

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

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



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 19, 1997/Phalguna 28, 1918 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair]

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in yesterday's List of Business. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now it is Question Hour. Question No. 341, Shri T. Gopal Krishna. . .

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr Chairman, Sir, It was printed in the List of Business for 14th November that constitution (42nd Amendment) Bill will be taken up, but it is not then in today's list.

[English]

I want to know from you whether it will be listed today. It was there in yesterday's List of Business and now it has been delisted. . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lodha, now it is Question Hour. This can be taken up later. . .

(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, yesterday the Home Minister had . . . (Interruptions). Sir, this constitutes a breach of privilege. You are the guardian of the House. I want to know from you whether that item will be listed or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the Question Hour be over. After that, you can raise the matter.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : All right, Sir. Thank you.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Development of Wasteland

*341. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of wasteland brought under

cultivation in the country;

(b) the number of proposals pending before the Government for wasteland development and the details of projects cleared during the past two years;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have sent any proposals in this regard during the last two years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon so far ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Mandate of the Department of Wastelands Development is to develop wastelands in non-forest areas aimed at checking degradation of lands which are deteriorating on account of natural causes and putting such wastelands in non-forest areas to sustainable use for increasing bio-mass availability, specially fuelwood and fodder.

Because of poor soil health and adverse natural factors even after treatment of such lands, planting of fodder, fuel and fruit trees rather than agricultural operations are advisable on developed wastelands. As such, the programmes of the Department of Wastelands Development seek to prevent further degradation of land and to improve wastelands to grow appropriate biomass rather than to converting wastelands into cultivable lands. However, under the User Bhoomi Sudhar Yojana of the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, 4,31,580 ha. of land have been brought under cultivable use in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(b) During the past two years, 51 projects for Integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP) Scheme have been cleared by the Department. The details of the projects cleared are given in the Annexure. Presently 49 proposals, at various stages of processing, are pending for consideration before the Government.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. During the last two years, out of the projects received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, wastelands development projects have been sanctioned for the districts of (i) Rangareddy (ii) Karimnagar (iii) Prakasam (iv) Chittoor and (v) Kurnool.

Other projects received from the districts of Medak, Nellore and Karimnagar and under process in the Department.

Annexure

Details of the Projects cleared under the Integrated Wastelands Development Project scheme during last 2 years i.e. 1994-95 & 1995-96.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Project Period	Total Project Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Physical Target (in Ha.)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh				
1.	Nellore-II	94-95 to 97-98	416.59	9230
2.	Prakasam-II	94-95 to 98-99	335.51	4200
3.	Karimnagar	94-95 to 98-99	418.00	4870
4.	Chittoor-I	95-96 to 98-99	20.00	500
5.	Kurnool	95-96 to 98-99	332.00	8300
6.	Ranga Reddy	94-95 to 98-99	485.64	4574
Bihar				
1.	Vaishali	95-96 to 98-99	40.00	1000
2.	Deoghar	94-95 to 97-98	331.60	4400
Gujarat				
1.	Dang-I	94-95 to 98-99	345.67	4095
2.	Amreli	94-95 to 98-99	359.45	5500
3.	Jamnagar	94-95 to 98-99	245.89	2480
4.	Mehsana	94-95 to 98-99	466.69	7000
5.	Rajkot	94-95 to 98-99	352.84	4900
6.	Gandhinagar	94-95 to 98-99	144.43	1500
Himachal Pradesh				
1.	Kangra	94-95 to 98-99	349.50	4330
2.	Solan	94-95 to 98-99	352.64	4236
3.	Chamba	94-95 to 98-99	281.82	3713
Haryana				
1.	Mohindergarh-II	94-95 to 96-97	20.50	190
2.	Gurgaon	95-96 to 98-99	218.92	5473
Kerala				
1.	Wayanad	94-95 to 97-98	315.47	4500
2.	Mallapuram	94-95 to 99-2000	87.50	2000
3.	Iddukki	95-96 to 98-99	403.20	10080
Maharashtra				
1.	Ahmednagar	94-95 to 96-97	42.03	531
Meghalaya				
1.	West Khasi	94-95 to 97-98	117.39	1800

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh				
1.	Durg	94-95 to 97-98	215.94	3680
2.	Raigarh	94-95 to 97-98	390.55	5700
3.	Raipur	94-95 to 97-98	252.68	3860
4.	Rajnandgaon	95-96 to 98-99	444.00	11100
Nagaland				
1.	Zunobuto	95-96 to 98-99	100.00	2500
Orissa				
1.	Dhenkanal-I	94-95 to 98-99	45.97	691
2.	Navrangpur	94-95 to 98-99	284.28	3539
3.	Malkangiri-II	94-95 to 97-98	157.78	2186
Punjab				
1.	Bathinda	94-95 to 97-98	409.13	5570
2.	Sangrur	94-95 to 97-98	287.78	3493
Rajasthan				
1.	Udaipur	94-95 to 97-98	252.41	4600
2.	Palli	94-95 to 98-99	320.85	5049
3.	Ajmer-II	95-96 to 98-99	26.00	650
Sikkim				
1.	S. Sikkim-III	94-95 to 97-98	89.62	1770
2.	S. Sikkim-IV	94-95 to 97-98	93.09	1862
3.	N. Sikkim	94-95 to 98-99	155.55	3513
4.	E. Sikkim-II	94-95 to 98-99	333.66	7425
Tamil Nadu				
1.	Pariyyar	94-95 to 97-98	343.93	4000
2.	Pasumpon	94-95 to 98-99	284.73	3073
3.	N. Arcot	94-95 to 96-97	296.04	5000
4.	S. Arcot	94-95 to 98-99	249.80	3010
5.	TSR	94-95 to 98-99	255.94	3900
Tripura				
1.	S. Tripura	94-95 to 96-97	145.44	1792
Uttar Pradesh				
1.	Raibareilly	94-95 to 97-98	172.01	1800
2.	Mainpuri	94-95 to 97-98	338.30	4400
3.	Farukhabad	94-95 to 97-98	147.00	1500
4.	Lucknow	94-95 to 98-99	391.19	4000

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Sir, the Department of Wasteland Development is implementing various programmes for the proper utilisation of non-forest wastelands through various schemes. I would like to know the details of the Government wastelands in Andhra Pradesh to be distributed to the rural poor and to the social organisations separately during the last two years.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Department to Wasteland Development is to develop wastelands in non-forest areas, especially for increasing biomass availability, especially of fuel wood and fodder. Whatever the hon. Member has stated for his district, that is, the East Godavari district, there are no projects sanctioned under the Wasteland Development Programme. But separate on-going projects are there under the Employment Assurance Scheme. Whatever is the pendency of the amounts to be released, we will take action in that.

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Sir, I would like to know whether many barren hillocks lying in my constituency of Kakinada could be utilised for technology development scheme or for extension and training scheme or for investment promotion scheme, etc. They are unutilised at present. Incidentally, the Government sanctioned Rs. 36 lakh for development of these hilltops and only Rs. Six lakh have actually been released. May I know whether the Government would release the balance for development of the hilltops ?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, this programme is not covered under the Wasteland Development Programme. But in respect of those programmes taken up by the State Government under various Centrally-sponsored schemes, if any pendency regarding the release of funds is there, we will instruct the State Government to release further funds.

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon. Minister has said that four districts of Madhya Pradesh has been included. These four districts do not have much waste land area. The tribal districts like Jhabua and Rajgarh have maximum wasteland areas. I want to know from the Hon. Minister that the State Government's proposal regarding development of wasteland of these two districts will be taken up by what time ? Because lakh of people of these two districts migrate to other places in the event of late monsoon because there will be problem of fodder for animals. There is ample wasteland. I want to know by what time you are going to sanction the state Government's proposal.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the inception of this Department of Wasteland Development, 159 projects, have been sanctioned throughout the country. Out of these 159 projects, four are from

Madhya Pradesh – one each from Durg, Raigarh, Raipur and Rajnandgaon. The remaining projects recommended by the State Government as under process.

Regarding sanction of projects under the Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme, I would like to say that there is no problem for money. All the projects recommended by the Government of Madhya Pradesh are under various stages of process. We will look into them for sanction.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Sir, there are vast tracts of land which are waste and lying barren. If the poor people are given those lands for cultivation, they can utilise them properly. But as they are poor, they have to be supported by some financial assistance. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is prepared to give loans and other financial benefits to the poor people so that they may be allowed to have that waste land for cultivation ?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, this is a hundred per cent Centrally-sponsored scheme. We are giving entire money to the States through DRDA and Water Shed Committees. They identify the project area. The State Governments then recommend to the Central Government. Then, we sanction full amount. This aspect of loan is not there.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, as per the written reply of the Minister, the total targeted area for development of waste lands in Maharashtra is 531 hectares. I want to know whether this is the only area, according to the Central Government, which could be converted from waste land to cultivable land. This is my first question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to ask only one question.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : This question is part of my earlier question. He also stated that generally, because of the soil health and adverse natural factors, such land cannot be made cultivable even after treatment. I want to know whether there is any technology available in the country or anywhere else with which we can convert such waste land into cultivable land after some treatment, may be after some time.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : As per the 1995 census, there are 75.5 million hectares of waste land in India, both in forest and non-forest areas. So, we started this department and the scheme in the year 1992-93, which is hundred per cent Centrally-sponsored. So far, we have spent Rs. 276 crore and converted 2,46,000 hectares of waste land into cultivable land. This is only three per cent of the total land available. That is why, we sanctioned some projects which were recommended by the Government of Maharashtra. This year, 1997-98 we have earmarked a lot of funds for sanctioning of projects. There is no problem of money. You just identify some projects and recommend them through the State Government, we will look into them for giving sanction.

[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Mr. Chairman, through you, I want to ask from the Hon. Minister that 51 projects have been chand under I.W.D.P., it includes six districts of Gujarat. There is less wasteland in Gandhinagar district as compared of Kutch. Gujara State Government has not submitted any proposal for Kutch and whether you will include it for wasteland development.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Certainly. We sanction all the projects recommended by the State Governments. Some projects are under process also. Under the Employment Assurance Scheme, whatever amount is earmarked in that particular head, we are spending 50 per cent of that amount for waste land development. So, money is not the problem for giving sanction to the projects. You can identify the barren areas and recommend them through the State Government. We will process and sanction them. So far, in Gujarat, we have sanctioned six projects – Dang-I, Amreli, Jamnagar, Mehsana, Rajkot and Gandhinagar.

[Translation]

Shri P.S. Gadhave : It is essential for Gandinagar but it is more important for Kutch, whether you will include it or not ?

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : It is done on the basis of the recommendation of the State Government, It is the State Government which recommended those projects. That is why, we sanctioned them.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : The questions are being asked for waste land. The 'Jhurpi Jangal' in Maharashtra is not a forest in real sense. In Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh it has been regularised but the 4-5 forests called 'Jhurpi forest', are not forests in real sense. That is why irrigation project and road development work is stand still there. In fact it is wasteland but on records it is mentioned as 'Jhurpi Jangal', Please state the action taken on the Maharashtra Government's proposal.

SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT : His kothi and Nagpur High Court are also in the 'Jhurpi Jangal' area.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, some proposals are pending in my Ministry. I will look into them. The hon. Member is asking about his area what are the projects sanctioned ? what are the projects going to be sanctioned ?

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : In tribal areas under my

constituency in Rajasthan, the tribal people have encroached upon the forest land for the last 25-30 years. The previous Government has instructed to regularise the cases of prior to 1980 period and allot the land to them on ownership basis. But it has not been done so far and penalty is being imposed on them whether Government proposes to allot the land to them on the basis of previous Government's instructions in this regard ?

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, this question does not relate to the Wasteland Development Programme. It relates to the *adivasis*. The programme for *adivasis* is looked after by the Ministry of Welfare. If he has anything concerning them, he can put a separate question to the Ministry of Welfare.

[Translation]

Power Policy

*342. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up an expert Committee to work out norms for operation of private corporates in power transmission :

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

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

(d) if so, the terms, conditions and guidelines suggested by the Committee in this regard; and

(e) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted by the Committee ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee of Experts has been constituted on 17th February, 1977 to suggest, inter-alia, guidelines for determination of tariff having regard to operational norms such as line availability and financial parameters. The composition of the Committee is as under:

- (1) Shri D. Sankaraguruswamy, former Chairman, Power Finance Corporation – Chairman.
- (2) Shri G.S. Rajamani, Member (E&C), CEA –Member.
- (3) Shri K. Ramanathan, Retired Member (PS), CEA – Member.

- (4) Shri M.V. Dhekne, former Member. MSEB – Member.
- (5) Shri Ashok Harane, Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd. (ILFS) Bombay – Member.
- (6) Shri Bhanu Bhusan, Executive Director (Engg.), POWERGRID, Member – Secretary.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The Committee is expected to submit its report in April, 1997.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Hon. Chairman, Sir, from yesterday onwards even today in the House Electricity Law Amendment Bill, 1997.

[English]

Further to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (supply) Act, 1948 is being considered. [Translation] My question is related to it country is suffering heavily on a/c of protection, supply and transmission of Power. Government it self accept that is general total transmission losses and lines loses should not be more than 10 percent. But according to official figure it is about 22 percent. The present Govt. is also functioning on the Policies of previous Govt. But it want's do hide its in efficiency by way of privation. Power production and Power supply is going in the hand of private sector. Now transmission Bill has been introduced. The previous Govt. did not have the good experience of private sector during the last five years. The then Minister of Finance had admitted that their expretions of private sector had not be achieved. Now on present Govt. has entered this transmission sector with now expectation. I feel that it is because of collecting money it is being done. The D. Sankaraguruswamy committee on transmission lines has been asked to suggest, inter-alia, guidelines for determination of tariff having regard to operational norms such as line availability and financial parameters.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ask question.

SHRI SATYA DEV SINGH : I am asking question. Have you considered the fact that the committee which is to submit its report by due and of April, whether it will include the expansion of transmission lines in backward areas ?

In regard to part 'b', I want to ask, whether Govt. will permit multinational companies to enter in highly profitable transmission sector. Whether Govt. will ensure that transmission lines which then multinational companies will lay or have participation or will form corporation, will they extend them in remote areas ? Whether Govt. will also ensure that they should not only lay these lines is profitable sector but also is poor, remote and backward areas. These are may two questions.

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, there are five questions raised by the hon. Member. The hon. Member has rightly understood the necessity of the amendment of the Act. The Electricity Supply Acts of 1910 and 1948 do not permit transmission to be a separate activity. Now, we want to modify the Act and we want to make transmission as a separate activity. All the Chief Ministers considered this and, based on that, we have prepared a Common Action Plan. We are providing this facility in the proviso, but we are not forcing the State Governments to enforce it in the private sector.

The second point is about the emphasis on backward regions. The Power Grid has identified some areas in the Eighth Five Year Plan as well as in the Ninth Five Year Plan. So, we are giving emphasis on the backward areas also.

In all other aspects, we are emphasising not only on backward areas, but also on total regional development.

So far as counter guarantees are concerned, there is no proposal for giving any counter guarantees. There is no question of our giving any counter guarantees to either the multinationals or any power grid companies.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEV SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are saying that you will not provide counter guarantee. Whether Govt. has not given counter guarantee so production of Power Projects like Eronon ? I can't understand this policy ? You are saying that counter guarantee will not be provided, then who will come forward in transmission of lines sector ? Today you are saying No, tomorrow you will say you. My second question is, first you should instenct our Hon. Minister that if he has to safeguard our rights . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Ask question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA DEV SINGH : You have to protect our rights. My question has not been replied properly . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has said about counter guarantee.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA DEV SINGH : He is giving assurance that Govt. will not provide counter guarantee.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, you are saying that Govt. will provide. But this question does not arise at now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA DEV SINGH : This question is to be raised in near further . . . (Interruptions).

MR CHAIRMAN : We will think it over in the near future. You may ask your next question.

SHRI SATYA DEV SINGH : Power comes under infrastructure sector. If the Power generation is less, the country progress will be affected. Honble Minister has said that Act is being amended because so for the transmission sector was not a separate subject. You are of the view that in Power sector, generation, transmission and distribution are than separate sectors. Majority of the Electricity Boards in the country are running in losses. Many a times due causes will be in either, generation, transmission or distribution sectors. Line loss is maximum in the transmission sector. It means you will give an entire Power sector to private sector. Government had admitted that transmission is a separate sector, whether when ever a new united law is enacted, will it be ensured that transmission, generation and distribution will be separate sectors in a electricity board, so that Power production, distribution and transmission sectors will work satisfactory? Whether you will ensure in this regard ?

The second question, through a separate one, is an important one.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You ask one question.

SHRI SATYA DEV SINGH : I am asking for reply given to part 'b'. There are more than 400 sugar mills in the country. They can generate power & submitted their proposal in this regard. Hon. Minister may be aware that at present every sugar mill can produce 10 Megawatt of Power, without spending money. Whether Govt. will consider this aspect & will add in the amendment ?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : As the hon. Member has rightly said, no counter-guarantee will be given for transmission projects in the private sector or joint sector presently. Transmission service charges will be fixed based on the guidelines or instructions given as per the Tariff Committee. Based on the suggestion of the Chairman of the Committee, the tariff will be fixed. Counter-guarantee is given for projects only at the time of investment or at the time of privatising the power sector. At that time, the then Government had identified some projects. Some projects are moving on the fast line activity. They are identified as Fast Track Projects. To attract more private participation, in order to give insurance, this is done. Due to the unhealthy state of affairs of the Electricity Boards, no private parties were coming at that time. So, at that time, to assure the private companies, to assure the multinational companies they identified some projects. They are called Fast Track Projects. The counter-guarantee is restricted only to eight Fast Track Projects. Further, we have also taken a decision not to give any counter-guarantee for the other projects.

About reform and restructuring of the SEBs, this is also undertaken by the various State Governments. This Government has not prescribed any specific formula for

the reforms of the SEBs.

About the captive co-generation of power by sugar factories, already we have delegated the powers to the States. Whatever capacity megawatt they want to generate, whether it is the sugar industry or any other industry, we are permitting that. We are promoting more captive generation and co-generation activity. We have given the powers to all the States. They need not come to the Central Government for permission.

{Translation}

SHRI SATYA DEV SINGH : Sir, more than ten thousand crore rupees will be spent on transmission lines. Who will invest this much money and who will invest in transmission lines ?

