systems of medicine, State-wise;

(b) the astimated number of graduates who have completed courses during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the total allocations made and expenditure incurred thereon during the Eighth Five Year Plan State-wise; and

(d) the number of voluntary organisations and private institutions operating in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The details of total admission capacity of recognised institutions teaching Ayurveda, Homoeopathy and Unani systems of medicine and number of graduates who have completed courses for the available three years, yearwise and statewide are enclosed as statements I (i), I (ii) and I (iii).

(c) Total allocation made and expenditure incurred thereon during the Eighth Five Year Plan under Central scheme, State-wise is enclosed as statement-II & III

(d) There are 224 voluntary organisations and private institutions operating in this field.

Statement-I(i)

Statewise Recognised Institutions Teaching Ayurveda with their Admission Capacity and year-wise number of Students passed out during the Last Three Years.

S. No.	Name of States/ UTs	Government		Others		Total		Students passed out the Final Year Examination		
		No. of Colleges	Admission Capacity	No. of Colleges	Admission Capacity	No. of Colleges	Admission Capacity	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	109	1	20	4	129	115(4)	106(4)	62(3)
2.	Assam	1	30	-	-	1	30	30(1)	33(1)	29(1)
3.	Bihar	3	78	6	178	9	256	85(3)	15(1)	112(4)
4.	Goa	-	-	1	40	1	40	*	*	*
5.	Gujarat	5	154	4	134	9	288	253(9)	228(8)	230(8)
6.	Haryana	1	50	3	150	4	200	267(4)	164(2)	140(3)
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1	20	-	-	1	20	33(1)	12(1)	+
8.	Karnataka	3	135	10	450	13	585	129(8)	154(8)	144(8)
9.	Kerala	3	126	2	60	5	186	53(3)	68(3)	54(3)
10.	Madhya Pradesh	7	210	-	-	7	210	128(7)	109(6)	135(6)
11.	Maharashtra*	4	185	32	1677	36	1862	939(19)	889(19)	851(17)
12.	Orissa	2	60	2	60	4	120	106(4)	106(4)	53(2)
13.	Punjab	1	30	2	101	3	131	172(3)	112(3)	45(1)
14.	Rajasthan*	2	120	3	50	5	170	256(5)	143(4)	157(4)
15.	Tamil Nadu*	-	-	3	40	3	40	19(1)	13(1)	28(1)
16.	Uttar Pradesh	10	435	-	-	10	435	243(9)	215(10)	164(7)
17.	West Bengal	1	60	-	-	1	60	40(1)	32(1)	+
18.	Chandigarh	-	-	1	50	1	50	47(1)	47(1)	44(1)
19.	Delhi	-	-	1	41	1	41	27(1)	26(1)	+
	India	47	1802	71	3051	118	4853	2942(84)	2472(78)	2248(69)

Note : - = Nil information,

* = One college from Maharashtra, 2 colleges from Rajasthan and one college from Tamil Nadu have not reported the admission capacity. All colleges are affiliated to University.

x = Not due..

+ = Information not available..

(Figures in Brackets indicate the number of institutions reported)

Statement-I (ii)

Statewise Recognised Institutions Teaching Unani Medicines with Admission Capacity and Affiliation Status and yearwise number of Students passed out during the Last Three Years.

S. No.	States/UTs	Government			Others			Total					
		University	Board	No. of Coll-eges	University	Board	No. of Coll-eges	University	Board	No. of Coll-eges			
		Admiss-ion Capa-city											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
UNANI MEDICINE													
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	50	-	-	1	50	-	-	2	100	-	-
2.	Bihar	1	60	-	-	3	100	-	-	4	160	-	-
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	2	60	-	-	2	60	-	-
4.	Karnataka	2	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	50	-	-
5.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	1	50	-	-	1	50	-	-
6.	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	6	175	-	-	6	175	-	-
7.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	2	70	-	-	2	70	-	-
8.	Tamil Nadu	1	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	16	-	-
9.	Uttar Pradesh	3	110	1	(50)	3	100	-	-	6	210	1	(50)
10.	West Bengal	-	-	-	-	1	60	-	-	1	60	-	-
11.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	2	70	-	-	2	70	-	-
	Total	8	286	1	(50)	21	735	-	-	29	1021	1	(50)

S.No.	States/UTs	No. of Students Passed out in the Final Year Examination of the Course					
		1990-91		1991-92		1992-93	
		Degree	Diploma	Degree	Diploma	Degree	Diploma
1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.	Andhra Pradesh	109(2)	-	66(2)	-	+	-
2.	Bihar	14(1)	-	32(1)	-	84(3)	-
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	x	-	x	-	x	-
4.	Karnataka	22(1)	-	24(1)	-	22(1)	-

	15	16	17	18	19	20
5. Madhya Pradesh	13(1)	-	25(1)	-	25(1)	-
6. Maharashtra	47(2)	-	38(2)	-	128(3)	-
7. Rajasthan	30(1)	-	+	-	37(2)	-
8. Tamil Nadu	16(1)	-	14(1)	-	15(1)	-
9. Uttar Pradesh	14(1)	43(1)	27(1)	38(1)	+	12(1)
10. West Bengal	x	-	x	-	x	-
11. Delhi	76(2)	-	89(2)	-	36(1)	-
Total	341(12)	43(1)	315(11)	38(1)	347(12)	12(1)

Note : - = Nil information, (Figures within Bracket in column No. 6 and 14 indicate the admission capacity in diploma courses whereas the figures not covered within brackets in column 4, 8, 10, 12, indicate the admission capacity in degree courses)

+ = Information not available, (Figures within Bracket in column No. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 indicate the number of Institutions reported)

Deg. = Degree course.

Dip. = Diploma Courses.

X = not due.

Statement-I (iii)

Statewise Recognised Institutions Teaching Homoeopathy with Admission Capacity and Affiliation Status and yearwise number of Students passed out during the Last Three Years.

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Government			Others			Total					
		University No. of Coll- eges	Admiss- ion Coll- eges	Board Admiss- ion Capa- city	University No. of Coll- eges	Admiss- ion Coll- eges	Board Admiss- ion Capa- city	University No. of Coll- eges	Admiss- ion Coll- eges	Board Admiss- ion Capa- city			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	155	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	155	-	-
2.	Assam	1	N.A.	2	(70)	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	(70)
3.	Arunachal Pr.**	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
4.	Bihar **	1	N.F.	-	-	19	775+	-	-	20	775+	-	-
							75\$				75\$		
							(150)				(150)		
5.	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	2	100	8	(250)	2	100	8	(250)
6.	Karnataka	1	30	-	-	7	345	-	-	8	375	-	-

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7. Kerala	2	100+ 50\$	-	-	-	2	50+ 40\$	1	N.F.	4	150+ 100\$	1	N.A.	
8. Madhya Pr.**	-	-	-	-	1	N.A.	7	(350)	1	N.A.	7	(350)		
9. Maharashtra**	-	-	-	-	31	1512	7	(650)	31	1512	7	(650)		
10. Orissa	4	100	-	-	1	25	-	-	5	125	-	-		
11. Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	(200)	-	-	-	5	(200)
12. Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	3	145	-	-	3	145	-	-		
13. Tamil Nadu	1	22	-	-	2	100	-	-	3	122	-	-		
14. Uttar Pr.	10	295	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	295	-	-		
15. W. Bengal	5	250	1	(60)	1	-	6	(440)	6	250	7	(500)		
16. Delhi	1	50	-	-	-	-	1@	40	1	50	1	40		
17. Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(50)	1	-	-	-	1	(50)
India	30	1002+ 50\$	3	(130)	70	3052+ 125\$ (150)	36	40\$ (1940)	100	4054+ 175\$ (150)	39	40+ (2010)		

S.No. States/UTs	Students Passed out in the Final Year Examination		
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
1 2	15	16	17
1. Andhra Pradesh	98	111	62(32)
2. Assam	(41)	(74)	18
3. Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-
4. Bihar	114(28) 35\$	42(13) 25\$	88(69)
5. Gujarat	42(166)	41(151)	34(208)
6. Karnataka	129(21)	215(32)	226
7. Kerala	83(119)	44(105)	110
8. Madhya Pradesh	(110)	(175)	(116)
9. Maharashtra	281(99) 23\$	369(137) 20\$	385(365)
10. Orissa	85	106	140

1	2	15	16	17
11.	Punjab	(28)	(25)	(56)
12.	Rajasthan	32	10	3
13.	Tamil Nadu	9	23	33
14.	Uttar Pradesh	115	113	74
15.	W. Bengal	85(163) 25 \$\$	101(185) 24 \$\$	135 (210)
16.	Delhi	33	38	35
17.	Chandigarh	(27)	(27)	(32)
	India	1106(802)58\$ 25\$\$	1213(924) 45\$ 24\$\$	1327(1106)

Note : - = Nil information, NA = Not Available, NF = Not fixed, \$ = Graded degree course,

\$\$ = Diploma awarded by NIH, @ = Attached to the Board but imparting Degree Course

** = Colleges attached to both University and Board and imparting Degree and Diploma Courses, (Arunachal Pradesh-1, Bihar-4, Madhya Pradesh-1, and Maharashtra-6)

Admission not reported by :

Arunachal Pradesh	-	1	(for both degree and diploma)
Bihar	-	6	(for degree course)
Gujarat	-	3	(for both degree and diploma)
Karnataka	-	1	-do-
Kerala	-	1	-do-
Maharashtra	-	8	-do-
Punjab	-	1	(for Diploma course)
W. Bengal	-	1	(Diploma Course discontinued.)

Figures within Bracket in col. No. 15, 16 and 17 Indicate the No. of Candidates passed out in the Diploma course whereas the figures not covered within bracket indicate No. of candidates passed out degree courses.

Statement-II

Details of Total Allocation made during 8th Plan under Central Scheme

Year	Allocation of funds (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2
1992-93	215.00
1993-94	355.00

1	2
1994-95	325.00
1995-96	420.00
1996-97	405.00
Total :	1720.00

Note : As per the existing scheme, there is no provisions for allocation of funds statewide and discipline-wise.

Statement-III

Grant in aid released during 8th Plan

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State/UTs	Ayurveda	Unani	Siddha	Homoeo	Total
1.	Amdhra Pradesh	60.79	13.00	-	56.50	130.29
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	30.00	-	-	50.00	80.00
4.	Bihar	4.20	14.00	-	-	18.20
5.	Goa	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Gujarat	69.49	-	-	14.20	83.69
7.	Haryana	28.70	-	-	-	28.70
8.	Himachal Pradesh	30.00	-	-	-	30.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Karnataka	106.00	-	-	99.09	205.09
11.	Kerala	59.75	-	-	41.58	101.33
12.	Madhya Pradesh	26.77	10.00	-	9.50	46.27
13.	Maharashtra	410.09	40.00	-	55.00	505.09
14.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	49.00	-	-	24.25	73.25
19.	Punjab	5.00	-	-	-	5.00
20.	Rajasthan	28.00	-	-	43.40	71.40
21.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	14.00	10.00	13.20	21.68	58.88
23.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	-	18.45	-	57.25	75.70
25.	West Bengal	12.00	10.00	-	66.00	88.00
26.	A & N lalands	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Chandigarh	10.00	-	-	-	10.00
28.	D & N Haveli	-	-	-	-	-
29.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-
30.	Delhi	25.62	18.00	-	-	43.62
31.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-
Total		969.41	133.45	13.20	538.45	1654.51

Amount for Karnataka under CADP

2375. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the funds, allocated in the last three years for Karnataka by the Union Government under the Command Area Development Programme, year-wise;

(b) the details of programmes formulated for the Belgaum division under this Scheme for 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(c) the time by which these programmes are likely to be completed and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yearwise central assistance released to Karnataka by the Union Government under

Command Area Development Programme in the last three years are as under :

Year	Amount (in Rs. lakhs)
1993-94	538.91
1994-95	279.03
1995-96	681.80

(b) The details of programmes formulated for the projects lying in Belgaum division under Command Area Development Programme for years 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under :—

Name of the CAD Projects	Districts Benefitted of Belgaum Division	Programme for the Project		
		Main Items	1995-96	1996-97
Malaprabha and Ghatprabha	Belgaum	Cost (Rs. lakhs)	688.00	602.00
		Field Channels (Hectares)	9277	2334
		Field Drains (Hectares)	3000	4000
		Warabandi (Hectares)	4100	6000
		Land Levelling (Hectares)	8000	8000
Upper Krishna Projects	Bijapur	Cost (Rs. lakhs)	705.80	653.00
		Field Channels (Hectares)	6178	9880
		Field Drains (Hectares)	1500	2000
		Land Levelling (Hectares)	1000	1667

Programmes for the year 1997-98 have not been formulated so far.

(c) The Programmes in the above projects are likely to be completed by the year 2001.

[Translation]

Warning Labels on Tobacco Products

2376. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is legally obligatory to print statutory warning on the labels of all the tobacco products;

(b) whether some tobacco producers have been granted exemption in this regard;

(c) if so, name of such tobacco products and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposal to bring all the tobacco products under the jurisdiction of Cigarettes (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1975; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) As per the Cigarettes (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1975, it is mandatory to display health warning on all cartons/ packets of cigarettes. This Act does not apply to other

tobacco products. Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1995, a Warning 'Chewing of tobacco is injurious to health' is mandatory.

(d) and (e) It has been decided to bring forward a comprehensive legislation which would inter-alia include specific provisions regarding Statutory warnings on packages of various tobacco products.

Death Due to Poisonous Flour

2377. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 14 persons have reportedly died due to consumption of poisonous flour in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) As per information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, 12 persons died and 35 patients were admitted, after a case of suspected food poisoning from wheat flour and vegetable consumed in District Hospital, Shahjahanpur. This flour had been purchased from two shops in village Hathoura Bujurg under Primary Health Centre, Bhawal Khera - 5 persons were arrested by the District administration and FIRs have been lodged against them. A magisterial enquiry has also been instituted under Section 176 of I.P.C.

[English]

World Bank Assistance for IPT, Bangalore

2378. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank assistance was obtained for the construction of new building of Government Institute of Printing Technology at Bangalore;

(b) if so, the amount of World Bank assistance received;

(c) whether the Karnataka Government had sent any proposal for World Bank assistance for equipment procurement also;

(d) if so, the amount sought for; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to get the World Bank assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 358.90 lakhs. As per the terms of assistance, the expenditure is to be initially incurred by the State Government of Karnataka which will be reimbursed by the World Bank.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Rs. 75.00 lakhs.

(e) This institute is already under the project and World Bank assistance is being obtained through reimbursement of expenditure as per the norms of World Bank.

Audit Objections

2379. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI I.D. SWAMI :
SHRI CHHITTUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General of India has raised serious objections regarding the purchase of expired goods by the Family Welfare Department of the Health and Family Welfare Ministry;

(b) if so, the details regarding the loss Government had to sustain in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No expired goods have been purchased by the Deptt. of Family Welfare of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India had inspected the files relating to purchase and made certain observations. The Department of Family Welfare is in the process of finalising the comments on these observations.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to (a) above, question does not arise.

C.T. Scan Machines

2380. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether CBI had exposed a racket about a year ago regarding keeping the CT Scan machines of the major hospital out of order deliberately and referring the head injury cases to the private diagnostic centres; and

(b) if so, the details of the enquiry report submitted by the CBI on the allegations that the CT Scanners and ultra sound equipment were being kept out of order deliberately to give business to private diagnostic centres and the action taken on the CBI Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) A note was sent by CBI to the Ministry on 2nd June, 95 regarding the allegation that equipments of major hospitals were deliberately kept out of order so as to give business to private diagnostic facilities. CBI had furnished a comparative chart of functioning of Ultra sound and C.T. Scanning Units and other charges at certain leading hospitals of Delhi for a period from January, 1992 to August, 1993 indicating the days on which equipments were not functioning and the variation of service contracts. The matter has been reviewed in the Directorate General of Health Services/Ministry and Instructions were issued to all the Central Government hospitals to inter-alia have a check done on the down time and the losses incurred by such excessive period of non use and to take measures to improve the system of maintenance of equipments. Government of NCT of Delhi was also advised similarly.

Rail-Cum-Road Bridge

2381. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made available to the Ministry of Railways the requisite funds to complete the work of the road bridge which was to be a part of the rail-cum-road bridge between Chitauni and Bagaha over the Gandak river;

(b) if so, when;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are aware that there has been a commitment between the Ministry of Water Resources and the Bihar Government and the Uttar Pradesh Government to construct this road bridge; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (e) The Ministry of Water Resources has released an amount of Rs. 5 crore during 1982 and a further amount of Rs. 2.1 crore during 1992 towards the cost of construction of river training works of Chitauni Bagaha Rail-Cum-Road Bridge. This release was made as per decision taken by the Planning Commission to share the cost of river training works between Government of India, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Government of Bihar in the ratio of 5:3:2.

A provision of Rs. 22.53 crore has been made in the revised budget estimate of this Ministry for making full payment to the Ministry of Railways during 1996-97 for the above works as demanded by the Ministry of Railways. The amount would be released to the Railways during the current financial year.

[Translation]

Adoption of Children by Central Adoption Resource Agency

2382. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the time since when the Central Adoption Resource Agency has been functioning in the country;

(b) the State-wise number of children adopted during the last three years through this Agency;

(c) whether approval has been accorded for implementation of any central scheme to encourage adoption of children in the country;

(d) if so, whether mode of implementation of this scheme has been decided;

(e) is so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount allocated for this scheme during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) In pursuance of the directions the Supreme Court of India, Ministry of Welfare has set up Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) on 28.6.90.

(b) The details of children given in Adoption during the last three years 1994, 1995 and 1996 through Voluntary Agencies recognised by CARA are furnished in the given statement.

(c) to (e) The Government of India, Ministry of Welfare has been implementing the Central Sector Scheme of Assistance to Homes (Shishu Greh) for infants to promote in-country adoption since 1992-93. Assistance is given to voluntary organisations under the scheme to meet the expenditure for recurring and non-recurring items to the extent of 90% to be borne by the Government of India and 10% to be met by the organisation itself out of their own resources.

A Home may be set up for a unit of 10 children in the age group of 0-6 years. The grant-in-aid may be given to non-governmental registered voluntary organisations engaged in the field of child welfare or the Indian Social/Child Welfare agencies with a view to promote in-country adoption under the scheme. The outlay for one Home is estimated to be Rs. 2,95,200/- (Rs. 3,28,000/- minus Rs. 32,800/- being 10% of total cost of Rs. 3,28,00/-).

The grant is provided in two instalments annually on the recommendations of the State Government.

(f) The Plan outlay for the current year is Rs. 100.00 lakhs for the Scheme.

Statement

Statewise details of children given on adoption during 1994, 1995 and 1996.

S.No.	Name of the State	1994		1995		1996	
		Indian Adoption.	Foreign Adoption.	Indian Adoption.	Foreign Adoption.	Indian Adoption.	Foreign Adoption.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	48	44	35	41	99	87
2.	Delhi	289	244	231	353	241	161
3.	Goa	15	6	7	2	5	3
4.	Gujarat	46	21	34	18	40	26
5.	Haryana	-	-	3	-	5	3
6.	Karnataka	115	105	134	82	107	36
7.	Kerala	49	43	87	36	154	71
8.	Maharashtra	566	308	557	290	590	180
9.	Orissa	13	19	29	33	30	30
10.	Pondicherry	6	3	4	5	12	2
11.	Punjab	-	-	-	1	-	-
12.	Tamil Nadu	89	67	100	78	81	73
13.	Uttar Pradesh	5	-	2	9	4	-
14.	West Bengal	267	268	201	288	255	319
15.	Bihar	1	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total		1409	1128	1424	1236	1623	990

Erosion by Ganga

2383. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a Master Plan for checking soil erosion and flood by Ganga river;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the scheme regarding linking of Ganga with Cauvery alongwith the present status thereof;

(d) whether Ganga action plan has been completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the places where it has not been completed so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The Ganga Flood Control Commission has prepared 23 comprehensive plans for flood management for all the 23 sub basins of river Ganga wherein, both long term and short term measures have been suggested. Besides this the Union Government have also constituted five regional task forces on 30-9-96 with representative of very senior officers from Centre as well as from States of that particular region to examine the regional flood problems, review existing remedial measures and to recommend solution.

(c) Government of India has prepared National Perspective Plan for optimum utilisation of water resources of the country. This comprises two components; Himalayan component with envisages linking of rivers like Manas, Sankosh, Tista, Ganga and Mahanadi and Peninsular component which envisages linking of Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Pennar and Cauvery. Thus the plan would ultimately link Ganga with Cauvery. The National Water Development Agency established by Government of India in 1982 is carrying out detailed studies in this regard. Preliminary studies are expected to be completed by the end of VIII plan.

(d) and (e) Out of the 261 schemes sanctioned phase-I of the Ganga Action Plan, 248 schemes have been completed so far. While Phase-I of the Ganga Action Plan is scheduled to be completed by 31-3-97, a few schemes are likely to spill over to 1997-98.

The programme under phase-I of the Ganga Action Plan have been delayed due to the following reasons :

- (i) Litigation and Court cases in the initial period in a number of cases.
- (ii) Unauthorised encroachments on some of the sites earmarked for STPs (Sewage Treatment Plant) and pumping stations.
- (iii) Repetitive tendering of most of the STPs.
- (iv) Diversion of funds by the States.

National Commission for Women

2384. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Commission for Women have suggested for codification of criminal laws pertaining to offences against women; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Women Welfare Oriented Schemes

2385. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of women welfare oriented schemes implemented in Gujarat in 1996;

(b) the number of women benefited from these schemes in 1996, scheme-wise; and

(c) the number of schemes out of them directly implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Accreditation of Teachers

2386. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken notice of the need for accreditation of teachers in the school system for improving the quality and performance of school education as expressed in the recent conference of E-9 countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government are satisfied with the quality of training imparted to teachers by various universities/institutions through correspondence courses; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken for providing training of required standard to teachers through regular courses, to meet the expanding needs in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since the Government was not entirely satisfied with the quality of training imparted to teachers by various universities/institutions through correspondence as well as regular courses, the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) a statutory body has been set-up under the NCTE Act, 1993 on 17.8.95 with a view to achieving planned and co-ordinated development of the teacher education system throughout the country and the regulation and proper maintenance of norms and standards in the teacher education system. Since its establishment, NCTE has taken steps for developing norms and standards for recognition of teacher training institutions and courses.

[Translation]

Repair of N.Hs in Bihar

2387. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highway No. 28 from Dalsing Sarai to Bachhbara and National Highway No. 39 from Balia to Sahebpur Kamal and Pasrahaa are in dilapidated condition; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Government propose to undertake repair of these National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The reach from Balia to Sahebpur Kamal and Pasrahaa zone are on NH 31 and not on NH. 39.

Maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and ordinary repairs, periodic renewals and restoration of monsoon damages are taken up, wherever necessary, within available resources, to strengthen the National Highways. Moreover, the following works have also been sanctioned :-

(i) Improvements in a stretch of 2 Km. on NH-31 in Pasrahaa. The work is at the stage of tendering.

(ii) Construction of a new culvert near Bachhbara is in progress.

Development of Educational Infrastructure

2388. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy for the development of the educational infrastructure for minorities in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Sambhal area;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon during the last two years; and

(c) the details of the expected outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have introduced a scheme known as "Area Intensive Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities" for development of educational infrastructure for such minorities. Minority Concentration areas have been identified for the purpose and Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh is one such identified minority concentration block.

(b) During the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 grants amounting to Rs. 167.875 Lakhs and Rs. 127.36 Lakhs respectively were released under the Scheme to Uttar Pradesh Government.

(c) With the execution of the approved proposals for the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for the past two years, 172 primary schools and 71 upper primary schools will be added to the existing infrastructure.

[English]

Plebiscite in Kashmir

2389. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has since been drawn to the reported statement of the British Labour Party for a plebiscite in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) No such statement has been made by the British Labour Party.

[Translation]

Indira Gandhi Stadium

2390. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Ab Barat Ghar Bana Diya Gaya Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium" appearing in 'Jansatta' dated December 18, 1996;

(b) whether it is a fact that several stadia of Delhi meant for promoting sports are now being used for other activities; and

(c) if so, the names of the stadia where permission for organising activities other than sports have been accorded and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All the stadia are primarily used for sports activities. However, in view of the resource crunch being faced by the Sports Authority of India, non-sports activities viz. art, culture and other social activities have been allowed in a very limited way in Indira Gandhi Stadium, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and Talkatora Swimming Pool Complex.

Funds for Development of Culture

2391. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a fund has been created by the Government at National level for the development of culture in the country;

(b) the total quantum of funds allocated for this scheme during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(c) the other sources from where funds are to be collected for this purpose;

(d) the criteria fixed for distributing money from this fund;

(e) the names of institutions to whom the money has been given out of this fund during 1996-97 and the amount thereof; and

(f) the specific purposes for which the same was granted?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) Government of India have set up a National Culture Fund in terms of a Notification published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 28.11.96.

(b) Contribution of the Government of India, Department of Culture to the National Culture Fund is expected to be Rs. 2 crores during the year 1996-97 and another Rs. 2 crores during the year 1997-98.

(c) The National Culture Fund will accept contributions and grants both recurring and non-recurring, from the State Governments and the Central Government as well as voluntary donations and endowments from any other source. The National

Culture Fund may also accept contributions from statutory bodies created under the Acts of Parliament or of the State Legislatures, United Nations and its associated bodies, other international organisations, private and public corporate sectors, trusts, societies and individuals.

(d) The Notification that sets up the NCF broadly indicates the mechanism for consideration of applications seeking financial assistance or loans from the NCF. Copies of the Notification are already available in the Parliament Library.

(e) and (f) So far no money has been given out of the National Culture Fund.

Bypass and Bridge in M.P.

2392. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the clearance for construction of bypasses on the National Highway No. 7 in Katni and Reeva cities and in Mahar city in Madhya Pradesh was given in the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details of the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Eighth Five Year Plan provides for (i) construction of Reeva bypass at an estimated cost of Rs. 11.00 crores (ii) acquisition of land for Katni bypass at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.00 crores (iii) construction of ROB near Mahar town at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.5 crores on NH 7 in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) (i) Acquisition of land for Reeva bypass is in an advanced stage of completion. (ii) Estimate for acquisition of land in respect of Katni bypass has since been processed for Rs. 214.03 lacs. (iii) So far no proposal has been received from State P.W.D.

[English]

Maintenance of National Highways

2393. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the capacity of the national highways to support entire traffic percentage is grossly inadequate;

(b) whether bridges on national highways are in a state of neglect and facilities and amenities for road users are lacking; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to improve the situation and to ensure proper upkeep and maintenance of national highways?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Considering the heavy traffic plying on the National Highways, capacity of some of the National Highways is inadequate.