{English}

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : That is why, we are amending the 1910 Act and the 1948 Act. We are amending the acts whereby we are introducing private transmission.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Sir, my questions are very specific. Firstly, I would like to know whether any such proposals from the private parties for taking over the transmission lines are there with the Government or not. If there are any, how many are there and who are they? Secondly, I would also like to know about the kind of norms which will be laid down by this Committee; how many will be applied to the existing companies. Supposing in Gujarat, the Surat Electricity Company is taking power from the GEB and doing only the distribution work in the city. I would like to know whether these norms will be applicable to those existing transmission companies also. Thirdly, suppose there are different industrial estates. They are at present buying power from the State Electricity Boards. If they want to take over the transmission and distribution work, will these norms be applicable to them or not ? If answers to all these questions are 'yes', I would like to know whether the parties concerned have been taken into confidence by this Committee or not.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : In regard to the private sector, at present, they identified only the Central sector. After passing the Act in the Parliament, we will move further. There is no question of any proposal for privatising the existing transmission lines either in the Central sector in the State sector. In the Act, we are providing only for taking the bulk power from one region to the other region . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : These parties are all taking bulk power. The hon. Minister has not followed my question. The Surat Electricity Company is buying bulk power from the GEB. These are all bulk power cases. I would like to know whether these norms will be applicable to them or not. About participation, I wanted to know

whether there are any offers before the Government or not and before getting the offers whether they are deciding the norms or not. Please answer.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : We are providing transmission facilities in the existing sector. The hon. Member has asked about Surat. We are leaving the option about the projects to the States only to promote joint ventures either with the Electricity Board or with the multinational companies . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : This is not the question. I want to know whether these norms will be applied in the existing sector. I am not asking whether it will be taken over by anybody.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member is asking whether your norm will be applicable to it.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : I would like to know whether the norm as laid down in the Report of the Committee which will be submitted in April, will be applicable to the existing companies which are involved in the transmission lines. I want to know whether you are trying to evolve the norms without getting the offer.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : If the companies are asking exclusively for the transmission lines, then the same norm will apply to them also. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : I am asking about the existing ones.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : The same norms will apply to them also.

Secondly, in response to the private sector projects, only some projects have been identified in the Mangalore-Bangalore section.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, If you have any details, you can pass them on to the hon. Member.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : After the project is identified, I will submit the details to the hon. Member.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : This is what I wanted to know. I do not want anything else. Now he is saying that this will be passed on to me. But nothing is passed on. The other day, the Finance Minister had promised me during the Question Hour that he would supply me the details about the income-tax applications to the corporate sector within seven days. Seven days are over now but I have not received any reply from him. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : let us confine to this question.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : There has been a good response from the private sector. A lot of companies have initiated action.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can pass on those details to the hon. Member.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is strange that the Expert Committee has not yet submitted its Report. The Government is bringing a Bill to hand-over the transmission part of the private sector. We objected to the handing-over of transmission to the private sector because the modalities have not yet been finalised. That is why, we wanted that the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee to discuss in detail the modalities and everything. He has stated in reply to the question that tariff will depend on the operational norms such as availability of line and financial parameters. The consumer will have to pay more to the private sector because the private sector will not come in a less profitable area. When the new thermal power station will start generating power, then there will be problem of evacuating power. That is why transmission of power from the thermal power station to the distribution centre is needed. My question is whether the Government have examined the fact exclusively the transmission and not distribution because transmission is now allowed in the private sector – of allowing transmission in the private sector. I would like to know whether there will be any control on the tariff to be paid by the consumers.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : It is true that the Committee is going to submit the Report in the month of April. Once the Act is passed by the august House, we want to, simultaneously, commence the work as it requires a lot of time to identify the line, structure, feasibility report, financial aspects and so on. It takes some time for all these things. That is why, we are proposing this Bill.

About fixing the tariff for consumers, the present system is there where the transmission and distribution are taken together. Only a separate activity is provided in this Act. At present, it is clubbed with generation and distribution. There is no separate pricing for transmission. It is the responsibility of the States to club all the things and charge the tariff from the consumers. It includes all these components and not just one component. The powergrid has no control over it once the private participation comes in. It is only an apprehension, it is not true. At present, the Regional Load Despatch Centres monitor the intelligence. At the national level, we monitor it through the CEA. It will be controlled by the Central and the State Governments with the concurrence of the State Government. We are amending the Act now.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : We all agree that in the entire country, we are facing the power crisis. There are no two opinions about it. More and more power will have to be generated. Power will have to be transmitted to the grid. It will then be distributed. Now the Minister has been talking about the policy. In the course of the reply, he has referred to one such project of transmission pertaining to the State of Karnataka. He has taken out the name of Mangalore which is my constituency.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ask the question.

SHRI V. DHANAJAYA KUMAR : I am coming to the question. I presume that he is referring to the power plant that is to be set up by the Mangalore power company, that is, Cogentrix company, The power that will be generated in Mangalore will have to be transmitted to Bangalore. My question is whether the Government looks to such a project as the model project which is proposed by the Karnataka Government. If so, I want to know whether the Government would follow those details mentioned in that project, for other projects also.

Part (b) of my question is this. What are the details of the projects in the case of this Mangalore power company ?

My last question is this. My anxiety is that power is generated at Mangalore and then it will be transmitted to Bangalore. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are going far beyond the scope of the question. Let the hon. Minister answer these questions. You have raised so many questions.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : In reply to a similar question raised in Rajya Sabha, the Minister had made a reference to it. I would like to know whether it is going to be a model unit or not and whether sufficient power will be distributed where power is being generated. I would like to know whether you have taken care of this project.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Hon. Member has asked about the model project. We want all the projects to be the model projects. We want to streamline all the projects. The Government of Karnataka has identified this project for private evacuation because 2,500 MW power is coming, the evacuation line is not coming to Bangalore. Basing on that ratio, the Government of Karnataka have identified a joint venture with some care of the Government of Karnataka. After the Bill is passed, the details will be finalised.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I would like to know whether the power will be supplied to the Dakshin Kanara district.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Basing on these lines, power will be supplied.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : The Government is allowing the private companies in the area of power generation. The State Governments are signing more purchase agreements and other agreements. In our State of Kerala, a lot of power purchase agreements were signed by the State Government in regard to supply of Naptha and other things from the Centre. There is a gross discrimination in the allocation of Naptha and other fuel. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they have laid down some principle for allocation of Naptha and other fuel items to the State Governments in order to honour the commitment about the power purchase

agreement which has already been signed. Why has our State been discriminated in this regard ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a general question. It is not connected to the main question. Mr. Minister, if you have the information, you can give a reply.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Naptha is one of the fuels based on which Kerala has got 660 MW of power. We have sent some guidelines also about these projects in the coastal lines. about competitive bidding, about those under captive generation and co-generation. We have given some guidelines. Accordingly, the Kerala Government might have submitted this proposal.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : It is alarming and distressing to note that the transmission loss in India is too much. Something must be done on a war footing. I am happy that the Government has set up on Expert Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ask the question.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : I am going to ask the question. I will be very simple, short and crisp also. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the response of private sector to the power transmission, what are the terms of reference of the Expert Committee and what is the present status of the atomic power plant at Kodangalam.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : About the atomic power plant at Kodangalam, the Hon. Member has to put a separate question to Dr. Alagh.

In response to a question about the private sector, just now I mentioned about a power transmission line from Mangalore to Bangalore. We have identified some bids.

The terms of reference of the Committee are; determination of transmission tariffs which includes suggestions on operational parameters, selection of private companies in the field of transmission including principles for bid solicitation and evaluation, regulation of transmission project licensees and coordination of regional grid operation, and modalities for issue of transmission licences both for inter-state and intra-state transmission.

SHRI JAG MOHAN ; I want to ask a simple question. When the private party lays the transmission lines, would the State help them in acquiring land or will they acquire land on their own ? Secondly would the policing help also be available to the private companies ? If that help is available to the private companies both with regard to peace and land acquisition, would they pay for the services rendered by the State or not ? If there is a dispute with regard to tariff, will there be any mechanism to settle those disputes subsequently ?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : We have identified a new land for the power grid. It is only for the bulk projects. Compulsorily the State Government's concurrence is necessary to pass the line in a particular State and they have to foot the billing charges.

Entry of Multinational in Electronic Industry

*343 SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ :
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Electronics moots opening up of strategic electronics sector to multinationals to meet a massive requirement of Rs. 14,500 crore during the 9th Five Year Plan;

(b) If so, the details of observations/recommendations made by the study-team in this regard;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(d) the present status thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (d) The report of the Study Team on Strategic Electronics for Ninth Five Year Plan, inter-alia, observed that there need not be any inhibition to involve multinationals in the strategic electronics sector provided they agree to the transfer of critical technologies.

Foreign investment in the Strategic Electronics sector is governed by the general policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as laid down in the existing Industrial Policy, 1991 as amended from time to time. The Department of Electronics has not suggested any modification in the said policy.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : The hon. Minister has said in his reply that the report of the Study Team has said that there need not be any inhibition to involve multinationals in the strategic electronics sector provided they agree to the transfer of critical technologies. Firstly, I would like to know which are the different sectors you have identified under the heading critical technologies. Under those headings, in those sectors, have you received any specific proposals from any multinational company or any other source ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : As far as the strategic sectors not exclusively for non defence use are concerned, I would like to inform the hon. Member that we have a policy of licencing for all plants. As far as the sectors relating to Defence are concerned, they are restricted to the public sector. So, the question of production by outside agencies in the strategic sector relating to Defence at the present stage under Government policy does not arise at all. As far as the sectors themselves are concerned, if the

hon. Member wants to know what are the strategic sectors, I can list them out for him. At present there can be no question of proposals for production by multinational companies in Defence related strategic sectors.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Sir, this is not my second supplementary, My question was not relating to defence. My question was very simple. Which are the sectors or fields that you have identified under the heading 'critical technology' ? You have used this expression; I have not asked for it, I am asking this only out of your answer. I want to know this because you are talking about 'transfer of critical technology'. So, I assume or presume it; it goes without saying that defence will not be 'transferred'. So, which are those fields ? This was my first question.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Within the strategic sector, we have strategic software, we have high research direction funding technology, we have navigation systems and computer-controlled six degree ocean platforms, high research display systems, data fusion, emerging radars and so on.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Thank you.

My second question, now, is this. In all these sectors of fields that the hon. Minister has mentioned, we all know that in countries like America a lot of our own intelligent youth are going and working in their electronic, hardware and software industries, especially in institutions like NASA where all these navigation technologies and radar systems are being worked out. There is a constant brain drain from India. Is the Government considering any proposal, or does it have any further plan to stop any further brain-drain ? There is a definite deficit of Rs. 14.5 thousand crore in the Ninth Five Year Plan which we have to meet in this field. The multinationals cannot be the only source for doing this. Does the Government have any specific plan by way of establishing special electronic export promotion zones or giving some facilities and subsidies to the Indian youth so that they establish their companies in these sectors here in India and do not go to countries like America and part with our own knowledge ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : More generally, Government's policy is very supportive. For this kind of strategies that the hon. Member has suggested, we allow 51 per cent investment and automatic approval by the Reserve Bank of India subject to the EXIM Policy; particularly for NRIs and corporate bodies 100 per cent investment is allowed. But in the specific strategic and defence-related sectors all these proposals will have to be examined on a case-to-case basis.

More generally, the Science Secretaries, whenever they go abroad, have been instructed by the Ministry that they should make an attempt to meet young Indians who are working in the university system or hi-tech areas. We would certainly, on an individual case-to-case basis, try to

see to it that if young Indians want to come back we would provide them with whatever facilities are required for them.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Coming back is one question but is there anything being done to stop further brain-drain ? The Science Secretaries going abroad and talking to them is one aspect of it. But to stop further people from going abroad, is there any specific attempt from the side of the Government ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : This is a very difficult problem. What we have been trying to do is to follow an approach where, for example, we try to give incentives within the public sector which plays a very major role in sectors like space or technology or some areas of electronics. Apart from opportunities for promotion for talented people and other facilities like housing, advanced training, I have been suggesting to the Science Secretaries that we must invest more so that if a young man joins ISRO, after a few years, we could send him to one of the best universities in the world for collaboration with peer groups. The hon. Prime Minister has been kind enough, whenever our scientists have made any achievement, to write a personal letter. We want to make it very clear that we value the efforts of young scientists very highly. As you know, apart from the monetary aspect, scientists and technologists get excited by some of these things. So, that is the effort that one should make. . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you have already answered.

SHRI A.C. JOS : The most famous space research institute, ISRO, is situated at Tiruvananthapuram in Kerala. It has developed now. It was started during Panditji's time and it has taken a shape now. We are proud of that Institute. Along with that Institute, in Kerala, we have got electronic parks also.

My question is : Will the Government and the hon. Minister be kind enough to think of establishing an Export Processing Zone exclusively, for electronic equipments and electronics machinery, to export software in collaboration with ISRO and electronic parks available in Tiruvananthapuram ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : It is not directly related to the question. The Government of Kerala has given some specific proposals relating to the software park in Tiruvananthapuram. I would like to inform the hon. Member that ISRO and other Central Government agencies located in Tiruvananthapuram go out of their way to explain their needs and interact with the local industrial bases and, I am sure, with the Department of Electronics. One or two cases which I have received from the Government of Kerala are being looked into.

SHRI A.C. JOS : My question is; Can encouragement for software exports from Tiruvananthapuram be thought of ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The Government's policy is very supportive of electronic exports.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jose, the hon. Minister has already said that he has received various proposals from the Government of Kerala and they are under process.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, electronic is the science of present and future. The strength for electronics comes from research and development. We would like to know what is the present policy of the Government which can really help in developing the technology and science in the field of electronic. If we do not develop the technology and science of electronics, we would not be able to develop electronics in our country. It is not possible to develop electronics in our country by importing the technology all the time from outside. We are for importing the technology which is easily available. But the frontline technology is not going to be available. It is only the penultimate technology. We would be very happy to know the present policy of the Government in this regard.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The hon. Member's interest in the field of electronics is well-known and he has been supportive of this sector. I would be very happy to send the proposals of the Ninth Five Year Plan with regard to Department of Electronics to the hon. Member. These proposals are available in hard discs also. The Department of Electronics have made proposals for integrating some of the advanced institutions that we have right now, like C-DoT and the Institute of Software Computing, into a state-of-the-art advance centre for research and training which apart from having its own facilities would also work and modern system of networking and with concepts of virtual training as we go along. In fact Mr. Bill Gates has made some proposals, It should be a very important aspect as far as our country is concerned. The Department of Electronics is seized of this problem earlier and have made proposals in this regard.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, the hon. Minister has just now stated that according to the policy of the Government, the multinationals are not allowed to participate in the strategic electronic sector.

It is also a policy of the Government that so far as foreign investments are concerned, the priority would be given first to the technology transfer cases and other key areas. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the American Investment Group and the Canadian Investment Group, while making their investment proposals to the Foreign Investment Board of India, had made it abundantly clear that the technology transfer in the case of strategic electronics sector can only be possible if they are allowed to participate in it ? In that case, if your policy is strictly 'no', I am thankful to you. That is a correct policy of the Government. Is the Government going to compromise its policy in the near future ? Can you categorically say 'no' for ever or do you say that there is a thinking going on ?

On the one hand, I find that in this Government, the Minister of Industry, the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Investment Board project the whole thing relating to foreign investment policy from one angle and the departmental policy from another angle.

So, I want to be assured in the House whether in the interest of national security, for all investment purposes, the technology transfer can be allowed without participation of the multinationals in the strategic electronics sector. It is a genuine policy of the Government which should not be linked with the other compromises that are now being made in the name of liberalisation policy.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The Government is aware of strategic electronics. As the hon. Member has said or implied in his question, the technologies are closely held and access to them is a problem.

Now, let me clarify. Under the existing policy, we welcome technology transfer to our public sector. So, there is no inhibition on that. In fact, I think, what the Study Group is saying is that you should more aggressively look for critical technologies on a global plane. It is the correct approach.

We are now talking about investment by foreign companies. That is allowed in some sectors of electronics. However, as far as Defence electronics is concerned, it is in public sector. It is not Government's policy to change that. I can say that in a very categorical sense.

As far as other strategic sectors are concerned, if they are subject to licensing and if there are specific proposals made because strategic sectors can also mean things like radars for cyclone warning or whatever it is. Now, those will have to be looked at on a case-to-case basis.

[Translation]

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am asking a simple question from the hon. Minister that whether we will have research work in our own country regarding latest technology or will go on importing it from other countries. Just now, it has been said about up-to-date technology whether we will go on importing it from aboard to will do research work in the country ?

SHRI YOGENDER K. ALAGH : I want to assume the Hon. Member that outlay is being provided for the technology, needed for the development of the country and essential for the strategical objectives. If you see the approach paper of 9th five year plan, priority has been given to the Mission oriented technology Research work.

[English]

Poverty Alleviation programmes

*344. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the

Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Poverty Alleviation Programmes continue to suffer due to non allocation of sufficient funds;

(b) if so, whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Poverty Alleviation: continuity a casualty' appearing in the 'Hindu' dated February 21, 1997;

(c) whether the Government have agreed to provide sufficient funds to remove the poverty in the country; and

(d) if so, the total funds so far allocated and whether all the schemes of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana etc. are likely to be fully implemented to improve the lot of poor people in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. The problem of rural poverty has been on the top of the development agenda of the Government since independence. The central allocation for poverty alleviation programmes has progressively increased from the 7th Plan to the 8th Plan.

In addition to the funds for poverty alleviation programmes, since 1996-97, the Government is providing additional central assistance to States and UTs for Basic Minimum Services.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Poverty alleviation continuity a casualty'.

(c) and (d) Priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty is one of the main objectives of the 9th Plan as per the Approach Paper. Government, therefore, proposes to provide adequate funds in the 9th Plan for poverty alleviation programmes.

The 8th Plan outlay and funds released/to be released for

- (i) wage employment and allied programmes.
- (ii) self employment and allied programmes.
- (iii) Area Development Programmes and
- (iv) Social Assistance Programme.

are given in Annexure.

All necessary steps are taken by the Government to fully implement these programmes to improve the lot of poor in the country.