(b) and (c) Bridges on the National Highways are being kept in traffic worthy condition. Schemes for replacing weak and old bridges are also being drawn up within the available resources. As regards wayside amenities, efforts are being made to provide more facilities through Government as well as private section schemes.

K.V. at Biharsharif

2394. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Biharsharif district headquarter town of Nalanda in this academic year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) :

(a) to (c) Kendriya Vidyalayas are opened as per proposals received from sponsoring authorities, satisfying certain norms prescribed for the purpose. No proposal has been received by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to open a Vidyalaya at Biharsharif, Nalanda District in Bihar.

[Translation]

Schools Running with Foreign Aid

2395. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of schools running with the foreign assistance in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to take over these schools under its control; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) :

(a) Statistics regarding the number of schools set up with foreign assistance in different States and UTs of the country are not maintained in the Department of Education as school education is generally looked after by the State/UT Governments.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Stadia under SAI

2396. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India has thrown open its stadia for seminars, conferences, fashion shows and marriage functions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons and justification for leasing out them for private functions;

(d) the income so far earned by the Sports Authority of India as a result thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to review the said decision of the Sports Authority of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) to (c) All the stadia are primarily used for sports activities. However, in view of the resource crunch being faced by the Sports Authority of India, non-sports activities viz. art, culture and other social activities have been allowed in a very limited way in Indira Gandhi Stadium, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and Talkatora Swimming Pool Complex on a case to case basis. These activities are, however, not allowed to come at all in the way of the normal sports-related activities.

Sports Authority of India (SAI) has to generate funds to meet the expenditure on maintenance of the stadia. One of the major sources of generating funds is allowing use of the stadia for non-sports activities.

(d) During the years 1995-96 and 1996-97, a sum of Rs. 68.20 lakhs and Rs. 91.07 lakhs respectively were generated from such activities.

(e) No, Sir.

Funds for Local Purchase in CGHS Unani Store

2397. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds allotted for local purchase, which is available with the CGHS Unani store Incharge, New Delhi;

(b) whether this amount is not sufficient for CGHS beneficiaries who are to wait for months together for their medicines;

(c) if so, the reasons for not increasing the amount for local purchase; and

(d) the number of cases where local purchase indents could not be supplied to the dispensary/unit concerned even within the period of a fortnight month during the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) No separate funds are earmarked for local purchase of Unani medicines, an indent is placed on the CGHS Stores who, in turn, procure the same from the open market.

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

[Translation]

Deaths Due to Malnutrition

2398. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for Woman has expressed concern over the increase in the number of infant deaths due to malnutrition in the country, particularly tribal/rural areas;

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

(c) the remedial steps being taken or proposal to be taken by the Government to check the number of infant deaths due to malnutrition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Nutrition Policy adopted in 1993 seeks to provide intersectoral and sustainable action in agriculture, health and education for reducing malnutrition. The number of infant deaths due to malnutrition will be checked through interventions under the Integrated Child Development Services, Balwadi Nutrition Programme and Mid-day Meal and the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programmes under implementation. Micro nutrient deficiencies of iron, iodine and Vitamin-A which are being prevented and treated through iodisation of salt, supply of iron and folic acid tablets and Vitamin A solution will also contribute to the reduction in malnutrition related deaths.

Conference on Cancer Treatment

2399. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the doctors participating in the conference on Cancer

treatment and Research institute held recently in Gwalior had expressed their view that when cancer becomes incurable, opium can prove effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government would like to review the restrictions imposed on opium so that it could be made available to the deserving patients;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the HOUSE.

[English]

State Roads into N.Hs. in Maharashtra

2400. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria followed by the Union Government to declare State Roads as National Highways;

(b) the names of the State Roads in Maharashtra declared as National Highways during the past three years;

(c) the details of representations of the State Government of Maharashtra pending with the Union Government of declaring State Roads as National Highways; and

(d) since when the proposals of State Government are pending and the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Roads which run through length and breadth of country; roads connection adjacent countries; road connecting State Capitals; roads connecting major ports and important industrial or tourist centres; roads meeting very important strategic requirement; roads carrying high density of traffic over an adequate length and roads which will enable sizeable reduction in travel distance and achievements of substantial economies thereby, any considered for declaration as National Highways subject to availability of funds.

(b) No new National Highway has been declared in Maharashtra during the last three years.

(c) and (d) During the 8th Five Year Plan, as many as 12 proposals aggregating to a length of 4841 Kms were received. However none of the proposals could be approved due to continued resource crunch.

Multi-Purpose Water Resources Projects

2401. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to invite private sector participation in multi-purpose water resources projects;

(b) if so, which are the projects identified in Andhra Pradesh during the past one year for the said purpose;

(c) whether any private sector companies have shown any keenness to participate therein; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) For examining the feasibility and scope of private sector participation in Irrigation and Multi-Purpose Projects, the Government constituted a high level Committee which submitted its report on 22nd December, 1995. The Committee concluded that while private sector participation is feasible in respect of all irrigation (surface and ground water) and multi-purpose projects, it would be desirable to introduce this on pilot basis for selected projects. A copy of the report has already been sent to all States/Union Territories for necessary action.

(b) There is no such proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh at present.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Foetus Tests

2402. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foetus tests conducted in the country during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases of foeticide (female) out of the foetus tests conducted;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive policy for checking foetus tests as well as foeticides; and

(d) if so, the details thereof the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) This information is not monitored by Government of India.

(c) and (d) The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 which has come into force on 1.1.96 provides for the regulation of the use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques and

prevention of the misuse of such techniques for the purpose of pre-natal sex determination leading to female foeticide.

[English]

SAARC Meeting

2403. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the subjects discussed at South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) meetings held in New Delhi recently;

(b) the details of the resolutions passed or declarations adopted at the end of the summit meeting;

(c) whether SAARC countries have discussed steps to ease visa restrictions and motivate tourism amongst themselves;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the future role envisaged for Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in international relations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Subjects discussed at the meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers in December, 1996 included, inter alia, the Integrated Programme of Action, Regional Economic Cooperation, cooperation in social issues such as poverty eradication, women and children, implementation of SAARC Conventions on Suppression of Terrorism and on Drug Trafficking, and the promotion of people-to-people contacts.

(b) The report adopted at the conclusion of the SAARC Council of Ministers' Meeting includes important decisions aimed at promotion of Regional Economic Cooperation, inter alia, in the fields of intra-SAARC investments, avoidance of double taxation, customs cooperation and for advancing the SAPTA process; on various social issues relevant to the region; a decision to hold meetings of SAARC Information Ministers and Environment Ministers for furthering cooperation in their respective areas; and in a variety of fields for promotion of people-to-people contacts.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Council discussed several steps aimed at the promotion of intra-SAARC tourism. It agreed to examine possibilities of expanding airlinks, of the introduction of currency conversion arrangements for tourists in the region; and has recommended the expansion of the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme.

(e) The Non-aligned Movement would continue to be relevant and play a useful role in evolving coordinated collective decisions amongst its member states on issues of importance/concerns to them.

[Translation]

Irrigation Project in Bihar

2404. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether water resources are being utilised fully in the country, particularly in Bihar;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to commission several irrigation projects of Bihar including swaran Rekha Project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) India receives annual precipitation of 4000 billion cubic metres including snowfall, however, the total utilisable water resources in the country is assessed as only 1142 billion cubic metres. Out of this, the present utilisation is about 606 billion cubic metres. Full utilisation of water resources is not possible due to various constraints such as limitations of storage sites, evaporation and vegetative transpiration losses and necessity to maintain river regimes by allowing certain minimum flows in the rivers.

(c) and (d) 17 Major (including Swaran Rekha Project), 24 Medium and 5 Extension, Renovation and Modernisation (ERM) projects are ongoing during Eight Five Year Plan in Bihar. With a view to expedite the completion of selected ongoing major and medium projects, Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 27.00 crores have been sanctioned during 1996-97 under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for three major projects of Bihar namely, Upper Kiul, Durgawati and Kosi projects.

Canals in Maharashtra

2405. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased state :

(a) whether the work relating to digging and cleaning of canals is undertaken every year in Maharashtra;

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

(c) whether the Government are aware that some small saplings have grown up in the canals of Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the preventive measures taken being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (e) No information is kept at the Centre regarding digging and cleaning of Canals.

[English]

**Maintenance of N.Hs by Public
Private Sector**

2406. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the strategy for development of National/State Highways for meeting the needs of the ever increasing road traffic;

(b) the details of investment made for construction and maintenance of National Highways during the last three years and achievements made State-wise;

(c) the details of investment both public and private proposed during the current year, State-wise for construction of road projects and bridges;

(d) the details regarding a package of incentives proposed for attracting huge investment in road sector; and

(e) the total number of proposals received from the private sector to develop the roads in the North Eastern and other States also?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) This Ministry is constitutionally responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways only. The main thrust in the 9th Plan for the development of National highways will be for 4-laning of the high density corridors linking Delhi - Calcutta - Bombay - Madras and the roads leading to major ports.

(b) and (c) The details are in the enclosed statement I and II.

(d) For attracting private investment in the Road Sector, the Government has recently approved guidelines for taking up the projects under Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Also fiscal concessions relating to tax benefits have been adopted.

(e) As regards North Eastern Region, no such proposal has been received so far. Three projects relating to bypasses and road over bridges in the States of Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat have been taken up under BOT basis.

Statement-I

Statement Indicating Allotment of Funds for Maintenance and Repairs and Development for the last three years

	1994-95			1995-96			1996-97		
	Maintenance and Repairs			Development			Rs. in lakhs		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2146.64	2842.89	3215.34	4590.50	4010.00	3700.00		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	67.24	-	-	130.00	-	-		
3.	Assam	1678.23	1443.95	1616.87	1485.00	1650.00	1700.00		
4.	Bihar	1472.53	1763.95	2134.95	1875.00	1750.00	1500.00		
5.	Chandigarh	21.00	26.00	42.00	25.00	25.00	24.00		
6.	Delhi	143.25	146.55	193.00	150.00	400.00	400.00		
7.	Goa	385.65	205.03	260.36	375.00	500.00	700.00		
8.	Gujarat	1316.64	1745.20	1866.50	5650.00	4398.00	2800.00*		
9.	Haryana	560.43	756.70	740.24	5160.00	5535.00	7900.00		
10.	Himachal Pradesh	894.80	1366.41	1151.80	1350.00	1600.00	1200.00		
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	75.60	193.11	100.37	45.00	50.00	100.00		
12.	Karnataka	1506.78	1768.40	2047.80	2425.00	2600.00	3300.00		
13.	Kerala	924.10	863.88	857.27	2750.00	3980.00	5000.00		
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1696.01	1971.52	2450.72	1534.50	2020.00	1020.00		
15.	Maharashtra	2150.45	2579.33	2897.04	2675.00	2899.00	1920.00*		
16.	Manipur	115.20	184.64	208.00	325.00	500.00	360.00		
17.	Meghalaya	270.06	426.54	469.70	500.00	600.00	900.00		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Nagaland	4.00	8.00	13.00	40.00	50.00	10.00
20.	Orissa	1186.50	1447.83	1641.73	3390.00	3304.00	5510.00
21.	Pondicherry	14.73	21.38	29.88	50.00	50.00	50.00
22.	Punjab	736.97	770.72	1047.13	3500.00	5860.00	5800.00
23.	Rajasthan	1810.83	1860.72	2173.08	4350.00	6070.00	4200.00*
24.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Tamil Nadu	1702.86	1789.94	2122.66	2503.50	1100.00	1905.00
26.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2065.48	2529.94	2937.40	6264.00	7670.00	7610.00
28.	West Bengal	1744.02	1731.33	1532.68	3987.00	3810.00	3410.00
29.	BRDB	-	-	-	4800.00	5100.00	5300.00
30.	Jogighopa	-	-	-	3160.00	2000.00	2790.00
31.	Ministry	-	-	-	214.00	1218.00	4455.00
32.	NHAI	-	-	-	-	2000.00	2400.00
Total		24690.00	28443.96	31749.52	63303.50	70749.00	75964.00

* Additionally, in the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan projects relating to bypasses and Road Over Bridge with an approximate cost of Rs. 51.00 crores have been taken up under Build, Operate and Transfer basis under Private Sector. The details of achievements for the country as a whole is given at Statement-II.

Statement-II

Statement Indicating Achievement made on national highway during the last three years.

S.No.	Scheme	Unit	Years		
			1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Widening to two lanes	(km)	196	130	210
2.	Widening to 4-lanes	(km)	45	28	105
3.	Strengthening weak 2-lane	(km)	945	647	675
4.	Bypasses	No	1	-	2
5.	Major Bridges	Nos	7	8	8
6.	Minor Bridges	Nos	70	38	75

[Translation]

Physical Training Institutions, UP

2407. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Physical Training Institutes in the Country presently and the number thereof in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the number of these institutes is less keeping in view the population of the country, particularly Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to set up more Physical Training Institutes;

(d) if so, the number of such Institutes proposed to be set up, particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) the time by which the some are likely are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the house.

[English]

Defence Expenditure in Pak

2408. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether defence expenditure in Pakistan and some other neighbouring countries constituted 25% of the Government expenditure whereas in India it is just about nine per cent;

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

(c) to what extent defence preparedness is affected due to financial constraints as compared to neighbouring countries; and

(d) steps taken by the Government or proposed to be taken to meet the defence requirements and to safeguard the security of the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : A statement is attached.

(c) and (d) The strengthening and modernisation of the weaponry of our Armed Forces is attended to by the Government on a continuing basis to maintain the required level of defence preparedness. While these efforts are limited to the budgetary allocations made for the purpose, attempts are made to augment resources by recourse to economy measures wherever possible, and to maintain essential defence preparedness by resort to prioritisation of requirements.

Statement

1. The military expenditure in India and in Pakistan and China, in terms of proportion of the Central Government expenditure, as per the published data available, is as under :—

Country	Proportion of the Central Government expenditure		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 (Provisional)
Pakistan	34.31%	34.52%	34.43%
India	15.58%	15.15	14.69%
China	16.20	Not available	Not available

(* Source : Asian Strategic Review-1994-95.)

2. There is, however, an inherent drawback in such comparisons on account of the difference in the criteria used for the classification and categorisation of the expenditure on Defence by different countries. The amount of defence spending or defence budget of any country, as such, may not reflect the actual degree of defence efforts and may not provide the basis for a comparison on a like to like basis with that of other nations. For instance, some countries show the expenditure on capital works and on defence related industries under the budgetary allocations of Ministries/ Departments other than Ministry of Defence. Nor are statistical parameters like this necessarily a true measure of the combat expertise or level of defence preparedness of the armed forces in realistic terms.

Development of NHs in Karnataka

2409. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals for the development of National Highways submitted by the Government of Karnataka to the Union Government during the last three years;

(b) the details of the proposals out of them approved/yet to be approved and the funds sanctioned therefor;

(c) the reasons for not clearing the remaining proposals;

(d) whether the construction work of any of the sanctioned projects is being delayed; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) :

(a) Year	Nos. of proposals
1994-95	48
1995-96	35
1996-97	19

(b) Year	Approved	Not approved/ yet to be approved (Rs. in lakh)	Sanctioned amount
1994-95	45	3	2668.61
1995-96	20	15	2427.48
1996-97	4	15	4293.87

(c) The remaining proposals were not cleared as the same were not finding place in the respective Annual Plan due to paucity of funds.

(d) and (e) The work of improvements to geometrics from Km. 330.525 to 332.50 on NH-48 in South Kannara District is delayed. The Revised Estimate for the above work is under correspondence with the State P.W.D.

[Translation]

Development of Sanskrit

2410. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several seminars were organised last year in various parts of the country to frame a national policy for development of Sanskrit;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the draft prepared on the basis of these seminars; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) This Ministry had not organised any seminars last year for this purpose.

[English]

N.H.-44

2411. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :
SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for converting the Assam-Agartala National Highway (NH-44) into double lane;

(b) if so, what the steps taken to implement the proposal;

(c) the steps taken to extend this National Highway (NH-44) from Agartala to Sabroom;

(d) whether it is fact that the State Government has agreed to arrange necessary lands for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Improvement of Agartala - Sabroom Road to National Highway standards would be taken up in stages in the Ninth five - year plan.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The details of the Land Acquisition would be known after the survey.

Ancient Relics

2412. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether invaluable paintings, ancient relics and other historic objects including items from the Indus Valley Civilisation are being damaged at the 183 years old Indian Museum;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures to be taken to restore these paintings, ancient relics and historic objects there?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) No, Sir. Besides, the Museum is already extending highest

priority for appropriate protection, conservation and preservation of the museum holdings.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Supply of Medicines on Higher Rate

2413. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a racket supplying fake medicines and also supplying medicines on higher rates to the hospitals in U.P. and Delhi has been busted;

(b) if so, whether any persons have been arrested in this connection;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government against those persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Promotion of Group 'D' Employees of KVs

2414. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any provision for internal promotion of Group 'D' employees of Kendriya Vidyalayas to the post of Lower Division Clerk;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Group 'D' employees who have since been promoted during the last three years till date, Kendriya Vidyalaya-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a provision for filling up of 10% vacancy of Lower Division Clerk (created/made available after 12.1.1992) through promotion of the Group 'D' employees working in Kendriya Vidyalayas.

(c) Promotion of Group 'D' employees is not done Vidyalaya-wise but on regional basis. During the last 3 years, 21 Group 'D' employees working in Kendriya Vidyalayas have been promoted to the post of Lower Division Clerk.

[Translation]

Load Capacity of NH-8

2415. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of vehicles plying daily on the National Highway No. 8 on Delhi-Jaipur-Ajmer-Udaipur-Ahmedabad route is more than its load bearing capacity;

(b) if so, the ratio between the vehicles and the load bearing capacity of the above National Highway; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to remove the imbalance in the above ratio?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) No such ratio exists between the vehicles and the road bearing capacity of the National Highway. However, the pavement design is based on allowable axle load, repetitions thereof, condition of soil, rainfall, etc. For NH 8, some sections have been accordingly strengthened and some have yet to be attended to.

(c) Strengthening and widening of this road is included in the IXth Plan.

[English]

Indo-Bhutan River Project

2416. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the newsitem captioned "Indo-Bhutan river project may spell doom for North Bengal" appearing in the 'Week-end Observer of Business and Politics', New Delhi dated February 8, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein, as per his Ministry's information;

(c) his reaction thereto; and

(d) the stage at which the Sankosh Project stands at present and whether its environmental impact assessment study has since been completed and if so, its outcome?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The detailed Project Report prepared by the Central Water Commission envisages construction of dams across the river Sankosh for generation of 4060 MW of Power. The regulated discharge is also proposed for irrigation and other purposes in Bihar and West Bengal territory. Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies have been carried out by Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) and final Report on

EIA studies is under examination by the Central Water Commission. Ministry of Environment and Forest would be approached for further examination before seeking investment clearance for the canal component of the project which lies in the Indian Territory.

Nuclear Free Zone

2417. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a resolution for creating a Nuclear Free Zone in South Asia was adopted in the first meeting of UN General Assembly in December, 1996 with 130 members supporting and only three opposing it; and

(b) if so, the precise content of the resolution, and stand taken in this regard by India, Pakistan and other nations in the region?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 11th November, 1996 the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution titled "Establishment of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone in South Asia" by 130 votes in favour with 3 votes against and 8 abstentions. The resolution was introduced by Pakistan and co-sponsored by Bangladesh. Sri Lanka, Nepal and Maldives voted in favour of the resolution, India and Bhutan voted against the resolution. In its explanation of vote, India stated that it does not regard South Asia as a region or zone for purpose of disarmament and security given the fact that its strategic and political interests and concerns extend beyond its immediate geographical neighbours, India also said that this resolution does not meet the UN endorsed requirement that establishment of NWFZs should be based on an appropriate definition of the region, taking into account the specific characteristics of the region and the full range of security concerns of the States of the region. Such zones must be established on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States concerned.

Nehru Yuvak Kendras in Gujarat

2418. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Nehru Yuvak Kendras are functioning in Gujarat at present;

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

(c) whether more Nehru Yuvak Kendras are planned in the State;

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

(e) the average expenditure incurred on each Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) and (b) 19 Nehru Yuva Kendras are functioning in the State of Gujarat which are situated at Bharuch, Nadiad, Kutch (Bhuj), Godhra, Sabarkantha, Junagarh, Mehsana, Surendra Nagar, Jamnagar, Bhavnagar, Valsad, Surat, Gandhi Nagar, Ahmedabad, Baroda, Dangs, Amreli, Palampur and Rajkot.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The approximate expenditure incurred during 1995-96 on each Kendra is Rs. 3,45,250/-.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects in M.P.

2419. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals regarding irrigation projects received from Madhya Pradesh Government for the clearance of the Union Government;

(b) the number out of these still pending with the Union Government; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Out of 26 major and 7 medium irrigation projects received from Government of Madhya Pradesh since March, 1979, 11 major and 3 medium projects are at various stages of appraisal by Central Agencies. The remaining project reports have been returned to Madhya Pradesh Government for non-compliance of observations of Central Appraisal Agencies.

Complaints Advisory Board

2420. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of complaints have decreased after the constitution of complaints advisory board in the office of the Chief of the Army Staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to ensure required fairness and transparency in the functioning of the said board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) A Complaints Advisory Board was constituted in the office of the Chief of the Staff in February, 1986 to consider the complaints of serving personnel primarily pertaining to career

matters such as supersessions and perceived adverse or low gradings/remarks in Annual Confidential Reports etc. The purpose of constituting the Board was to ensure proper in-depth examination of the complaints, and to render suitable advice to the COAS for their disposal.

2. There has been no significant change in the number of complaints received, after the constitution of the CAB.

[English]

Demands of A.I.K.V.T.A.

2421. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association has demanded U.P.S.C. type open examination for the recruitment of Principals in K.V.S.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has received a demand from the All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association for introducing open examination for recruitment of Principals in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. This matter falls within the purview of the delegated powers of the Sangathan.

N.S.C.

2422. DR. M. JAGANNATH :

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the objective for which National Security Council and National Security Advisory Board were set up;

(b) whether both the Council and the Board had no meeting for a long time; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and action proposed by the Government to activate the National Security Council and National Security Advisory Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) The main endeavour of the National Security Council is to evolve an integrated approach to policy making as it affects national security, taking into account the linkages between the evolving external situation in the political, military and economic fields and our domestic situation. The National Security Advisory Board consisting of 35 members from the different concerned fields, was constituted for providing a broader cross-section of views on the working of the National Security Council.

2. The National Security Council has met on one occasion on 5th October, 1990. The Advisory Board, however, has not had a meetings so far.

3. Proposals and suggestions to restructure the National Security Council with a view to making it a more effective body for achieving the purposes for which it was constituted, are engaging the attention of Government.

[Translation]

Vocational Education Institute in U.P.

2423. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
DR. RAM KRISHANA KUSMARIA :
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vocational education institutes operating in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of students registered in these institutions;

(c) the amount allotted by the Union Government under the vocationalisation of higher education during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to promote vocational education in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) :

(a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh has so far started 1865 vocational sections in 810 schools.

(b) As per information available, 43077 students were enrolled in these Institutes.

(c) No State-wise allotment of funds is made. However, based on the proposals received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, following funds were released to the State in the last three years under the above Scheme.

Year	(Amount in Lakhs)
1993-94	258.42
1994-95	265.39
1995-96	502.40
	1026.21

(d) To promote vocational education in the States including the State of Uttar Pradesh, the focus presently is on consolidation and qualitative improvement of the Vocational Education Programme. The States have been, inter alia, advised to create Management structure at various levels, introduce need based courses and to establish appropriate linkages with the industry.

Private Ships

2424. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government and private ships separately at the various ports of the country at present;

(b) the reasons for making use of the private cargo ships;

(c) whether cargo transportation by Government ships has been reduced;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for reducing the number of private ships and to ensure a fare share of cargo transportation by Government ships?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Port-wise information is not being maintained. However, the number of ocean going vessels owned by Government/Public Sector Undertakings and Private Sector as on 1.2.1997 is as under :

	Vessels	Gross Tonnage (in million)
Government/Public Sector Undertakings	196	3.40
Private	289	3.65
Total	485	7.05

(b) Number of vessels available with Government/Private Sector is not sufficient to cater to the requirement of overseas trade of the country. Hence vessels other than Government have to be deployed for overseas trade.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Total cargo carried in terms of percentage have come down as the tonnage of Government/Public Sector Undertakings have not increased commensurate with the increase in the overseas trade.

(e) The Government policy is to give preference to India flag vessels in the carriage of Government cargo in preference to foreign flag vessels. There is no proposal to put any restriction in acquiring ships by private sector.

Laboratories in Polytechnics in U.P.

2425. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of laboratories of Government Polytechnics modernised with the assistance of World Bank in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the amount of World Bank assistance spent for this purpose so far;

(c) the number of educational research centres set up with the help of World Bank assistance; and

(d) the funds proposed to be spent during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) The total No. of laboratories of Government Polytechnics being modernised with the World Bank assistance in Uttar Pradesh is 362. The amount spent for this purpose as on 31.12.96 is Rs. 135.90 million.

(c) The Educational Research Centres are not being established with the World Bank assistance.

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

[English]

Nizam Sagar Project in A.P.

2426. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nizam Sagar in Andhra Pradesh which used to provide irrigation facilities to the entire Nizamabad region has become silted and its potential has come down;

(b) if so, whether any proposal has been submitted by the State Government for desilting and improving the irrigation potential of Nizam Sagar;

(c) whether any World Bank/ADB assistance has been sought for revival of Nizam Sagar;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, whether any scheme has been proposed by the Union Government to revive the Nizam Sagar to develop the backward region of Nizamabad; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government has not submitted any proposal for desilting and improving the irrigation potential of Nizam Sagar. However, State Government is implementing "Improvement to Nizam Sagar" scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Bridges in Maharashtra

2427. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bridges constructed since 1994 on the National Highways in Maharashtra;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether some proposals are pending with the Union Government regarding construction of the bridges on National Highways in Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) 17 bridges costing Rs. 17.00 crores stand completed since 1994.

(c) and (d) 4 works have already been sanctioned in the current (1996-97) Plan. However, two works are under scrutiny.

Construction of School Buildings in M.P.

2428. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the districts in Madhya Pradesh in which Rajiv Gandhi Foundation has taken the job of construction and repair of the school buildings in hand; and

(b) the district-wise amount allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) The Department of Education in the Ministry of Human Resource Development has not released any funds to Rajiv Gandhi Foundation for construction and repair of school buildings.

[English]

Japanese Fever

2429. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of deaths have taken place in Kerala due to the out break of 'Japanese Fever';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the out break of this fever?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per reports from the State Health Authorities, 91 cases and 15 deaths due to suspected Japanese Encephalitis in five districts of Kerala have been recorded from 1st January, 1997 to 1st March, 1997.