Annexure

Statement showing Central out lay and the funds released/to be released during Eighth Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97)

(Rs. in crores)

Programme	VIII Plan (Out lay)	Funds released/ to be released (1992-1997)
1. Wage Employment & Allied Programmes	18,750	21,569
2. Self Employment & Allied Programmes	3,800	3,223
3. Area Development Programme	1,000	820
4. New Schemes*	334	—
5. Social Assistance Programme	—	932
Total	23,884	26,544

New Schemes taken up in 8th Plan include EAS and IORY, supply of Tool Kits and NSAP which are included in Item No.1, 2 and 5 respectively.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Sir, it is ironical that in a country where poverty alleviation schemes have been running for decades under the Integrated Rural Development Programmes, Indira Awas Yojna, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, Employment Assurance Scheme, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, and so on, the State Governments are at a loss to identify the poor beneficiaries in the social sector.

According to the Press reports, the Central Government provides assistance and every State has to certify about the utilisation of these funds. Till February 10, 1997, under JRY, the allocation was Rs. 1,790 crore but the utilisation was Rs. 1,342 crore and under IAY, the allocation was Rs. 1,140 crore and the utilisation was Rs. 806 crore, under IRDP the utilisation of 344 crores against 549 crores allocation, similarly under EAS Rs. 1328 crores utilisation against Rs. 1970 crores etc.

It can be seen from the figures that all the State Governments have failed to utilise the allocations fully. As a result, the approach to the implementation of the poverty alleviation programmes have continued to remain casual. In view of this, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps are proposed to be taken to implement these schemes effectively in the States.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem of rural poverty has been on the top of the agenda of the United Front Government. That is why,

from the year 1996-97 onwards, other than allotting money for rural development, we are also providing money for the basic minimum services. About what the hon. Member has said, I would like to submit that there has been 100 per cent non-utilisation of the funds by the State Government's on account of the opening balances of the last year. The State Governments are not sending proper utilisation certificates and the audit reports in time and so, we are also not able to release the money to the State Governments. Normally, the works are entrusted mostly during the period from December to June. That is the period when most of the allotted money under these heads are spent. That is why, so far there has been a 70 per cent utilisation of the funds by the States. The remaining part would be spent by the 31st of March. They are sending the utilisation certificates and the audit reports and we would be examining them and releasing the remaining amount to the State Governments. Actually, out of the entire twelve months, this is the period when the money is spent by the State Governments and that is why there is a variation.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Sir, the Ninth Plan Paper Approach Document has shown that 37 per cent of the total population is under poverty line. That shows that even after 50 years of our Independence, more than one-fourth of the Indian population live below the poverty line.

Sir, under the new programme under the PDS, it has been proposed that out of a quantity of 20 Kg, per four members of a family per month, 10 Kgs would be provided and the remaining 10 kgs would have to be bought by the poor man by paying double the amount. How is this scheme going to benefit the poor man ? The hon. Prime Minister has been assuring that more and more funds would be allocated for the development of infrastructure which would benefit the poor man. But the allocations in the present Budget shows that funds have been provided to help the big industries and businessmen. In every place funds have been earmarked for the poverty alleviation programmes.

Sir, my question is: What steps are being proposed to reduce poverty in this country ? Why should a high-level Committee not be constituted to review these schemes regularly ?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I have already stated that this aspect of poverty has been on the top of the agenda as per the Approach Paper. That is why it has been decided to allocate Rs. 60,000 crore in the Ninth Plan instead of Rs. 30,000 crore that was allocated in the Eighth Plan. There were many evaluation reports. Wherever there were any lapses, we gave timely instructions to the State Governments for their rectification. This Government is committed to the eradication of rural poverty in the villages. That is the reason why we have

provided Rs. 60,000 crore for this. In this year's Budget we have also provided Rs. 3,300 crore for the basic minimum services.

Sir, regarding foodgrains, I would like to submit, subject to coordination by the Ministry of Civil Supplies, that for the benefit of the rural poor living below the poverty line, this year, a subsidy amount of Rs. 8,000 crore has been earmarked by the Government. This Government is committed for the benefit of the rural poor living below the poverty line.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, PMRV is one of the laudable schemes under poverty alleviation programmes. The banks play a very important role in the implementation of this scheme. But unfortunately, we are getting a lot of complaints from the rural youths regarding corrupt practices which are being followed in the banks and also about the callous and indifferent attitude of the bank officials towards the rural youth in disbursement of loans. May I know from the hon. Minister whether such complaints have been brought to the notice of the Government or not, if so, whether Government proposes to take any action against those erring officers ?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : Sir, it is very important .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is going to be over. Let the Minister reply to it.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Whatever has been mentioned by the hon. Member is true. That is the reason why I held a Conference with the Bankers on the 31st of December to review the entire IRDP programme for the rural youth.

12.00 hrs.

Some lapses are there on the part of bankers. We have strict instructions to cooperate in order to implement all the rural programmes under IRDP. We have already given instructions for all the schemes. . (Interruptions). In that meeting we took the decision to inform all the field-level branches to implement our programmes hundred per cent without fail.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Fast Breeder Reactor

*345. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Atomic Research Centre at Kalpakkam has designed a fast breeder reactor for commissioning during 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in commissioning the

Plant for producing electricity;

(c) whether the Planning commission has been approached to sanction be funds for construction of the said Plant by the end of Ninth Five Plan; and

(d) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The detailed design of a 500 MWe (megawatt electrical) Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) is in an advanced stage of completion and technology development is also in progress at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) has been proposed for inclusion in the IX Plan. An outlay of Rs. 721 crores has been proposed in the IX Plan starting with a provision of Rs. 82 crores in the year 1999-2000. The project, estimated to cost Rs. 2960 crores, is expected to take nine(9) years from the date of commencement of construction.

[Translation]

Non-Allotment of DDA Flats

*346. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of DDA flats which remained unallotted due to lack of basic amenities;

(b) the category of these flats, locations thereof and time since when these flats have been lying unoccupied;

(c) the time by which the Government propose to provide basic amenities there;

(d) the reasons for not providing basic amenities in these flats; and

(e) whether the responsibility has been fixed on any officer in this regard and if so, the action taken against him ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) D.D.A. has reported that 6209 flats are lying unallotted because of non-availability of electricity. In addition to these, there are 9835 flats which stand allotted but are not occupied. The category wise details of all unallotted and allotted flats with locations, the time since when they are lying vacant and the tentative time schedule of provision of electricity therein are given in Statement-I and II respectively.

(d) and (e) External electrical services are to be

provided by the Delhi Vidyut Board and it is a continuous process. Delhi Vidyut Board has, however, reported that at times, the progress of electrification works is affected due to various constraints such as non-clearance of line

routes, contractual and temporary material shortage problems etc. Regular coordination meetings are held by D.D.A. at various levels with all concerned agencies for provision of basic amenities in these flats.

Statement-I

S. No.	Name of Scheme	SFS	MIG	LIG	Janta	Total No. of Flats	Lying vacant since when	Target date as given by Delhi Vidyut Board for Availability of power
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	216 LIG/576 Janta DU's at Kondli Gharoli	-	-	8	-	8	3/94	4/97
2.	MIG at Kondli Gharoli	-	120	-	-	120	8/96	7/97
3.	189 SFS at Ghazipur	101 88	-	-	-	101 88	6/96 12/96	8/97 8/97
4.	MIG/LIG houses at Mayur Vihar Pkt. IV Ph. I	-	124	124	-	248	3/96	6/97
5.	East of Loni Road (i)	-	136	-	-	136	12/96	3/97
	(ii)	-	-	256	-	256	12/96	6/97
6.	Motia Khan	42	-	-	-	42	12/96	3/97
7.	201 MIG Sector D Pkt. 7&8 Vasant Kunj	-	201	-	-	201	3/95	No target has been given by DESU for electrification of these flats.
8.	Near Peeran Ghari	-	148	-	-	148	12/96	-do-
9.	Rohini Sector 23, Pkt. 6	288	-	-	-	288	12/96	-do-
10.	Rohini Sector 23 Pkt. 7	128	-	-	-	128	12/96	-do-
11.	Dwarka Ph. I Nasirpur Pkt. 9	-	-	68	174	242	3/95	-do-
12.	Dwarka Ph.I Sec. I Pkt.3	-	14	42	-	56	3/96	-do-
13.	Dwarka Nasirpur Pkt. 6	-	246	82	-	328	3/96	-do-
14.	Sector 11 Pkt. 2 Dwarka	-	198	-	-	198	12/96	-do-
15.	Sector 11 Pkt. 3 Dwarka	-	198	-	-	198	12/96	-do-
16.	Sector 6 Pkt. 1 Dwarka	212	-	-	-	212	12/96	-do-
17.	Sector 1 Pkt. 1 Dwarka	136	-	-	-	136	12/96	-do-
18.	Sector 4 Pkt. MLU	228	-	-	-	228	12/96	-do-
19.	Sector 5 Pkt. MLU	167	-	-	-	167	12/96	-do-
20.	Sector 5 Pkt. MLU	197	-	-	-	197	12/96	-do-
21.	Pkt. 6 Nasirpur, Dwarka	-	184	-	-	184	12/96	-do-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
22.	Sector 13 Dwarka	-	628	-	-	628	12/96	-do-
23.	Sector 14 Dwarka	-	360	-	-	360	12/96	-do-
24.	Sector 17 Dwarka	-	292	-	-	292	12/96	-do-
25.	Sector A-9/A-10 Narela	-	-	4	-	4	3/95	3/97
26.	Sector 4 Narela	-	112	112	-	224	3/93	3/97
27.	Rohini Ph.3 Sec.21 Pkt. 4	-	-	104	-	104	6/95	3/97
28.	Rohini Ph.3 Sec.22 Pkt. 12, 16, 16-A and 17.	-	-	59	-	59	3/95	4/97
29.	Rohini Ph.3 Sec.22 Pkt. 15	-	-	176	-	176	6/95	4/97
30.	Rohini Ph.3 Sec.24 Pkt.1	-	-	176	-	176	6/95	4/97
31.	Rohini Ph.3 Sec.24 Pkt.10, 13, 25 and 26.	-	-	175	-	175	3/95	4/97
32.	Rohini Ph.3 Sec.25 Pkt.1, 8 & 9	-	-	56	-	56	3/95	4/97
33.	Rohini Ph.3 Sec.24 Pkt.4	-	45	-	-	45	4/96	4/97
TOTAL :		1587	3006	1442	174	6209		

Statement-II*Flats Allotted without Electricity*

S. No.	Name of Scheme	SFS	MIG	LIG	Janta	Total No. of Flats	Lying vacant since when	Target date as given by Delhi Vidyut Board for
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	976 SFS in Kondli Gharoli	784	-	-	-	784	3/95	3/97
2.	216 LIG/576 Janta DU's at Kondli Gharoli	-	-	208	576	784	3/94	4/97
3.	MIG at Kondli Gharoli	-	176	-	-	176	6/95	7/97
		-	192	-	-	192	3/95	7/97
		-	128	-	-	128	3/95	7/97
		-	180	-	-	180	8/96	7/97
		-	152	-	-	152	8/96	7/97
		-	176	-	-	176	8/96	7/97
4.	Sector A-9, Narela	-	248	368	-	616	3/95	4/97
5.	Sector A-10, Narela Gr.II	-	256	416	-	672	3/95	3/97
6.	Sector A-10, Narela	-	356	620	-	976	3/95	3/97
7.	Sector B-4, Narela	-	560	548	-	1108	3/93 & 3/92	3/97
8.	Rohini Phase III Sector 20 to 22	-	-	192	-	192	3/95	6/97

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9.	Rohini Phase III Sector 21, Pkt. 4	-	-	136	-	136	6/95	6/97
10.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 22 Pkt. 12, 16. 16A & 17	-	-	525	-	525	6/95 & 3/95	4/97
11.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 23 Pkt. 1	-	288	-	-	288	3/95	4/97
12.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 23 Pkt. 2	-	288	-	-	288	3/95	4/97
	Rohini Ph. III Sector 24 Pkt. 4	-	225	-	-	225	3/95	4/97
13.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 24 Pkt. 24	-	228	-	-	225	3/95	4/97
14.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 24 Pkt. 23	-	270	-	-	270	3/95	4/97
15.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 24 Pkt. 10, 13, 25 & 26	-	-	645	-	645	6/95 & 3/95	4/97
16.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 25 Pkt. 8-9 Pkt. 1	-	-	476	-	476	3/95	4/97
17.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 23 Pkt. 3	-	288	-	-	288	3/95	4/97
18.	Rohini Ph. III Sector 23 Pkt. 7	-	270	-	-	270	4/96	4/97
TOTAL :		784	4341	4134	576	9835		

[English]

Generation of Power**Joint Venture in Power Sector**

*347. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAM DAS PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh guidelines enabling Joint Ventures between State Electricity Boards and Private entrepreneurs in power transmission have been issued;

(b) If so, whether modalities for private sector participation in power transmission have been prepared with the help of NTPC and Power Grid Corporation; and

(c) If so, the time by which these are likely to be announced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The Electricity Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 1997, was promulgated on 24.1.1997 to recognise the transmission as an independent activity. It will now be possible to promote Transmission Projects in Government. Private and Joint Ventures including Joint Ventures between State Electricity Boards and Private Companies by grant of transmission licenses.

A Committee of Experts has been constituted on 17.2.1997 to suggest guidelines for negotiation of Transmission Service Agreement, the modalities to be followed in the selection of transmission licensees and the principles for determination of tariff. The Committee has been requested to submit its report in April, 1997.

*348. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the target fixed for power generation in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether adequate allocation has been made to achieve the target;

(c) if not, whether the Government have sought external assistance in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether negotiations with foreign agencies have been initiated;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government propose to promote captive power plants in the country for the betterment of industrial sector; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The targets for power generation for the 9th Plan have as yet not been finalised.

(c) External Assistance for power projects is sought from bilateral and multilateral agencies from time to time taking into account the requests received from Central Public Sector Undertakings and State Governments.

(d) to (f) Negotiations are an ongoing process. Currently negotiations are going on with multilateral and bilateral agencies such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund.

(g) and (h) Government have announced policy guidelines enabling the setting up of captive power plants by the industries themselves. Such plants are also allowed to sell surplus power to the grid on mutually agreed terms.

[Translation]

Setting up of a Mega Power Project in Uttar Pradesh

*349. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement was signed with the multinational company named Pacific Electrical International Corporation of Canada, recently to set up a Mega power Project in Uttar Pradesh with a cost of Rs. 3800 crore;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Pacific Electric Power Development Corporation of Canada on November 17, 1993 for setting up the Jawaharpur Thermal Power Project (2x400 MW) in the private sector in District Etah in Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,800 crores.

(c) The project promoters have informed that, subject to their achieving financial closure by November, 1997, the project would be commissioned by the year 2001.

[English]

Western Power Grid

*350. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have evolve any scheme for sharing of power among Western States from the Western Power Grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of power in MW being provided to Gujarat from the Western Grid at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Seventy five percent of the installed capacity of the Central Generating Stations in the Western Region is allocated to the constituent States/UTs based on the Central Plan

Assistance and energy consumption during the preceding five years with each component having equal weightage. In addition, ten percent of the installed capacity is allocated to the "Home State" in which the Central Generating Station is located. The remaining fifteen percent of the installed capacity is allocated by the Central Government to the Public Sector Units. Power Intensive Units as well as to States having regard to the prevailing power supply position.

(c) The quantum of power allocated to Gujarat from Central Generating Stations in the Western Region is as under :

I. Share from allocated quota :

Name of the Station	Share (MW)
Korba (2100 MW)	357
Vindhyachal (1260 MW)	230
Kawas (645 MW)	184
Kakrapar (440 MW)	125
Gandhar (648 MW)	234
Sub-Total	1130
II. Share from unallocated quota :	171
III. Share from Tarapur Atomic Power Station :	160
Total	1461

Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant

*351 SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Atomic Power Plants which have been decommissioned;

(b) whether Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant (RAPP) Unit I & II at Kota have been decommissioned;

(c) if so, whether these units are likely to be commissioned again for supply of power to Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent of deration of RAPP Units;

(f) whether the Government propose to allocate additional power in lieu of deration of RAPP Units;

(g) the schedule of commissioning of Unit III and Unit IV of RAPP at Kota;

(h) whether the Government are considering for allocation of entire power from Unit III and Unit IV of RAPP to Rajasthan in view of deration of RAPP-I & II and heavy deficit of power; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) At present there are ten Atomic Power Plants in India. No unit under decommissioning.

(b) No, Sir, Unit-I of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) near Kota is under shutdown from February 1994 due to a heavy water leak from the Over Pressure Relief Device (OPRD) located in an inaccessible area. Unit-2 has been shutdown from 1st August, 1994 for inservice inspection and onmass replacement of coolant channels and upgradation of systems.

(c) and (d) The leak from the Over Pressure Relief Device (OPRD) has been successfully fixed RAPS-I is expected to be recommissioned shortly after receiving requisite clearance from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. RAPS-2 is proposed to be recommissioned during 1998 after completion of the replacement of coolant channels and upgradation of systems.

(e) RAPS units-1&2 have been derated to 100 MWe and 200 MWe respectively from the original installed capacity of 220 MWe each.

(f) There is no proposal for allocation of additional power in lieu of deration of RAPS Units.

(g) Unit-3&4 of RAPP are expected to be commissioned during 1998-99.

(h) and (i) Government of India has so far not taken a decision about the allocation of Power from the RAPP-3&4. This will be decided on the eve of commissioning of the Units.

Spurious LPG Cylinders

*352. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the number of locally manufactured gas cylinders and regulators have risen sharply in the metros;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these fake cylinders and regulators are highly dangerous and can cause a disaster at any time; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or contemplated by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) No such case has been reported.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) Yes, Sir. If such equipments are put into use, they may prove to be dangerous.

(d) As stated in (a) above no case of circulation of spurious cylinder/regulators have been reported in the metros recently. However, such cylinders are normally detected at bottling plants where such equipments are deshaped and crushed, so that they may not come back into circulation. In case of such non-standard cylinders and regulators detected at plants and whenever the source is identified as distributor, transporter etc, debits are raised at penal rates on the distributors, transporter concerned, which acts as a deterrent.

[Translation]

LPG Distribution

*353. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether LPG distribution agency in Kumaon division is with the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam;

(b) the other institutions which own gas distribution agencies;

(c) whether the Government propose to handover the distribution of LPG in Kumaon division to some Non-Governmental Organisations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Oil Marketing Companies have not yet appointed any other institution for distribution of LPG in the Kumaon Hills.

(c) to (d) As yet, there is no proposal to change the existing policy of allotment of LPG distributorships in Kumaon Region. Locations meeting Oil Industry's viability norms are allotted through normal selection procedure of issue of advertisement and selection of the candidates by the competent selection authority on the basis of interviews. As per past policy, other locations are allotted to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam subject to product availability.