(c) The steps taken to prevent and contain the outbreak of the disease include :

- ** intensified vector control measures, entomological monitoring and IEC activities to create community awareness;
- ** guidelines in the form of action plan and calendar of activities for control of disease which have been provided to the State;
- ** adequate number of fogging machines along with insecticides, provided to the state for vector control;
- ** funds have been released to meet contingent expenditure of the state on emergency basis.

[Translation]

Recognition to Private Hospitals in U.P.

2430. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed by the Government to recognise private hospitals under Government Health Scheme;

(b) whether Government have received a number of applications from private hospitals in Uttar Pradesh in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to recognise private hospitals in many cities of Uttar Pradesh including Varanasi; and

(e) if so, the time by which these hospitals are likely to be reorganised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) For recognition of private hospitals/ diagnostic centres in the CGHS covered ties, rate quotations were asked from the hospitals/quagnostic centre. The hospitals were inspected by a five-member Committee who examined the physical infrastructure available as well as level of expertise for various specialities.

(b) to (e) A total of 60 applications (Allahabad-11, Kanpur-18, Lucknow-12 and Meerut-19) have been received from private hospitals in Uttar Pradesh for recognition under CGHS, and the recognition process is underway.

As Varanasi is not covered under CGHS, there is no proposal to recognise private hospitals in that city.

[English]

Professional Courses in Colleges

2431. SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start some new professional courses in colleges in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the professional courses to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC), the Commission initiated a Scheme in 1994 for starting vocational courses at the first degree level in universities and colleges. A statement indicating the vocational subjects which can be introduced by the eligible universities/colleges, subject to the terms and conditions of the scheme, is attached.

Statement

The Vocational Subjects which can be introduced by universities/colleges

-
1. Functional Hindi
 2. Functional Sanskrit
 3. Communicative English
 4. Archaeology and Museology
 5. Principals and Practices of Insurance
 6. Actuarial Science
 7. Office Management and Secretarial Practices
 8. Tax Procedures and Practices
 9. Foreign Trade Practices and Procedures
 10. Tourism and Travel Management
 11. Advertising, Sales Promotion (Sales Management)
 12. Computer Application
 13. Industrial Chemistry (Seven Streams)
 14. Food Science and Quality control
 15. Clinical Nutrition Dietetics
 16. Industrial Microbiology
 17. Bio-Technology
 18. Biological Tech. and Specimen preparation
 19. Seed Technology
 20. Sericulture
 21. Industrial Fishing and Fishery
 22. Instrumentation
-

-
23. Optical Instrumentation
 24. Geo-exploration and Drilling Technology
 25. Mass Communication Video Production
 26. Still Photography Audio Production
 27. Electronic Equipment maintenance
 28. Computer maintainance
 29. Electrical Equipment Maintenance
 30. Environment and Water Management
 31. Rural Technology
 32. Automobiles Maintenance
 33. Refrigeration and Airconditioning Maintenance
 34. Construction Technology Management
 35. Manufacturing Process.
 36. Agro Service
 37. Non-Conventional Energy.
 38. Dry Farming
 39. Soil Conservation and Water Management
 40. Forest and Wild Life Management.
 41. Rural Handicraft.
 42. Cultivation and Processing of Forest Produce
 43. Domestic Animal Farming
 44. Hill Agriculture
 45. Silvipasture, and
 46. Early Childhood Care and Education.
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[Translation]

Destruction due to Floods in Bihar

2432. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the destruction due to flood has become a regular feature in some parts of Bihar, particularly in Saharsa, Supaul and Khagaria districts;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have formulated any flood control programme to face the problems arising out of flood;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Flood Management is a State subject and such schemes are planned and implemented by the State Governments out of their State Plan Funds allocated by the Planning Commission as Block Loans and Blocks Grants. However, realising the severe flood problems of Ganga Basin States including Bihar, the Central Government has set up the Ganga Flood Control Commission in 1972 which had prepared comprehensive

plan for flood management for the entire Ganga Basin including Kosi, Burhi Gandak, Bagmati, Adhwara group of rivers and Kamla Balan which affect the regions of Sharsa, Supaul and Khagariya districts. These have been sent to the States for preparation of detailed plans and impementation. Recently, the Ministry of Water Resources has constituted Five Regional Task Forces consisting of senior Central and State Government officers to examine the regional flood problems, review existing remedial measures and to recommend solutions. The Eastern Regional Task Force is examining the flood problems of Bihar.

In order to alleviate the severe flood problems of North Bihar, the Ministry of Water Resources during the Eighth Plan has launched a flood proofing programme for North Bihar with an outlay of Rs. 40 crore. Under this programme 98 schemes have been approved for implementation and an amount of Rs. 1.5 crore has been released during February, 96 to the State Government for initiating the works. The programme which includes the construction of raised platforms, provision of quick drainage facilities, communication links etc. would spill over to the Ninth Plan.

Assistance under AIBP

2433. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has asked the Ministry of Water Resources to assess Ghata Prabha, Karanja and Hippargi projects for assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme;

(b) if so, the amount of assistance sought for; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka had requested for Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 10.00 crores for Ghataprabha-III, Rs. 20.00 crores for Karanja and Rs. 3.50 crores for Hippargi projects. However, no Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme could be approved for these projects as funds were not available under the relevant category.

[English]

Damage to NHs in Uttar Pradesh

2434. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the length of National Highways in Uttar Pradesh damaged by floods, rains and other calamities during the last two years; and

(b) the action being taken by the Government to repair the same and to ensure their proper maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Surface damages/rain cut occurred at placed over the National Highway net work in U.P.

(b) During 1995-96, 25 Nos. of estimates totalling to Rs. 276.29 lakhs were sanctioned. However during 1996-97, road damage repair estimates of about Rs. 350.00 lakhs for U.P. State are likely to be approved subject to the availability of funds.

Norms for Admission in Private Institutions

2435. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UGC has drafted a new regulation for admissions and fee structure of self-financing courses in private non-aided professional institutions; and

(b) if so, the details of the same and the time by which they are likely to be finalised and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Financial Assistance to Karnataka Hospitals

2436. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any financial assistance to the Karnataka Government for procurement of essential medicines and other essential equipments for eliminating paucity of these in many Government Hospitals in the State;

(b) if so, the quantum assistance provided therefor;

(c) whether the said money has been properly and fully utilised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, World Bank has sanctioned in June, 1996, the State Health Systems Project in Karnataka at an estimated cost of Rs. 546 crores to strengthen the health set-up at the secondary level in the State and to provide the necessary linkages from Community level to District level hospitals. As part of the project amongst other assistance, some drugs, equipment and material will be provided to the identified hospitals.

Small Dam Scheme

2437. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the activities anti to big dam are urging the Government to prepare small dam schemes to connect river water of States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) There have been a few cases of protests against construction of large dams in India on grounds of rehabilitation and environmental issues. However, the present strategy in Water Resources Development in the country is based on a mix of options consisting of large, medium and small surface water storage, diversion and lift schemes, ground water development through deep/shallow tubewells and open wells and micro watershed development schemes. Each of the above mentioned options has its own place and a judicious mix of all these options is needed for the optimum utilisation of water resources in the country.

Mahila Samridhi Yojana

2438. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of women who have opened accounts under Mahila Samridhi Yojana and total quantum of money deposits by them, as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have formulated any policy to make the rural women professionally self-reliant and prosperous;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which the same is being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) to (d) No such policy has been prepared.

Statement

(As on 31.1.97)

Rank	States/UTs	No. of A/cs opened (fig. in lacs)	Amount Deposited (in crores)
1	2	3	4
A. States			
1.	Assam	14.73	10.53
2.	Madhya Pradesh	34.04	17.28

1	2	3	4
3. Tamil Nadu		23.71	18.23
4. Mizoram		0.21	0.43
5. Goa		0.39	0.67
6. Andhra Pradesh		26.16	30.64
7. Haryana		6.39	9.73
8. Karnataka		14.52	21.60
9. Punjab		6.16	7.59
10. Gujarat		10.18	18.67
11. Himachal Pradesh		1.75	4.54
12. Uttar Pradesh		35.65	36.85
13. Sikkim		0.12	0.13
14. Orissa		8.32	10.64
15. Rajasthan		9.36	12.92
16. Kerala		5.12	6.63
17. West Bengal		10.00	13.69
18. Manipur		0.24	0.17
19. Maharashtra		8.41	15.32
20. Tripura		0.34	0.38
21. Bihar		9.78	6.57
22. Jammu and Kashmir		0.69	0.56
23. Arunachal Pradesh		0.04	0.06
24. Nagaland		0.04	0.10
25. Delhi		0.04	0.09
26. Meghalaya		0.05	0.03
B. Union Territories			
1. Chandigarh		0.12	0.09
2. Lakshadweep		0.02	0.02
3. Pondicherry		0.20	0.16
4. Daman and Diu		0.02	0.06
5. Andaman and N Island		0.05	0.09
6. D and N Haveli		0.03	0.04
Total		226.88	244.54

[Translation]

New Irrigation Schemes for Farmers

2439. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to execute new irrigation schemes for the small and marginal farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to execute the same;

(c) the fund allocated for 1996-97 and 1997-98 for implementing these new irrigation schemes;

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering the proposal of Jasauli Project of Sonbhadra district in Uttar Pradesh which has been pending for years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Irrigation is a state subject. Irrigation schemes are planned, formulated and implemented by the State Government from their own resources.

(d) and (e) Proposal for Jasauli project benefitting Sonebhadra Distt. of Uttar Pradesh has not been received in Central Water Commission so far.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Naval Prisons and Detention Quarters Regulations

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : I beg to lay on the table- A copy of Naval Prisons and Detention Quarters Regulations, 1996(Hindi and English Versions) published in notification No. S.R.O. 212 in Gazette of India dated 28th December, 1996 under section 185 of Naval Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1497/97]

Notification under Sub-Section (4) of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Senior Library and Information Assistant) Recruitment Rules, 1996(Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 491 in Gazette of India dated the 9th November, 1996, issued under proviso to the article 309 of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1498/97]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 :

(i) G.S.R. 535(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 1996, approving the Tuticorin Port Employees (Leave) First Amendment Regulations, 1996.

- (ii) G.S.R. 547(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th November, 1996 approving the Mormugao Port Employees (General Provident Fund) Amendment Regulations, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1499/97]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Administrator Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board for the year 1995-96.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1500/97]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cochin Dock Labour Board, Kochi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cochin Dock Labour Board, Kochi, for the year 1995-96.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1501/97]

Annual Report, Annual Accounts, Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) :
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1502/97]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96,
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1503/97]

- (5) (a) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, for the year 1995-96,
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, for the year 1995-96.

- (b) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 23 of the Indian Institute of Technology Act, 1961.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1504/97]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1505/97]

- (9) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru University for the year 1995-96, together with an Audit Report thereon.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1506/97]

12.01¼ hrs.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MR. SPEAKER : Sir, I have to inform the House that I have received the following message dated the 5th March, 1997 from the President :

"I have received with great satisfaction the expression of thanks by the Members of the Lok Sabha for the Address which I delivered to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 20th February, 1997."

12.01½ hrs.

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that I received a letter dated 3 March, 1997 from Shri B.L. Sharma 'Prem', an elected Member from East Delhi Parliamentary Constituency of Delhi, resigning from membership of Lok Sabha.

I have accepted his resignation with effect from 6 March, 1997.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, when is the discussion under rule 184 coming?

MR. SPEAKER : Tomorrow at three o'clock is the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : May I humbly request that the discussion on the General Budget should not start before the discussion under rule 184 is disposed of so that there is no interruption in the discussion on the General budget?

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Reports

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Communications :

- (1) Sixth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) relating to Department of Post.

- (2) Seventh Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) relating to Department of Telecommunications.

- (3) Eight Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

12.2½ hrs.

UTTAR PRADESH BUDGET

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to present a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Uttar Pradesh for the year 1997-98.

12.03 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS - UTTAR PRADESH

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the State of Uttar Pradesh for 1996-97.

12.04 hrs.

RE : DETAINEES UNDER TADA

[Translation]

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS (Sitapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards an important issue. The Government of India have abolished TADA but even today thousands of people are languishing in jails and 37000 persons are under trial under a law which is no more in operation. These people have been alienated from their families. It is a humanitarian matter. Hon'ble Prime Minister had made an announcement in Mainpuri, The Parliamentary Constituency of Sh. Mulayam Singh that TADA prisoners would be released. Maharashtra unit of our party and are all the members of Parliament of our Party are sitting on Dharana before the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Parliament House. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to make a statement on TADA so as to clear the position. In reply to my question the hon'ble Home Minister had said that two thousand five hundred people were detained under TADA. I want to know what action has been taken in this regard... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first listen about TADA...*(Interruptions)* it is very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, if you kindly recollect...*(Interruptions)*

Let me speak on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, TADA prisoners should be released immediately. Many promises have been made, but the Government have not taken any step in this regard. The United Front Government have mentioned about it in its common minimum programme...*(Interruptions)* But inspite of that no action has been taken in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

When the law is not there, there can be no trial under the law...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

The Act has been scrapped but in spite of that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us listen to Shri Rajesh Pilot first. I will allow you also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have given him permission. Why do you not have some patience?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that the Act has been scrapped. There have been review committees by every State since long. He is very right in saying this. The cases of all the State Governments could be called by the Home Ministry and a final decision could be taken because the Act is no more in operation. If the review has been done by the State Governments, those details will be given to the Home Ministry so that the nation knows and the innocent people, if any, booked under that Act can be released. The nation could be told that there is no more involvement of the people under TADA who are in jail and against whom the cases are going on. We are not saying that you withdraw the cases. But the position regarding innocent people, who have been linked with that, should be clarified by the Home Ministry as a whole...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anees, you had your say. Let Shri Banatwalla speak.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have repeatedly raised this issue about TADA here in

the House and about those who are languishing in jails. Sir, it is a serious irony of fate. It is most undemocratic. The law has lapsed and yet the cases go on and the people languish in jails. The law was scrapped. The TADA law lapsed because it was the most savage, undemocratic law misused and abused by the authorities. Now, for the trials to continue under the same lapsed law is a contradiction and a serious fraud on the nation. I must, therefore, say that without any delay the Government must come forward to withdraw all cases under the lapsed TADA Act. If anyone is supposed to be guilty, there are sufficient normal laws of the land under which the Government can proceed. Let, therefore, no time be lost and those who are in jail facing trial be released...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have made your point.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAGAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousands of people have been detained under TADA and cases are going on against them. Only in Uttar Pradesh the Government of Sh. Mulayam Singh Yadav had released the TADA prisoners. But the TADA prisoners in other parts of the country have not been released. So I demand that the manner in which the Government of Mulayam Singh ji had released the innocent TADA prisoners and withdrawn their cases, the Central Government should also release the TADA prisoners in the entire country and withdraw their cases under the law which is no more in operation.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, Please allow me. I have been fighting against it for the whole of my life. I know many things...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI (Gaya) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, birds keepers have been sitting on Dharana for about 10-15 days. On 7th one of them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please speak later on.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, You see one man has died. Birds are reared in almost each family. Despite that there is a provision for fine of Rs. two thousands and imprisonment for seven years for rearing birds. A large number of people are poor in our country. Either the Government should provide employment to the poor or withdraw the ban from rearing the birds.

It is being said that a fine of Rs. one lakh would be imposed on the persons who would catch the birds. In this way the poor are being harassed.

12.10 hrs.

RE : DETAINEES UNDER TADA - *Contd.*

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : How long can we discuss TADA here?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think that we need to discuss this.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, the TADA law...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : Those who are being killed...*(Interruptions)* they are not being discussed. Those who have resorted to gundaism and crime are at present behind the bars...*(Interruptions)* No discussion is being held on the killing of persons...*(Interruptions)* The valuable time of the house is being wasted...*(Interruptions)* That law should be resorted again...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, you gave me the chance to speak...*(Interruptions)*. Sir, let me be allowed to speak...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not do this any more.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, the point is that TADA law is no more there but the problem lies with Clause (2) of the old Bill. Since Clause (2) exists, the Government cannot release innocent detainees under TADA. May I request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that because of the old law...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order during Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not help your friends?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Speak as much as you can and speak altogether.

[English]

Everybody will speak at a time.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to the fact that TADA law is no more there, but because of Clause (2) of the old law, TADA exists for the

detainees. That is why, may I request the Minister - in the name of Review Committee, the Government is not monitoring the review system and not asking the State Governments that the innocent people should be released - that the Government should go through the matter and release the innocent people. But until and unless Clause (2) is removed from the Statute Book, it is very difficult to do so. So, may I request the Government that the old clause may be deleted so that TADA detainees may be released?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Kumari Mamata Banerjee, how are you talking? Do not talk to them.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, Clause (2) of the old law exists for TADA detainees. That is why, until and unless Clause (2) is removed from the Statute Book, it is not possible to release them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know which one is going on record.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Therefore, the Government should review Clause (2) and make arrangement to release the innocent people*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mamataji, you are not supposed to argue with them. You should address the Chair.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I told you that TADA is no more there but...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : If you sit quietly, I shall give you an opportunity to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Sir, they are playing politics of votes...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is being recorded. What can I do?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Azmi, I will come to you provided you sit quietly.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter which has been in existence since the formation of this Government. Sir, the Hon. Members sitting on the opposite benches...*(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

Sir, they do not want to hold discussion on such sensitive issues. In that too, they raise the question of Hindu and Muslim...*(Interruptions)* Sir, many people are staging Dharna...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, all the hon. Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are staging Dharna outside the House. The innocent persons put in jail after the repeal of TADA, should be released...*(Interruptions)* This Government has made efforts to provide relief to TADA detenees. After the formation of his Government in Uttar Pradesh Shri Mulayam singh Yadav repealed this Act...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a debate. I am not allowing a debate. It is enough. Enough is enough. Please sit down. You cannot have a debate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, a very important suggestion has been made by Shri Rajesh Pilot. Let the Home Minister look into this matter and come before the House so that an appropriate decision could be taken.

MR. SPEAKER : I think so.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, that is the best thing to do. No decision can be taken here. Let the Home Ministry look into the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you want to say something?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they should be released.

MR. SPEAKER : I know, it is a serious issue but it is not a debate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a debate. We cannot hold debate. There will not be any debate in Zero Hour.

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : Through you, I would like to say one thing...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what the Minister says.

*(Interruptions)**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : Sir, I have taken note of the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members. Let this point be made very clear from the Government's side. The Government is interested to have a review of the whole situation. I will

* Not Recorded.

convey the feelings of the hon. Members to the Home Minister and the Prime Minister and the Government will make a detailed statement on this issue itself...*(Interruptions)*

The Government will make a detailed statement on this issue soon...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Chauhan. This matter is closed now. Nothing will go on record. I have called the next Member. After the assurance from the Government, what else do you want?

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the department of Railway seems to have fallen on bad days. Rail accidents are taking place one after another. Likewise, train decoities take place one after another. Yesterday, when the Hon. Minister of Railway was attending a programme in Bhopal the capital of Madhya Pradesh, Guna-Shivpuri passenger collided with a bus at Guna. The collision was so powerful that the entire bus was smashed and the bodies of the passengers were tom to pieces. Ten passengers died on the spot, another ten succumbed to their injuries on their way to hospital and sixty passengers are fighting against the death. The saddening aspect of this accident is that no railway officer reached the site of accident even after two hours of the accident.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No more; please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Railway was in Bhopal yesterday. The entire administration of the Railway department was busy in his service. No railway officer reached the accident site even two hours after the accident. I would like to know whether the gate keeper who manned the rail-crossing did not receive the signal of approaching train? I demand that the Government should provide a compensation of Rs. two lakh to each family of the deceased and make proper arrangements for the treatment of injured passengers...*(Interruptions)* the death toll is likely to increase.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister wants to say something you have made you point.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thirty passengers have been killed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. The Minister wants to reply to it. He has understood your point.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a tragic incident. I had gone to Bhopal for the inauguration of rail reservation and other works. I got the information after coming back from there. Sir, this accident took place between Guna and Tanwata - a desolate place where there is no arrangement of signalling. The gateman closes the gate after seeing the train. But the situation is different there. The gateman was already present and he closed the door. There is road breaker also and after crossing that breaker, the bus collided. The passengers of the bus were shouting to stop the bus since the train was approaching but the driver continued driving rashly and consequently gateman was killed and the bus collided with the train. What is the fault of train driver in it....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir,...(*Interruptions*). The people have been massacred...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You have been provided two-three opportunities. I cannot always provide you opportunity.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Sir, it is very important...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : It is important.

[*English*]

You listen to me. If you want some relief, you can raise the matter under some rules. You have raised it three times and the Government has responded to it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : The entire family is being destroyed...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : That I know but please listen to me. You have already raised this matter three times but the Government has not replied to it because it is not obligatory for the Government to reply to the matters raised in Zero Hour.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I have given that direction last time also. Shri Vajpayee, you also spoke on that occasion.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Sir, you are right that raising of matter once should be enough. It need not be raised again and again but the situation is that all the children of the family disappeared with the truck and there is no trace of them even after 23 days...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Srikant Jena, listen to this, please. Three members of the family of the hon. Member have been missing for the last 21 days. He had raised this matter on the floor of the House. I had said on that day that the Government should kindly look into this. So, please find out the details as to where these people are. Kindly ask the Uttar Pradesh Government to give the report and inform the Member accordingly. Whatever information you get, inform the Member, please.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Harijans were massacred in my Parliamentary Constituency. I have given Notice for that...(*Interruptions*) It is a matter pertaining to the massacre of Harijans but I am not being provided an opportunity to speak while, you allowed 15 members to speak.

12.26 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to Declare Support Price of Potato and take measures for Promoting its Export**

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH (Kannauj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this year has witnessed the record production of potato. All the cold storages of Uttar Pradesh have been over stuffed...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not deliver speech. Read only what you have given in writing.

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : As a result thereof the price of potato has sealed down from Rs. 260 to Rs. 140-150 per quintal which has posed a crisis before the potato growers. If the situation is not brought under control, the production of potato will cover down in future...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : In respect of matters under rule 377, you should read what is written there. Do not go outside it. Nothing will go on record. I will not allow you like this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : Therefore, Union Government is requested that it should declare the minimum support price of potato in the larger interest of the potato growers and the purchase of potato by the Government agencies should be started and the immediate export of potato by the Agriculture Produce and Export Development Authority should be undertaken.

(ii) Need to take preventive steps to check closure of industries in Kota, Rajasthan.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the industries in the industrial city of Rajasthan, Kota, have been closing down in a planned way. Recently, Sudarshan Textile, Oriental Power Cables and Wool factories in Kota have closed down but now the back bone of the labourers of Kota, Padam Singh Staties, J.K. Tyre Cord and J.K. Acrylic have also been closing down in a planned manner. On the one hand it will disrupt industrial peace and on the other hand the development and life of Kota would also be affected.

Therefore, my submission to the Central Government is that in the large interest of the labourers an immediate step to check the closure of the industries in Kota should be taken.

(iii) Need to provide Central Assistance to State Government of Madhya Pradesh for setting up Industries for Development of Backward District of Balaghat.

12.27 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT (Balaghat) : Sir, Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh is a no industry district. Managese Copper is in abundance in the district. In fact, one third of countries copper is available there. Besides, granite, lime stone, donamite and other minerals alongwith 'Sagon' and 'Sagwan' wood and good quality of bamboo are available. Despite the availability of the above mentioned items, there is acute unemployment. People go to other areas for employment and due to it there is imbalance of development in the country. The industries based on these raw materials and minerals like paper mill and sugar mill can be set up there.

My submission to the Central Government is that a survey of this area should be conducted and industries should be set up there with the assistance of Central and State Government for the development of this backward area.

(iv) Need to Ban use of Plastic Bottles used by Soft Drink Manufacturers

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a serious

matter concerning the health of the people of the nation. According to Inter Press Service, Washington, plastic Pepsi bottles from the United States of America are being dumped in India where they are processed under unsafe conditions. The scrap pepsi bottles of coca cola and other soft drink from California are stockpiled at Tiruvalluvar in South India. The Company washes and chips the scrap, then send it to the factory nearby Manali where a large number of workers are working, they are complaining of damage being caused to them by those plastic bottles. Particularly the hot water rinsing of plastic bottles is dangerous to health as the workers have not been provided gloves and masks for their protection. There are at least two dozen of such factories in that region. The process can be hazardous as the plastic bottles when heated gives off toxic vapours that can cause skin rashes, respiratory problems and eye irritation.

I urge upon the Government to ban the use of such plastic bottles which have been dumped in those factories.

(v) Need to Evolve Effective Mechanism to solve the problems of workers of sick PSUs particularly in West Bengal

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : A spectre of uncertainty and serious apprehension looms large over the future of 19 Central Public Sector Units in particular, located in West Bengal which stand referred to BIFR. These PSUs are under the Ministries of Industry, Chemicals and Fertilizers and Textiles. The number of employees and workers in those Central Public Sector Units are about seventy thousand. It was noticed that in 1996 payment of wages was irregular in most of these Central Public Sector Units particularly in NTC, NJMC, Jessop, MAMC, BOGL, Cycle Corporation of India, Refractory Units of Burn Standard Company etc., because of non-provision of non-plan assistance by the Government. Production was also affected in most cases due to lack of working capital and non-plan support. Besides wages, payment of other statutory dues like PF and gratuity to retired employees also in a number of CPSUs still remains outstanding.

It is apprehended that the entire situation may further worsen this year, if a comprehensive plan is not chalked out. I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to set up an effective mechanism to monitor the problem of making regular payment of wages and other statutory dues of the workers and employees and for keeping the production unaffected by making adequate provision of non-plan support for all these sick Central Public Sector Units.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I would urge upon the hon. Minister that it is a very very important issue. I would request them to really look into this matter. I hope not the Government's usual, routine

approach on this matter. This is a very serious matter concerning the lives of lakhs of workers and their families. Therefore, I would urge upon you to kindly look into it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Statutory dues are also not being paid.

(vi) Need to sanction the proposal of Government of Maharashtra to increase the amount of Grant for construction of latrines under rural Sanitation Programme.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for construction of each latrine under the Rural Sanitation Programme, the Central Government had fixed an amount of rupees 2500 during 1992. It was decided that 40 per cent of the cost of production i.e. rupees 1000/- would be provided to the State Government by the Central Government as grant. During the last five years the cost of labour and building material has increased tremendously. At present the cost of production of each latrine has gone upon 4000 rupees. Therefore the Government of Maharashtra has urged upon the Central Government to increase this amount of grant of 40 per cent i.e. 1000 rupees to 1600 rupees.

The Government of Maharashtra has launched an ambitious scheme to construct 5 lakh latrines per year. Accordingly, during the next four years 20 lakh latrines would be constructed. My submission to the union government is that the increased cost of construction should be accepted and release the amount of grant which is 27.78 crores according to the state government for the latrines constructed till date...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Kanshi Ram ji, you would get a chance tomorrow since once your name was called and at that time you were not present.