Construction carried out by NBCC

*354. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether many buildings, roads and bridges are being constructed by the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure incurred on all these projects during each of the last three years and till date;

(d) the details of projects completed and lying incomplete at present; and

(e) the reasons for delay in completion of the projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited has undertaken 27 projects in Uttar Pradesh since 1993. A Statement showing the details of these projects is given in the Statement.

(c) The expenditure incurred on these projects during the last three years has been shown in the Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the Question.

(d) and (e) Out of 27 projects undertaken by the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited in Uttar Pradesh since 1993, 9 have been completed. The details about all 27 projects are shown in the Annexure. The reasons for delay are shown in column (e) of the said Statement.

Statement

Names of buildings, roads, bridges etc. which are being constructed by the National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd. In Uttar Pradesh, year-wise details of expenditure incurred (value of work done) on such works since 1993, the details as regard to the project completed/lying incomplete and reasons for delay are indicated below

(b) Name of Buildings, roads, bridges etc. being constructed by NBCC in U.P.	(c) Expenditure incurred (value of work done) during 1993-96 yearwise & till date (Rs. in lakhs)					(d) Details of project completed and lying incomplete at present	(e) Reasons for delay in the completion of the projects
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997 upto 2/97		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Constn. of multistoreyed Office Complex including internal services for UP State Industrial Development corpn. (UPSIDC) at Kanpur (U.P.)	65.27	22.00	2.00	-	-	Completed	
2. Development of Industrial Housing Scheme for UPS-IDC in Industrial area Surajpur Site-C, Disttt. Ghaziabad (U.P.)	2.00	54.93	15.15	-	-	Completed	
3. Construction of Power Management Institute Building Part-II for NTPC at NOIDA (U.P.)	62.00	51.89	14.33	-	-	Completed	
4. Construction of 100 M high RCC Chimney for GAIL at Pata Etawah (UP)	-	-	30.36	104.14	5.00	Completed	
5. Construction of Guard Room Compound wall and development of site for National Open School at NOIDA (UP)	4.50	8.00	-	-	-	Completed	
6. Interior Decoration Work of BHEL HRD Centre at NOIDA (UP)	-	-	157.49	29.00	-	Completed	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7. Construction of Hospital at Vaidpura distt. Ghaziabad, (UP)	–	30.16	21.47	7.38	0.50	Completed		
8. Construction of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Chamoli (UP)	2.75	35.76	6.24	–	–	Completed		
9. Construction of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Rudrapur, Nainital (UP)	–	20.50	7.97	–	–	Completed		
10. Construction of Staff Training College for Oriental Bank of Commerce at NOIDA (UP)	4.00	133.73	214.44	159.52	21.00	About 99% complete	No delay. The work as per original contract was completed on schedule however the additional works awarded from time to time area in progress.	
11. Costn. of type-III, IV and V quarters BHEL Township at Jhansi (UP)	–	–	17.00	100.00	8.00	About 99% complete	Delay is on account of the late release of drawings and funds by the clients.	
12. Construction of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Baghra, Muzaffarnagar (UP)	50.50	58.60	101.93	26.50	2.20	About 99% complete	The Phase-I work at the project remained suspended for about one year as the original subcontractor had abandoned the work. Execution of the additional items of work costing Rs. 1.82 crore also delayed the completion of the project.	
13. Construction of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Sardhana, Meerut (UP)	22.19	24.67	50.13	35.80	2.75	About 96% complete	Delay in approval of the revised design of external sewerage scheme of the school complex & sewerage treatment plant which was necessitated on account of very high water table at the project site.	
14. Construction of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Dhoom Manipur Distt Ghaziabad (UP)	28.70	42.60	101.45	49.75	6.50	About 93% complete	1. Non-availability of approach road to work site by the clients Approval for construction of an approach road was given by the clients in February, 1995. 2. The school complex being located in low lying area got flooded during monsoon of 1995.	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
							3. Delay in approval of the revised design of external sewerage scheme of the school complex & sewerage treatment plant which was necessitated on account of very high water table at the project site
15. Construction of roads drains and culverts for Gail Plant at pata, Etawah (UP)	-	5.00	147.29	118.91	4.00	About 93% Complete	Project is delayed on account of non-realse of funds and non-finalisation of rates for pre-mix carpet of road work by the clients.
16. Construction of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Kaulara Kalla, Agra.	51.00	48.15	42.49	16.00	3.00	About 92% complete	1. Land dispute with villagers & delay in the re-demarcation of the boundary of the school. 2. Non-availability of bricks because of closures of brick kilns in the region as per the orders of Supreme Court.
17. Construction of NFL Office Complex at Noida (UP)	-	108.00	317.00	488.70	20.00	About 92% complete	No delay. Project Management work is progressing as per allocation of funds and priorities set out by the clients from time to time.
18. Construction of Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute at Jhusi, Allahabad (UP)	67.00	62.50	48.47	39.50	6.50	About 84% completed	1. Non release of funds by the clients. 2. Delay in decisions from consultant/clients for provision of ventilators, rolling shutters, colour scheme, fixing of electrical fixtures in auditorium building etc.
19. Pile foundation work of SBI Zonal Office Building at Agra (UP)	-	-	-	23.25	4.25	About 14% complete	1. This is a left over job of M/s. Kirat Chand Jain Family Trust, Lucknow. The case is under arbitration. Work is under 'Hold' because of Court Order/ arbitration proceedings. 2. Delay in recording of joint measurement of the work done by M/s Kirat Chand Jain.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
							3. Submerging of site due to heavy rains during Jan. '96.
							4. Delay in release of payment by the clients.
20. Rehabilitation & Strengthening of MIC/Mini-MIG Flats for GDA at Indira Puram Ghaziabad (UP)	-	21.65	20.00	128.94	6.23	About 33% complete	No delay. Project is progressing as per the release of funds by Ghaziabad Dev. Authority.
21. Construction of 32 units of Standard Design Factory Block in NEPZ, NOIDA (UP)	-	-	-	238.00	82.00	About 29% complete	No delay. Project is progressing as per schedule.
22. Civil & Structural Steel Work of C.W. System Package Feroze Gandhi Thermal Power Project Stage-II for NTPC at Unchahar (UP)	-	-	-	58.39	62.16	About 26% completed	No delay. Project is progressing as per schedule.
23. Construction of SIDBI Head Office Building at Lucknow, (UP)	-	-	12.00	87.00	8.00	About 25% complete	1. Delay in the finalisation of layout. 2. Delay in the issue of working drawings. 3. Site of annexe building block 'B' was made available in April, 96 after about 7 months from the start of the work.
24. Construction of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Etawah (UP)	-	-	-	12.25	4.00	About 6% complete	1. Approach road to the work site for a stretch of about 6Km. is not available & hence the progress at the project is slow. 2. The technical approval for external development work is still awaited from client.
25. Construction of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Firozabad (UP)	-	-	-	-	5.00	Works commenced in Feb.97	No Delay.
26. Construction of Indira Gandhi Bhawan in Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital Complex, Allahabad (UP)	9.00	17.50	-	-	-	Project was abandoned in Oct. 94 due to paucity of funds with the clients.	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27. Construction of Commercial Complex at Kaushambi, Ghaziabad (UP)						NBCC's Real Estate Project. Project has been kept in abeyance for the time being due to non-availability of infra-structural facilities like power, drinking water, sewerage, approach road etc. by GDA.	

[English]

Employment Assurance Scheme

*355. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- the number of Blocks, State-wise;
- the number of Blocks covered under EAS during 1995-96;
- the number of Blocks sanctioned under EAS during 1996-97, State-wise;
- whether Government is contemplating to cover all the Blocks under EAS in the country; and
- if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The State-wise list of total number of blocks and blocks covered under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) may please be seen in Statement-I.

(b) The number of blocks covered under EAS during 1995-96 is 768.

(c) The list of number of blocks sanctioned under EAS State-wise, during 1996-97 may please be seen in Statement-II enclosed.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The remaining rural blocks of the country will be covered under EAS during 1997-98.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total No. of Blocks	No. of Blocks covered under EAS
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	330	280
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	56	56

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	218	218
4.	Bihar	727	579
5.	Goa	11	5
6.	Gujarat	218	181
7.	Haryana	110	77
8.	Himachal Pradesh	69	44
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	119	119
10.	Karnataka	175	162
11.	Kerala	152	81
12.	Madhya Pradesh	459	394
13.	Maharashtra	299	247
14.	Manipur	31	31
15.	Meghalaya	32	32
16.	Mizoram	20	20
17.	Nagaland	52	52
18.	Orissa	314	290
19.	Punjab	136	49
20.	Rajasthan	237	204
21.	Sikkim	4	4
22.	Tamilnadu	385	282
23.	Tripura	27	27
24.	Uttar Pradesh	902	610
25.	West Bengal	340	270
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5	3

1	2	3	4
27.	Chandigarh	1	0
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1	1
29.	Daman & Diu	2	1
30.	Delhi	5	0
31.	Lakshadweep	9	7
32.	Pondicherry	6	3
Total		5452	4329

Statement-II

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Additional Block Sanctioned
1.	Andhra Pradesh	95
2.	Assam	76
3.	Bihar	132
4.	Goa	4
5.	Gujarat	31
6.	Haryana	32
7.	Himachal Pradesh	25
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	30
9.	Karnataka	29
10.	Kerala	60
11.	Madhya Pradesh	54
12.	Maharashtra	29
13.	Manipur	9
14.	Orissa	40
15.	Punjab	49
16.	Rajasthan	30
17.	Tamil Nadu	84
18.	Uttar Pradesh	250
19.	West Bengal	57
20.	A & N Island	1
21.	Daman & Diu	1
22.	Lakshadweep	2
23.	Pondicherry	3
Total		1123

Subsidy to F.P.I.s.

*356. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of assistance and subsidy provided to food processing units during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the criteria fixed for allocation of funds including subsidy to these units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b) Government have taken various steps to promote food processing industries in the country which inter-alia include declaration of most food processing industries as high priority, delicensing of food processing industries except brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for small scale sector, promoting domestic/foreign/NRI investments and providing fiscal reliefs etc. Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its plan schemes extends financial assistance to State Government organisations, institutions, cooperatives, joint sector/assisted sector projects, voluntary agencies etc. for (i) setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing units, (ii) promotion of post harvest infrastructure, cold chain etc., (iii) propagation of the concept of backward linkages between farmers and processors, (iv) propagating technology for developing entrepreneurship in rural areas (v) Research and development related activities (vi) Networking with State Governments and assisting nodal agencies identified by the State Governments etc.

2. Plan Schemes operated by Ministry of Food Processing Industries are project specific and not State or area specific. Depending upon the factors such as technical feasibility and economic viability of the proposals, availability of resources etc. financial assistance is provided in the following manner :-

(a) Interest free loan to State Government organisations for equity participation in joint sector/assisted sector projects.

(b) Grant-in-aid to State Government Organisations, institutions, cooperatives/voluntary agencies/private entrepreneurs etc., in varying degrees, for the purposes indicated in the preceding para-1.

(c) Equity/Loan assistance to Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. and North Eastern Regional Agricultural & Marketing Corporation, the two public sector enterprises under the administrative control of the Ministry.

3. The outlay and expenditure of plan funds during the last three years are :

(Rupees in Crores)

Year	Outlay	Expenditure
1993-94	47.00	38.52
1994-95	45.00	29.74
1995-96	45.00	40.87

[Translation]

Electricity Generation by Atomic Power Plants

*357. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in the country where electricity is generated by Atomic Power Plants and the quantum of electricity generated by each of these, separately; and

(b) the names of places where Atomic Power Plants are proposed to be set up during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the quantum of electricity likely to be generated by these plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION OF MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Details of the Atomic Power Plants in the country, their location and quantum of electricity generated by each are given below :

Sr. No.	Nuclear Power Station and its location	Unit No.	Present capacity (MUs)	Cumulative electricity generation upto Feb. 97 (MUs)
1.	Tarapur Atomic Power Station, located at Tarapur in Maharashtra.	TAPS-1	160	24180
		TAPS-2	160	24473
2.	Rajasthan Atomic Power Station, located at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan.	RAPS-1	100	8289
		RAPS-2	200	15000
3.	Madras Atomic Power Station, located at Ralpakkam in Tamilnadu.	MAPS-1	170	12654
		MAPS-2	170	10322
4.	Narora Atomic Power Station, located at Narora in U.P.	NAPS-1	220	4539
		NAPS-2	220	4504
5.	Kakrapar Atomic Power Station located at Kakrapar in Gujarat.	KAPS-1	220	3615
		KAPS-2	220	2258

(b) Kaiga Atomic Power Project Units-1&2 in Karnataka and Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Units-3&4

in Rajasthan Presently under construction have a total capacity of 880 MWe. These are expected to be commissioned in 1998 and would generate about 5000 MUs each during the IX Plan.

[English]

Oil Exploration

*358. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of thrust areas in which the oil exploration takes place at present;

(b) whether any proposal to restructure the entire petroleum sector is under consideration;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the quantity of oil production from each thrust area per year;

(e) whether the Government propose of deepen the exploration in the thrust areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the new areas in which the oil exploration activities are likely to be started; and

(h) the quantity of oil production expected annually from such oil fields ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The present exploration strategy involves continuance of major exploration thrust in currently producing basins like Cambay, Upper Assam, Bombay Offshore, Krishna-Godavari & Cauvery basins for finding low risk hydrocarbons by identifying the missed targets & locating new targets through emphasis on quality of seismic data acquisition including 3D in solving intricacies of subtle traps which will be one of the main exploration targets in these basins.

Other thrust areas identified for exploration are :

- Gondwana & Vindhyan Basins
- Schuppen belt of North-East region
- Deep Water exploration both in East & West Coast Offshore beyond 200 m. isobath.
- Kutch offshore for Mesozoic prospects
- Deeper objectives of Western & North-Eastern Onland basins i.e. Mesozoic section of Cambay, Kutch, Saurashtra & Rajasthan & Palaeocene-Eocene of Upper Assam.
- Areas of uncertain prospectivity such as Deccan Plateau, beneath the thrust sheets of Nagaland & Manipur etc.

New targets like tight gas sands, deep basin gas on proved basins, Gondwana & West Bengal Basins.

(b) and (c) Strategic Planning Group on Restructuring of Oil Industry ('R' Group) was set up in January, 1995 inter alia, to make policy recommendations and suggest initiatives required for restructuring of the Oil Industry to meet the basic strategic objectives of developing a financially sound and Internationally competitive hydrocarbon sector. The 'R' Group has submitted its report. However, no decision has been taken on its recommendations.

(d) Of the identified basins/areas, as mentioned in reply to Part (a), oil production is being obtained only from the Category-I basins. The basin-wise oil production from each of these basins during the year 1995-96 was as under :-

Basin	Oil Production (MMT)
Cambay	6.386
Upper Assam & Assam-Arakan Fold Belt	5.074
Krishna-Godavari & Cauvery	0.575
Bombay Offshore	23.127
	35.162

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) The details are given in reply to Part (a) above.

(h) The quantity of oil expected from new exploration thrust areas can only be estimated after the results of exploration and establishment of reserves.

[Translation]

National Power Grid

*359. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any schemes to inter link all the power grids with one another in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) the sources through which the funds are proposed to be mobilised; and

(e) the time by which such schemes are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have formulated plans to inter connect

various regional electricity grids of the country. Some of these links are already under operation, others are under construction and under consideration. A list of the centrally owned inter-regional links is given below :

I. Existing (Under Operation)

- (i) Between Western & Northern Region – 500 MW Vindhyachal HVDC Back to Back Station.
- (ii) Between North-Eastern & Eastern Region 200 KV Birpara-Bongaigaon.
- (iii) Reamagundam – Chandrapur – 400 KV line between Southern Region & Western Region.

II. Under Construction.

- (i) Between Western & Southern Region 1000 MW HVDC back-to back at Chandrapur.
- (ii) Between Eastern & Southern Regions – 500 MW HVDC back-to-back at Gazuwaka.
- (iii) Between North Eastern & Eastern Region 400 KV between Bongaigaon and Malda.

III. Under Consideration.

- (i) Between Eastern & Northern Region – 500 MW at Sasaram between Biharasharif to Rihand.

IV. Studies carried out by POWERGRID suggests requirement of the following additional major transmission links;

- (i) 400 KV AC Raipur (WR) to Rourkela (ER)
- (ii) 3000 MW HVDC Bipole link between Talcher in ER to Bangalore in SR as a part of Talcher-II transmission system.
- (iii) 3000 MW HVDC Bipole link between Ib Valley in ER and Jaipur in NR and 400 KV AC system from Ib Valley (ER) to Raipur (WR). These transmission links are part of the transmission system associated with CEPA.

(c) and (d) Estimated cost of the above projects and other details are given in the attached Statement.

(e) Expected commissioning dates of the aforementioned project (s) are as follows :

	Commissioning Dates
i. Chandrapur B/B HVDC	11/97
ii. Gazuwaka B/B HVDC	2/99
iii. Sasaram B/B HVDC	3/2000
iv. 400 KV Bongaigaon – Malda	3/98
v. Talcher-Bangalore HVDC	2001-02
vi. (a) Ib Valley – Jaipur HVDC	2001-02
(b) Ib Valley – Raipur AC system	2000-01
vii. 400 KV Raipur – Rourkela	2001

Statement

Projects	Approved/Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Funding Agency
i. Chandrapur B/B HVDC	1046 crores	West Merchant Bank Indosuez Credit National Overseas Dev. Agency (tied up).
ii. Gazuwaka B/B HVDC	574 Crs.	Asian Development Bank/West Merchant Bank (tied up).
iii. Sasaram-Biharsharif HVDC	567 Crs.	DDA (Overseas Development (Agency)/World Bank (Under processing).
iv. 400 KV Bongaigaon-Malda	212 Crs.	OECD (Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund) (Tied up).
v. Talcher-Bangalore HVDC	2500 Crs.	WB (World Bank) (under consideration).
vi. Ib Valley, Jaipur HVDC Ib Valley, Raipur, HVDC	6140 Crs.	Not finalised.
vii. 400 KV AC Raipur-Rourkela	336 Crs.	World Bank (under processing).

Note : The External financing is about 55% to 60% of the cost of the projects, 20% funding is made from POWERGRIDS Internal Resources and remaining is through Bond/Domesfic Commercial Borrowing.