(vii) Need to Recognize Tamil as a Classical Language

[English]

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Sir, it has been a long pending demand that Tamil language which is as ancient as Greek, Arabic and Persian should be recognized as a classical language by the Government of India.

Way back in 1920 itself, efforts were made and resolutions were passed by the "Karanthai Tamil Sangam" and simultaneously by the then undivided Madras University to declare Tamil as a classical language. Irrespective of the time that has lapsed and the unique qualities that the Tamil Language possesses,

the demand is still not yet realised by the Union Government.

As Greek and Latin reflect the European Community's culture and social values, Tamil is as important to understand the ancient tradition, culture, religion, fundamental and more values and philosophy of Indian Community.

Mr. Suneeth Kumar Chatterjee, the famous linguist has asserted that the Indian Culture is a congregation of various communities among which the major contribution is that of the Dravidian families, in general and Tamil culture, in particular.

Many eminent and distinguished Tamil and Western scholars have stressed the need to recognize Tamil as a classical language.

We, of course, realise that our heritage and traditional values have to be preserved and celebrated, as such things cannot be earned by any nation or community as and whenever it wishes. These could only be inherited over a period of centuries.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to take necessary steps to declare Tamil as a classical language.

12.37 hrs.

THE RAILWAY BUDGET — GENERAL
DISCUSSION - 1997-98
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT
(RAILWAYS) 1997-98
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS —
RAILWAYS 1994-95
SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS —
RAILWAYS 1996-97 - *Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we will take up further discussion on the Budget (Railways), 1997-98. The time allotted for this discussion is nine hours; and the time already taken is one hour and 21 minutes. So, the balance time is seven hours and 39 minutes.

Shri Sriballav Panigrahi, to continue his speech
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, perhaps the discussion goes on the railway budget for the whole night. I want to know whether it would be today or tomorrow, because if it is known then it would be easy to inform the speakers. It is just a suggestion that if previous trend is followed then the

hon. Members would be ready to speak. But, it would be good, if it is decided today itself.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will let you know later on. I will discuss the matter with the Speaker.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Right, Sir.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, my suggestion is that instead of continuing during the night, this debate can continue tomorrow and also day after tomorrow - three days.

[Translation]

It continues the whole night which is not correct. We can have the discussion for three days.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, we will discuss it and then I will let you know the decision.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I raised this point with the Speaker also in the House itself. Tomorrow, the BAC is meeting. It is proposed that on 13th, that is, Thursday, the discussion on UP under rule 184 would be taken up. If that be so, then the General Budget Discussion should not be started before that, because that will mean a break.

So, it is much better that the debates on Railway Budget be spread over today, tomorrow and day after tomorrow instead of spurt of whole night discussion; and after the discussion on UP is taken up on 14th, from Monday next the General Budget can take place. In the meantime, if the time is available, the Bills which are to replace Ordinances can be passed.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Keeping all these things in mind a decision will be taken.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Yes, Sir.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Last Thursday when I was speaking on this subject, I was dealing with the inflationary aspect of this Budget. As I pointed out, there has been a freight hike of the order of 23.2 per cent in a brief period of just about eight months. This has also cascading effect on our economy. This freight hike together with five per cent service tax on transporters for movement of goods on road as proposed by the Finance Minister in the General Budget, that too with the impending price hike of petroleum products, will push up inflation rate by at least 3.2 per cent and it will go beyond the double digit mark. It will be about 12 per cent.

In respect of coal alone, there will be an increase of Rs. 45 per tonne. In respect of petrol there has been

an increase of eight paise per litre, on HSD nine paise per litre of Petrol and on cement Rs. 2.44 per bag containing 50 kgs. The Chairman of the SAIL has come out saying how adversely it will affect the steel sector. He said it will cost SAIL Rs. 180 crore more. This will be the effect.

Then I come to the Annual Plan outlay. This time an amount of Rs. 8300 crore is there in the Budget for Plan expenditure. This is exactly the same as in the outgoing year. In the outgoing year it was round about Rs. 8300 crore and in the new financial year commencing from 1st April, about the same amount is proposed. Naturally, in real terms it will be at least 12 per cent less than what it was in the outgoing year. Taking inflation into consideration, it will be less at least by 12 per cent compared with the outgoing year's provision. This is where we are heading to in the Railway sector. Therefore you kindly allow me to give some figures which will indicate whether it is a progressive Budget or a regressive Budget. In very important areas of Railways like railway revenue, it is less this time. In respect of new line construction, of course, there has been some increase in this year's Budget. Last time it was Rs. 283.88 crore. But this time it is raised to Rs. 399.89 crore or roughly Rs. 400 crore. But what is the amount required? According to this price structure or price schedule, at least Rs. 2000 crore is needed to complete the ongoing lines. It may be much more than that. But the modest estimate is Rs. 2000 crore. Some people say it may be Rs. 3000 crore and some experts say Rs. 2000 crore. But even if you take the lower side, it will be Rs. 2000 crore.

We have to take it that if we go on like this whatever projects are on-going, it will take about one century, the whole of the 21st Century for the completion of those projects.

My next point is regarding surveys. Thirty-nine surveys have been proposed in the Budget Speech of the hon. Minister of Railways. It was said by the former Minister of Railways, late Lalit Narain Mishra, 'If there is a will, there is a railway; if there is no will, there is a survey'. If you look at that from that point of view, so many lines are included for survey only to satisfy the hon. Members. They talk of balanced growth in Railways, that they are fighting out regional imbalances and so on by providing money for the North-East. I welcomed this on Thursday. There is a tendency in this year's Budget for regional imbalances to grow. Out of thirty-nine surveys, eight are in only one State, the State to which the hon. Prime Minister belongs and another eight more are there in one other State and for the rest of the country there will be only 22 or 23 surveys. Of course, while replying to the queries of the Pressmen somewhere in Karnataka, the hon. Prime Minister said that all States are being treated equally by the Railways. There was a searching question to the hon. Prime

Minister that in respect of certain States, especially in his own district in his own State, the Budget is overburdened with proposals. I do not know about it. The hon. Minister of Railways will do well to clarify the position. In Karnataka, in one district itself Rs. 130 crore worth projects have been provided.

I do not mind any State getting anything. But I talk of social justice and I say that regional imbalances should not be there. We have a doctrine that in a Cabinet system, all Members of the Cabinet are equal and that the Prime Minister is first among equals. Of course, the Prime Minister is first among equals. Probably the hon. Minister of Railways has kept this in mind when he treated all the other States as equals and treated the States of the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Railways as much more than equals. Have they done justice to this new doctrine? Have they not provided much higher allocation for their starts than what they have provided for the other States? I do not know. But certainly these imbalances should be removed and all States should be treated equally.

Of course, in respect of backward States, there is a good provision. Six States have been named as backward : Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and one more State. In respect of these States liberally funds should be provided and new lines should also be drawn up. There are certain proposals for providing rail links. For instance, the Jakhpura-Banspani line will open up mining and forest areas in Orissa. Orissa is a paradox. There are abundant natural resources but the people of Orissa are suffering from abject poverty. Naturally, when the question of the new project comes up, these projects should be treated as national projects because these projects will contribute to the economic growth not only of Orissa but to economic growth of the country as a whole. Certain railway lines should be treated as national projects and top priority should be given to them. Whenever there is a new programme, a provision for a new line is made, I think, it will be better if we could say that by a certain date the project would be completed. What I suggest is that there should be a time-bound programme for new lines to be taken up, for the construction of new lines to be taken up and finished.

Now, I come to gauge conversion. This is an important area. Last year, the amount allocated was Rs. 1201.01 crore. It has now been reduced to Rs. 996 crore. It is even less than Rs. 1,000 crore.

As regards doubling, last year Rs. 206.36 crore was allotted, but this year it has been reduced to Rs. 178.01 crore. Let us come to computerisation. I need not highlight the importance of computerisations in these days. Last year Rs. 62.58 crore was allotted, but this year the allocation has been reduced to Rs. 35 crore which is less than fifty per cent.

Last year, the allocation for rolling stock was Rs. 2020.91 crore, but this year it has been shamelessly reduced to Rs. 1208.29 crore. After the presentation of the Railway Budget on the 26th February, just see how many accidents, robberies, dacoities and violent incidents have taken place. All these have happened within such a short period of two weeks. This should not be brushed aside and should not be taken lightly. A serious note of all these things should be taken.

For signalling and telecommunication also, this year the provision is less. The fares are going up, but the passenger amenities are going down. Last year, the provision for passenger amenities was Rs. 103.59 and this year it has come down to Rs. 80 crore. Like this, in several important areas the provision is less. As I told you, whatever be the plan outlay, in real terms the provision is less.

Look at the growth rate. We have posed a growth rate of 7.2 per cent. Yesterday I was reading a newspaper in which it was reported that hon. Minister of Finance, Chidambaramji, has said that by the end of the century, the economic growth rate of our country would be around eight per cent and the industrial growth would be twelve per cent. Keeping this in view, should the Railways not plan their programmes accordingly? Already there is a big gap between the requirement and the real situation. Further, this gap will only widen very fast because their growth rate is only six per cent to seven per cent.

As regards the goods traffic, year before last, they had transported 390 million tonnes of goods, last year they had transported 410 million tonnes and this year they have proposed to transport 433 million tonnes of goods. What is the growth rate? It is hardly five per cent, whereas the annual industrial growth rate is twelve per cent and the overall economic growth rate is seven per cent to eight per cent.

Moreover, 33 per cent of the total coaches and wagons are over-aged. They cannot be used. The electrification of railway lines is only nineteen per cent. So, look at the present situation. We are having a miserable situation today in different areas of functioning of Railways.

The National Transport Committee recommended for 72-73 per cent of the total goods and passenger traffic to be carried or to be borne by the Railways. On the other day, I said that it is only 20 per cent in respect of passenger traffic. Sixty per cent of the goods traffic is going to the road sector. Further, it would go up. By the end of the century, 63 per cent to 67 per cent would go to the road sector (goods traffic). If the Railways can carry 72 per cent of the goods traffic, then another Rs. 16000 crore would be saved. Shri Basudeb Acharia will bear me out when I say that, if the Railways can take care of the whole coal movement that is being offered

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

by the Coal India Limited, they can earn another Rs. 5,000-6,000 crore.

Who is now to be blamed? So, if you consider this Budget from all these angles, I would say that it is unimaginative, it is uninspiring, it is not commensurate with the growth that we are having; and much more has got to be done about it.

There were so many committees that were appointed earlier which have made indepth studies about the requirements of our future, about the condition that the Railways is facing today and also about what should be done regarding this. Railways had a Corporate Plan for a 15 year period, that is, from 1980 to 1995. Railways also had umpteen Committees Dr. M.N. Nanjundappa Committee, Prakash Tandon Committee, Poul Committee. These Committees have also given their recommendations, as the National Transport Policy Committee has given. What has happened to the recommendations of all these Committees? They are now lying in cold storage. There is no dearth of such studies, but there is a dearth of will power. Just taking populist measures will not help; a time has come now when there has got to be a national consensus about our transport sector.

I would like to quote from a World Bank report of 1995 entitled 'India - Transport Sector - long-term issue', authored by Robert Burnal, which says :

"Capacity constraint of the transport system together with that of the power sector, has a far greater constraint on overall economic growth of India."

This is a discussion on the Railway Budget and I need not say anything about power situation. Regarding power shortage, what has been the plight of the people in Delhi which is the Union's Capital, during the winter days?

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : The only point that you are missing out is that these are the 'accumulated problems' of the last so many years and not of the last seven months.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I will come to that. I do not think that it has happened overnight. I am the last man to say that it has happened overnight. But I analysed the other day, with facts and figures, how things have deteriorated. Functioning of the Railways has deteriorated over the period of last seven or eight months. For the information of the hon. Member from the CPI(M) Bench, I would say that when they took over the Office, the rate of inflation was 4.4 per cent. What is it today? It is around eight per cent. What will it be after two or three months? It would be around 12

per cent. Railway accidents have also increased nowadays.

When the General Budget was presented, what was the instant reaction of our CPI(M) friends. They have all welcomed it. But today, their General-Secretary, the most powerful person, Shri Surjeet has said that it is an elitist Budget. The other day, the West Bengal Chief Minister, and Shri Somnath Chatterjee and others were full of praise for it.

SHRI ANIL BASU : We have said it clearly. We would support all the positive steps and we would oppose all the negative aspects.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I will come to all 'positive things.'

I would give my suggestion on how the Railways can mobilise resources. We should not have just an *ad hoc* plan to appease a few sections of the population. We are not talking about the common passengers, but about the rate of inflation that is there. It will not spare the common man, it will not spare any ordinary passenger even those who have not seen a train. All thus would be affected by that.

So, a realistic approach is called for today. I shall come to the Demands for Grants, I would be doing injustice to my State which is backward and to the area that I represent in Parliament, if I do not mention its genuine demands and if I do not request the Government to consider them.

13.00 hrs.

Before that, as I have suggested, we should think as to what should be done about mobilising bounds. I am not going into the figures as to how many coaches or wagons we need to add and also about other things. As I said, several studies have been conducted and a minimum sum of Rs. 20,000 crore is needed for completion of the on-going projects with another minimum sum of about Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000 crore for electrification and gauge conversion and other things.

I have to thank the hon. Minister for one thing, that is, with his efforts, there has been an increase in the budgetary support this year. At one point of time, it was 75 per cent. Then, it came down to a very small figure of 16 per cent and this year, it is raised to 21 per cent. I have come across a news item about the Ninth Plan.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Panigrahi, you may continue after the Lunch Hour.

13.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at nine minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[English]

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

THE RAILWAY BUDGET — GENERAL
DISCUSSION — 1997-98

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT
(RAILWAYS) — 1997-98

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS —
RAILWAYS — 1994-95

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS —
RAILWAYS — 1996-97 - *Contd.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Sriballav Panigrahi.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, the growth of the Railways should be commensurate with the increase in the quantum of traffic and also the New Economic Policy. I was also referring to the fact that only five per cent growth has been projected in respect of goods traffic.

This year, this will be 410 million tonnes. As per some study made, in another ten years or so the growth of goods traffic will be of the order of 2000 to 2500 million tonnes. So, to keep pace with such needs of the country which are rising very fast, as the economy takes off, the Railways need reforms.

I do not know, what is the progress achieved. There was a proposal regarding some tourist trains to be run by private parties. I do not know what is the fate of that proposal. If it is successful, we can further increase running of trains in that sector. I have a few suggestions as to how funds can be mobilised to meet the increasing needs of the Railways.

The Budgetary support, which has registered an increase from 16 per cent to 21 per cent, should further be raised in the years to come. We understand that in the Approach Paper for the Ninth Plan there is a provision of about Rs. 8 lakh crore for public sector. Out of this amount, Rs. 3.5 lakh crore will be by way of Budgetary support. This is a good thing. I think Railways is number one public sector enterprise in our country having many unique features. I need not dwell on it because of time constraint, as also I do not want to repeat it here. Keeping in view the requirements of the Railways, adequate Budgetary support should be provided to it in the Ninth Plan.

Secondly, internal resource generation has to be improved further. The present position is very disappointing. Steps will have to be taken either by the Ministry or the Board to improve the performance of the

Railways. We have a work force of about 16 lakh people. Even the Economic Survey says that there is further scope for improvement of the productivity of the railway workers. At the same time, economy has to be observed. To minimize the expenditure, a large number of steps will have to be taken in this direction. Today, the working cost ratio is 91 per cent which is one of the highest in the world. Rake rate is one of the highest or the highest. Only seven months ago this was 85 per cent. It has now risen to 91 per cent. So, we have to improve the performance of the Railways. We have to bring down the working cost also.

Thirdly, there are two schemes under which work is being carried out in Railways - Build, Own, Lease, Transfer scheme (popularly known as BOLT), and the Own Your Wagon scheme. These schemes have achieved very limited success. The success that was expected from the working of these schemes at the time of floating them is nowhere to be seen. What are the loopholes? Ofcourse, from Own Your Wagon scheme we have been able to get about Rs. 576 crore. But the whole thing should be reviewed. Avenues of financial assistance from the World Bank should be explored. It has to be seen as to how further funds can be obtained by way of loan from different financial institutions.

In this connection, we cannot rule out the participation of private parties, industrialists, etc., in the functioning of Railways. But we have to be very selective. We have to very cautiously identify the areas which can be operated by the industrialists, MNCs, etc. so that the dominance of Railways and the importance of Railways is not undermined and at the same time, the huge financial support that is needed is also met to some extent from these sources. Regarding privatisation and all other things, we have to take national consensus. We have to take different political parties into confidence.

In the case of General Budget, we understand that there is an element of secrecy and confidentiality. But what is there in the Railway Budget to keep it confidential? Even if fares and freight are increased, it is not going to come into effect from the next day. Nobody purchases tickets in advance for black-marketing. That way two to three months before the presentation of the Railway Budget, the process of consultation with different political parties, with trade organisations and with labour unions can be very well done.

On another point I have a very concrete suggestion to give and that is regarding the utilisation of surplus land which was dealt by Shri Pramod Mahajan also. Railways have enough surplus land in different towns and cities along the railway track and at other places. After making a careful study of the requirement of resources, the surplus land could be estimated which would fetch huge amounts to the Railways. Added to that, there is another resource Railways can make use of. This may look somewhat awkward but this can also be a practical suggestion. It is about the utilisation of sky space over the tracks inside the metropolitan cities.

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

For this resource, sky is the limit. There is no limit to it. We have space available from eight or ten feet above the railway track. If utilisation of this space is properly planned and pursued, it will earn thousands and thousands of crores of rupees as revenue to the Railways. There were some who were toying with this idea but I do not know if this has moved any further. This idea should also be explored.

According to the recommendation of the National Transport Policy Committee, the requirement for railways multiplies. The needs multiply and the Railways cannot meet the requirement in transport sector. Short-distance traffic, both passenger and goods, should be left to the road sector because short-distance trains are running on losses.

Railway is making losses in the short distance sector. It could be handed over to the road sector. Railways should handle the long distance sector more diligently and efficiently. This is my other suggestion ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Panigrahi, you have already taken 55 minutes. Please conclude your speech within five minutes.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I am concluding.

The largest work force in our public sector in there in the Railways. In public sector there should be total transparency and the same has been promised in the Railway Budget Speech, so also in the Budget Speech. Transparency is not possible unless we ensure effective, meaningful and active participation of the workers in the management. Steps should be expeditiously taken to see that labour is associated, workers are associated with the management. I think that will naturally contribute to the increase of efficiency in the functioning of the Railways.

Before I go over to the demands of Orissa in a few minutes, I would like to request the hon. Minister that in view of the overall economic situation, it is time to reconsider 12 per cent increase in freight. The freight hike should be brought down. As I have explained earlier, it does have a cascading effect on the economy. What was the percentage six or seven months back? Common people cannot bear the burden of the freight hike of 12 per cent. It would have an adverse impact in the different sectors of our economy. That way, the Railways will do well to reconsider this and bring down the hike in the freight rate.

As regards the safety, security and the passenger amenities, the less said the better. Today also, there was a news of another robbery in Howrah-bound train near Patna. Naturally there was some uproar in the House during the Zero Hour. What is there in Patna, in Bihar? We have been seeing the situation of law and order in Patna. Regular and constant robberies, violent

incidents are taking place in the running trains and that too in and around Patna, the capital city of Bihar. What is this? It is disheartening, rather alarming.

There was a study that about 11000 Railway Policy Personnel (GRP) were required to operate in Bihar alone in 1977. Do you know the present position? It is 2500. What will happen with this number of police personnel there?

[Translation]

"SKANDHAM NA BADHTE RATAN, TAB BADHTI BADHTE."

[English]

This was the conversation between Vikramaditya and Kalidas in those days.

The Minister of Railways is expressing helplessness everywhere, inside the House, in Patna, and in Bhopal. He says that he has no control over the State Government. The GRP is under the State Government. Who is to sort out this? Of course, he says that the Prime Minister will take a meeting...*(Interruptions)* After saying all these things, this has again increased. This is the position of law and order in Patna.

Regarding financial discipline, les said the better. Everybody knows about the observations made by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Everybody knows about the observations made by the Chief Minister on the floor of the Assembly. So, there are financial irregularities. There is no rule of law. The Administration is not being run in accordance with the provisions of the Constitutions...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : The discussion is going on railways and not on the Government of Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will get a chance to speak. Please speak at that time.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : It is connected with the Railways. It is very much relevant...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please let him conclude.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members please sit down. Let him conclude.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : is there any State in India, where the Union Government looks after the administration...*(Interruptions)* If such an

incident takes place, we also come to know
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is concluding. Let him conclude.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Truth is truth.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : You must stick to the Railway Budget.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : This is part of the Railway Budget. If you do not understand it, what can I do?... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is concluding.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Safety, security and punctuality should be the main concern of the Railways. Now, the passengers do not feel safe or secured. In spite of the presence of GRP, looting and dacoities are taking place. There is some defect in the law. That should be sorted out. That is what I wanted to say.

The State, the Centre and all the other agencies connected with Railways are there to serve the common people. Safety, and security of the passengers is, and should be the main concern of the State Governments, the Central Government, the RPF and also the GPF. Any discrimination in this regard is meaningless to the common man. Therefore, we should sort it out.

Now, I am coming to Orissa. I will conclude in just two or three minutes. No speech on Railway Budget is complete without focussing the demands of my own State or my own area. That is why, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I seek your indulgence for two or three minutes and I will conclude.

Orissa, as I said, is the home of natural resources. It has abundant natural resources. But the paradox is that it is still suffering from abject poverty. In terms of railway-lines, the position of Orissa is much less than the national average. In terms of route kilometres. Orissa is far below the national average. In terms of per capita income again the position of Orissa is below the national average. But in terms of natural resources, it is one of the top States of the country. So, neglect of Orissa amounts to neglect of national economy. Tribal people are also there.

Kalahandi and Bolangir are often discussed here. So, you see the miserable conditions of the people there. A survey for two lines was done for Talcher-Bimbalgarh which was found positive. Bargarh-Raipur and Gunupur-Raygada lines are to be surveyed. In the Railway Budget, a promise has been made for completion of Sambalpur-Talcher line. But from our experience, we have reasons to doubt this announcement which was made on the floor of the

House. It is because, several times we have seen that in spite of the assurances given on the floor of the House, those assurances were never reflected in practice. More funds for Khurda-Bolangir line is needed. Bolangir, and Kalahandi are the severest drought-prone areas. Junagarh and Lanjigarh are in Kalahandi district. Sir, if more money is provided, that would also go a long way in giving a much needed relief to the people there.

That will supplement the relief operation, if work is started. Rs. 2 crore or Rs. 3 crore were provided in the last year's Budget but nothing has happened in the field so far. No work is done there, no office has been opened there. Therefore, Sir, give more money and see that it is really spent there and that the work starts on the ground.

Rupsa-Bangriposi is another line in Mayurbhanj tribal dominated area which needs gauge conversion. There also the same problem is there as in the case of Khurda Balangir and Junagarh-Lanjigarh line. This gauge conversion should be there. Jagrupa-Bansparni line, as I said, should be treated as a national line because it will significantly contribute to the economic growth of the nation as a whole.

Talcher-Sukinda line had been surveyed but no work has started there as yet. In terms of ratio, that is the expenditure and the benefits that will come out of it, it is highest in the country. This deserves to be given top most priority. It is also before the Planning Commission now. Doubling of Talcher-Paradeep line, Jharsiguda-Titlagarh line and Khurda and Puri Line, need to be expedited.

Electrification is going at a snail's speed between Balasore to Bhubaneswar and Bhubaneswar to Waltair. This has to be looked into. Frequency of Rajdhani Express to Orissa should be increased. This has been, of course, promised by the Minister of Railways when a delegation of MPs from Orissa met him. The hon. Minister made certain promises. I am constrained to observe that in the last year's Budget Speech, it found expression and while inaugurating the new zonal office, the Prime Minister also made certain declarations there but even the Prime Minister's announcements are not given effect to. They are not being implemented. This is the plight of this country.

Frequency of Sambalpur-Nizamuddin Express should be increased and two new trains between Rourkela and Raipur via Sambalpur and another DMU between Berahmpore, another divisional headquarters and Bhubaneswar should be introduced. There should be a direct train to Berhampore from the *Rajdhani*, that is, from Delhi. Extension of the bi-weekly Cochin-Chhatisgarh Superfast to Jharsiguda was earlier promised by the ex-Railway Board Chairman, Mr. Bhatnagar when I happened to see him. But it is yet to see the light of the day.

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

I would now touch upon the conditions of the platforms and passenger amenities in Orissa, particularly, in western parts of Orissa. Their condition is awful. It is miserable. Out of 7,000 stations, in about 6,000 stations in our country there is no improvement in the amenities being provided to the passengers since Independence. In western Orissa these are all profit making railway stations. These include Rajganjpur, Rourkela, Jharsiguda, Belpahar, Bajrajnagar and Talcher from where revenue worth crores of rupees is earned from coal and other sectors. But you cannot find drinking water there. Even raw water is supplied at Jharsiguda station.

I would also request the hon. Minister to sanction fly-over at Bhadrak, Belpalar, Chainpal, Chowkipuda at Jharsiguda. There are so many other things but I am not going in detail. I would request the hon. Minister of State for Railways to please take a note of these.

Of course, what the hon. Minister of State would say? He has his own grievances. The Minister of State is not given any powers. But whatever it is, Railways is like a Government within a Government. It has its own autonomy. That is why, we have a separate Budget for Railways. It had its dominance earlier but now that dominance has dwindled down. So Railways dominance should be ensured.

The Railways should be brought on the rail. The functioning of the Railways has been derailed. It has to be brought back on the tracks so that there is a healthy functioning of the Railways. We want that Railways prosper because no other transport can replace the Railways.

Sir, I am constrained to observe that the Railway Budget falls short of all the requirements. It does not have a vision. It does not have a proper direction. That is why, I said that it is not imaginative and it is not inspiring. Therefore, looking at the future and looking at the dominance that it should also have over the economy of the country and keeping all our targets - targeted growth and other things - in mind, I gave different suggestions as to how to improve it and how to mop up funds, etc. And that is the way for making it totally transparent, taking the people into confidence, the political parties into confidence, their workers into confidence and enlisting their meaningful participation.