[English]

National Bio-Gas Project

*360. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :
SHRI RAJINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

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

(a) whether various States have not been able to achieve even 50 percent of the annual target fixed for implementation of programmes under National Bio-gas Project;

(b) if so, the States, which have not been able to achieve the annual target;

(c) whether Government have made any arrangements to provide improved chulhas, instal Bio-gas to the People who wish to have Bio-gas Plant and improved chulhas;

(d) wether Government have made any positive efforts to help such States to achieve the target of the National Bio-gas Project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the period April 1996 to January 1997, all States and Union Territories except Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Chandigarh and Pondicherry have achieved 52 to 164 per cent of their respective annual targets fixed under the Central Sector

Scheme – National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD). The overall annual target of setting up of 1.65 lakh family type biogas Plants fixed for 1996-97 under NPBD is expected to be achieved by the end of March 1997.

(c) Yes, Sir. In addition to NPBD, a separate Central Sector Scheme – National Programme on Improved Chulhas (NPIC) is being implemented in all States and Union Territories to promote various improved designs of efficient and smokeless chulhas.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is providing technical and training support including training courses for users; financial incentives, such as, central subsidy, turn-key job fee to non-governmental organisations and trained entrepreneurs, additional central subsidy for toilet linked biogas plants, etc.; and support for publicity and awareness raising for implementation of NPBD in all States and Union Territories. Regional and state level reviews have been organised during August 1996 to February 1997, especially for the States which were lagging behind in achieving the targets, to draw action plans for improving the pace of implementation of the programme.

Supply of Computers

3778. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "PCL faces flak from customers" appearing in the "Times of India" dated February 13, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the number of PCLs purchased by the Government Departments and have found inferior in quality and the sources of such PCLs purchases;

(d) the steps taken to get the defective sets of PCLs replaced or refund of money from the source of purchase; and

(e) the number of these PCLs sold by the Kendriya Bhandar to Government Department ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The news item essentially relates to grievances of a private firm arising out of purchase of PCL computers. The Department of Electronics does not procure computers for Government Ministries/Departments or for any other agency.

As per the information made available by the Kendriya Bhandar, during the current financial year, they have sold fourteen (14) Personal Computers (PCs) to various Government Departments, out of which no complaint regarding inferior quality or defective machine has been received by them.

Construction of Haj Houses

3779. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh proposes to build Haj House in Lucknow;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the expenditure proposed to be incurred on it;

(c) whether other State Governments already have such houses;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to issue any directive to all the State Governments to build Haj Houses in the Capital of each State for facilitating Haj Pilgrims; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the assistance to be provided by Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Government is not aware of any proposal from Government of Uttar Pradesh to build Haj House in Lucknow.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Haj House has recently been built in West Bengal by the West Bengal State Haj Committee. Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir State Haj Committees propose to build Haj Houses in their respective States.

(d) No, sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Vacant Properties.

3780. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of shops/office complexes/restaurants etc., constructed by DDA are lying vacant, as on date and the number out of these in DDA built markets in Vishakha Enclave and Maurya Enclave areas of Pitampura, Delhi;

(b) when these shops/complexes/restaurants etc. were built by DDA and the reasons for these properties to have remained vacant; and

(c) the steps taken to put these properties to proper use ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The DDA has reported that as on 28.2.97, 3389 shops/office complexes/restaurants, etc. constructed by it were lying vacant/unallotted. Out of these, 185 shops/office complexes/restaurants are located in Vishakha Enclave, Maurya Enclave and Pitampura.

(b) These complexes were constructed from the year 1985 upto December, 1996. The reasons due to which these properties have remained vacant/unsold are:-

(i) Recession in the money market;

(ii) Non-release of electric connection by DESU in some markets; and

(iii) Misuse of the residential premises surrounding the shopping complexes for commercial purposes.

(c) (i) Requests from Government Departments/Public Sector Undertakings like banks, post offices, MTNL, etc. are considered as and when received.

(ii) Vacant/unallotted properties are being put to auction from time to time.

[Translation]

District Under Employment Assurance Scheme

3781. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the

Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in Madhya Pradesh where Employment Assurance Scheme is in operation;

(b) the number of districts which are likely to be included in this scheme during 1997-98; and

(c) the amount of grant provided for this purpose during 1996-97 ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The Employment Assurance Scheme is in operation of the following districts of Madhya Pradesh :-

Balaghat, Baster (Jagdalpur), Betul, Bhind Bilaspur, Chhatarpur, Chhindwara, Damoh, Dewas, Dhar, Durg, Guna, Hoshangabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Jhabua, Khandwa, Khargaon, Mandla, Mandsaur, Narsimpur, Panna, Rajgarh, Raipur, Raisen, Rajgarh, Rajnandgaon, Rattlam, Rewa, Sagar, Sarguja, Satana, Sehore, Seoni, Shahdol, Shajapur, Shivpuri, Sidhi, Tikamgarh, Ujjain and Vidisha.

(b) All the remaining blocks and districts of Madhya Pradesh will be included in this scheme during 1997-98.

(c) Funds amounting to Rs. 18804.90 lakhs have been released for this purpose till date during 1996-97.

[English]

Audit of Rural Employment Fund

3782. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the directions issued by the Union Government to the different State Governments regarding the Audit of Rural Development Funds in Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads;

(b) whether the Government of West Bengal have audited the accounts in the different Zila Parishads and Panchayat Samitis for the last 19 years in West Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads have completed Audit upto December, 1996 ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Diversion of Petrol

3783. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of Petroleum products bound for Mahe (Pondicherry State) are being diverted to some petrol/diesel banks in Calicut and Canannore districts of Kerala;

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

(c) whether any culprits had been apprehended by the authorities in the past; and

(d) if so, the punishment given to these culprits under the law ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU):

(a) No, Sir. No diversion of petroleum products bound for Mahe, to Kerala has been reported.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Dutch Aided Schemes for Drinking Water and Sanitation

3784. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Dutch aided schemes under consideration for drinking water and sanitation in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which these schemes are likely to be accorded approval ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) A project costing Rs. 2192 lakh is under consideration of the Dutch Government to provide Rural Water Supply in problem villages of Varanasi, Rae Bareilly and Allahabad districts.

(b) No time frame has been indicated by the Dutch Government to accord approval of the schemes.

Petroleum Refinery

3785. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Energy Corporation Limited (Encon) has come forward to set up 100 per cent Export-Oriented Petroleum Refinery Project in Andhra Pradesh,

(b) if so, whether it has also plans to set up a 650 MW power plant as a part of the project;

(c) if so, whether any final decision has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the installed capacity to refine crude oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :
(a) to (d) There is no proposal under consideration from M/s Indian Energy Corporation Limited to set up an oil refinery under 100% EOU scheme in Andhra Pradesh.

ISRO

3786. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is working out the technical details to hook up the various power grids via satellite to provide rapid information about the location of faults; and

(b) if so, the details of the project and the time by which the Power Grid Corporation Ltd. propose to use satellite technology to monitor power despatch quality and grid health ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Private Investment

3787. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to set up independent authority to monitor private investment in petroleum industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

(c) whether various recommendations have been received by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Counter Magnet City

3788. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities given for the development of

proposed counter magnet city under National Capital Territory of Delhi, till date;

(b) the manner in which it is proposed to be implemented; and

(c) the total amount spent on this work during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The Counter Magnet Cities have been selected in States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Initially five cities namely, Hissar, Patiala, Gwalior, Kota and Bareilly have been chosen for investment. The concerned State Governments and its implementing agencies prepare integrated plan under which detailed projects are prepared and implemented. Some of these projects are funded through a Development Fund financed jointly by NCR Planning Board and the State Governments while others are funded by the State Governments exclusively.

(c) A sum of Rs. 6 crores has been released by NCR Planning Board for the Counter Magnet Towns during the last three years.

[English]

Nehru Rozgar Yojana

3789. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employment opportunities created during 1994-95, 1995-96 & 1996-97 under the Nehru Rozgar Yojana, State-wise;

(b) the objectives set under NRY during the above period, State-wise; and

(c) the main schemes under the above Yojana which were taken advantage of by the educated unemployed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The details of targets set and number of beneficiaries assisted to set up micro-enterprises and number of mandays of work generated, State-wise, during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, under the Nehru Rozgar Yojana, are given in the enclosed Statement-I, II and III.

(c) No Scheme of the Nehru Rozgar Yojana prescribes any academic qualification for beneficiaries. All the Schemes re-open to the urban poor living below the poverty line.

Statement-I

Nehru Rozgar Yojana (1994-95)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	S.U.M.E.		S.U.W.E.	
		No. of beneficiaries assisted		Mandays of work generated (in lakhs)	
		T.	A.	T.	A.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10050	15510	2.11	1.61
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	40	0.23	0.20
3.	Assam	1320	13572	1.46	1.37
4.	Bihar	4450	—	2.74	—
5.	Goa	75	—	0.08	—
6.	Gujarat	2450	1663	0.88	0.45
7.	Haryana	1610	2060	0.62	3.49
8.	Himachal Pradesh	345	—	0.35	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	400	—	0.40	—
10.	Karnataka	4285	14048	2.70	—
11.	Kerala	4120	3279	1.20	1.09
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10770	—	3.05	—
13.	Maharashtra	5360	7435	3.55	1.07
14.	Manipur	545	1651	0.42	0.41
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	0.08	—
16.	Mizoram	205	700	0.16	9.67
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	2570	—	1.05	—
19.	Punjab	3120	2670	1.30	0.91
20.	Rajasthan	5230	9621	2.48	3.04
21.	Sikkim	275	—	0.10	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	12160	12665	8.30	4.93
23.	Tripura	205	33	0.16	0.26
24.	Uttar Pradesh	26440	35852	9.73	9.71
25.	West Bengal	4835	3042	2.55	12.41
26.	A & N Islands	230	1	0.05	—
27.	Chandigarh	145	21	0.09	0.16
28.	D & N Haveli	50	14	0.03	0.01
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	0.05	—
30.	Delhi	830	79	N.A.	—
31.	Pondicherry	115	705	0.20	0.06
Total		102190	124595	41.12	50.85

T = Targets

A = Achievements

Statement-II*Nehru Rozgar Yojana (1995-96)*

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	S.U.M.E.		S.U.W.E.	
		No. of beneficiaries assisted		Mandays of work generated (in lakhs)	
		T.	A.	T.	A.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10958	5701	2.18	1.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	611	—	0.26	1.53
3.	Assam	1278	—	1.13	1.36
4.	Bihar	9283	14026	2.80	—
5.	Goa	111	10	0.09	0.73
6.	Gujarat	4397	1777	1.22	0.78
7.	Haryana	1453	1725	0.69	0.02
8.	Himachal Pradesh	667	1334	0.36	0.53
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	778	1479	0.45	1.01
10.	Karnataka	4332	—	1.38	—
11.	Kerala	2981	1282	0.94	0.49
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9529	16019	3.42	—
13.	Maharashtra	13736	10641	1.81	20.02
14.	Manipur	532	—	0.47	—
15.	Meghalaya	278	146	0.16	—
16.	Mizoram	200	40	0.17	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	2800	6223	1.08	3.91
19.	Punjab	1106	2133	1.01	3.08
20.	Rajasthan	4889	9415	2.76	1.93
21.	Sikkim	260	310	0.13	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	11497	9857	3.72	2.19
23.	Tripura	167	22	0.17	0.12
24.	Uttar Pradesh	22830	24893	7.53	9.69
25.	West Bengal	10938	17567	2.00	5.95
26.	A & N Islands	112	102	0.03	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	135	0.06	0.10
28.	D & N Haveli	55	37	0.01	—
29.	Daman & Diu	112	213	0.09	0.25
30.	Delhi	800	—	—	—
31.	Pondicherry	111	211	0.01	—
Total		116807	125308	36.22	54.64

T = Targets

A = Achievements

Statement-III

Nehru Rozgar Yojana (1995-96) (upto 28.2.1997)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	S.U.M.E.		S.U.W.E.	
		No. of beneficiaries assisted		Mandays of work generated (in lakhs)	
		T.	A.	T.	A.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10958	18315	2.18	1.59
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	813	0.18	1.47
3.	Assam	1278	-	1.13	0.80
4.	Bihar	9283	428	2.80	-
5.	Goa	-	-	0.05	-
6.	Gujarat	-	1292	0.65	0.35
7.	Haryana	1211	1609	0.48	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	667	108	0.36	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	778	2386	0.31	1.80
10.	Karnataka	-	4358	1.48	0.70
11.	Kerala	2981	-	0.94	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7944	16581	2.38	0.30
13.	Maharashtra	13736	13441	3.62	-
14.	Manipur	444	-	0.33	-
15.	Meghalaya	278	1415	0.16	0.11
16.	Mizoram	167	-	0.12	-
17.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	-	3408	1.08	1.50
19.	Punjab	1106	3931	1.01	-
20.	Rajasthan	4889	12140	1.92	1.15
21.	Sikkim	222	-	0.09	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	11497	26618	2.59	2.52
23.	Tripura	167	119	0.12	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	19328	15840	7.53	5.12
25.	West Bengal	-	-	2.00	1.99
26.	A & N Islands	186	328	0.04	0.02
27.	Chandigarh	-	64	0.07	-
28.	D & N Haveli	-	32	0.02	0.01
29.	Daman & Diu	-	163	0.10	-
30.	Delhi	-	518	N.A.	-
31.	Pondicherry	-	616	-	-
Total		87120	124521	33.14	19.43

T = Targets

A = Achievements

Rules Formulation

3790. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for delay in formulating the rules and instructions regarding promotion in services or different categories in the States and Central services;

(b) whether the Government propose to rectify the delay; and

(c) the details of guidelines issued to the Central Ministries and the State Governments regarding reservation in promotion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) In case of promotion to services under the jurisdiction of States, orders of respective State Governments are applicable. In case of Central services, formulation of rules and instructions regarding promotion in services is done by respective cadre controlling authorities. Information in this regard is not centrally maintained.

(c) For reservation in services of States, orders of respective State Governments are applicable. The details of guidelines issued to all Central Ministries/Departments are as under:-

- i) Reservation in promotion is provided to SCs and STs @ 15% & 7.5% respectively;
- ii) Reservation is provided to all Groups where method of promotion is seniority-cum-fitness;
- iii) Reservation is provided upto lowest rung of Group 'A' where promotion is by the method of selection.
- iv) while no reservation is provided within Group 'A' where method of promotion is by selection, SC/ST candidates who are senior enough to come within the number of vacancies for which the select panel is prepared are promoted in posts carrying ultimate Salary of Rs. 5700/- provided they are not adjudged unfit for promotion.

Nine Nuclear Reactors

3791. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's nine power reactors are the least reliable as monitored by the International Atomic Energy Authority;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the budget for atomic energy the fallen by 708 since 1988;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) whether the reliability of these reactors is checked with the fall in budget allocation for atomic energy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. IAEA does not monitor the operation of nuclear power reactors and rank them on the basis of safety and reliability. The nuclear power reactors in the country have generated 7982 million units (MU) of electricity in the year 1995-96 achieving an overall annual capacity factor of 60%. In the year 1996-97, upto the end of February 1997, generation was 8166 MUs with a capacity factor of 66%. This is expected to exceed 9000 MUs for the year as whole with an annual capacity factor of 66%

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The budget of the Department of Atomic Energy was Rs. 1110.09 crores in 1987-88. This has increased to Rs. 2098.60 crores in 1996-97.

(e) The budgetary allocation is done consistent with overall requirements and availability of resources with the Government and has not in any way adversely affected reliability of nuclear power plants.

Fund for EAS to Orissa

3792. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the districts covered under the centrally sponsored Employees Assurance Scheme (EAS) in Orissa, so far;

(b) the funds allocated to the State for implementing EAS during last three years; and

(c) the time by which the entire State is proposed to be covered under EAS ?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) All the 30 districts of Orissa have been covered under Employment Assurance Scheme.

(b) The Central funds released under EAS to the state during last three years is as follows :

1994-95	Rs. 7884.00 lakhs
1995-96	Rs. 11460.00 lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 14215.50 lakhs. (Till date)

(c) All the remaining rural blocks of the State will be covered under EAS during 1997-98.

Network Computers

3793. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Net-Work Computers (NC) or 'Oracle' entered the computer-market in India;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in regard to this technology in comparison with the personal computers, windows, micro-soft, etc.;

(c) whether any comparative study has been made in regard to these two systems.

(d) if so, the results thereof;

(e) whether India's share in the total software market of the world is only 0.4 percent; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken to develop world-class skills in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The technology of Network computers and their impact on various application are still emerging. These developments are being watched carefully in India. In the future, the use of Personal Computers vis-a-vis Network Computers in India will depend on the pace of such technology and applications development as well as the infrastructure, and market forces.

(e) The indicative figure for India's share in the total software market of the world is about 0.4%. India's share in customised out sourced software Services market is about 11.9%.

(f) Several measures/initiatives have been taken for development of skills to increase the Indian Software Export. These include :-

- i) Special Manpower development programmes for development of Software skills by both Public and Private Institutions with emphasis on improving both quality and quantity of software professionals.
- ii) Department of Electronics – Accredited Computer

Courses (DOE-ACC) Programme to encourage Private Institutions Enterprise to train man power in the area of Computers and Software.

- iii) Promoting Software Engineering and System Engineering technologies for development of high quality software and human resources.
- iv) Providing access to Academic and R&D Institutions through Education & Research Network (ERNET) for exchange of Information and keeping up-to-date on technology developments worldwide.
- v) Providing high speed data communication facility and skilled services to software exporting industries through Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme.

[Translation]

Power Generation in M.P.

3794. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of power stations/sub-stations in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the extent of increase registered in the generation capacity of power by each power stations during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the generation capacity of these power stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) There are 5 thermal power stations and 5 hydel power stations located in Madhya Pradesh. In addition to these, one hydel power station (Pench) located in Maharashtra State is being operated by Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB). There are 1470 High Tension sub-stations and 1.60.356 distribution transformers sub-stations in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The details of the extent of increase registered in the power generation capacity of power stations of MPEB during the last three years is given below :

Year	Installed Capacity as on 31st March (in MW)		Capacity increase during the year
	Thermal (MP Share)	Hydel	
1	2	3	4
1993-94	2967.6	765	a) 210 MW increase on account of commissioning of 1x210 MW Unit at S.G.T.P.S. on 27.3.1994. b) 40 MW increase on account of commissioning of 1x40 MW Hydel Unit at Hasdeo-Bango on dated 21st March, 1994.

1	2	3	4
1994-95	2967.5	845	80 MW increase on account of commissioning of 2x40 MW Hydel Units at Hasdeo Bango on dated 21.11.1994 and 11.1.1995 respectively.
1995-96	2967.5	845	

(c) and (d) Steps taken up by Madhya Pradesh State Government to increase the generation capacity of the power stations of MPEB are given in the Statement attached.

Statement

Steps taken up to increase the Generation Capacity of the Power Stations of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board

1. THERMAL POWER STATIONS :

Construction work of Unit 3 & 4 of 210 MW each at Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power station is being carried out by MPEB. Scheduled commissioning dates of Unit 3 & 4 is June '99 and Dec. '99 respectively.

At present Ph.II of (4x50 MW) of Korba East TPS is running at derated capacity to 4x40 MW and one 30 MW unit of Ph.I at Amarkantak TPS is running at derated capacity to 20 MW. Refurbishment work is being carried out at these thermal power stations to restate the original capacity of the units. In addition to above, renovation and modernisation work is also being done at Sarni, Korba West, Korba East and Amarkantak TPS to improve the performance of the units.

2.0 HYDEL POWER STATIONS :

Construction work of Bansagar hydel project 2x15 MW Ph.II, 3x20 MW Ph.III, 2x10 MW Ph.IV and Rajghat hydel project 3x15 MW is being carried out by MPEB. Scheduled commissioning dates of these units are given below :-

1. Bansagar HEP Ph.II (2x15 MW) :

1. July, 2000
2. Oct., 2000

Commissioning Schedule of these power stations are tentative and based on construction of dam upto crest level and also on the availability of funds.

2. Bansagar HEP Ph.III (3x20 MW) :

1. Unit-I - July '99
2. Unit-II - Oct. '99
3. Unit-III - Feb., 2000

3. Bansagar HEP Ph.IV (2x10 MW) :

1. July, 2001
2. Oct., 2001

4. Rajghat HEP (3x15 MW) :

- | | | |
|----------|---|------------------------|
| Unit-I | - | July, 1998 (Tentative) |
| Unit-II | - | Sept., 1998 |
| Unit-III | - | Nov 1998 |

[English]

Government Quarters

3795. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Government Quarters in Government of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi for its employees in various categories, category-wise;

(b) whether there is an acute shortage of Type III quarters in Government of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi, under Press pool;

(c) if so, whether due to shortage of Type III Quarters in General Pool under Directorate of Estates, a large number of Type II quarters were upgraded to Type III in various location in Delhi a few years ago;

(d) if so, whether the same upgradation has ever taken place in Government of India Press, Minto Road, in view of shortage of Type III quarters;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Number of quarters, category-wise are :-

Type I	-	346
Type II	-	671
Type III	-	124
Type IV	-	52
Type V	-	5
Bungalow	-	1
Total :		1199

(b) There is a shortage.

(c) Type-II residential accommodation at Sarojini Nagar was re-classified and upgraded as Type-III accommodation, consequent upon revision of scales of plinth areas in respect of various types of accommodation in 1975.

(d) No. Type-II Quarter was upgraded to Type-III in any locality in the Minto Road Press.

- (e) Does not arise.
 (f) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Centre for Advance Technology

3796. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT) of the Department of Atomic Energy has granted recognition to the All India Institute of Medical Science as one of the centres for evaluation of medical applications of lasers (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation);

(b) if so, whether Government have given such recognitions to other Institute of Medical Sciences in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT) of the Department of Atomic Energy has not granted recognition to any institute for evaluation of medical application of lasers. But CAT has provided funds to the following five medical institutes to carry out research in medical applications of lasers :-

1. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
2. Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.
3. Seth G.S. Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai.
4. Choithram Hospital and Research Centre, Indore.
5. Vivekananda Institute of Medical Science, Calcutta.

The feedback from them has helped CAT to improve the design of lasers.

Construction of Revenue Tower

3797. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC) had undertaken the construction of Revenue Tower at Thodupuzha in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the contract has now been cancelled by the Kerala Government unilaterally;

(d) if so, whether the NBCC propose to claim compensation from the Kerala Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The construction of Revenue Power comprising a 6 storeyed complex with a basement including pile foundation and RCC framed structure was awarded to NBCC by the Kerala State Housing Board in November, 1995, at a cost of Rs. 3.32 crores.

(c) to (e) The project Manager, Kerala State Housing Board, has intimated NBCC that the Board has decided to settle NBCC's bill for the works completed and to terminate the contract. NBCC has claimed in addition to settlement of the running account bill, compensation for Mobilisation and demobilisation of rigs, and Idle charges for staff, workers, machinery etc.

[Translation]

Land and Accommodation for Landless Farmers

3798. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals have been received from State Governments for the allocation of funds for making arrangements of land and accomodation for landless farmers of the States has been pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for pendency of these proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment have not received from the State Governments any proposal for allocation of funds for making arrangements of land and accommodation for landless farmers of the States. Hence the question of details and reasons for pendency does not arise.

[English]

Oil Refinery

3799. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the pilferage of oil from Noohmati Oil Refinery at Guwahati at various stages;

(b) if so, the amount of loss incurred so far;

(c) whether the Government propose of take immediate steps to check this pilferage; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No Pilferage of OIL has been reported from Guwahati Refinery.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Encroachment of Village Land

3800. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Law enforcers turn offenders" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 2, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The attention of the Government has been drawn to the concerned news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 2.3.1997. Since the order of the Consolidation Officer in the concerned village is now pending before the Financial Commissioner of Delhi, who has stayed the order and a final decision in this regard is yet to be taken by the concerned competent authority, this Ministry does not like to pass any comments judgement on this subject.

Uri Power Project

3801. SHRI ANANT GUDH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "2000 crore scandal in URI Power Project" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 27, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The allegation that there was misappropriation and manipulation in the cost of Uri Hydro-electric Project (480 MW) in Jammu and Kashmir is not based on facts. The project was sanctioned in June 1989 at a cost of Rs. 1632.62 crores (March 1989 price level) on turn-key execution with bilateral foreign assistance from

Sweden and United Kingdom. The completion period of the Project was six years from the date of start of works and the project was to be completed by November 1995 but, due to disturbed conditions in the project site, there was a delay in completion of the project which is now scheduled for May 1997. The latest estimated completion cost of the project is about Rs. 3300 crores. The increase of Rs. 1667 crores in the project cost is mainly due to exchange rate variation and extra interest liability due to delay in completion of the project. These have together contributed to an increase in the cost by about 80 per cent; the balance being due to price escalation and increase in taxes and duties etc.

Funds for Centrally Aided Schemes

3802. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of centrally-aided schemes already approved by the Government for the municipalities in the Darjeeling Hills and Siliguri Corporation; and

(b) the scheme-wise allocation of Funds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The details are as under :-

1. SCHEME OF INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM TOWNS (IDSMT) :

Under the IDSMT Scheme, Darjeeling and Siliguri towns were covered during the 6th Five Year Plan. The approved project cost were Rs. 113.37 lakhs and Rs. 107.26 lakhs and the amounts of Central Assistance provided were Rs. 47.19 lakhs and Rs. 52.15 lakhs respectively.

2. SCHEME OF URBAN BASIC SERVICES TO THE POOR (UBSP) :

Siliguri is one of the 28 towns in West Bengal selected for UBSP. Under the Scheme, bulk allocation is provided to State Government for funding projects of towns. During 1996-97, a sum of Rs. 136.45 lakhs has been released by the Government of India to the Government of West Bengal.

3. PRIME MINISTER'S INTEGRATED URBAN POVERTY ERADICATION PROGRAMME (PMI UPEP) :

The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP) launched in November, 1995 is applicable to Darjeeling town. Under the Scheme, bulk allocation is provided to State Government for funding projects of towns. During 1995-96, a sum of Rs. 679.43 lakhs and during 1996-97, Rs. 300.06 lakhs have been released by the Government of India to the Government of West Bengal.

4. ACCELERATED URBAN WATER SUPPLY PROGRAMME (AUWSP):

Not applicable to Darjeeling or Siliguri.

[Translation]

Petrol Pumps

3803. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to provide reservation to the women in allotment of dealership of petrol pumps and other petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Government has taken a decision to reserve 30% of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products for women, in all categories, effective from the Marketing Plans 1996-98 onwards.

Displaced of Tehri Dam

3804. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of the displaced persons of Tehri Dam, resettled in Dehradun and Haridwar districts is very pathetic due to shortage of basic facilities such as potable water, irrigation, schools and protection of crops from wild animals etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts are being taken by the Government

for the redressal of their grievances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The resettlement colonies set up in Dehradun and Haridwar Districts for rehabilitation of the people affected by the construction of Tehri Hydroelectric Project have been provided with all essential basic facilities like water for drinking and irrigation purpose, electricity, roads and drains, panchayat ghar and community centre, primary health centre etc. Additional measures to augment such facilities for the welfare of resettled population are initiated by the project authorities from time to time keeping in view their feasibility, prevailing overall condition and the requirement of each colony pending take over of these facilities by the concerned local State Government agencies.

[English]

World Bank Assistance

3805. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has provided any assistance for water supply and sanitation projects;

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

(c) the names of the places where work has been undertaken thereunder; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

List of World Bank Assisted Water Supply & Sanitation Projects

S. No.	Name of the Project	Amount of Assistance U.S.\$ M.	Amount of Signing	Date of Closing	Utilisation upto 31.1.97 U.S.\$ M.	Undrawn balance as on 1.2.97 U.S.\$ M.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh						
1.	Hyderabad WS&SP	95.29	23.5.90	31.3.98	55.79	39.50
Karnataka						
2.	Karnataka RWS&SP	103.79	4.6.93	31.12.99	17.55	86.24
Uttar Pradesh						
3.	UT Rural WS&SP	59.60	22.7.96	31.05.02	2.18	57.42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tamil Nadu						
4.	2nd Madras WSP	275.80	20.11.95	30.06.02	5.99	269.81
Maharashtra						
5.	Maharashtra RWSP	117.28	5.06.91	31.12.97	50.66	66.62
6.	Bombay Sewage Disposal Project	192.00	28.12.95	31.12.02	18.40	173.60

[Translation]

Rural Development Schemes

3806. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments have submitted any rural development schemes for approval by the Union Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the projects and the out of these sanctioned;

(c) whether any action plan for the rural development has been drawn up or proposed to be drawn up

during the current years;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The number of projects submitted by the State Govt. and approved by the Centre for Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for last 3 years are given in Statement I and II.

(c) and (e) No action Plans are drawn for such projects. However a schedule for completion is prepared.

Statement-I

Statement showing details of innovative projects received during 1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96 under JRY

State	No. of Projects received during			No. of projects approved during		
	93-94	94-95	95-96	93-94	94-95	95-96
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	8	4	5	2	1	4
Bihar	4	12	12	2	4	3
Gujarat	—	3	4	—	—	1
Haryana	—	3	1	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	1	5	—	1	1	—
Jammu & Kashmir	2	2	—	2	1	—
Karnataka	15	7	5	4	2	2
Kerala	1	6	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	4	12	18	3	1	2
Maharashtra	—	5	1	—	2	1
Manipur	1	1	—	1	—	—
Orissa	1	3	8	1	—	4
Rajasthan	—	1	—	—	1	—
Sikkim	1	—	—	1	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tamil Nadu	8	6	6	2	-	-
Tripura	-	3	1	-	1	-
Uttar Pradesh	6	9	5	3	3	-
West Bengal	1	3	-	1	-	-
Total	53	85	66	23	17	18

Statement-II

Statement showing details of Projects received and sanctioned in respect of ARWSP during 1994, 1995 & 1996.

State	1994		1995		1996	
	Received	Approved	Received	Approved	Received	Approved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	13	13	6	5	5	2
Arunachal Pradesh	4	4	-	-	-	-
Assam	3	3	2	1	1	-
Gujarat	4	4	6	2	-	-
Haryana	1	1	2	1	1	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	4	2	-	-
Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	3	1	-	-
Karnataka	1	1	2	2	-	-
Kerala	-	-	1	-	2	-
Madhya Pradesh	6	5	2	1	-	-
Manipur	1	1	-	-	-	-
Meghalaya	2	2	1	1	1	1
Mizoram	-	-	-	-	2	1
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	1	-
Orissa	3	2	7	1	-	-
Punjab	4	2	5	3	-	-
Rajasthan	4	3	3	3	2	2
Sikkim	1	1	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	4	4	3	3	-	-
Tripura	2	2	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	2	2	3	1	-	-
West Bengal	4	2	1	1	-	-
D & N Haveli	-	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	59	52	51	28	15	7

Laying of Sewer Line Works

3807. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain sewer line works by the DDA was not executed in Mayur Vihar Phase-II, Delhi before the allotment of flats in 1985;

(b) whether following the intervention of Committee on Petitions, Lok Sabha, DDA and MCD arrived at an agreement in March, 1995 to complete the above left out peripheral sewer line;

(c) if so, whether the Committee in their 26th report of the 10th Lok Sabha also directed the concerned Department for completing of the left out work of about 520 metres of peripheral sewer line on priority basis without any loss of time;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The D.D.A. has reported that there was only one missing link in the peripheral sewer line because of encroachment by jhuggi dwellers. However, interim arrangements were made to avoid hardship to the residents.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking has reported that tender action for execution of work has been completed and the work has been allotted. It is likely to be completed in 12 months from the date of its start.

Public Sector Oil Companies

3808. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of Public Sector Oil Companies which are having specialisation have been joining oil refineries in Privates Sector in large number;

(b) If so, the number of such employees of Public Sector Oil Companies who have resigned;

(c) the main reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to face this situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Unsafe Buildings

3809. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of buildings in Delhi have been declared unsafe;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 20 buildings have been declared unsafe by the concerned agencies as detailed below

CPWD	-	14
NDMC	-	4
MCD	-	2

(c) MCD has reported that notice under relevant Section of DMC Act, 1957 have been served to the owners of the buildings. The unsafe portion of both the buildings have been demolished.

NDMC has also issued notices under NDMC Act, 1994 to the owners of all the four properties. Three properties have been demolished completely.

Out of 14 buildings declared unsafe, CPWD has reported that one building has been demolished. Action for demolition of remaining buildings has also been initiated.

Dispute Between Orissa & APSEB

3810. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any dispute between Gridco of Orissa and APSEB on the modalities of power transmission;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to solve the dispute ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) Power transfer from Eastern Region to Andhra Pradesh is taking place w.e.f. 20th February, 1997 through the Balimela and Upper Sileru 220 KV S/c belonging to GRIDCO. On the basis of a mutual agreement between Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, a wheeling charge has been fixed at 17.5 Paise

per unit. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has also entered into an agreement with Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB) for transfer of power (150 MW) from its stations located at Farakka, Talcher and Kahalgaon in the Eastern Region.

[Translation]

Conversion of Unmetalled Road into Mettalled Road

3811. SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government contemplate to convert the unmetalled roads into metalled roads in various districts of Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefore;

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) State Governments including Uttar Pradesh have been asked to furnish details regarding the present status of village connectivity by all weather roads (metalled roads),

physical and financial requirements for connecting unconnected villages. A view in the matter can be taken on receipt of this information.

Alcoholic Drinks

3812. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies producing alcoholic drinks from non-molasses base in the country along with installed capacity of each company; and

(b) the other details of their alcoholic products if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b) The details of the companies producing alcoholic drinks/primary alcohol, only from non-molasses based raw-materials in the country, under licence from the Government of India, gives in the statement enclosed.

It is clarified that some other companies using molasses based alcohol also use non-molasses alcohol for manufacturing some of their products.

Statement

S.No.	Name	Licensed Capacity	Approved Activity
1.	United Distillers India Limited.	330 KL	IMFL/Locally Bottled Scotch
2.	Seagram Manufacturing Pvt. Limited.	5,000 KL	Non-molasses based spirit.
3.	Hiram Walker India Limited.	500 KL	Scotch Whisky/IMFL.
4.	Whyte & Mackay India (P) Limited.	460 KL	Scotch Whisky/IMFL.
5.	Grover Vineyard Pvt. Limited.	750 KL	Wine/Brandy.
6.	Champagne India Limited.	562.25 KL	Sparkling Wine.
7.	South Seas Distilleries & Breweries Pvt. Limited	10,000 KL	Spirit for manufacture of country Liquor/IMFL.
8.	Superstar Distilleries & Food Limited.	7,5000 KL	Potable Alcohol.
9.	Amar Alcoholi Limited.	5,000 KL	Potable Alcohol.
10.	Oceanic Distilleries Pvt. Limited.	5,000 KL	Malt Spirit.

Action Against IAS Officers

3813. LT. GENERAL (Retd.) PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take action against the officers who have been voted corrupt in a recent voting among the IAS officers of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) The Government of Uttar Pradesh vide its communication dated the 7th March, 1997 has informed that the Honorary Secretary of the U.P. IAS Association has addressed a d.o. letter to the Chief Secretary intimating that since no officer had polled more than the specified number of votes in the secret voting,

no names were made public, in terms of the decision taken at the Special Meeting of the Association on August 4, 1996.

Further, it has been informed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh that the Association has resolved that the results of the identification of the most corrupt and undesirable officers of the Indian Administrative Service of Uttar Pradesh in the secret ballot be sent of the Chief Secretary with the request that stringent action against the three IAS Officers who have received the maximum number of votes be taken. On the above resolution of the Association, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh is obtaining legal advice. It has been informed by the State Government that after obtaining legal advice, appropriate action would be taken by the State Government as per Rules.

It may be clarified in this connection that as per Rule 7 of the All India Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1969, the State Government is the competent disciplinary authority for taking disciplinary action against the IAS officers for any misconduct committed by them while serving in connection with the affairs of the State. In the instant case, the Government of Uttar Pradesh is the competent authority.

Compensation of Land Oustees of J & K

3814. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA :
SHRI GULAM MOHD MIR MAGANI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER to be pleased to state :

(a) whether some part of the land belonging to the residents of J & K has been occupied by the army and other para-military forces in J & K;

(b) if so, whether any rent/compensation of land is being paid to the land owners by these Security agencies regularly;

(c) if not the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the rent/compensation being paid to the land owners is less than the prevailing market rate; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for enhancement of rent/compensation and to ensure the regular payment of rent to the land owners ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (e) The State Government provides land for military and para-military forces which are deployed on internal security duty. In addition, the Army have occupied land in consultation with the State Government for its operational requirements of border

security. The land for this purpose is acquired or hired/ requisitioned for which compensation/rent is paid as per statutory provisions prevalent in the State.