I wish the Railways to prosper. Let the Railways also rise from their deep slumber, be realistic; it should not go only by taking populist decisions because sometimes it is necessary to take hard decisions also. And this way a congenial climate can be built, we can see that the Railways flourish and the Railways also go along on our cherished lines.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever has been said by the hon. Member has been noted down by me...*(Interruptions)* I have no grievances on what he is saying...*(Interruptions)* We would make all efforts to implement his suggestions...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We observe the functioning and only then we speak...*(Interruptions)* You should give more work.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now I call upon Shri Nawal Kishore Rai to speak.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, the Minister of Railways is not present in the House. The Railway Budget is an important Budget. Why is he not present here?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways is present here...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The Minister of State for the Ministry of Railways is all right. He cannot do anything. Why is the Minister of Railways not present here?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways is present here.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways is present here but he is not doing anything. The Minister of Railways should be present in this House and he has to listen to the grievances of all the Members...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will inform the senior Minister.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Bihar has already been given enough...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : I am telling...*(Interruptions)* I have all the data...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ : We are sitting here to serve you...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We want the Minister of Railways to be present here. We do not have any grievance with the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways. But why is the Minister of Railways not present here?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : A message will be sent to the hon. Minister of Railways.

Now, please allow Shri Rai to speak.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Had you been on this side, you would also have spoken like this...(*Interruptions*). Is it an important budget or not...(*Interruptions*) He is helpless, he will not be able to do anything...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : He is not helpless...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are sending the message to the hon. Railway Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not correct to say that the State Minister can not do anything while sitting here...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why do you prolong this discussion?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways is noting down the points. Everything is going on record...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already told you.

(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : He has to listen to our submissions since it is an important budget...(*Interruptions*) Our grievances are not with him...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The senior Minister has come.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : This is not the Government of the Congress party. It is the United Front Government...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Had it been the Congress Government the Minister would have been present here...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ : It is a matter of joint responsibility...(*Interruptions*) I am sitting in place of the hon. Minister...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had gone out with your permission...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is what I was saying.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The committee of Ministers had a meeting. Mamata Banerjee herself had been the Minister. The meeting of the committee of Research was going on and the subject was power. I had gone out with the permission of the Chair...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Minister no one was aware of it...(*Interruptions*) Can't we say anything...(*Interruptions*) Is there any objection in speaking...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now that the hon. Minister of Railways has come, this matter should end here.

Now, please allow Shri Nawal Kishore Rai to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Railway Budget for the year 1997-98.

Many hon. Members have expressed their views. The Railway Budget under discussion is definitely a balanced Railway Budget to remove the regional imbalance. It is the 50th year of freedom, the golden jubilee year of freedom. The decisions taken by the hon. Railway Minister in this year of golden jubilee are praiseworthy and welcome. I would like to welcome him on behalf of my party and myself.

I would like to submit that we had given a patient hearing to the views expressed by the hon. Members. After freedom in 1947, for 50 years the development of railway has been neglected in Jammu and Kashmir, North Eastern states, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland in the remote Northern parts of Bihar, Tripura and in the deserts of Rajasthan. I was also a Member of the last Lok Sabha and we have been continuously raising questions about the problems related to every nook and corner. We held discussion on the Railway Budget also and the then Prime Minister had given assurance but these areas which have been neglected for 50 years could not get justice. Therefore, we would like to call this budget a balanced budget for social justice. Hon. Ram Vilas Paswan ji has proved himself as the best Railway Minister in giving dynamism to the budget as he has improved upon his performance of the last year justice to the areas, which have been neglected for 50 years.

He has got development in the seven states of North east. We have been receiving dozens of telegrams and hundreds of letters in the organisation from our colleagues as congratulations. The hon. Railway Minister of the United Front Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji has visited each and every state of the North East and he had been to Kashmir also to remove the imbalance, on which none of the previous Governments of the last 50 years have paid attention. On account of it a lot of

[Shri Nawal Kishore Rai]

problems cropped up there. The solution to these problems was the development of Railways, which the hon. Railway Minister has done in this Railway Budget.

While speaking on his railway budget he clearly said that besides being a professional organisation the railways has to be a welfare organisation and it has to play a role for providing amenities to the neglected ones by taking up social welfare measures. The Hon. Minister has stated as to how the rail budget was presented in a short time and the circumstances under which it was presented.

The increase in the freight charges has been made keeping in view the villagers, poor farmers and common passengers. Ninety percent of the one crore ten lakh daily rail passengers travelling in ordinance class are villagers and small business men. People in cities, also travels trains from one place to another. Season ticket holders are also there. All are low income people. Under adverse conditions when the budget support is low, the inflation is rising and there is resources crunch the hon. Minister of railway took a historical step by not increasing the fares of ordinary class.

He has touched the hearts of villagers and poor people. There is no increase in the fare of season ticket a marginal increase has been made a sleepers and A.C. class. He has tried to understand the difficulties of common man in villages. In fact Railway Minister has proved to be a true sympathisers of villages as the saying goes. Village saying - "the wearer knows where the shoe pinches." One who rises from the lower strata of society and from poor village life understands the agony of villages. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have also come from the lower level. Due to this background the Railway Minister, the who symbolises of social justice has considered the needs of common man. As such it is a balanced budget of common people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to say that the hon. Railway Minister is committed to making railway a public welfare institution. An all out effort has been made to fulfil that commitment. I welcome this. I would like to say something about the position of railways in 1950-51 vis-a-vis 1995-96. In 1950-51 there was 53000 k.m. rail line in the country. After fifty years i.e. in 1995-96 it increase to 62000 k.m.s. Railway lines have ben laid in every nook and corner of the country. Whether it is hilly area, the North-Eastern states, the Northern area of Bihar, areas Himachal Pradesh or Kashmir. More work has been done on professional lines in the railways. This time the hon'ble Railway Minister has taken decision with full will power and every effort has been made to remove the imbalance in respected of people who have been deprived of railway facilities in the country. I would like to furnish data regarding the increase of rail line in fifty years. In 1990-91, 300 k.m. lines was spread. In 1991-92 it was

reduced to 242 km. In 1992-93, 319 km., 1993-94, -204 km., 1994-95, -145 km., 1995-96 -137 km. The target has again been reduced in 1996-97. After that this year he has promised in the house of develop the railway as a public welfare institution and the figure has increased to 139 km. in this budget, we welcome that this required to be increased further. The neglected areas must be covered by the public welfare institution. Certainly its development must take place in neglected areas.

Hon'ble members have discussed many things. Before you. I welcome this budget and want to make some suggestions. Efficiency of the railways must be increased. Hon'ble Minister has paid attention to this aspect in this budget and in the last year's budget also. Computerisation has been increased. I had also requested earlier and again request that more transparency should be budget in by expanding computerisation.

The work relating to increase in efficiency which was pending for the years and for which many committees of railway had given reports that the number of zones should be increased. Now decentralization of work has been done by adding 5 more zones. I welcomed it.

I would like to suggest that transparency should be ensured in the railways by increasing decentralisation. It will speed up work, ensure transparency and improve the condition of Railways. Alongwith it I would like to request that the railway lines in backward areas which have either been declared uneconomical should be made economical so that those areas could also develop. With the development of those areas our country will become stronger. Besides the Railways should make its industrial and financial institutions more self reliant so that it might become strong. As a result thereof the country will also become strong.

The Railways have vast tracts of surplus land. I agree to the suggestion of the hon'ble Members that the hon'ble Minister should make a detailed assessment of it. A committee should be set up to recommend measures to make commercial use of railway land.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to congratulate the hon'ble Minister that after his assuming office, the process of recruitment has speeded up. The process of filling up the vacancies in the Railways has been speeded up. We welcome if the Railway Minister has taken action to fill up the backlog of reservations in respect of SCs, STs and OBCs under the special recruitment drive. At the time the Hon. Minister gives his reply, we would like to know as to far he has been successful and how far the vacant posts have been filled up. This is the question before us today. It is expected that the backlog of reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs in the Railways would be filled up during the current financial year itself under the stewardship of the hon. Minister of Railways.

The number of zones have been increased to zones. There are 15 zones and without the number of divisions in the Railways would go upto 50. In this time of social justice none of the posts of D.R.M. and G.M. has an SC or ST incumbent. We are celebrating the Golden Jubilee year of independence. We want to discuss the problem threadbare was to how none of the posts of DRM and GM has an SC or ST incamsent. Through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether persons from these categories having necessary qualifications, will get justice during his tennure? Whatever markings or entries are made in the service Books are made with a bias the SC and ST officers are deliberately denied opportunities. I would like to read from the 13th instant edition of Kuber Times. It has been written in it "Padonnati ko lekar Paswan aur Raw mei thani." Such news are coming daily in newspapers. The hon. Minister intends to do it, he has a will to do it and he will do it boldly. He wants to take action far ensuring that no untoward entries are made in the service books of qualified officers belonging to SCs and STs categories and they get justice. Not a single SC and ST person is working on higher posts or on policy making posts. These things have come to light because he wants to do this work. We want to request that the difficulty in reaching the SC and ST officers on that post should be removed by making comprehensive changes in the procedure. I want to put this question to the hon. Minister. I hope that he would take some revolutionary steps in this regard would work for justice to them.

Similarly, I welcome the decision taken in regard to regularising the daily wage workers and the provision made in the Railway budget. I urge upon the hon. Minister to like other steps required to be taken for daily wage workers and regularise the Daily wage workers. Alongwith it, action should be taken for regularising of those workers on priority basis who have worked for a year six months or two months and now sitting idle. If those steps are taken in this direction, poor people who are connected with Railways would be benefitted.

14.57 hrs.

[SHRI CHITTA BASU *in the Chair*]

I would like to make a suggestion for increasing the efficiency. The present practice of transfers in railways from one zone to another must continue. Such transfers after three years will definitely increase efficiency. Just now, hon. Member, Shri Panigrahi was expressing his views on Railway Budget. Whenever any member gets an opportunity, he never fails discuss the increase in the incidents of crimes in Railways also definitely associate myself with the concern of the hon'ble members and share it. Some permanent solution should be found not for it. But whenever any incident occur in railways, it is politicised. I want to say that they must

see the facts before politicising it. When hon'ble Member Panigrihi was making his speech, we had mentioned something about Bihar. He exaggerate the point in respect of Bihiar. Crimes are committed in Railways all over the country, but he is concerned about Bihar only. When hon'ble Pramod Mahajan was speaking. We heard the same thing. I rise to oppose it. There is a newspaper 'Nav Bharat Times' and 'Bhasa' is its news agency. I would like to place its report in the House. it says - Maharashtra has the highest number of crimes in railways and last year Maharashtra had the highest number of incidents of heinous crime i.e. 1920. Thereafter comes Uttar Pradesh with 1843 incidents of crime. There were 665 incidents of crime in West Bengal. According to official sources Bihar figures fourth in the list. 584 henious crimes took place in Bihar. Similarly, the figures of other states have also been given in it. Therefore, I would like to clarify that keeping these facts in view Bihar should be talked about. It is true that Janata Dal is in power in Bihar.

15.00 hrs.

The Minister of Railways is also from Bihar. I express my apprehensions, because people don't discuss on these figures...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL (Erandol) : Fifty per cent of the passengers are there in Maharashtra. Out of 110 lakh passengers moving around the country, 55 lakh are there in Maharashtra.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : You have rightly said. Sir, I have mentioned this figure to you and I want to say that during the last one week, two four incidents occurred in trains in Bihar. The responsibility for law and order lies with the states. I would like to express my apprehension regarding the discussions held here. Every day two to four incidents in a week have occurred regularly in a planned way in Bihar. I have an apprehension that there is a vile politics involved somewhere in it. The Railway Minister hails from to Bihar where the Janata Dal is in power. The Hon'ble Minister's Party is in power there. Through this apprehension, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that enquiry should be conducted into this. Whether such efforts are being made to gain political advantage. We have read in the Newspapers and I would like to thank the Minister that he has taken a decision to convene a meeting of all the Chief Ministers of the country and some concrete solution would be found out after considering it seriously keeping in view the anguish expressed by the House and sufferings undergone by the passengers. I would also request the House to give a clear opinion and suggestion to the Minister on these points to arrive at a concrete decision so that the law and order system which at present is solely in the hands of the state may undergo some

[Shri Nawal Kishore Rai]

changes and the Railway Protection Force may come to have some more powers to deal with such incidents and happenings.

Mr. Chairman, through you, I would like to request that when ever any Member starts discussion, definitely he would mention that much has been done for Bihar in this railway budget. Now, when I stood to speak some hon'ble members told me just to convey my thanks. Much has been done for Bihar. This is 50th year and Golden Jubilee year of Independence. The Minister has taken a decision to run trains in the year. Through the House, I praise and welcome this decision of the Minister. Along with this, I would also like to say that discussions have been held repeatedly in this House regarding the favour bestowed on the one hand and neglect meted out on the other leading to more regional imbalances in the matters of laying doubling and electrification of railway lines during the last fifty years of independence in North Bihar, North east state Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, desert land Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh but these areas did not get justice. I would like to tell you that when Late Lalit Babu was a Minister in Bihar he had conducted survey in a big way. He had laid foundation stone of only one scheme Darbhanga-Samastipur broad gauge railway line on 2nd October, 1975 but it could not be completed since 1975 till 1994-95 and no work has been done. In this way those 18 districts of North Bihar have been neglected and no justice has ever been done. Whenever any member expressed his anguish over this, he used to get a mere assurance in this regard. I would like to congratulate the Minister for doing justice by allocation some amount for a scheme or two for places where doubling and electrification has not been done for even a single kilometers and not even 1 kilometer new railway line has been laid for the last as many as 20 years. The Minister has allocated amount for construction of new railway line, Sitamarhi and Muzaffarnagar which touches my area. Some people are feeling jealous and they are worried when the Minister has allocated some among for a broadgauge line or two.

Sir, I want to make an appeal to the House that the North East states such as North Bihar, Kashmir region, Hilly region, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan have been neglected for the last 50 years. The hon'ble Minister has taken a fine step and presented a balanced budget, last time as well as this time for taking care of the neglected and the deprived areas and regions and also taken a decision to undertake work in this regard. For this he deserves around praise, appreciation and cooperation all over the country. We would like to request the Government also to increase the budgetary support, for his commitment to develop the railways into vocational organisation besides being a welfare

institution and for his decisions taken for neglected areas and the Government should increase the budgetary to Railways and the Minister should get around cooperation so that the process can be continued.

Mr. Chairman, I will conclude my speech in a short time. I will putforth some suggestions regarding my state and then I will conclude my speech. I welcome and thank the hon'ble Minister for taking care of Bihar in the last and the current budgets. Sir, you should also congratulate the Minister for whatever he has done for the neglected regions and you should also support us and ask him to complete if anything has been left out or if any shortcoming is there.

The Minister has decided and promised to construct railway bridge on Ganga in Bihar. It should be completed at the earliest. Then only the pace of development in Bihar will get accelerated. Whatever schemes have been formulated, should be implemented. When the Minister has visited Bihar, he had given an assurance to provide funds connecting Sitamarhi, Sonversha, Bhitamoh, Madhubani. We should also think over it. The Minister had also given assurance for conducting survey from Sitamarhi to Motihaari via Shivhari. Mr. Chairman, through you, I would like to remind the Minister that a demand for an overbridge on eastern Gumti of Sitamarhi is already lying pending. The State Government has also written about it. The people have to wait for hours at the railway crossing in Hajipur where G.M. office is situated and further there is one more railway crossing where also an overbridge is required. Particularly Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi has come under this budget and funds have already been provided to Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. Action may be taken for completing that also.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV (Godda) : Nothing is being done in Dumka in South Bihar at present. Do take up this. It is also a part of Bihar.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : I have not completed my speech. Hon'ble Yadav ji has raised a question regarding Dumka in South Bihar, I support it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please keep the time limit in mind while speaking.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Bharat wagon in Bihar comes under the Ministry of Industry. Bharat wagon has been manufacturing wagons for the railways. Now it is in a bad shape. It is not getting orders for railway wagons. Through you, I would like to request the Minister to place adequate orders of wagons with Bharat wagon so that the concerned industry's position could be strengthened. Similarly, the Prime Minister had visited Kishanganj.

I would like to remind hon'ble Minister that hon'ble Prime Minister had assured to provide new railways

line from Arariya to Galgaliya. Perhaps money has been paid in survey. I have drawn his attention towards it also. No work has been undertaken around Bihar for the last fifty years. Today if one or two schemes of that area is undertaken, it becomes a subject of discussion again and again. Overdue works of last fifty years that is since independence are going to be taken up now. We are going to pay our attention towards that poor and backward state. The number of travelling common people in this state is more as compared to other states on the basis of population. Justice should be done to them.

In the last budget the hon'ble Railway Minister had introduced in our area a new train, Gandak Express which starts from Darbhanga and terminates at Gorakhpur. In this budget it has been extended upto Jainagar. We welcome this step but it does not provide a link either from Jainagar to Gorakhpur or for coming to Delhi. While replying the hon'ble Minister will do well to consider it. This train should be extended upto Nizammuddin via Jainagar, Darbhanga and Gorakhpur so that the poor and common people of remote rural areas lying on the border with Nepal can reach Delhi and other parts of country. With this request I once again support this budget whole heartedly. I have already mentioned about Galgaliya. Welcoming the budget, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the present Railway Minister, in the month of July, presented his first Budget and when there was a discussion on that Budget, we made a number of suggestions in regard to improvement in the efficiency of railway operations because Railways have been an important infrastructure in our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please do not think that I am disturbing you. I just want to say that your Party has got 29 minutes and there are many Members of your Party among others who want to speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I always speak for one hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot disown the arithmetics. You can please start now. I am only saying that this arithmetic is there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But we do not find that the suggestions which were made by us on the floor of the House, last time, and accepted by the Minister of Railways have been implemented. Only one positive thing that we have seen is an increase in the budgetary support. In the Standing Committee on Railways, what we thought was that unless there is an increase in the budgetary support, there cannot be any expansion of railway network. The railway network has to be taken to

all the areas in our country, particularly to the inaccessible areas. Now, the Planning Commission has considered it because of our request and of the unanimous demand of this House, and there was a little increase of Rs. 400 crore in budgetary support. But that amount of Rs. 400 crore is not sufficient. What we wanted was that the budgetary support, which was 75 per cent in the year 1951-52, should be restored because railway is not only for the Railways, but railway is for the entire country. Unless we have railways, we cannot have industrialisation, and we cannot have development in agriculture, in industry and in our economy.

It is also that Railways cannot be only a commercial organisation. We cannot consider Railways to be a commercial organisation. In a country like India, there must be social responsibility on the Railways also, and because of that, the Central Government should bear the expenditure on expansion and extension of the railway network.

There is a scope for increasing the revenue also. We will have to see whether, in the Budget presented by the Railway Minister, he has tried to do that. In our country, the freight traffic is to the extent of 1,200 billion tonne kilometres. But how much is being carried by Railways? The Railways are carrying only 291 billion tonne kilometres. Is there any scope to carry, at least, 75 per cent of the freight traffic which is there in our country? There is a scope to do that.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : The freight traffic by railways has got reduced than that by road.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am coming to that context.

[English]

We suggested that Railways should try to carry, at least, what they used to carry in the year 1951-52. Railways used to carry 78 per cent of the freight traffic in the year 1950-51 and gradually, within these years, Railways reduced it to 38 per cent or 40 per cent.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : What about the passenger traffic?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Same is the case with the passenger traffic. There was a reduction in the passenger traffic also. So, Railway should try to increase the freight traffic as well as the passenger traffic. If Railways carry 72 per cent of the freight traffic, then what will be the saving in foreign exchange? The saving will be Rs. 15,000 crore in foreign exchange. We are importing petroleum products and in order to carry one billion tonnes, Railways need five million litres of high speed diesel, and in order to carry one billion tonnes by road, the road sector needs 35 million litres of high speed diesel. So, if more freight traffic is carried by

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Railways, it can earn revenue also. Last time, I gave an example. Coal India is producing about 300 million tonnes of coal every year, although China is producing 1,000 million tonnes of coal every year. Railways are carrying only 135 million tonnes of coal. Coal is the bulk traffic of the Indian Railways. If Railways carry 100 million tonnes of coal more, then it can earn about Rs. 6,000 crore. Why? coal is carried from Asansol, Dhanbad and Talcher to Chandigarh or to Delhi or to Punjab by road. Why can it not be done by Railways? You will see that there is a reduction in the revenue also. In the last several years, there is a reflection in the reduction of revenue also.

The net revenue also declined from Rs. 4,136 crore in 1995-96 to Rs. 3,503 crore in 1996-97 whereas the operational ratio has also been increased to 91 per cent from 88 per cent in the year 1995-96. The question is whether we are in a position to carry more freight traffic or not.

Sir, we have five per cent railway network in our country. Our target for this year is 410 million tonnes. The Railway Minister has fixed the target for the next year at 430 million tonnes of traffic. Whereas China having six per cent of railway net work, what is it carrying? With almost the same network, China is carrying four times traffic more than what the Indian Railways carry. We have 62,000 KM. of railway track. China has 67,000 KM. of railway track. In 1947, we had 53,000 KM. of railway track. From 53,000 KM. of railway track, our achievement is to the extent of only 62,000 KM. In 1949, China had only 11,000 KM. of railway track. Now its achievement is from 11,000 KM. to 67,000 KM. of railway track. But it carries four times more than what our Railways carry. It carries more than 1000 million tonnes of freight traffic. We can also do that.

Our priority has to be fixed. What should be our priority? Should our priority be gauge conversion alone? I am not objecting to converting from metre gauge or narrow gauge to broad gauge wherever it is necessary. Can we have really the unigauge system in our country? We cannot have it. In this House, when the Project Unigauge was conceived, I told the then Railway Minister Shri Jaffer Sharief that his dream would remain a dream but in future we would not have the unigauge system. The point is that we will have to have the broad gauge, the metre gauge and the narrow gauge systems also.

What have we done? In regard to increase in our capacity, is the metre gauge system less efficient than the broad gauge system? The metre gauge system is not less efficient than the broad gauge system. There are many countries like South Africa, Malaysia and the East-European countries which are having the metre gauge system. They have metre gauge system and that metre gauge system is more efficient than even our

broad gauge system. In respect of our goods trains, our average speed is 25 KM. The average speed in those countries is more than 55 KM. in respect of goods train. If we can increase the speed of our goods trains, if we can strengthen our track, we can carry much more. But we have not renewed our metre gauge track. For years together, this metre gauge system has been neglected. Last year, while replying to the discussion on the Railway Budget, the Railway Minister admitted that the Ministry of Railways should try to acquire metre gauge rolling stock also. But he has not placed any order for the metre gauge rolling stock - for coaches, for wagons and for replacement of the old and overaged metre gauge track. We are having a track of 50-60 years old. In my constituency, you know, Sir, the Railway Ministry is renewing the entire track in the Adra-Midnapore section.

But the track that we are using, is a sixty year old track. We have reduced the allocation on track renewal which is most essential for safe and efficient railway operation. Even the high-powered Committee like the Railway Reforms Committee recommended that over-aged tracks should be replaced, wiped out and a time-bound programme should be taken up. We will continue to have the over-aged tracks even till the end of this century. We have spent more than Rs. 6,000 crore for gauge conversion. What is our return? I asked this question last time also as also before last year. I have not yet received any reply.

I wanted the Railway Ministry and the Railway Board to examine it or to make a study as to why we have invested Rs. 6,000 crore for gauge conversion. The norm is that the return should be 14 per cent. It was 12 per cent earlier. Now it has been increased to 14 per cent. What is the return? What is the addition in our capacity? Has the capacity been increased? Has any study been undertaken? I have not yet received any reply.

I request the Railway Minister at least to undertake a study as to why we have invested Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 7,000 crore for gauge conversion. I would like to know whether that conversion at all has added to industrialisation. When this argument was made, we criticised it. The Standing Committee on Railways had also criticised it saying that massive gauge conversion was not rational and it was not appropriate. Instead of investing this amount of Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 7,000 crore on gauge conversion, that amount should have been invested on expansion of railway network. We are asking for railway lines.

I must congratulate the Railway Minister as I had done last time, for taking steps to linking backward areas of North Eastern region with the railway lines. The amount that was available with the Railway Ministry was spent for gauge conversion. Had that amount been spent for extension of railway network, by this time, most of our areas which are not connected with railway

network - even now, there are district headquarters in West Bengal and in other States also like Dumka, Dinajpur or State headquarters of North Eastern States which are not connected with railways - we would have got railway lines in those areas also. What should be our priority? Our priority should not be massive gauge conversion. We should make our metre-gauge system also as efficient as others. Our priority should not be to import high-power electric locomotives by spending Rs. 700 crore. It is now a *fait accompli*. This decision was a wrong decision. We had criticised it in this House also.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Achariaji, you should mention something about advertisements also... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I leave it for you.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : You speak on it every time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This time I leave it for you. You may speak on advertisements.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not waste your time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You can exclude this time.

Sir, we are importing and we have already imported engines. I had myself, when we were committed to visit CLW, inaugurated the Second AVV Engine which was assembled by CLW workers. The engine is good. The technology is modern one and up-to-date. We do not argue on that score.

But my point is, whether we can afford to spend Rs. 700 crore for mere import of 36,000 three-phases horse power locomotives with technology or our production unit can produce locomotives of 5,000 horse power. Although our technology may not be up-to-date technology but with Rs. 700 crore we can lay more railway lines in inaccessible and backward areas of our country.

So, our priority should be expansion of the network. For that, the hon. Minister of Railways has increased the amount by about Rs. 100 crore, *i.e.*, from Rs. 285 crore which was last year to Rs. 399 crore in this year's Railway Budget. But an increase of Rs. 100 crore will not be sufficient, Mr. Railway Minister. You will see that during the course of debate so many demands come for new lines.

When I went into the border areas of Assam, Bengal and Kooch Behar to attend a rally, I was surprised to see that 60,000 people came there for one single demand, that is, a new railway line from New

Moynaguri-Kooch Behar-Dhubri-Baxirhat-Dhubri-Jogigopa. Amar Da was also there with me. So, I spoke to the hon. Railways Minister about the demand of 60,000 people and requested him to consider it. I am happy that he has considered it. He has included it for survey because unless the survey is done, a new railway line cannot be sanctioned. It is the demand of all the political parties not only of Kooch Behar but also of North Bengal and West Bengal to give new line there. Mere survey will not satisfy. Along with the survey, please sanction those lines. Along with the conversion from meter gauge to broad gauge from New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-Alipuduar and Kooch Behar, give a new line now.

We have gone to Guwahati. We have seen the bottlenecks. Only one single broad gauge line is there, which was opened in 1984. After 1984 - not prior to 1984 - so many trains were introduced. Every year, new trains are introduced but the capacity is not being increased. So, our priority should be an extension from single line to double line and to clear the entire backlog and for increase in allocation for signal and telecommunication system in railways. The Standing Committee on Railways, after the Ferozabad Accident, had considered it. Even the present Railway Minister also participated in that debate.

This year, he has brought out a booklet.