Kashmir Jihad Fund

3815. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Fraud in Kashmir Jihad Fund' appearing in the 'Tribune' Dated December 2, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There have been reports from time to time about activities, as mentioned in the Press report, of various groups in U.K. collecting funds which are channeled through Pakistan and POK for financing terrorist and subversive activities in J & K. It is, however, not possible to give details in this regard or to quantify such collections. The Government has been regularly sharing such reports and its concerns at the diplomatic level. Within the country, a close watch is kept by all the concerned security agencies to check and contain the flow of such funds into the country.

Power Connections in Chandigarh

3816. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that various labour colonies in and around or Union territory of Chandigarh have not given electricity connections, so far;

(b) if so, the number and names of such colonies;

(c) whether directions in this regard have been given to the authority by several courts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which all such colonies are likely to be given connections of electricity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) As per the information received from Union Territory (UT) of Chandigarh, there are 14 labour colonies situated in different parts of the UT of Chandigarh. The names of these colonies are given below :

1. Kumhar Colony
2. Janta Colony
3. Colony No.5
4. Palsora Colony
5. Bapu Dham Colony, Sector-20
6. Labour Colony, Sector-26
7. Labour Colony, Sector-31
8. Gowala Colony near Railway Crossing
9. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Colony, Village Karson
10. Randhawa Colony, Manimajhra
11. Nehru Colony, Kajheri
12. Kuldip Colony, Sector-60
13. Adrash Colony, Badheri
14. Pandit Colony

Electrification work for the following 4 Colonies have been taken up :

1. Kumhar Colony
2. Janta Colony
3. Colony No.5
4. Palsore Colony

The Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court has issued a directive on 22.11.1996 for release of electricity connections in the balance 10 colonies by 30th June, 1998.

Land Acquisition act 1894

3817. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Land Acquisition Act 1894 (Amended Act 1984) of the Central Act is being implemented in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the total extent of private land acquired under the above Central Act in Karnataka from coming into force of the above Act, till date, District-wise;

(c) the acres of private land given back to the parties by dropping acquisition proceedings, till date; and

(d) the reasons for dropping the acquisition proceedings ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Land Acquisition Act, 1894 was in effect in the whole of undivided India when the same was enacted and it was again adopted by the State of Karnataka when the said State was organised after independence.

(b) to (d) Since the Act is under implementation for 102 years and even papers and documents classified as "A - Class" are destroyed after 30 years, it is not possible to collect and provide the total extent of private land acquired under the above Central Act in Karnataka from the date of the Act coming into force till today with District-wise break-up of information. The same applies to the number of cases and acreage of private land given back to the parties by dropping acquisition proceedings, till date, and reasons for dropping of the concerned acquisition proceedings.

MPLADS

3818. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Members of Parliament can give financial assistance for repairs, renovation and construction of schools even if the land on which the building stands belongs to the school authority or trust as per MPLADS guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Members of Parliament can assist Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) for construction of old age homes or orphanages on the lands belonging to the NGOs; and

(d) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Repair and renovation work is not allowed under the guidelines on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) except when the repairs are of special nature for restoration/upgradation of any durable asset. Construction of school buildings can be taken up on land belonging to trust and private institutions if these institutions surrender their land in favour of Government, in accordance with Para 2.6 of the revised guidelines.

(c) and (d) It is not permissible to give financial assistance out of MPLADS funds to Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) for building Old Age Homes of Orphanages on lands belonging to the NGOs.

Dispute between NTPC and Rajasthan

3819. SHRI PARSARAM MEGHWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any dispute between Government of Rajasthan and NTPC over power tariff for gas based power stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Accommodation of CPWD Engineers

3820. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government, as per Supreme Court orders have got vacant the accommodation from CPWD engineers engaged in maintenance of essential services in VVIP/VIP areas, round the clock;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to engage more engineers for shift duty;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to create a separate pool of accommodation for CPWD engineers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) In terms of the Supreme Court Judgement dated 23.12.96, certain categories of out of turn allottees of type III and above accommodation shall face eviction which also includes CPWD engineers engaged in maintenance of essential services in VVIP/VIP areas, round the clock.

(b) and (c) No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

(d) and (e) No specific proposal in this regard has been received by the Government as on today.

[Translation]

LPG Connections

3821. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR :
SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of persons who have been provided LPG connections by his Ministry on out of turn basis during the last six months, month-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : The number of LPG connections released during the last six months (August 1996 to January, 1997), is as under :

Month	No. of LPG connections
August, 96	833
September, 96	151
October, 96	134
November, 96	78
December, 96	111
January, 97	281
	1588

Clearance to Power Projects

3822. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY
PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of power projects including private and gas based are awaiting clearance from the CEA at present, separately, State-wise;

(b) the estimated cost, capacity of each project;

(c) whether several proposals have been received by the Union Government from the State Governments for setting up of power projects in their respective States;

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

(e) whether any of these projects have equity participation from any foreign country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (d) As on 31.1.1997, 13 proposals received for setting up of power projects (5 in the State and Central Sector aggregating to 632.8 MW and 8 in the Private Sector aggregating to 3486 MW) are currently under various stages of examination in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for accord of techno-economic clearance. The State-wise details of the projects are given in the attached Statement. Accord of techno-economic clearance by CEA to these schemes will be subject to their tying up to necessary inputs/linkages and furnishing the essential data/clarification sought for by CEA, which cover statutory and other clearances from the state and central agencies, fuel and other linkages, environment clearances.

(e) and (f) The projects at Sl. No. 9, 11 & 13 are proposed to be set up as Joint Ventures as indicated therein.

Statement

List of Power Projects under examination by the Central Electricity Authority for accord of techno-economic clearance

S.No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Estimated cost (Rs. crores)
1	2	3	4
State/Central Sector Schemes (as on 31.1.1997)			
HYDRO			
JAMMU & KASHIMIR			
1.	Uri HEP St-II (Ph. I) (PDC, J&K Govt.) (Baramula)	4x70 =280	2234.66
UTTAR PRADESH			
2.	Dhauliganga HEP (Intermediate) NHPC	3x70 =210	716.60
MIZORAM			
3.	Tuirial HEP (NEEPCO)	2x30 =60	335.31
	Total	<u>550</u>	
THERMAL			
KARNATAKA			
4.	Yelhanka DGPP Extn. (KEB)	2x23.4 =46.8	149.00
MANIPUR			
5.	Manipur Heavy fuel oil TPS (Manipur State Electricity Deptt.)	6x6 =36	103.66
	Total	<u>82.8</u>	
	Grand Total	<u>632.8</u>	
HYDRO			
HIMACHAL PRADESH			
6.	Malana HEP (M/s. Rajasthan Spinning and Heaving Mill) (Kullu)	2x43 =86	381.39
UTTAR PRADESH			
7.	Vishnuprayag HEP (M/s. JIL) (Chamoli)	4x100 =400	1683.00
8.	Srinagar HEP (M/s. Duncans Industries Ltd.) (Pauri Garhwal)	5x66 =330	1510.03
	Total	<u>816</u>	
THERMAL			
UTTAR PRADESH			
9.	Rosa TPP (Ph. I) (M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers and Chemicals Corpn. (Ltd.) (Shahjahanpur) (M/s. Powergen (PLC))	2x283.5 =567	2453.67

1	2	3	4
GUJARAT			
10. Jamnagar TPP (Ph. I) (M/s. Reliance Power Ltd.)		2x250 =500	2075.29
MADHYA PRADESH			
11. Bina TPS (M/s. Bina Power Supply Co. Ltd.) (M/s. Grasim Ind. Ltd., U.K.)		2x289 =578	2406.97
TAMIL NADU			
12. Tuticorin TPP IV (M/s. SPIC Electric Power Corp. Ltd.)		1x525 =525	2479.10
ORISSA			
13. Duburi TPP (M/s. Kalinga Power Corp.)		2x250 =500	2063.30
	Total	2670	
	Grand Total	3486	

Janmabhoomi Programme

3823.DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include the "Janmabhoomi Programme" in the Panchayati Raj Act on the pattern of the one recently included in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to give incentives to the villages which would implement the Janmabhoomi Programme ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The Government does not propose to include the 'Janmabhoomi Programme' in the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 on Panchayati Raj.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Consumption of LPG

3824.SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the consumption of LPG in the country at present;

(b) the number of LPG Agencies in the country at present;

(c) the details of consumption and production of the LPG during 1995 & 1996; and

(d) the steps being taken to bridge the gap between consumption and production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) The LPG consumption in the country by the customers of PSU Oil Companies during the year 1995-96 was about 3849 TMT. As per the revised OEB estimates, the LPG demand from customers of PSU Oil Companies in the country during 1996-97 is estimated to be about 4290 TMT.

(b) The total number of distributors of PSU Oil Companies in the country as on 1.1.1997 was 5355.

(c) The consumption and production of the LPG during 1994-95 & 1995-96 are as under :

Year	Production (TMT)	Consumption (TMT)
1994-95	2858	3434
1995-96 (Prov)	3253	3849

(d) LPG availability from refineries and gas fractionators is expected to increase from 3.253 MMT in 1995-96 to 6.873 by 2001-02. The above availability from indigenous sources is expected to accrue by commissioning of new source and augmentation at some of the existing sources. With a view to augmenting the LPG imports in the country, new LPG import facilities at Mangalore and Kandla have been commissioned with a capacity of 600 TMTPA each. Parallel marketing of LPG has been allowed since 1993 to increase the availability of LPG in the country. Both PSUs and private parties are putting up new LPG terminals for import of LPG.

Development of Towns in Maharashtra

3825.SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any projects for integrated development of the towns in the State for approval;

(b) if so, the details of such projects cleared and under implementation and the projects under consideration with reasons for pending;

(c) the details of financial assistance provided under the scheme/project-wise for the last three years and the achievements reported, location-wise; and

(d) the details of financial assistance sanctioned for Maharashtra during the current year and the funds released so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Under the Revised Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns (IDSMT) which is in operation in various States including Maharashtra, projects are approved by State Level Sanctioning Committees.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the last three years, Central assistance amounting to Rs. 1148.50 lacs under the IDSMT Scheme was released to Government of Maharashtra as per details given below :-

	(Rs. in lacs)
(i) Amount released for 33 additional towns covered under IDSMT during 1993-96.	843.50
(ii) Amount released for ongoing projects in 13 towns covered under IDSMT in earlier years.	305.00
Total :	1148.50

In respect of (i) & (ii) above, townwise details of Central assistance released and expenditure reported by the State Government are given in Statement I and II respectively.

(d) During 1996-97 (till 17.3.97), no Central assistance under the IDSMT Scheme has been sanctioned for Maharashtra.

Statement-I

Central Assistance under the IDSMT Scheme released to Govt. of Maharashtra during the last three years for new projects.

		1993-94	(Rupees in lakhs)	
S.No.	Name of town	Approved project cost	Central assistance released	Expenditure reported (till Sept. 1996)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Sangamner	175.640	22.00	25.040
2.	Sangli	826.410	40.00	27.060
3.	Dhule	892.410	40.00	NA
4.	Mukhed	105.510	12.00	6.349
5.	Pachora	258.400	24.00	NA
6.	Warora	200.00	24.00	52.106
7.	Bhusaval	901.420	53.00	106.110
8.	Deglur	200.000	24.00	32.864
9.	Gandhigaj	195.650	23.00	11.722
10.	Parthur	200.00	24.00	37.961
Sub Total		3955.030	286.00	299.212
1994-95				
1.	Basmetnagar	116.220	21.00	5.397
2.	Vita	100.580	18.00	10.232

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Manwat	83.960	15.00	26.020
4.	Mahad	120.360	18.00	20.478
5.	Kagal	87.660	16.00	0.879
6.	Ausa	129.730	23.00	17.916
7.	Dondhaicha-Warwade	193.000	35.00	7.852
8.	Georai	200.000	36.00	25.925
9.	Samantwadi	120.00	21.50	21.070
10.	Murtizapur	192.150	31.50	5.226
11.	Shegaon	149.870	27.00	11.443
12.	Parola	260.430	36.00	10.134
13.	Tumsar	142.670	14.00	3.444
14.	Alibagh	102.720	8.00	2.490
15.	Pulgaon	244.820	14.00	2.246
16.	Umred	202.820	14.00	14.314
17.	Vaijapur	200.000	14.00	0.194
Sub Total		2646.95	362.50	182.255
1995-96				
1.	Ichalakaranji	500.00	70.00	4.698
2.	Wai	204.120	30.00	NA
3.	Anjangaon Surji	212.020	30.00	2.193
4.	Mehkar	204.900	30.00	21.620
5.	Kalamb	102.110	16.00	NA
6.	Daryapur	128.810	19.00	NA
Sub Total		1441.96	195.00	28.506

Statement-II

Central Assistance under the IDSMT Scheme Released to Government of Maharashtra during the Last three years for ongoing Projects in Town Approved in earlier years

(Rupees in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of Town	Approved Project Cost	Central Assistance Released	Expenditure Reported (till Sept., 1995)
1	2	3	4	5
1993-94				
1.	Malkapur	99.00	15.00	56.98
2.	Nandurbar	110.62	15.00	73.28
Sub Total		209.62	30.00	130.24

1	2	3	4	5
1994-95				
1.	Beed	165.47	6.00	109.30
2.	Chandrapur	96.49	10.25	67.57
3.	Paithan	121.14	20.00	30.49
4.	Kopargaon	128.83	35.00	89.11
Sub Total		511.93	71.25	296.47
1995-96				
1.	Chiplun	79.49	8.75	57.20
2.	Achalpur	92.87	20.00	50.87
3.	Jalgaon	861.68	40.00	140.89
4.	Shrirampur	363.69	50.00	50.78
5.	Shripur (Warwade)	141.50	20.00	42.48
6.	Latur	660.38	40.00	43.63
7.	Phaltan	133.13	25.00	27.07
Sub Total		2332.74	203.75	412.92

Petrol Pumps

3826. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol pumps directly run by oil companies in Rajasthan;

(b) the details in regard to profit and loss made by these companies during 1995 and 1996; and

(c) the efforts made by these companies to provide better services to the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :
(a) There is no retail outlet directly run by any oil company in Rajasthan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Retail Outlet dealers are under instructions to provide basic amenities like drinking water, free air, toilet facility, etc. to the consumers. Periodical inspections are carried out by oil companies officers for ensuring satisfactory service and for remedial action in case of deficiencies.

Crude Oil Production

3827. SHRI K.S. RAYADU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the crude oil production at the Ravva off-shore structure in the Krishna basin in Andhra Pradesh came to a standstill in February, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to settle the demands of local villagers amicably ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :
(a) Yes, Sir, production remained suspended between 7.2.1997 and 10.2.1997.

(b) The production was suspended as there was no free access to the Ravva terminal of demonstration by local people in support of their demands.

(c) In the interest of maintaining amicable relations with the local community the joint venture contractor has been providing the following facilities

(i) drinking water tap

(ii) teachers for the local school

(iii) medical facility and assistance in emergencies

In addition, the contractor companies outlined certain short-term plans involving, repair and upgradation of a few roads in the area, completion of Summer reservoir, providing need based job opportunities to the local people etc.

Kayamkulam Power Project

3828. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
 PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the stage at which the Kayamkulam Power Project stands;
- (b) whether the NTPC and the Government of Kerala have signed a Power Purchase Agreement for the project;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the quantum of the World Bank loan sought and received for this project so far; and
- (e) the terms and conditions of the World Bank in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Project (400 MW) in Kerala is being implemented by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). The main plant turn-key contract for the project was awarded to M/s Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) in September, 1996 who have started the work of ground preparation.

(b) and (c) NTPC and Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) have entered into an agreement in January, 1995 for supply of power from Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Project to Kerala. The salient features of the agreement are as follows :

- (i) the entire power is envisaged for supply to Kerala.
- (ii) Tariff for the energy to be supplied this power station will be determined by Government of India under Section 43 A of Electricity Supply Act, 1948.
- (iii) PPA provides certain safeguards like establishment of letter of credit with a back up State Government Guarantee including reallocation, discontinuance/reduction in supply of power from the project in case of default in payment by KSEB.
- (iv) The PPA shall be operative upto completion of five years from the date of commercial operation of the last unit of the Power Station with provision of mutual extension, renewal or replacement.

(d) and (e) The project will be funded under the US\$ 400 million first tranche time slice loan from the World Bank. Approximately, an amount of US\$ 250 million (equivalent to Rs. 778 crores) is expected to be utilised for this project from the first tranche as well as subsequent tranches of the time slice loan. US\$ 18.67 million has been

drawn as of end February, 1997 from the World Bank for this project. This is a direct loan to NTPC. The principal amount would be repaid in 20 years including 5 years grace at the Bank's standard variable interest rate.

[Translation]

Model Village

3829. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the district-wise number of villages selected for Model villages in Bihar;
- (b) the factors and priorities fixed for identifying the villages under Model village scheme;
- (c) the target fixed therefor during 1996-97 and achievement made so far in this regard; and
- (d) the financial assistance provided by the Union Governments and State Governments under this scheme, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (d) Information regarding part (a) to (d) is being collected from the State Government of Bihar and will be put up on the Table of the House.

[English]

Power Tariff/SEBs

3830. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
 SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDA
 SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

- (a) whether the Union Government have issued guidelines to the State Governments for imposing a basic minimum tariff for farm sector and revised the tariff for other sectors so as to enable the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to run on commercial lines and phasing out subsidies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of State Governments thereto; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Government for improving Plant Load Factor, restructuring and revamping SEBs and encouraging private participation in the power sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes. Sir

(b) The Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (CMNAPP) finalised in the Chief Minister's Conference on Power held on 16th October, 1996 & 3rd December, 1996. inter-alia, recommends for establishment

of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERC) in each State/UT for determination of tariffs; no sector paying less than 50% of the average cost of supply, agriculture tariff not being less than 50 paise per kwh to be brought to 50% of the average cost in not more than 3 years; recommendations of SERCs being mandatory and for any deviation from tariff recommended by it, the State Government/UTs to Provide for the financial implication of such deviation in the State/UT budget and a package of incentive and disincentives to encourage and facilitate the implementation to tariff rationalisation by the States.