Good information is there. Here also human failure is about 86 per cent. Is there any scope for the reduction of human failure? He has admitted here and stated that "signalling plays a vital role in promoting safety by minimising the impact of human error and in safety of train operation". Signalling and telecommunication are very vital, very important for efficient and safe railway operation. If track circuit was provided in Ferozabad Station in Allahabad Division, that accident would not have hapened. Simply because the track circuit was not provided, Shri Ghore Lal, who was the Switchman, was penalised. So, is there scope for reduction in the human failure? There is a scope for reduction in the human failure by induction of modern technology and by improving our signalling system.

We are still using age-old signalling system. There are three or four types of signalling systems. Why can we not have a uniform signalling system? Why can we not spend more for signalling system? But, instead of spending more for signalling system, he has reduced the allocation for signal and telecommunication. He will, in reply to this debate, say that the reduction is not in the signalling, but in the telecommunication. Both signalling and telecommunication are important. Communication between the car and the driver, communication between the driver and the station master and the control, all these are required. So, I request him not to reduce it, but try to increase the

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

allocation for signal and telecommunication. He will say wherefrom he will get the money. He can reduce the allocation for gauge conversion. He can try to carry more freight traffic and he will get money. So, there is a scope for increasing the revenue.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi) : Just a minute, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. He has got very little time.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : He is giving me the time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This will be excluded from my time, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Achariaji, are you yielding?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am yielding.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, he can ask for clarification from the Railway Minister But he is not the Railway Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Achariaji, has ability of a Minister. What I would like to know from is how to mobilise resources?

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You read my speech. We have told about it there in.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Achariaji, I have already informed the House and you also that the total time allotted for your party is 29 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Now I am coming to a very important subject concerning one crore sixty lakh persons.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not stopping you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am not speaking irrelevant. This is a policy matter. I will later on come to some of the projects and some of the demands. Our Members are also expecting that I should mention all these things.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not objecting to it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I know Sir, you will not object to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not objecting to your speaking. Please make it hurriedly so that others can also take part.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am coming to my point. I will come to the specific points afterwards, including my point on your constituency also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no extra facility for that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There are about 120 lakh passengers who use the Railways. The Standing

Committee on Railways has recommended an increase in the allocation for passenger amenities. After the recommendation was made by the Standing Committee, the allocation was increased from Rs. 40 crore to Rs. 60 crore. Then, subsequently, it was increased to Rs. 103 crore. But this year, it has been reduced from Rs. 103 crore to less than Rs. 100 crore.

There are a number of stations where the basic minimum amenities which ought to be provided are not provided. This is the experience of all the hon. Members of this House. You will not find even rail level platforms there.

In my district, one narrow gauge line Purulia-Kotshila, has been converted into a broad gauge line by spending Rs. 15 crore. There is one station, Gurhjaipur, which you have visited, where you have addressed a number of meetings at the time of elections. You will be surprised to know that a full-fledged station has been converted into a halt station. Even a rail level platform was not provided there. There are a number of stations where the usual amenities are not existing. I request the hon. Minister not to reduce the allocation for this...*(Interruptions)* You should not look at the clock. You kindly forget about the time. Let me make my points hurriedly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have got more time. But you complete it as soon as possible.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Then I come to the suburban services in Calcutta - both the Sealdah Division and the Howrah Division. The Howrah Division is in your constituency. You have raised a number of complaints. You have also sent a number of letters to the hon. Minister. You will be surprised to know the plight of the local passengers of Sealdah and Howrah. About thirty per cent of the EMU coaches are over-aged there...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Yadavji, was not present, he went to Goa, we were there.

[English]

It has been admitted that thirty per cent of the EMU coaches in Sealdah and Howrah Divisions are over-aged but there is no plan for their replacement because your programme for acquisition is only for 200 EMU coaches which will not be sufficient. You can manufacture. You can ask the manufacturing unit. Jessops is a public sector undertaking. They can manufacture EMU coaches. Both the production units, RCF and ICF can manufacture EMU coaches. So, you should try to procure more EMU coaches from them to replace the entire over-aged EMU coaches. Why can Calcutta's suburban service not have them if Mumbai's suburban service can have twelve EMU coaches? Why can Calcutta not have that so that the capacity could be increased?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I am coming to that point. We went to Jamalpur. Before that no Parliamentary Committee visited the place we remaining there for three hours. We went there.

[English]

It is the oldest workshop. You will be surprised to know that the capacity of such a good workshop is not being utilised. I made a suggestion three years ago that even our workshops can take up manufacturing of rolling stock. Why should we import brake-down cranes from foreign countries? I have objected to it. I have written to the hon. Minister not to import these brake-down cranes. These cranes of 140 tonnes capacity can be procured from Jamalpur. Shri Jagdambi Prasad Yadav, your Jamalpur workshop can manufacture them. Jessops can manufacture brake-down cranes.

The workshops in our own public sector undertakings can manufacture them. Why should we import crane? Why should we spend crores of rupees for importing cranes, coaches and wagons? There was a crisis. He has planned for acquisition of 26,000 wagons for the next year. Wagon industry is the most important industry of the State of West Bengal. Sixty thousand workers are directly involved and another sixty thousand workers are indirectly involved in manufacturing of auxiliaries. They have stated the overview of the Ninth Five Year Plan. They have stated that Railways would require 1,75,000 wagons during the Ninth Five Year Plan. If you plan for 26,000 wagons for the next year, how will you be able to acquire 1,49,000 wagons within the next four years? So, you plan for acquisition of more wagons. Unless you have more wagons, you cannot carry more freight. Unless you have more coaches, you cannot carry more passengers.

Sir, you have the experience of travelling by the local trains. I too have the experience of travelling in the local trains. Yesterday also I came from Agra by a local train to catch Rajdhani Express.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should also have the experience of time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : See the plight of the coaches, not in the EMUs, but the conventional coaches of local trains. You will not find shutter. The coaches are dilapidated. The fans do not work. During night, there is no light. We had the experience. We went to Ranchi to inaugurate a division. In the morning we got into one train. We found how the passengers use the lavatory. We found there was no door. How are these trains maintained? How can the coaches of the passenger trains and the rakes be maintained, if you reduce the staff strength? Essential posts are not being filled up. In Railways, there is an instruction to reduce two per cent staff strength. There is an embargo in the

appointment. From 16 lakhs last year, the staff strength has been reduced to 15 lakhs. Railways is the biggest employer. The unemployed youths of our country expect employment in the Railways. Thousands of apprentices who have received training in the Railways are waiting for employment. But vacant posts and essential posts are not being filled up. As a result of this, maintenance of coaches is not properly done. I request the hon. Minister to fill up, at least, the essential posts.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister wants to respond to you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : So, I will get more time to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to Achariaji. He is raising very useful and important points. I assure him that I will go through every point raised by him and take action thereon. He asked as to where from the money would come, and then went on to answer the question himself. As I said at the outset, there is the question of availability of funds, I am no economist but unfortunately a burden of Rs. 4500 crores has come on us due to the Pay Commission. Last year we had earmarked Rs. 1000 crores and this year Rs. 3500 crores have been allocated for this purpose. We have levied taxes of Rs. 1800 crores this year and in this way we will have to spend Rs. 1700 crores more. As he has said that we have got budgetary support of Rs. 450 crores from the Government, he is the Chairman of Standing Committee so he knows that there is pressure on account of rolling stock as well as signalling, new railway lines and gauge conversion. I know how much pressure is exerted for gauge conversion in those areas where there is metre gauge. Uniguage has become into vogue from which we can not deviate as on date. All can do is that metre gauge about which it was said,

[English]

They will be withered away.

[Translation]

and I have noted what he has said just now, the meter gauge would require track and production of which is also needed, as has been put by him very rightly.

I would like to say only that railway form part of the Government of India. If Government of India impose a cut on expenditure and direct to reduce it by ten per cent, in that case I agree to you. The Railways had 19 lakhs employees which number stands reduced now to 16 lakhs in four years time. He is Chairman of the Standing Committee, therefore, I would like to say that his recommendations and suggestions are very important for me. Whenever our officers attend the

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

meeting of the Standing Committee, they say that they are pulled up by the Standing Committee and do not know what to do? Therefore, I would like to inform him that only three thousand Safai karamcharis have been reinstated by him which involved no extra expenditure. We made it plain that works will not be got done on contract system. Whatever money is required therefore, will be made permanent by us. As will be seen from the newspaper daily, we are being criticised daily as to wherefrom Ram Vilas Paswan has sanctioned/created these posts? So far as casual labourers are concerned we are not having to pay any extra amount for 57000 casual labourers. But we are being put to criticism daily in the newspapers on account of these 57000 casual labourers. Therefore, I would like to submit that the house is supreme. I will reply to these points in details. But since he is the Chairman of the Standing Committee as Railway Minister I request him that whenever he presents his report here, he should in his recommendations and the officers who come to attend the meeting of Standing Committee should be spared being pulled up, rather they should be given a pat on the back.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is not so. I appreciate hon'ble Railway Minister. But 56000 casual labourers must have been regularised earlier.

[English]

In 1980, the then Railway Minister, Shri Kamalapati Tripathi assured the entire casual workers at that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How much time do you require more?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I will take another ten to twelver minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken the entire time allotted to your party.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : In 1980 Shri Kamalapati Tripathi was the Railway Minister and he assured that the entire casual workers numbering about 2,75,000 would be decasualised and regularised.

[Translation]

It must have done earlier. But the step he has taken to regularise 56,000 casual labourers is very good. We have been demanding for it for a long time.

[English]

Alongwith regularisation of 56,000 casual workers, he has also made an assurance. Even the former Minister Shri Jaffer Sharief has assured on the floor of the House regarding absorption of coal and ash workers numbering about 4500. I have submitted the entire list

of workers to the Railway Minister who were retrenched because of the closing down of steam locosheds and phasing out of steam locomotives. Due to this, the workers were rendered jobless. I have sent that list to the Minister; and I request him to fulfil the assurance that he gave on the floor of the House so that all the casual workers will be regularised.

I request him to consider their case and implement the assurance given on the floor of the House.

I was referring to the problems of the commuters of Calcutta suburban. In 1990, Shri George Fernandes brought out a White Paper on the Bombay suburban. An in-depth study was conducted by the hon. Minister of Railways. I would also request that a White Paper should also be brought out in respect of Calcutta Suburban also. The Ministry of Railways should conduct an in-depth study on the problems faced by the commuters of Calcutta Suburban.

He has referred to Metro Rail and Circular Rail. I have travelled the entire stretch of Circular Railway. I have seen with my own eyes the importance of Circular Railway as well as extension of Metro Railway from Gharia to Barrackpore. He has stated that the survey upto Barrackpore is going on. But the techno-economic survey has been completed in regard to extension of Metro upto Gharia. So, what prevents him from taking up the construction of extension of Metro from Tollyganj to Gharia? Why should we have to wait for the survey report upto Barrackpore? Barrackpore is separate and extension of New Gharia is separate. So, I would request the hon. Minister that, while he replies, he should assure that House that some amount would be allocated for the construction of extension of Metro from Tollyganj to Gharia because the survey has been completed.

He has stated in his Budget speech that the survey is going on regarding circular railway. I have with me a survey report conducted by RITES. I have got a copy of the survey report in regard to Circular Railway, not only completion from Princepghat to Majerhat but also doubling and electrification of inter-circular railway. It is a misnomer to call it a Circular Railway. It is not at all a circular railway unless that stretch of five kilometres is completed. Calcutta has a different type of problem. Calcutta has only six per cent of road space whereas Bombay has 18 per cent, Delhi has 22 per cent and Chennai has 14 per cent of road space.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude in two to three minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You know that my district, Purulia is a backward district. Bankura is also backward. The hon. Railway Minister has stated that he would introduce a rail bus after restoration. I tried to find out from the Pink Book the amount allocated for

restoration of Bankura-Damodar River but I did not find it. Yesterday, DRM (Adra) telephoned and told me :

[*Translation*]

Funds are available how would restoration take place. As I said there must be something positively.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Whatever amount is spent on the restoration, would be provided this year. This year, not later...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Thank you. It is very good.

One train is being extended from Barauni to Tatanagar. If it is extended upto Tatanagar, then definitely that train will go from Barauni-Asansol-Adra-Purulia-Tatanagar which is the shortest. I am making this request because now there is no train from North Bengal to South Bengal or to South Bihar.

If he Starts from New Jalpaiguri instead of Katihar, North Bengal would be connected with South Bengal.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I think, you want the route to remain the same but it should start from New Jalpaiguri.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Instead of Katihar, it should be from New Jalpaiguri.

[*Translation*]

From Barauni to Asansol, Adra, Purulia and Tata...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : All these things can be discuss in his chamber itself.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There are other demands also. A survey should be taken up from Tarakeshwar to Arambagh. There is a need for double line from Sherraphulli to Tarakeshwar. Then, electrification from Barasat to Hasnabad is also very important.

He has included Ranaghat...(*Interruptions*) I am also for Tamil Nadu.

MR. CHAIRMAN : For all.

AN HON. MEMBER : He is particular about West Bengal.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Now, I come to Tamil Nadu. A train goes to Cochin passing through Asansol-Adra-Bankura-Kharagpur once a week. It is a very important train because the patients, particularly from Asansol and Adra, go to Vellore and Madras for treatment. Therefore, I suggest that its frequency should be increased from one day to three days in a week.

There is a need for a south-bound train from Dhanbad. I have received a memorandum signed by 30,000 people from Dhanbad. On my suggestion, two

important towns of Bihar, namely, Dhanbad and Tatanagar - one known for coal and the other for steel - were connected. And Suvarnrekha Express was introduced three years back. In this Budget, he has already stated that the frequency of that train will be increased from six days to seven days a week.

There is also a need for a train in the reverse direction in the morning from Tatanagar to Dhanbad.

A fast train from Purulia to Howrah is also required. Now, there is only one express train, that is, Purulia Express. I request that an express train from Bokaro via Purulia-Adra should be introduced during the evening time. There is a Shatabdi Express from Bokaro. There is a need for a Shatabdi for North Bengal.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You write a letter to the hon. Minister.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I wrote hundreds of letters. The hon. Minister receives the maximum number of letters from me alone...(*Interruptions*) I request the hon. Railway Minister to introduce the reverse train and try to increase the freight and try to increase the freight and passenger traffic. He should give the priority which is due so that expansion of the Railway network could take place in our country. The areas not connected so far should be connected by the Railways. With that, the industrial and economic development of our country will increase and prosperity will be there.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, speaking on Railway Budget, I would like to submit that the people of the country have been facing the burden of price-hike as a result of price-increase in petroleum products for the last one year. Now they will have to face another spurt in prices due to increase in rail fare and freight charges. The hon. Minister of Railway has presented the price hike in the House with sugar coated words. He stated that though unwillings, he had to increase the fare and freight charges...(*Interruptions*) The fare changes have been increased in sleeper class by 5 percent, 10 percent in all AC Trains. 20 percent in super fast trains in which parcel or goods are carried and 12 percent increase in freight charges. This will surely have an impact on the people of the country.

The foodgrains have been spared from this increase but the people cannot survive in freight charges, the prices of medicines, cloth alongwith all other items are likely to increase in future. The increase of 12 per cent in freight charges will result in almost 25 per cent increase in all other items from April 1st. It will affect the poor of the country whether he travels by train or not.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, railway is a service and this is the duty of the hon. Minister to provide this Service to the public of entire country. Discharging his duty the hon. Minister has said that train should run as well as

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

the facility should also be provided to the passengers. Thus, keeping in view both these things, it has become compulsory to increase fare as well freight charges.

Increase only either in fare or freight charges is not likely to solve the problems. Therefore, we will have to find ways and means to provide railway service to the common populace at cheaper prices. I had given some suggestions in this regard, last year. But it seems those suggestions have not been considered in this year's Railway Budget. Sir, we can say proudly that the Railway is the biggest Public Enterprise. But the maximum number of theft take place in this enterprise. Unfortunately, it did not find any mention or any measure in this regard in the speech of the hon. Minister. Had we taken strict action to stop this, we could have saved a large amount.

Sir, more than fifty percent commuters out of one crore and ten lakh daily commuters belong to Mumbai city. I represent Maharashtra. Whenever there is a mention regarding Maharashtra, every body says Maharashtra is a developing state. This Budget indicates that though, Maharashtra is a developing State at present but the Ministry of Railways does not want to pay its attention towards Maharashtra. The MPs of Maharashtra feel that the State is being meted out step-motherly treatment at the hands of railway. I am not against providing rail facility to any State, be it North Eastern States of India or Bihar. The people of every part should get railway facility. I represent Konkan province. It is for the first time that the railway has entered the Konkan. It is unfortunate that though the railways gets 50 percent of the total revenue from Maharashtra but there is no mention of any gauge conversion, doubling of lines, laying of new railway tracks or other facilities in the States.

AN HON. MEMBER : There is BJP-Shiv Sena Government in Maharashtra.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : The Ministry of the Railways should not be concerned with the party affiliation of the Government.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : This Government discriminates with such State Governments.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : There should not be discrimination but it seems that discrimination is likely to be done. It would be better if they do something for Maharashtra out of the fifty percent revenue collected from the State. If you just think of this Budget, you will be able to know all this.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Not even a penny has been increased in the fare in the State where fifty percent people travel by train.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : We congratulate the hon. Minister of Railways for not increasing the fare.

No doubt, he has not increased a penny in the fare in the State where fifty percent people travel by train but it should also be taken care of as to how they travel? The passengers of Mumbai travel by train under compulsion. In case of fare-increase, there might have been dissatisfaction among the entire public of Mumbai. No doubt, the Government did not increase the fare but the facilities for the passengers should have been made better.

I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Railway for being instrumental in cleaning all the stations of Mumbai. They are clean at present but we want them clean in future also.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) : Please thank the hon. Minister for this.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I am thanking him for goodwork that he has done. I want that the bridge from where hawkers have been removed, should be always clean. When passengers detrain, nobody has to walk since they push one another. This is the condition of Mumbai. Therefore, attention should be paid towards providing facilities. Konkan railway is going to be commissioned. The hon. Minister said in his speech that Nizamuddin-Thiruvananthapuram Rajdhani train would be rerouted as Nizamuddin-Goa Thiruvananthapuram. Though it would be close to capital Goa but it should not affect Konkan. Since the trains are departing from Sawantwadi-Kurla, it never reaches on schedule. I would like to request you to think that when so many trains would be introduced on this route, they should also reach as per schedule. Several hon. Members of Mumbai and Konkan have sent a better that Kurla-Sawantwadi route should be started from Dadar. The people of Konkan have extended their co-operation to a great deal in the construction of Konkan railway. Konkan railway has been constructed in record time. The people of Roha, Sawantwadi and Konkan damaged that instead of Kurla, it should go upto Dadar. When I saw you in your office and discussed in this regard, you had assured me to take decision very soon after consulting the concerned officers. Therefore, I request you to do it for the benefit of the people of Konkan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways has mentioned in his Budget-speech to regularise 56 thousand casual labourers. The Government should think about contract labourers of Konkan Railway Corporation who have extended their great co-operation in the construction of Konkan Railway. They should be absorbed in some capacity after the work is over.

Sir, in my last year's Budget - Speech, I had suggested that if the airspace of Mumbai Station is utilised commercially, more money can be mobilised but no action seems to be taken on this suggestions in the Minister's speech. I reiterate my suggestion that if the air space of Mumbai station is utilised commercially, more money can be mobilised. You have done a laudable

job by not increasing the fare of sub-urban trains but the passengers travelling long distance in sleeper class, will have to pay more fare. You have also proposed to increase freight charges. It will also have its impact. If you could provide some more facilities to passengers, the passengers will be able to bear with this price-hike. Therefore, I would like to submit that the passengers are not satisfied with the facilities provided to them by the Railways. They come across several difficulties in journey. I would like to request you that the train passengers should be provided some more facilities.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have to speak only for five-seven minutes because Shri Parmod Mahajan has already spoken in this regard on behalf of my party and after that there remains little to speak about.

First of all I would like to thank the hon. Railway Minister for announcing Lalitpur-Singrauli rail line. At the time of the constitution of State Reorganisation Commission in the year 1956, my Parliamentary Constituency, Khajuraho was in Vindhya Pradesh. When State Reorganisation Commission decided in regard to the State in which Vindya area was to be annexed, the team which came to visit that area, wrote a comment in its report. They wrote that "this area is poverty and hunger stricken whereas it is rich in minerals. This area can only progress if there is Railway line." In 1977, when Janata Party came to power, Laxminarayan Naik was elected Member of Parliament from there. Shri Madhu Dandwate was the Minister of Railways at that time. The issue of conducting survey of Lalitpur-Sangrauli railway line was raised repeatedly. Unfortunately, the Government of Janata Party fell and when the Congress came to power the matter of Lalitpur-Sangrauli Railway line was rejected and the file was closed saying that it is not profitable. After that, when I became Member of Parliament in the year 1989 and George Fernandes became the Minister of Railway, I discussed it with him. He was about to start this work when the V.P. Singh Government fell and after that Chandar Shekhar Government also fell untimely. After that, when Congress came to power, the work of Lalitpur-Sangrauli rail line was again set aside, but the then opposition leader hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji accompanied me and talked to Shri Jafer Sharif. He tried to do it but unfortunately that went out of his hand. The people of my constituency had been waiting for this railway line for the past 20 years. When this new Government came to power, we sat on dharna in front of Rail Bhawan. The Minister of Railways was in the House at that time. That was an historical moment when Satpal Maharaj ji took the letter of the Minister of Railways from us and stated that they would complete its survey at the earliest and they would definitely make effort to lay that rail line. Satpal ji has joined politics from religious field. I had asked Satpal ji at that time that he was a sant and I was also a Sanyasi. You please

promise that you would get it completed and he got this survey conducted in time and hon. Minister of Railway encouraged me to speak to Madhu Dandwate ji. Requested hon'ble Madhu Dandwateji, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission that when he was the Minister of Railways, he was in favour of this line and with the efforts of hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and Madhu Dandwate ji, our Minister of Railways announced the Lalitpur-Sangrauli Railway line on February 26. Mr. Chairman, I cannot mention as to how lakhs of people of our area were sitting before T.V. to know the fate of Lalitpur-Sangrauli rail line. As they heard that this line has been sanctioned, they switched off their T.Vs and came out in the streets to celebrate the occasion with fireworks.

Mr. Chairman, I want to urge upon the Minister of Railways through you. Just now hon. Member was saying that the work of Konkan Railway was sanctioned and it appeared that it was about to be completed. You have allocated Rs. one hundred crores for the rail expansion of Jammu-Kashmir, Rs. three hundred crores for the expansion of rails in North-Eastern States. I urge upon the Minister of Railways that :-

"Ya to jholi bhar de datta, ya fir khali rahane de

Kisi aur ke aage daman fallane, mere bas ki bat nahi."

Please complete this railway expansion in record time. Therefore, I urge upon you to announce the maximum budget allocation for Lalitpur-Singrauli railway line.

Hon. Chairman, whenever any budget and particularly Railway Budget is presented in the House, all note one thing that how much the rail fare has been increased, whether it has been increased or not. Whereas increasing fare is not so useful or harmful as is the increasing of freight charges. But our politics has become superficial. It has become superficial due to uncertainty of politics and instability in centre. That is why our attention is drawn to superficial things. Each Government faces uncertainty. As a result thereof every budget - whether it is general budget or railway budget is prepared on political considerations.

This time, no increase has been made in the second class rail fares. In fact, all the people appreciate the fact that passenger fare has not been increased. However, the Railway Minister has hiked freight charges by as much as 22 per cent because earlier 12 per cent hike was effected in the freight charges and this time there is a proposal to increase it by 10 per cent. It appears as if the stall sweet has been served wrapped up in the silver paper. Which makes one to believe that only A.C. class fares have been hiked and no increase has been made in the second class railway fares. Ours is a poor country and here people have least sympathy for the affluent class so much so that people even think that

[Kumari Uma Bharati]

there is no problem if there is hike in the A.C. class and no burden is put on the poor and they will be able to travel conveniently but we should not forget that those travel in A.C. Class or A.C. first are officers in some company which some where or other affect the company and in the process the poor people working in that company are also affected. This is alright that the Railway Minister has announced that those are certain items which will be affected by the hike in the freight charges...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Had we not raised that, had we kept below 10 per cent and did not have given concession on foodgrains then we could have kept it to 8-9 per cent but it was also very necessary as we wanted to give relief to the poor under P.D.S.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Railways is a country in itself, it is also culture in itself which has got its own identity. This is a country within country. One crore and 10 lakh passenger travel daily by railways and 16 lakhs officers and employees are working in the Railways department. Keeping in view the huge strength of staff if we streamline its system then most of the problems being faced by this department. could be solved. If the Railway Minister does not indulge in politics and devote his time in the department then the dilemma whether the Railways is commercial venture or seavier could be solved. In fact, the Railways is both a service and commercial venture and if we want to keep a balance between these two then we will have to streamline the whole remark of the Railways.

Through you, I would also like to invite the attention of the Railway Minister to the increasing incidents of murder loot and dacoities in the trains passing through Bihar. Just a little while ago an hon. Member belonging to the Janata Dal was saying that we should not try to gain political mileage out of this issue. He has also given the data of Maharashtra states but we will have to see that for how many days there data have been collected. However, we will have to see as to why those is a spurt in the incidents of loot and dacoities in the trains in Bihar. An incident has also been reported in today's newspaper. But the problem is that the Railways and the State Government are accusing each other. However, if these incidents keep rising and extend to Uttar Pradesh also then, the situation would be worst of its kind.

I would like to make one suggestion to the Railway Minister that like the buses where it is written that "the passengers will take care of their luggage themselves", while issuing tickets the chest of each passenger should be stamped with. The passengers themselves should take care of their lives' or a gunner should be provided to each rail passenger or they be given license for weapon so that they can defend themselves. Or the

Railway Minister may put the issue of security and safety of passengers in the trains for the consideration of the cabinet.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of shame and disgrace that due to a lot of disturbance and noises during zero hour such an important matter goes unnoticed. But the way the women were dragged out of trains and subjected to rape in the jungle, this is indeed a matter of shame and is really unfortunate. It would be indeed unfortunate if any Member thinks that we are playing politics in this house by raising such incidents. If those incidents are not raised in this house then where else should these be raised? We are not playing any politics by raising these incidents. Those who think so, should just imagine how the shivering women were dragged out of the railway coaches, how they were forced into jungles in presence of Brothers, fathers and sons and what would have been our state of mind had someone among them been our sister or daughter. Hence, safety of passengers should be given a serious consideration. Arrangements for safety to the passengers could be made but there should be proper coordination between the Railway Ministry and the Chief Ministers of States through which the train passes. The only proper arrangements could be possible.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, last year, a provision of Rs. 1 crore and 10 lacs had been made for providing facilities to the railway passengers but during the current year only Rs. 80 lakh have been provided. I would like to urge the hon'ble Minister that this provision is not enough. It will not serve any purpose. It is not that I have any sympathy with the passengers travelling in A.C. Coaches, but it is also a fact that they are not criminals my point is that proper bedding arrangements are not available in A.C. Coaches. Catering facilities are also not good. The same is the case with second class coaches. So, what I feel is that when it appear that the passengers are travelling comfortably. Then the provision can be reduced but since we see that no proper facility is existing so in such cases, the funds should have been increased.

Mr. Chairman, I spend most of my time in trains. I hardly stay at home. My party has assigned me some work. So, in the connection I have to travel most of time by car, by air or by trains. That's why, I know that the passengers are facing a lot of inconvenience day by day. The quality of food is also deteriorating. In such a situation, cutting the budget, meant for providing facilities to the passengers, further is not good. By doing so, the passengers are being subjected to more inconveniences. I, therefore, urge upon the Minister to pay some attention towards it. Although, he has conducted raids several times to check the arrangements but such a thing used to take place during the kings and rulers regime when the king used to take stock of the situation of the welfare of people, in disguise. But this a modern age and if the

officials and employees are put under control then, of course, the situation can improve to some extent. I urge that the budget should be increased.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I also want to make a complaint. Earlier "Bhajans" (devotional songs) used to be played early morning in Rajdhani Express. I, myself, sing devotional songs and when I listen to these songs in the Rajdhani Express in the morning time. It gives peace of mind.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : We thought you would talk about food.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Brethren, you people are voracious. You have assembled here to eat. So, you people always think about food. I am talking of devotional songs.

One day, when I was travelling in Rajdhani, I noticed that the record of devotional songs was not being played in the train during morning hours and instead instrumental music was on. I called the train Superintendent and asked him the reason and the name of the person on the instructions of whom, it had been discontinued. The train superintendent said that on the instructions of Hon'ble Railway Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, it had been discontinued because Lord Ram and Krishna name repeatedly came in the devotional song and the railways had to be secular in all respects.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to ask Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, since his very first name is Ram, so will he change his name from Ram Vilas Paswan to "Dharam Nirpeksha" Paswan?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am ready, if you could insert word "Ram" before Shri Murlī Manohar Joshi's name and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's name.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Bhartiya Janata Party has open headed. Ram Janmabhoomi Movement. I want to tell the Minister that, whether or not he does it seriously but atleast for the namesake he should do something.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the dies, where you are sitting on the top of it 'Dharmachaakra Pravartanay' is written in 'Sanskrit', and Sanskrit is Hindu God's language. I want to urge the Railway Minister to ask the Prime Minister why Hindu Gods language is written there. This matter will become communal. Why 'Ram' is written on the 'SAMADHI' of Mahatma Gandhi. Through you, I would like to tell the Minister not to go into such Pseudo secularism and make the arrangements in this regard in all the trains, Rajdhani and other trains, where devotional songs used to be played earlier. There should not be any superficiality in such things. It does not convey any message of communal harmony. On the contrary, it carries adverse message.

In the end I would like to request the hon'ble Chairman about the Taj Express.

[English]

I am not saying it for the sake of saying it.

[Translation]

Both, the tourism and railways would be benefited therefrom. Mr. Minister, I am talking about an important thing.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am listening about the Taj.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : I would like to request you one thing. If you could extend Delhi. Gwalior Taj Express upto Mahoba, then it will be convenient for the passengers going to Khajuraho. Despite Khajuraho being a very famous tourist place of International fame a very small number of people go there. The reason is that everyone cannot afford a flight. They have to go upto Jhansi in train and then they have to board a bus. It takes a lot of time. Hence, I request you to extend Taj Express upto Mahoba instead of Jhansi and provide one more stoppage at orchha because orchha too is a place of historical and religious importance and it is emerging as a big tourist centre. If Taj Express is extended upto Mahoba, the number of tourists will increase and they we would also be able to push up the income of railways.

Hon'ble Minister has done a good thing for which I thank him. Jabalpur-Gondia railway line has been converted into broad gauge. Similarly there has been a demand for conversion of Nainpur to Nagpur railway into broad gauge. The work on Delhi Rajhara railway line is held up. Morena railway station is located on a very important railway line. Major trains pass through this railway line but no train bound to South stops at Morena. So, I request the Minister to provide a stoppage to Southern Express or G.T. Express at Morena.

It may sound communal, but the Hon'ble Minister may get blessings from that place. There is a temple of Pitambarmai, Bagulamukhi devi in Datia in Madhya Pradesh where devotees in large number visit. A fair is organised in Pitambar Mai temple from 8th to 16th April but there is no stoppage of any goods train in Datia. If stoppage to all the trains except Shatabadi and Rajdhani is provided at Datia the number of tourists will start increasing. Pitambarmai's temple is 23 kms away from Jhansi. The people have to board the train of Jhansi and from there they have to catch a bus to Datia resulting in a lot of inconvenience to them. If all the trains except Shatabdi and Rajdhani start stopping at this place, it will also become a big tourist centre of National level. Datia is a religious as well as historical place.

Mr. Chairman, I have to say one more thing. I do not speak slowly as you do. Whatever I want to say, I finish it quickly. If arrangements are made for a stoppage of Jhelum Express and Punjab mail train at Datia, the number of tourists will increase day by day.

[Kumari Uma Bharti]

I would like to invite the Minister and the Prime Minister on behalf of grateful people, starving exploited people of my Khajuraho Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency and the poor exploited down trodden people of my region on whom fendal atrocities have been committed, to lay a foundation stone there immediately and to start work on Lalitpur-Singrauli line.

With these words, I thank you and conclude my speech.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : I am really sorry to say that instead of supporting this Railway Budget, I am strongly opposing it. It is most unfortunate...*(Interruptions)* Regarding voting also, if the hon. Minister does not announce anything for West Bengal specially, I will not vote for this Budget. I am telling you very candidly for record. It is because, we, the 42 MPs, nine from Congress and the rest from the Left Front, are supporting this Government. Some people are directly supporting and some are indirectly supporting. But no new project is being given this time to West Bengal.

There is no regional balance in this Budget from the point of view of, as everybody has said, security, safety, punctuality and passengers' amenities. Even there is no plan of action with the Railway Department. The hon. Minister of Railways can satisfy particularly some individuals but what about the country's progress? Is there any modernisation plan of action with the Railway Ministry? Is the Minister of Railways having any plan of action? The hon. Minister has not yet announced any plan of action or any modernisation programme or any master plan for the Indian Railways though it is the largest Public Sector Undertaking. The Indian Railways is the largest in the world. You see the operation ratio. If you see it, then the financial position will be very clear. In 1995-96, it was 82.5. In 1996-97 the revised estimate was 86.3 and the estimates for 1997-98 is 91.4. These figures indicated that while in 1995-96 the Railways spent only Rs. 82.5 to earn Rs. 100. Also I can quote the other figures, but I am not going to quote the figures because then I will be wasting my time. Instead of wasting the time to quote the figures or strategy or strategic points and what the statistics is about, I want to tell you some practical things.

You will appreciate that I am not against Bihar. Even I am very happy that the hon. Minister has sanctioned something for Bihar because Bihar is a deprived State. But at the same time, you have to remember that in this big Budget, there is no regional balance. West Bengal, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh Gujarat and Orissa are deprived like anything. Even the people from Andhra Pradesh and Mumbai are saying that they are deprived. Then what for this Budget? I am really surprised to see this Budget.

You have said in your Budget speech that - I am giving you just one simple example - during this golden jubilee year of India's Independence, you are sanctioning some new projects. I am happy. But do you know that there is a place called Mahishadal in Midnapore District? Tamluk and Digha railway project is lying pending because you are not completing this project. It has been pending for the last 20 years. Every year, you are giving either Rs. 1 crore or Rs. 50 lakh or Rs. 10 lakh or Rs. 2 crore. What is this? My humble submission would be - if you think it is a humble submission, it is a humble submission. If you think it is a demand, yes it is a demand. If you think it is a grievance, it is a grievance.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Why is it pending for the last 20 years? Tell me.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : That is what I am asking you.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am only a Minister for the last nine months.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : So what? You are the Minister now. That is why, I am asking this question.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : That is all right.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Everybody says that I have to experiment. I appreciate that you are Minister for nine months. Shall I say, instead of saying this as Indian Railway Budget, it is Ram Vilas Paswan Budget for only Saharanpur or for the only constituency, Patna? Do not force me to say all these things. For God's sake, do not open any Eastern Zone office in your Hajipur.

I know all those things. The hon. Minister should not provoke me to mention them...*(Interruptions)* I am not speaking for Bengal only.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am trying and I have tried also. I had talked to Members of all the political parties of West Bengal. I had also told to the friends from Himachal Pradesh, they were annoyed. They were happy on that day when I told to friends from Surendra Nagar and Bhavnagar and Gujarat that their proposals had been passed in the budget but C.C.A. had not accorded approval, we are awaiting their approval. I say from the one of my heart that I never intend to think on party lines or personal lines over any matter. The way you fight with us, we also fight in the same manner with the Board. You suggest that I should do this. I would reply you about that matter and would try to finish the work and satisfy you within the resources available with me. So I would rather like to have suggestions. All the relevant information is available with me here itself whatever is possible we would try to do keeping in view your suggestion. Therefore, I welcome every suggestion.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I do not have any grievance against the hon. Minister personally.

[Translation]

I am saying this only. I am happy with your reply. On anyone will be over only when you remove the regional imbalances and disparities made in regard to certain states. We are celebrating the golden jubilee of independence and on this occasion you have provided sufficient funds for that but the three places which I have mentioned which got independence prior to all others should be taken into consideration. The issue of Maisadal is pending for the last twenty years. I would like to you for whatever is introduced by you. I am saying this for your information only.

[English]

The hon. Minister knows that I met him personally. I asked him about it. We appreciate that it is not possible to satisfy each and every-body. We know about the constraint of funds; we know all those things. But he should appreciate the need for the extension of the Metro Railway from Tollygunj to Garia. I have been fighting this case for the last five years. Not only myself, everybody has been; I must thank the Minister and my other honourable colleagues because we are all united in this. If there is any development process we are all united from that point of view.

For this project, I personally met the Members of the Planning Commission three or four times. The Planning Commission has written me a letter that they were morally agreeable to it. After that the hon. Minister mentioned about the survey. What more survey is needed? I mentioned about the passing of the Railway Budget. The Railway Ministers have to please the people. The hon. Minister may dedicate this railway line from Tollygunj to Garia in the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose because this is the Birth Centenary Year of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. I met the hon. Minister personally in his Chamber; he should not forget it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Yes.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The hon. Minister should say 'yes' or 'no'. He mentioned about a survey. What more survey does he want? The RITES has already submitted the report. I have seen the report. The Chairman of the Standing Committee also agreed with it. Yes, there should be a survey for the line from Dumdum to Barrackpore. But the extension of the line from Tollygunj to Garia may be sanctioned. Why not? Not even one paisa is being sanctioned. Are we an unwanted child?

We are proud of the Metro Railway, Calcutta. But for the maintenance of the Metro Railway, Calcutta, not a single paisa is being given. Does he hon. Minister

know what the condition at present there on the Metro Railway is? Sometimes it is burning. Sometimes so many incidents are happening each and every day. But I do not know how far the hon. Minister knows about them. It is not possible for the hon. Minister to get all the information but the local officials should keep him informed.

So, I request the hon. Minister to kindly sanction money for the maintenance of the Metro Railway and for the extension of the railway line from Tollygunj to New Garia Railway Station, this year itself.

Please lay the foundation stone to dedicate it in the memory of Subhash Chandra Bose on his Birth Centenary Year. Please also make a survey for Barrackpore to Dumdum line.

Now, I will say something about Circular train from Princesghat to Majherhat. As you know, Calcutta is a very congested city and its population is increasing day by day. So, it is the urgent need of the hour that a circular train should be started from Princesghat to Majherhat. But, so far, nothing has been sanctioned.

Then, I will say something about pending projects. I will tell you only about three or four pending projects. First, I will take up Eklakhi-Balurghat project. You said earlier that "I was the Minister for only the last nine months". Do you know that two years before when Shri Jaffer Sharief was the hon. Minister of Railways, he sanctioned only Rs. 1,000 for this project?. Then, I went to his Office. I returned Rs. 1,001 to him by 'Account Payee' cheque. I said : 'Mr. Minister, you take back this money. We do not want Rs. 1,001 for this Eklakhi-Balurghat project'.

In the North Bengal area, there are no communication facilities except a few trains. North Bengal is a gateway of North-Eastern region. You have to remember that. It connects Gangtok, Bhuttan, Nepal and other areas also. It even connects Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and all the seven Sister States. So, North Bengal is a gateway of North-Eastern region. But you will feel ashamed that there is no train from New Jalpaiguri and from Coochbehar. Can you not start one Shatabdi Express train from Coochbehar to Jalpaiguri or Coochbehar to Howrah? One Shatabdi Express must be started immediately. The population of the North Bengal is very high. All the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minority Communities are staying there. They are very poor. It is the border of Bangladesh. It is too far from Calcutta. So, you can introduce one train. I may tell you that even then you can earn more revenue. So, Eklakhi-Balurghat line is pending since 20 years. I do not know for how many years the Digha-Tamluk line is pending. Then, Bajboj-Namkhana and Howrah-Amta lines are pending and I do not know when they will be completed.

Now, I will say something about the other grievances of the hon. Members. Bankura is a very neglected area.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

As far as Bankura-Purulia, Barasat-Hasnabad and Bankura-Howrah areas are concerned, there should be at least one fast passenger train. I am asking for one fast passenger train to be started from Bankura to Howrah. In North-Dinajpur, there is a demand from the people for a new train from Gajol to Ganguri. It is just a few kilometers away and they do not have any communication facilities. I think everybody has visited this place. I have also visited this place many times. There are no communication facilities. That is why, I am asking for it.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia has said something about Nagrakata. The N.F. Railway have a metre gauge stretch at Chapnamari. It is surrounded by 60 gardens. There is a road connected with Bhutan. But this station has also been withdrawn. This is a very neglected area. I am not asking for any new trains to my constituency. You forget about my constituency. But you give something for Bengal. you are giving something for the North-Eastern region. I am happy. But you sanction some projects for hilly areas like North Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, etc. Himachal Pradesh is also a hilly State. I know their problems. Rajasthan is a very potential State as far as tourism is concerned. So, I will request you to do something for all these areas.

There is a demand for a new railway line from Tarakeswar to Arambag. There is also a demand for a double line from Seorauli to Tarakeswar.

Then I will say something about the train Kanchanjunga. It is a very important train. It is going up to New Jalpaiguri Station because of Assam problem. Can you not extend it up to New Coochbehar Station? Then, you can accommodate the Assam people also because they are facing acute crisis.

Kanchanjunga Express is supposed to go up to Guwahati but because of the insurgency problem, it is now going only up to New Jalpaiguri. May I request you that if it is not possible to extend it up to Guwahati, then you extend it from New Jalpaiguri to Coochbehar because Coochbehar is a very important area?

With regard to some fly-overs, I have to say something. Three-four days back, ten person died in Simgarh in Hooghly district. They are demanding a fly-over to be constructed. Then, in Morigram in Howrah district, there is a demand for a fly-over. Similarly, in Sonarpur in my constituency also, there is a demand for a fly-over. I have got your reply - the ex-Railway Minister's reply also - saying that the Central Government is agreed to this but the State Government is resisting it. I know that it is a joint venture project. So, I request you that these fly-overs, the Sonarpur fly-over and the Morigram fly-over, be constructed. You have already sanctioned Bomdelgate fly-over and the Lake Garden fly-over. I do not know the exact position with regard to

these two fly-overs. So, I want to know specifically what is the position now.

Even some Orissa people have requested me to tell you about the Nizamuddin-Sambalpur Express. They want this train to be extended from Sambalpur to Titlagarh. If that is done, it will cover five backward districts. So, this is also my request to you.

This is the Golden Jubilee year of our Independence. The Freedom Fighters are allowed to travel by two-tier class, along with their companion, But they are not allowed to travel by Rajdhani Express or Shatabdi Express. So, I appeal to you to consider this point also.

Regarding Arjun Awardees also, the Indian Railways sanctioned a pass for them but the companion is not allowed to travel along with them. Secondly, they are not allowed to travel by Rajdhani Express and Shatabdi Express. Suppose an Arjun Awardee is now about 65 to 70 years of age, he cannot travel without any companion. So, I request you to consider this from humanitarian point of view.

Regarding dacoities, yesterday, I came by Rajdhani Express. I tell you that people are very much scared of dacoits. Somebody may say it is not true, somebody may say it is true, but I tell you that the passenger are having a feeling whether they will pass through Bihar by this train safely or not. This sort of a feeling is going on. I do not know whether somebody is going to sabotage you or sabotage Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav. It may be an inner fighting also. But because of the inner fighting, human lives should not be lost. This is a rumour that is going on. Until and unless the Central Government and the State Government work together, it is not possible to stop all these things.

I do not know whether the Railway Minister knows what happened on 26th February.

[Translation]

I would like to tell you an interesting incidence. The day when you were presenting the budget in the House a goods train engine was used carrying Rajdhani Express. Engine of a goods train who attached to Rajdhani Express.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Driver of goods train?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Engine of goods train carried the Rajdhani Express.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : We will enquire about this.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You don't have the information. If the engine of goods train carried the Rajdhani Express, what will be the fate of its safety security. You must know about this.

[*English*]

Last Sunday, our colleagues came from Calcutta by Rajdhani Express. The train was late by about 20 hours. If a train is late by 20 hours, then what is the use of travelling by a train?

[*Translation*]

There was no question in the House and it was being said that where are the M.P.s. and then we come to know that the train is late by twenty hours. If this goes on the Indian Railways will be in the dol drums.

17.00 hrs.

Yesterday also a dacoity took place in the Delhi-Howrah Janta Express. V.V.I.P.s. travels by Rajdhani and Shatabadi but there are certain local trains like Janta Express, Kalka Mail, Purnia Mail and other trains. Whether Patna has become such a place from where no train is available. Yesterday, while I was travelling in a train, the train stopped about some distance from Patna. At that time all started discussing. Therefore, I request you to think about safety and security of railways. If train services are not improved there cannot be any development because this is the main communication.

[*English*]

My last point would be regarding wagons. You know that in West Bengal, there are Burn Standard Company, Jassop Company and other public sector companies. They are all important public sector undertakings, but are not getting wagons in proper time. Sometimes, the wagon order is being reduced by the Railways resulting in thousands of workers now starving for food. You just see the Eastern region as a special sector because Orissa, Bihar and other North-Eastern States are also neglected States. Therefore, in the Eastern Railway, wagon order should not be reduced and they should get the wagons in proper time... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Justice has been done to the North-East.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I told that some people are happy and some people may not be happy. They cannot satisfy everybody. You have taken a policy decision and 82 new trains have been given this time. It is okay, but not a single train for Bengal has been given. You just remember it. I am telling you just for your memory. That is why, I am pleading for all the States where the regional imbalances are there.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You tell us from where and upto which place you train services West Bengal

[*English*]

You tell me, I will consider.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I have already mentioned so many things.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Paswan, she has told about Bankura-Howrah.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I told you about Bankura-Howrah Express. I told you about the old project Digha-Tamluk and Eklakhi-Balurghat... (*Interruptions*). About new trains, I have mentioned about metro rail extension from Tollyganj to New Garia... (*Interruptions*) and circular railway from Princepghat to Majerghat. I have also asked for New Shatabadi train from Coochbehar to Howrah and Bankura to Howrah ... (*Interruptions*). I am saying for my State. Trains from Sealdah to New Jalpaiguri and Bankura to Howrah are new trains, I have asked for a Shatabadi train. On the occasion of Netaji's birth centenary year, I have asked for metro rail extension and whatever's birth centenary year, I have asked for metro rail extension and whatever I have said... (*Interruptions*). There is no train from Sealdah to Delhi. So, if you consider to start a train from Sealdah to Delhi, certain important areas like Krishana Nagar, Barasat, Murshidabad and Malda districts will be covered.... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Lalgola-Sealdah is not on the map of Eastern Railway.

17.04 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You are saying so because it is not in the map. Why should it not be there? It should be included. Whatever I have said, there is no partisan in this matter because we want development of our State. At the same time, we want development of other States also. That is why, I have said that whatever you have done for your State, You do it and we do not have any objection or hesitation to that. At the same time, if you do not consider our proposal for West Bengal. I can tell you at least from our side that I am not going to vote for this Budget. Instead of supporting this Budget, I will oppose this. So, please consider this.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I will give the whip.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : My Bengal people have given whip to me to fight out this case and get results. That is why, I want results from you. If you give us results, we will deliver goods for you and if you do not give us results, then we know what to do and what not to do. That is why, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev has not yet issued a whip. But the people have issued whip to me to say all these things. My commitment is my commitment and I think other hon. Members will also follow all these things. I am telling you and you will be in crisis.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mamataji, I can reply to your each and every query just now and satisfy you but I will speak later on. You continue to support us. We have everything. I would like to give you an example. You have said about Gariya. Taliganj to Gariya is not a Railway project, it is the project of urban development. As the Metro Rail Project is going on in Delhi likewise Railway is not the nodal Ministry...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We have your reply...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATERJEE (Dumdum) : It is unacceptable. If that was the case, why did you mention this in your Budget?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, Calcutta Metro is part and parcel of the Indian Railway...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : If you do not want to do anything, do not do. But please do not mislead us...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Sir, the Railway Minister should not be afraid of Mamataji's whip.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I would like to submit that we would sit together so as to find a way out. It is not a question of prestige for us. Being the Railway Minister we are happy to consider some thing which comes under us but when the matter is between one Ministry and the other it becomes difficult, therefore, I have said that we would ponder over it...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I had taken up this matter with the Railway Ministry and the Planning Commission. I have the reply of the Railway Ministry with me. Have you conspired now. It is not with the Urban Department. Earlier it was under the Urban Development but not now. Now it is under your department. It is under the joint venture of the State Government and the Railway Ministry.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The survey had been completed in December, 1995.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Whatever I am saying in this regard are coming from the core of my heart. I want that a proper reply should be given otherwise, whip or no whip but we are not going to vote in your favour.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mamata ji, please conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : All right. I conclude.

SHRI S.K. KARVENDHAN (Palani) : Sir, first of all, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Railway Budget on behalf of Tamil Manila Congress (Moopnar).

Under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowdaji, our Railway Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji has presented a Budget which is highly appreciable and welcome one.

The Railways in India provide principal mode of transportation for freight and passenger traffic. It brings together people from the farthest corner of the country and make possible the conduct of business-sight seeing, pilgrimage and education. The Indian Railways have been a great integrating force during the last 100 years. From very modest beginning in 1853 when the first steam engine was rolled out from Bombay to Thane, The Indian Railways have been a great integrating force during the last 100 years. Through the present Budget, the hon. Railway Minister has tried to cover the entire India, an area of 32,87,263 square kilometers stretching from the snow cornood Himalayan Heights to the tropical rainfed forests of South India.

The decision of the Railway Minister to limit the proposed the across the board, increase in passenger fares between five per cent and ten per cent and in freight rates to 12 per cent from which essential commodities like fertilizers, kerosene and liquid petroleum have, however, been exempted in the present Budget proposals.

It will no doubt be received with a relief by all classes of rail users. The above exemptions will reduce the burden on the users, who apprehended an increase in the prices of commodities produced with petroleum feedstocks.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Member can make use of the points in the note but should not read from a written speech.

SHRI S.K. KARVENDHAN : I agree, Sir. The hon. Railway Minister presented a balanced Budget by way of getting Rs. 1,800 crore additional revenue through revised fares and freight rates, for giving better services to rail users. The present Budget gives an assurance to produce 2,000 passenger coaches and more than 300 locomotives along with 26,000 wagons to be procured in the year 1997-98, which would rescue rail travel, at least to a small extent, from the hardship inflicted on them.

For the past 50 years, the North-East region, that is, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur by railways. But in this present Budget, our hon. Minister took steps to connect all those places. It is highly appreciable and a welcome one. He has also allotted Rs. 300 crore for development and expansion of the railway infrastructure in the North-East region also. It is a welcome step. It is also appreciable that this Government has decided to

give top priority to develop railway infrastructure in backward areas, particularly in the Northern region.

A majority of rail users in India are very poor people. They are travelling only in ordinary and second-class category in the mail and express trains. To help the 93 per cent poor passengers, out of four billion, the second-class fares, platform ticket charges or the season ticket charges have not been raised in the present Budget. I thank the hon. Railway Minister for this.

With respect to the MRTS project in Tamil Nadu and Chennai, the first phase of MRTS-Chennai is nearing completion. Up to Velachery this present Budget also provides additional money to complete the scheme. An amount of Rs. 10 crore was allocated in the Budget.

The hon. Railway Minister has given great importance to gauge conversion project from Chennai Beach-Trichi and Trichi-Tanjore and also allocated Rs. 138 crore and Rs. 67 crore respectively. I also thank the Minister for the inclusion of Mysore-Chamarajanagar with extension to Mettupalayam, Quilon-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudnagar for gauge conversion. The gauge conversion between Chennai Beach-Madurai is the most important scheme in the country, which would help the public. Palani is one of the important hill stations in Tamil Nadu. Yearly, Twenty-five lakh devotees come from throughout India and even from abroad also. The yearly income is not less than Rs. 30 crore to Rs. 40 crore. There is no rail connection to that place. It is nearer to Dindigul. The Gauge conversion must be taken up from Trichi-Dindigul-Palani up to Coimbatore. Moreover, there is another place. Nigiri hills is one of the most important tourism place throughout India. Trains are running for the past 50 years to 100 years, but there are no new trains connecting those places. The gauge conversion from Trichi-Chengalpattu is also an important one for the development of railway network in Tamil Nadu. If the gauge conversion is taken up in that place, it will enable the Government to earn more income also. These tourism places in Tamil Nadu have to be connected by railways.

With respect to the communication system, the hon. Railway Minister has to take steps to remove the defects in the railways and allot money for the development of the communication system.

With respect to thefts in the trains, in this Budget, the hon. Minister has provided money to appoint additional women constables and also other police security personnel. Thefts are occurring between Bhopal and Bina and those who are travelling in the trains running towards South are affected by these robberies. I request the hon. Minister to take effective steps to give protection to those who are travelling in the passenger trains running towards South.

Also, I want to tell the hon. Minister that about 11 million passengers are travelling every day. The hon.

Minister has come forward to set up a Complaint Cell under his own supervision. This is welcome. I thank him for this good gesture.

With respect to catering services, I feel it is very poor in all the trains. Through this present Budget, he has promised to take steps appoint qualified persons for catering services. I welcome this step also.

I come to the next point. In June 1996, he conducted a meeting at Chennai where all the 39 Members from Tamil Nadu were present. We requested the hon. Minister to take steps for ordering gauge conversion in certain sections in Tamil Nadu also. In Budget also, he promised it. In the present Budget also, he has promised it. Tamil Nadu is a developing State. For example, I want to say that gauge conversion from Dindigul to Coimbatore is very very important. Coimbatore is one of the important places in respect of textile units. Further, Pollachi, Udumalpet, Palani, Dindigul Tripar, Dhavapuram and Madurai have to be connected by broad-gauge trains. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to take steps for the development of railway network in Tamil Nadu. It will also give good earnings to the Railways.

with this, I conclude.

DR. B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir! at the outset, I thank the hon. Minister for one good thing which he has done in that he has introduced a Rajdhani Express from Secunderabad to Delhi. Let me first thank him for that. I am thanking our hon. Minister for giving Andhra Pradesh a Rajdhani Express from Secunderabad to Delhi.

There are several other requests which I would like to make through you, Sir. There is no doubt that Andhra Pradesh comes first in the alphabetical order. But in several matters, it is still a backward State. We have several areas where new rail services have to be provided. The hon. Minister has ordered surveys in respect of a few lines and I again thank him for this gesture. But some other lines have not been included. I would request the hon. Minister to consider them and then make provisions this year. One request is in respect of a survey for a new railway line from Hyderabad to Vijayawada, a straight line along our main road via Nakrikal-Sruyapet-Kodada-Nandigama. One new line from Pattancheru to Sangareddy is to be laid. Further, we need a circular railway around Hyderabad-Secunderabad. The Government has provided several circular railway lines for several cities, specially for Bombay and Calcutta. We have been demanding such a circular railway. The point is Hyderabad-Secunderabad is a growing city. Again, I demand that a train between Hyderabad and Gulbarga has to be introduced. I also request for the construction of a new line between Miryalguda and Mottumarri, for which survey is in progress. I further request the hon. Minister for an overnight new fast passenger train between

[Dr. B.N. Reddy]

Hyderabad and Vijayawada and the doubling and electrification of Nadikudi-Guntur-Vijayawada section. I have also given a letter to the hon. Minister already. I will give you this copy also. But there are a few small things which I would like to bring to your kind notice. I have also given separate letter for these things. There is one Ramannapet town where certain trains stop. But there is no proper platform there. Very recently, one man, while alighting the train, fell down and died.

I have also written a letter to you about this Ramannapet station in Nalgonda district and I will again give you a copy of that letter. There is no platform constructed in this station. We have made our requests several times about it.

Then there is a Faluknuma Express which starts from Secunderabad and goes up to Howrah. This does not even stop at the district headquarters Nalgonda. But there is a technical stop at Miryalguda which is a commercial headquarters as from there the division changes. We have been requesting for some time past to stop the train there. Kindly consider this. You may instruct the concerned authorities for the same.

I also request you for doing the needful in respect of certain small things. As we represent our area, certain people who work as constables or some ordinary people in the Railway Protection Force, come to the Members of Parliament expecting that we will take care of their grievances. They come with a small request for transfer from some corner of India to their towns or to their villages on the ground of some family problem or ill health. It is a very small matter to be told in this august House. Still I feel, if we the representatives of the people cannot take care of some of these problems, they will definitely feel that we are not doing justice to them. I have also written letters to the hon. Minister about this. These requests concern only to Andhra Pradesh. I request you to please look into them.

There is one more thing. From Mukhed to Nizamabad, a survey is going on for conversion of railway line from metre-gauge to broad-gauge. I request you to get the work done at the earliest.

Coming to some general aspects, I would say that the increase in the rates by five per cent, ten per cent and twenty per cent has been very carefully done. We have to appreciate it. If there is no increase, there is no development. If there is no development we will definitely feel it. Whatever is being done about it, we feel that the increase in rates is very carefully done. What we feel about is the five per cent increase in the sleeper charges. As the hon. Minister has said, 93 per cent of passengers are ordinary people who travel by sleeper coaches. In 1995-96 Budget, sleeper charges were not levied for the first 200 kilometres. But this time, sleeper charges

are levied for all the distances. Kindly consider this aspect.

Coming to the second part, a ten per cent surcharge has been levied on those people who travel by air-conditioned coaches. It is fine. But the 12 per cent surcharge on the freight definitely looks to be a matter of concern to everybody. This has to be taken into consideration. We request you to see that this is considered.

Coming to the casual labour, out of 56,000 casual labours, around 16,000 have been regularised.

It is also promised that before the end of 31st March, 1997, another 14,000 casual labourers will be regularised and a balance of 26,000 will be regularised by the end of 1998. This is as per your Railway Budget.

We really feel happy that it is being done methodically. But the procedural matters and so many other things definitely will give some difficulties in between. But I know that the hon. Railway Minister is stern and he would definitely take up with the concerned officials so that before 31st March, those 14,000 casual workers are regularised. I know that the regularisation of 14,000 workers may be difficult but you draw a line and tell your officers to do their job so that it is successfully completed. So many casual labourers are coming all the times requesting us to represent their case. I, therefore request once again that this job may kindly be got done.

Now, I come to the point of level crossings. The hon. Minister had given a Statement after becoming the Minister that he will definitely take it seriously; and unmanned gates will be manned as many as possible, at the earliest. I have got the statistics—may be subject to correction—that out of 40,671 crossings, 24,554 are still unmanned and only 16,117 are manned. We know, even at the places where they are manned, because of some mistakes by the people who are involved there for signalling and other things, certain accidents are taking place. Today also we have come to know from the newspaper reports that in Madhya Pradesh, 16 people have died and many are injured due to collision between a train and a bus. So, I would request the hon. Minister of Railways to look into the matter of manning level crossings very seriously.

I would also like to know whether any Budget provision has been made in this respect. I also tried to know, after the Statement of the hon. Minister in this august House, about the progress made about how many unmanned level crossings had been manned but I could not get the reply.

So, here I would request the hon. Minister that please make some schedules that so many manning of level crossings should have been done this year and so many will be done next year and like that. I shall be very happy if this work is completed before the year

2,000 A.D. If he can do it, perhaps he will be doing a great service to the nation.

Now, I come to the Safety. Giving a new railway line, expansion and other things is very important, there is no doubt, but the safety of the people is also equally important. Wherever we have created some facilities, if there is no safety, we will not be doing justice to our expansion, progress and development. So, I would request him once again to give a serious thought to this and make provision if it is not done already.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : He alone cannot do it. Shri Chidambaram has to do it...(*Interruptions*)

DR. B.N. REDDY : No, no, he is also equally important person there in the Ministry. He matters. If he is serious, it will be done. So, let us give him the credit.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : So, he is the leader of the House...(*Interruptions*)

DR. B.N. REDDY : He is the leader.

So, I would request him, through you, to look into it. Level crossings are really very important. In my area from where I come, not only human lines are lost but also several cattle are dying due to unmanning of level crossings. They do not know; nobody is there and they just walk. Several times these things go unnoticed. Nobody pays any compensations. Those poor people cannot go and ask anybody. Even if they go for compensation, no body hears them.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : May I just make an intervention?

I have an interesting story to narrate, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir.

On Thursday, we were travelling by Rajdhani Express. That Rajdhani Express was fitted with a new imported engine. It was going very smoothly. At Dhanbad, it came in touch with several buffaloes and they were killed. And then, it proceeded for Burdwan. It was an imported engine. It killed a few more cattle. There the problem was that the imported engine was not meant to come in collision with the cattle and therefore, at Bardwan engine itself broke-down and we had to wait for two hours for refixing the engine and reach the house.

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI (Koppal) : Our buffaloes are stronger than the foreign engine!

DR. B.N. REDDY : I am coming to the end. I have to make a few small points.

Shri Basu deb Acharia was mentioning about the question of priority of our funding. I would not exactly say that I know more than all of you do. But definitely perhaps it has to be considered that comparing to other requirements other developments, whether the amount-thousands of crores of rupees-which is being provided

for gauge conversion and being distributed over the years is really being done according to the necessity under the circumstances. This could be given a serious thought. If we look at the way we need the facilities and the resources that we have, definitely our resources are less and we need a lot of facilities. So, under these circumstances, kindly give a serious thought to gauge conversions and take the priority as per the circumstances and necessities.

Regarding quality, every sister and brother here have spoken about it. I do not want to go into them. But as times pass by, we have to improve the quality also. We say so many things about the rate, that it should be less. But I would say that the rate of anything should be reasonable and the quality should be good. Saying that everything should be cheap is not correct. We cannot get things cheap and still have quality. But at a reasonable cost, whatever we are spending, we have to improve the quality as times pass by as we have to be in this competitive world.

Regarding robbery and killings, everybody has been talking about it and I also heard the hon. Minister saying that his Ministry does not have that portfolio. That may be true. But still he is not different from other Ministers. He is in the same Government and in the same Ministry. What I mean to say is that he need not take all the responsibility on his head, but he has to sit along with other people in the Government. The Prime Minister and the whole Cabinet is responsible for the safety of the passengers.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : What I said was it is between the State and the Centre.

DR. B.N. REDDY : Even the Chief Minister can sit with the Union Cabinet Ministers. Instead of the Cabinet Ministers saying that it is the job of the State, and the Chief Minister saying that it is the job of the Central Government, they have to see that both the Central Government and the State Government take care of the safety aspect.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Narayan Athawalay.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : I will speak in his place, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER : All right.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Thank you, Sir. I must compliment the Railway Minister for his stand that he just announced while intervening in the debate that if the representatives of States had gone and met him, he would sort out their issues. He mentioned the names of a few States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and some other States. He has also volunteered and offered that if the MPs from West Bengal go and see him, he will definitely be able to sort out their issues. I feel he would also consider Maharashtra in that category, so that we can go to him, explain to him about our issues and be able to get them sorted out by him.

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

Mumbai, which is the capital of the State contributes significantly towards the revenue of the Railways. I think, he will definitely be able to sort out the issues pertaining to our State.

Many hon. Members have expressed concern about the security of the passengers who travel by the Railways. I would not like to say that in the case of railway passengers of Mumbai, in Mumbai trains there is no place for passengers to get in. So, there is no place for any dacoit. No thief can enter the trains in Mumbai. So, I will not be able to share the concern of the passengers on that count.

I would also like to draw attention to the project that the Railways have undertaken and completed successfully, the Konkan Railways. I happen to represent that constituency, especially the Konkan region and so I must compliment the Railway authorities for completing this project in a record time.

This project was envisaged and it was contemplated as a project for socio-economic development. This project is now due for completion. As per your statement, it is about 98 per cent complete and but for certain developments taking place in Goa, it is now on the Verge of completion. It is time to take stock of what we have attained by this new project.

Wherever there is a socio-economic project, it is needless to say that the local people should be absorbed in employment on such a massive project. This project has been completed only because thousands of people virtually donated their lands to the Railway authorities, that is they signed the documents without any hesitation, which is only a single example of how people have really contributed towards the development of this project. The various poor farmers, who offered their land even without knowing how much compensation they are going to get, have not yet got compensation for the precious land that they have parted with. I would appeal to the hon. Minister of Railways to immediately constitute a tribunal to go into the demands and claims of the various farmers and settle their disputes immediately. A railway project of this magnitude costs several hundreds of crores of rupees. I think, it is more than Rs. 200 crore. The component of land involved in that is hardly anything and it is time the Railway authorities really seriously considered about compensating the farmers at market price. Otherwise, they will be failing in their duty if they call it a socio-economic development and project and the social aspect of the project is excluded.

There are many people who have offered their land and not yet got compensation. That is one aspect. But the policy of the Government should be—and it has been demanded by me personally to Shri Sridharan, the Chairman of the Konkan Railway Corporation—that

those who are displaced should be given priority while giving jobs. This is not adhered to. Though the headquarters of the Konkan Railway Corporation is in the Konkan region of Maharashtra, the jobs have been given to employees who are not even residents of Maharashtra. So, I request that the policy of granting jobs to the locals, particularly the displaced persons who have offered their land should be scrupulous followed and the tribunal that I am requesting should also look into this aspect seriously.

The railway line starts from Kurla and goes up to Savantwadi. This is a new project. So, I cannot blame the officers of the Railway Board for not knowing the spelling of Savantwadi. They have misspelt the name in the Annual Report. This is a backward region. If it has to receive a backward treatment, it is understandable. But this railway line starts from Kurla, which is a far away place and is not convenient to any of the passengers boarding the train or alighting from it while they come from Konkan. So, my request to the hon. Minister of Railways is to please start this train from Dadar. The terminating point should also be at Dadar. It is a genuine demand of the people and I feel that is very simple and could be done. I am sure that the hon. Minister of Railways, while offering his reply, would certainly concede this demand instantly.

There have been several tracks which were laid when the railway lines were developed. So many institutions, so many houses have been damaged. It is the bounden responsibility of the Railway authorities to restore these. I think, this should also be done immediately because the monsoon is going to come and there will be a real loss of property and life to thousands of people unless the restoration activity is taken up immediately on a war footing.

There are so many employees who have been taken into employment by the Konkan Railway Corporation for the completion of this project.

So, my request to the hon. Minister of Railways is, not to dismantle this Konkan Railway Corporation because this Organisation is one of the finest examples of success. This is one of the best examples to show how to motivate people. We always say that we do not find motivated people in the public sector. But Konkan Railway employees are the most motivated lot one can find not only in the Indian Railways but probably in the entire public sector or, for that matter, in any entity in India. So this Organisation should not be dismantled. We should keep the commitment intact and we should also try to undertake the job elsewhere. If for some reasons, the Railway authorities displace the employees there, then it is the duty of the Railway authorities to absorb them in the parent organisation. They should not lose jobs. Fifty-six thousand locals and casual labourers are getting jobs there. So, this scheme should not be implemented at their cost.

I must compliment the hon. Minister of Railways for having recognised the services of many veterans in the field and he has been recognising the services of many veterans by giving their names to the railway project. This railway project is the brain child of Shri A.B. Walvalkar. When nobody thought about the Konkan Railway and when people thought it was a foolish idea, Shri A.B. Walvalkar, who no longer lives really professed and propagated this idea till his last breath. Sir, when this project is completed, I think, it is the responsibility of all of us to recognise the contribution of this great visionary. This project should be named after him.

I would request Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, the hon. Minister of Railways, also to recognise the role of Shri Nath Pai who was the veteran Parliamentarian. All those who have been Members of this House for a long time would remember his contribution. Probably, his name should also find a place somewhere.

There are some demands by the locals. The Konkan Railway passes through Ratnagiri and Sindudurga Districts. But it does not halt anywhere in Ratnagiri, besides Ratnagiri town and in Sindudurga District, it halts only at one place. It is necessary that those stations which you have created should be used and the train must halt at more stations than at present.

The Annual Report and the Budget statement make a passing reference to the Konkan Railway. The Konkan Railway Corporation is a separate legal entity. It is a part of Indian Railways.

I would like to know how much debt we have raised and when we are going to start the repayment of debt. The bonds are tax free and, that is why, the coupon rate is between 9.5 per cent and 10 per cent. How much would be the liability-interest and principal? How are you going to amortise these liabilities and over what period of time? For that, what additional burden would be there on the Konkan Railway Corporation?
...(Interruptions)

The Konkan Railway is a separate Organisation. I would like to know whether it is part of the Indian Railways or not, because some of the officers in the Konkan Railway are not permitting the ex-Members of Parliament who had been Members of Parliament for 15-20 years to travel in the Konkan Railway, saying that the pass of an ex-M.P. is allowed only on the Indian Railways and not in the Konkan Railway. Probably, the Konkan Railway authorities are thinking that it is separate and outside the purview of the Indian Railways. We must remind them that they are part of the Indian Railways. I am sure the Indian Railways would certainly let them know about it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Do you mean to say that former Members of Parliament are not being allowed to travel in the Konkan Railway?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Yes. One ex-Member of Parliament, Shri Babu Purlekar who had been the illustrious Member of Parliament and a well-known lawyer and of 75 years age, was refused entry into the Konkan Railways. It is very unfortunate. I had to apologise to him on your behalf. I am sure that I have the right to do that.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : If that is true, I now declare that former Members of Parliament and present Members of Parliament would be allowed to travel on any Indian Railway.

[Translation]

We have been receiving some complaints. It had have issued many railway passes in Shatabadi Express and Rajdhani Express. I got annoyed at it. I never do so, whenever the renewal etc. comes, I doubt that too because you want that to be done. I have issued an order that the passes issued in the Shatabadi and Rajdhani Express should be stopped. Due to that our Ex. Hon. Members of Parliament became the victim, which I never intended. The moment it came to my notice, I issued the passes that very moment. Today also many hon. Members were saying that this facility has been withdrawn for the ex. Members of Parliament but it is not so.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Ex-MPs do not get reservation in Rajdhani Express Trains in their names.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It will be done later on.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : When he was a sitting MP, he was allowed.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It will be seen. The ex-Members of Parliament used to get the facilities in the Rajdhani and Shatabadi Express trains, it was withdrawn later on but these facilities have been restored again. They could not avail these facilities for one or two days because of confusion.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : But please do something for the Ex-MPs in getting reservations in their names in Rajdhani and Shatabadi Express Trains.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Alright.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : I thank the Railway Minister for immediately acceding to certain demands. Let me, Sir, first finish the Konkan Railway part of it.

There have been, as I mentioned, some stations on the Konkan Railway which have not been used and at the same time, there are some demands from some people to have some more railway stations because when it was planned and contemplated, certain areas were neglected. So, I request you to please undertake a survey. I will give the names of the stations which should be there and which should be covered by this. I request you to please take care of this.

I was reading the Annual Report of the Railways. There is a Railway Recruitment Board which undertakes recruitment to bring about a rationality and to make sure that no undue favour is done anybody. I would request him to please form Regional Recruitment Board for the Konkan Railway because everything else is separate for this. Konkan Railway has all other systems; everything is functional autonomy there. So, this Regional Recruitment Board for the Konkan Railway is really necessary and I request the hon. Minister to concede to this demand also.

There is a Consultative Committee for various zones of the Railways. But there is no Consultative Committee for the Konkan Railways and so, the problems of the commuters, the problems of the people who travel by that and the problems pertaining to the Konkan Railway cannot really be redressed or addressed, otherwise. So, I request the hon. Railway Minister to please look into this.

As I just said, I am really proud to say that the Indian Railways are undertaking jobs all over the world. This is something which is really a cause of real celebration. We should really compliment the engineers and the people who are responsible for it. The Konkan Railway Corporation is a singular example of how it could be done in a record time, in a most difficult terrain which is not only known to India, but to the entire world. Why can we not use the expertise of the Konkan Railway Corporation to undertake projects elsewhere in the world, in difficult terrains, where probably this system can earn money for the Railways? We should not dismantle this Organisation which has been so superbly created.

One more word I want to say. I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention one thing about the Konkan Railway. Shri Sridharan who is the present Chairman of this Railway as well as his team of engineers and all those who have really made it possible should be felicitated in some form or the other by the people of India. It is time that we really record their services and their contributions. We award Padma Shrees and Padma Bhushans to several categories of people. Probably, one of those Awards should be given to them.

There has to be some thanksgiving, for this wonderful feat that they have attained by the people of India.

I want to mention another thing which is not coming under the Konkan Railway. It is a broader issue. We are embarking on a massive gauge conversion drive. During the year, probably we have done about 758 kms. of gauge conversion. When we do gauge conversion, the question which arises is this : when there are some railway facilities available in some form or the other, should we spend our energies, moneys and resources in converting that existing one into another type of gauge which may be the superior form. By doing that, we are really compromising and sacrificing the interests of other development and not laying adequate lines because funds are getting diverted into that.

Sir, it is time that we come out with a good policy about how gauge conversion should take place, what should be the trade-off between new rail development and gauge conversion, etc. You should really come out with a good concrete policy and this Government is committed to transparency. So, I think we should come out with a transparent policy on the basis of new railway lines to be started, matters like how we are reconciling to various demands from different parts of the country, how we are giving preference to one region, how we are going in for gauge conversion with reference to new lines are something which should be really debated and should be made as a part of the policy. This is what I feel.

About R&D exercise of the Railways, the hon. Minister has mentioned that various projects are already undertaken. My point is that some of the R&D projects are definitely meant for superior engineering in various parts of Railway operation. That is understandable and that is how it should also be. There is no R&D project undertaken on provision of passenger comforts, for the people who travel by trains to see what facilities could be offered to them to make them comfortable, etc. I request the hon. Railway Minister who really looks after the interest of the common man to undertake such a project so that when people travel by trains, they will find their life better than that it is now. So, R&D projects should also be undertaken with that kind of an objective.

There has been some improvement in the development of rolling stock of the Railways. We always say that rolling stock is now sufficient to cater to the demand existing in the country. But I find that there are several sectors which need improvement. You can see that coal accounts for a substantial portion of more than 60-65 per cent of the cargo handled by the Railways. But the non-coal component of cargo is really suffering because of non-availability of adequate rolling stock. So, it is time that we come out with a blue print for 10-15 years from now about the envisaged demand for the railway coaches and how we are going to cater to that. This is something which we should know.

The hon. Railway Minister must be complemented for Railways being the first organisation to come out last year with performance linked bonus. Because of that, all other sectors were also benefited. But in this Budget I do not find any provision made for this bonus to be paid. Is it that the Government is not thinking of paying any performance linked bonus this time, or is it that they are going to come out with a supplementary budget, or is that we want to show lesser deficit in which case every Department will stand in chorus and then they will really pay that bonus? This is something which we have to know. Is it that it was applicable only last year because it was the first year for you in office? I do not know about this and I think the hon. Railway Minister may say something about that also.

A part of 57,000 casual labourers have been absorbed. The very fact that they were made casual is probably because the nature of work was casual. Is it that the nature of the job was permanent but they were casual? It is a question which should be answered. If the nature of the job was casual, what are we going to do with the newly absorbed people and how are they going to be of use from production point of view? This must be mentioned while looking at the humanitarian side of it and while saying that they must be absorbed. Even I have said the same thing while speaking during the Budget discussion last time that there is a need to have some sort of a policy in this regard. How are we going to make better use of the services of these people is something which, I am sure, the Railway Minister may be able to tell us during the course of his reply.

There has been a Corporate Plan with the Indian Railways from 1985 till the end of this century. About twelve years have passed and only three years remain. The objectives stated in the Corporate Plan are very glorious and as far as objectives are concerned, Indian Railways should be wearing a different face as we have completed 12 years of Corporate Plan. I would like the hon. Railway Minister to let us know the objectives when it was started in 1985 and also now, when we are almost at the end of the Corporate Plan period. How much have we attained and if we have not attained the objectives, is he thinking of creating another Corporate Plan? In that case, what is the real purpose of creating a Corporate Plan if we do not even conduct a mid-term appraisal about what we have attained and all such things?

The Mumbai Suburban Railway contributes the highest revenue to the Indian Railway. It is really necessary that we must come out with a White Paper about how much revenue does this Railway contribute and how much are we going to give in return to the commuters of Mumbai suburban who have nothing else to travel by and are forced to go by these trains.

Probably, their life is more miserable than that of the animals who probably will be transported by the Railways. Mumbai Suburban Railway should be treated separately. There have to be separate norms. We should really cater to these passengers because Mumbai Railways are not parochial when I say this. Mumbai transports people from all over the country and, for that matter, even from outside the country. Those who travel by these trains must deserve a separate treatment in the national Budget. I think, we must really come out with a proper White Paper and a good policy about how Mumbai passengers would be properly catered.

The passenger safety is a point of concern to many hon. Members. I am not referring to dacoities in Mumbai Railway only. For a dacoity to take place, the dacoits must be able to get into the Railways. They are not as well trained as our Mumbai passengers. So, they cannot get into that. But it is time that we should start railway passengers' insurance scheme whereby all the passengers get a blanket insurance irrespective of the distance they travel because the accidents are taking place at a very high level. Our hon. Minister of Finance has also stated that the insurance sector needs competition. So, why should we not come out with the new insurance sector in which all the railway passengers will be protected? The risk will be covered and they will be able to travel with a free mind than what they travel now.

I was reading some of the figures in the Railway Budget. The thefts of cargo are taking place in the Indian Railways. Thus, the Railways have really to pay out a large amount of money as compensation and also to pay for the loss of properties. What steps are we really taking about the R&D mechanism, etc? Has the cargo handling taken place in a different way? Even at ports, we are really doing a lot of mechanisation to handle cargo. Are the Railways also going to handle cargo in a different way to make sure that the loss on account of thefts comes down significantly?

There are one or two points more. The fare structure also needs to be rationalised in the case of Mumbai. I will give the details to the hon. Minister.

The Rajasthan Tourism is surviving because of contribution by Indian Railways. He has mentioned in a Report in a very nice way as to how many tourists the Indian Railways handled. The handling of bulk cargo or handling of steel and coal, handling of passengers and handling of tourists is done by one single organisation. Are we not thinking of making subsidiaries for handling specialised type of passengers, like the tourists, so that the tourists could be properly catered to? The revenues of the Railways could increase and their specific needs could also be taken care of. The passengers travelling by suburban railways, the passengers travelling on trunk routes, the passengers travelling as tourists and the cargo cannot be treated at par. So, I think, there is a need to have some sort of a special subsidiary for

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

handling the tourists as passengers. I hope, it will be done.

Out of the total land of 4.19 lakh hectare that the Railways possess 2,000 hectare have already been encroached upon. This 2,000 hectare of land, which has been encroached, is a big loss to the Railways. What steps are we taking to retrieve this land from the encroachers? 2,000 hectare of precious land and property have been encroached upon by the people. There is no mention about the steps that have been taken about it by the Railways.

Out of 4.19 lakh hectare of land, another 25,000 hectare of land is laying vacant. Probably, it is lying vacant for the encroachers to come and encroach. What steps are you taking to make sure that 25,000 hectare of land will also not be encroached upon like the 2,000 hectare which have already been encroached.

The condemned roling-stock is of a very high quantity every year. Are we thinking that a part of this condemned railway stock could be reconditioned and sent to some of our friendly countries who would really benefit? Probably, this gesture would also be realised because we are hardly realising any significant amount out of this.

The productivity parameters have not been mentioned anywhere in the Budget. It is a time that we really come out with the figures. He also mentioned that our average annual wage has gone up from Rs. 45,709 in 1993-94 to Rs. 59,219 in just two years. It is a very

good thing. We are really compensating the workers in an adequate manner. But has the productivity gone up in the Indian Railways during the same period? There is really a need to mention the per employee productivity as we are mentioning the per employee wage rate in the Railways.

18.00 hrs.

Sir, the public relations, education and advertising campaign of the Railways have helped in creating a better image for the Railways. But as a part of the advertising campaign, is it really necessary to publish a full-fledged photograph of the Prime Minister all over the country when we are starting a railway line in one corner of the country or in Bihar? We really publish full-fledged advertisements all over the country and the cost incurred on that probably could be better utilized to offer better facilities to the commuters.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I suppose you have concluded.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, if you say so.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank you.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 O'clock.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 11, 1997/Phalguna 20, 1918 (Saka).