(c) CMNAPP has been finalised as a result of the consensus reached in the meeting held with Chief Ministers of States;

(d) The Action Plan also recommends autonomy to the State Electricity Boards; restructuring and corporatisation of SEBs to run on commercial basis; improvement in the management practices of State Electricity Boards; improvement of various physical parameters including improvement in the plant load factor of thermal power stations and encouragement to private sector participation in generation, transmission and distribution.

Air Pollution

3831. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the additional amount the Government had to incur to build safeguards from the environmental point of view in their existing process units/new projects in the country by Oil Industry during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent exclusively on its various schemes including facilities to Agra residents for reducing the air pollution caused by the Mathura Refinery for protection of Taj Mahal during the last three years;

(c) the amount the Government propose to spend by setting up Hydrocracker facility for reducing the adverse impact of sulfurious emissions from Mathura Refinery; and

(d) by when this process is likely to be completed

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

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

[Translation]

Employment

3832. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target to provide employment during 1997-98.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons got employment during 1996-97 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) Two Centrally sponsored urban employment schemes, namely, Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP), are being implemented in the country.

NRY : On the basis of tentative allocation, 1.32 lakh beneficiaries are likely to be assisted under the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME).

1.19 lakh beneficiaries have been assisted under SUME during 96-97 upto 28.2.97.

PMI UPEP : The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP), launched in November, 1995, seeks to address the problems of urban poverty in small Urban agglomerations with a population ranging between 50,000 and 1,00,000 with a multi-pronged, whole-town and integrated approach to the economic, social and physical conditions of those living below poverty line in urban areas. Provision of self-employment to unemployed and under-employed urban poor through setting up of micro-enterprises is one of the many components of the programme.

Most of the States are in the preliminary stages of the implementation of the programme, such as House-to-house survey, spatial mapping, need assessment, preparation of project reports, building community structures, etc.

As reported by State Governments, about 20775 applications under self-employment have been forwarded to banks, out of which 3080 cases have been approved.

Power Projects in Maharashtra

3833. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) The details of power projects functioning in Maharashtra at present and the quantum of power generated by each project during the last three years;

(b) the quantum of power being supplied by Central Power Grid and other projects to the State;

(c) the number of projects under consideration of Central Electricity Authority;

(d) the estimated power likely to be generated after commissioning of these projects; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government for adequate supply of power to the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Details of power projects functioning in Maharashtra at present and the quantum of power generated by each project during 1993-94 to 1995-96 is given in attached statement.

(b) Entitlement vis-a-vis Actual drawal by Maharashtra from Central Sector Stations in the region during the last three years is given below :

	Entitlement (MU)	Actual drawal (MU)
1993-94	7925.1	6668.1
1994-95	8184.9	6524.6
1995-96	10197.6	8996.6

Maharashtra received an assistance of 9.6 MU and 52.0 MU from Northern Region during 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

(c) and (d) There are 9 sanctioned/ongoing Hydro and Thermal projects in Maharashtra with a total capacity of 3075 MW.

(e) Various measures being taken to improve the availability of power in Maharashtra include expediting the commissioning of new generating capacity, maximising the generation from existing capacity, implementation of R&M programme, reduction in T&D losses, effective load management and energy conservation measures, arranging of power from neighbouring State/System and encouraging private sector participation in power generation etc.

Statement

Stationwise Power Generation in Maharashtra

Name of the Station	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4
Thermal			
Nasik	5051	5157	5045
Koradi	6260	5679	6277
Paron	278	198	202
Bhusawal	2538	2883	2599
Parli	3184	3501	3287
Chandrapur	7816	8865	11270
Khaperkheda-II	2849	3087	2549
Uran GT	1727	3665	4872
Hydro			
Koyna	3413	3951	2757
Koyna Dam	185	185	69
Vaitarna	120	269	113

	1	2	3	4
Paithon		33	40	13
Tillary		146	157	81
Bhira Tail		109	83	72
Bandardhar		28	2	0
Bhatsu		53	40	33
Small Hydro		209	226	98
Trombay		5691	6340	7353
Trombay GT		184	677	1466
Trombay (H)		1430	1334	1191
Tarapur APS		1821	1517	1552
Dhanu (BSES)		0	15	1222

Food Effected Tribals

3834. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the condition of tribals of Bihar who are indebted and flood effected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of assistance provided to them by the Union Government and the State Government under the Poverty Alleviation Programme and the name of agencies which provided the said amount; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to do away with the system of engaging middleman in the process of providing the amount of assistance ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Establishment of Nagarpalikas

3835. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Mahanagarपालikas and Nagarpalikas functioning in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to constitute more new Nagarpalikas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which new Nagarpalikas are likely to be constituted; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) District-wise details of Mahanagar Palikas and Nagar Palikas in Uttar Pradesh are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Proposals for conversion of two Nagar Panchayats into Municipal Council, namely Loni in district Ghaziabad and Siswa Bazar in district Gorakhpur are under consideration of the State Government.

(d) The proposal for conversion of Loni Nagar Panchayat into Municipal Council has been stayed by the Hon'ble High Court. Therefore, the conversion will come into effect only after the stay is vacated. The case of conversion of Siswa Bazar is under consideration of the State Government.

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement

Mahanagar Palikas (Total - 11)

S. No.	Name of Mahanagar Palika (Municipal Corporation)
1.	Agra
2.	Aligarh
3.	Allahabad
4.	Bareilly
5.	Gaziabad
6.	Gorakhpur
7.	Kanpur
8.	Lucknow
9.	Meerut
10.	Moradabad
11.	Varanasi

II. Nagar Palika Parishad (Total - 226)

Name of District	S. No.	Name of Nagar Palika Parishad (Municipal Council)
1	2	3
Agra	1.	Achnera
	2.	Bah
	3.	Idmatpur
	4.	Fatehpur-Sikri

1	2	3
Aligarh	5.	Shamshabad
	6.	Atrouli
	7.	Hathras
	8.	Khair
	9.	Sikandrabad
Almora	10.	Almora
	11.	Bageshwar
Azamgarh	12.	Azamgarh
	13.	Mubarakpur
Barabanki	14.	Barabanki
	15.	Rudauli
Basti	16.	Basti
	17.	Khalilabad
Ballia	18.	Ballia
	19.	Rasra
Bhadoi	20.	Bhadoi
	21.	Gopiganj
Bijnor	22.	Afjalgarh
	23.	Bijnor
	24.	Chandpur
	25.	Dhampur
	26.	Haldaur
	27.	Kiratpur
	28.	Nazibabad
	29.	Nagina
	30.	Nehtaur
	31.	Noorpur
	32.	Sherkot
	33.	Sheohara
Bulandshahr	34.	Anoopshahr
	35.	Bulandshar
	36.	Dibai
	37.	Gulauthi
	38.	Jahagirabad
	39.	Khurja
	40.	Siana
	41.	Sikarpur
	42.	Sikandrabad

1	2	3	1	2	3	
Badaun	43.	Bisauli	Ferozabad	82.	Ferozabad	
	44.	Bilsi		83.	Sikohabad	
	45.	Badaun		84.	Sirsaganj	
	46.	Kakrala		85.	Tundia	
	47.	Saswan		Farrakabad	86.	Chhibramau
	48.	Ujhani	87.		Farakabad	
Iarelli	49.	Aonla	88.	Gursaiganj		
	50.	Baheri	89.	Kannauj		
	51.	Faridpur	90.	Khemganj		
	52.	Nawabganj	Fatehpur	91.	Bidiki	
Banda	53.	Attra		92.	Fatehpur	
	54.	Banda	Gaziabad	93.	Dadri	
	55.	Chitrakoot dham		94.	Garhmukteshwar	
Bahraich	56.	Bahraich		95.	Hapur	
	57.	Nanpara		96.	Moradnagar	
Chamoli	58.	Gopeshwar		97.	Modinagar	
			98.	Pilkhua		
Dehradun	59.	Joshimath	Gazipur	99.	Gazipur	
	60.	Dehradun		100.	Jamania	
	61.	Mussoori		101.	Mohammadabad	
	62.	Rishikesh	Gonda	102.	Balrampur	
	63.	Vikasnagar		103.	Culnolganj	
Deoria	64.	Deoria	104.	Gonda		
	65.	Gauraberhaj	105.	Nawabganj		
	66.	Aliganj	106.	Utraulua		
	67.	Etah	Haridwar	107.	Haridwar	
	68.	Ganjundwara		108.	Mangalur	
	69.	Jaleshwar		109.	Roorkee	
	Etawah	70.	Kasganj	Hardoi	110.	Bilgram
		71.	Soron		111.	Hardoi
72.		Marehra	112.		Malwan	
73.		Auraiya	113.		Pihani	
74.		Bharthna	114.		Shahbad	
75.		Etawah	115.		Shandila	
Faizabad	76.	Jaswantnagar	116.	Sandi		
	77.	Akbarpur	Hamirpur & Mahoba	117.	Chakrakhadi	
	78.	Ayodhya		118.	Hamirpur	
	79.	Faizabad		119.	Mahoba	
	80.	Jalalpur		120.	Maudaha	
81.	Tanda	121.		Rath		

1	2	3	1	2	3
Jalaun	122.	Jalaun	Meerut	166.	Baraut
	123.	Konch		167.	Baghpat
	124.	Kalpi		168.	Mawana
Jhansi	125.	Orai		169.	Sardhana
	126.	Baruasagar	Mainpuri	170.	Mainpuri
	127.	Chirgaon	Nainital	171.	Bazpur
	128.	Gursarai		172.	Bhowali
	129.	Jhansi		173.	Godarpur
	130.	Mauranipur		174.	Haldwani
	131.	Samthar		175.	Jaspur
Jaunpur	132.	Jaunpur		176.	Kashipur
	133.	Mongrabadshapur		177.	Ktchha
	134.	Shahganj		178.	Khatima
Kanpur Dehat	135.	Bilhor		179.	Nainital
	136.	Ghatampur		180.	Rudrapur
	137.	Pokhraiyan		181.	Ramnagar
Khori	138.	Golagokaranath		182.	Sitarganj
	139.	Lakhimpur		183.	Tanakpur
	140.	Mohamdi	Pauri	184.	Dogadda
	141.	Palliankalan		185.	Kotdwar
Lalitpur	142.	Lalitpur		186.	Pauri
				187.	Srinagar
Mathura	143.	Kosikalan	Pithoragarh	188.	Pithoragarh
	144.	Mathura	Pilibhit	189.	Bisalpur
	145.	Vridavan		190.	Pilibhit
Mau	146.	Maunathbhanjan		191.	Purnapur
Maharajganj	147.	Nauthanwa	Pratapgarh	192.	Belapratapgarh
	148.	Maharajganj	Padrauna	193.	Padrauna
Mirzapur	149.	Ahraura	Rampur	194.	Bilaspur
	150.	Chunar		195.	Milak
	151.	Mirzapur Vindhyachal		196.	Rampur
Moradabad	152.	Amroha		197.	Saur
	153.	Bachhrau		198.	Tanda
	154.	Bhajoi	Raibareli	199.	Jais
	155.	Bilari		200.	Raibareli
	156.	Chanduasi			
	157.	Dhanaura	Saharanpur	201.	Deoband
	158.	Hasanpur		202.	Gangoh
	159.	Sambhal		203.	Nakur
	160.	Thakurdwara		204.	Sharanpur
Muzaffarnagar	161.	Kairana		205.	Sarswan
	162.	Khatauli	Shahjahanpur	206.	Jalalabad
	163.	Kandhla		207.	Shahjahanpur
	164.	Muzaffarnagar		208.	Tilhar
	165.	Shamli			

1	2	3
Sitapur	209.	Biswan
	210.	Khairabad
	211.	Lahirpur
	212.	Mohammadabad
	213.	Misrik Nimsar
Sidharthnagar	214.	Sitapur
	215.	Bansi
Sonbhadra	216.	Tetribazar
	217.	Robertsganj
Sultanpur	218.	Sultanpur
Tehri	219.	Narendranagar
	220.	Tehri
Unnao	221.	Bangermau
	222.	Gangaghat
	223.	Unnau
Uttarkashi	224.	Uttarkashi
Varanasi	225.	Mughalsari
	226.	Ramnagar

Link Road

3836. SHRI RAMSHAKAL

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to connect all the villages in the country with link roads, particularly SC/ST dominated areas;

(b) if so, whether obstacles are created by the forest department in connecting the villages situated in the forests;

(c) the policy of the Government to connect the villages situated in forests with link roads; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (d) Connecting of all categories of villages through link roads is a State subject. Funds for this purpose are provided by the State Governments in their Annual Plan under the Minimum Needs Programme. It is estimated that 85.7% of villages with population 1000 and above have been connected by Rural Link Roads upto 31st March, 1996. At present there is no Central Scheme for village connectivity.

Implementation of Development Projects

3837. DR. BALI RAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the development projects being implemented in various towns and cities of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and as on date alongwith the amount spent on these separately, location-wise;

(b) whether these projects are likely to be completed in the stipulated period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Urban development projects are undertaken in states under the Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT). The projects being implemented in various cities and towns under IDSMT during the last three years and as on date include : sites and services, roads, drains, markets and shopping complexes, bus stations, street lighting, etc. The details of expenditures on IDSMT projects taken up during the last three years are not available. However, as reported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the total expenditures on the IDSMT Scheme since inception upto December 1996 is of the order of about Rs. 28 crores. Attached Statement provides the details of towns taken up under IDSMT and Central assistance released yearwise for the period 1993-96.

(b) and (c) The projects taken up under IDSMT during the last three years, i.e. during 1993-96 (8th Plan) are not likely to be completed before the end of the 8th plan. This is due to delay in execution of projects and non-mobilisation of institutional finance which is 20%-40% of the project cost under the existing IDSMT guidelines.

Statement

Details of Approved Project Cost and Central Assistants released for Towns in Uttar Pradesh covered under the I.D.S.M.T. Scheme during the last three years.

(Rs. in Lacs)

S. No.	Name of Town and Year in which covered	Approved Project Cost	Central Assistance Released
1	2	3	4
1993-94			
1.	Pilkhua	500.00	40.00
2.	Thana Bhavan	136.87	16.00
3.	Kotdwar	118.87	14.00

1	2	3	4
4.	Kandhala	100.67	12.00
5.	Sirsaganj	119.65	15.00
1994-95			
6.	Basti	498.20	40.00
7.	Ferozabad	366.13	33.00
8.	Baraut	300.00	36.00
9.	Rampur	392.20	35.00
10.	Budhana	192.20	15.00
1995-96			
11.	Akbarpur	204.10	22.50
12.	Farrukhabad-Fatehgarh	283.27	21.00
13.	Tanda	179.19	21.00
14.	Gola Gokarnath	334.14	22.50
15.	Khaleelabad	166.46	18.00
16.	Utraula	186.29	21.00
17.	Haridwar	670.44	53.00
18.	Muradnagar	218.88	22.50
19.	Dadri	172.75	20.00
20.	Loni	198.30	22.50
21.	Murababad	766.27	66.00
		Total	566.00

[English]

Projects for Housing

3838. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prestigious project for housing for rural poor under various schemes launched by the Government are not being implemented as planned and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of amount utilised lapsed and the number of beneficiaries, State-wise;

(c) whether the functioning of these schemes through voluntary agencies have succeeded as per target fixed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Indira Awaas Yojana a housing scheme for the rural poor is being implemented by the States/UTs as per guidelines.

(b) During the last financial year i.e. 1995-96 the total funds (central state share) allocated was 1368.34 crores as against which utilization was 1166.36 crores. The total number of houses constructed during this period was 863889. The statewise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

1995-96

Sl. No.	State/U.T	Funds Allocated (C+ $\$$)	Amount Utilised Rs. Lakhs	Target Units :	House Constructed Nos.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10955.26	6317.95	87642	69086
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	99.64	56.00	797	420
3.	Assam	3194.94	3381.70	25560	24871
4.	Bihar	21349.01	19168.71	217292	114506
5.	Goa	107.65	31.51	861	967
6.	Gujarat	4312.61	3669.26	34501	31770
7.	Haryana	1355.79	1233.81	10846	9024
8.	Himachal Pradesh	342.06	244.55	2736	1727
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1320.09	543.04	10561	3554
10.	Karnataka	6516.66	5812.80	52133	37460
11.	Kerala	2370.85	4864.14	24624	29368

1	2	3	4	5	6
12. Madhya Pradesh		14172.99	11807.75	113384	125757
13. Maharashtra		11330.08	10606.35	89776	66668
14. Manipur		127.70	141.18	1022	784
15. Meghalaya		149.43	30.01	1195	207
16. Mizoram		62.95	87.68	504	569
17. Nagaland		160.16	74.26	1281	470
18. Orissa		7873.25	7494.88	62986	51033
19. Punjab		608.36	96.50	7047	1121
20. Rajasthan		6359.36	4701.44	50875	41756
21. Sikkim		208.31	163.76	1491	1065
22. Tamil Nadu		9335.31	14398.41	74205	56885
23. Tripura		165.86	144.77	1327	1348
24. Uttar Pradesh		25500.18	17039.77	204003	159073
25. West Bengal		8697.34	4468.87	69579	34278
26. A&N Islands		47.17	15.98	377	21
27. D&N Haveli		25.61	1.19	205	13
28. Daman & Diu		15.08	9.25	121	62
29. Lakshadweep		23.65	5.18	189	10
30. Pondicherry		46.18	25.74	369	36
Total		136834.33	116636.44	1147489	863889

Central Heating System

3839. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the new invention by which spy proof buildings and Central heating are two of the possible application of the newly invented concrete mixture that conduct electricity;

(b) whether with the invention of the new technique, other than application for cheap Central Heating System of buildings, the technique can be used for even de-icing of runways and bridges in cold weather at places like in parts of J&K and Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to buy the technology or enter into collaboration with the inventor namely Ronald Benett of United Kingdom to carry out further research and tests under J&K and Himachal Pradesh conditions to find out lasting solution for heating the hospitals, offices, residential buildings and airport etc. during winter season; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been claimed that the new invention has the potential for application in central heating system for buildings and de-icing of runways, bridges, etc. in cold weather places.

(c) and (d) Details currently available about this technology are not sufficient to enable the Government to take a view on buying the technology or entering into collaborative research.

Farm Houses

3840. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to referred to the answer given to USQs 1790 and 1822 dated December 4, 1996 regarding "Farm Houses in Delhi" and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and
 (d) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
 URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER

OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY
 AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details furnished to Lok Sabha are
 given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

III Session, 1996 of Eleventh for Sabha Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment Date of Fulfillment 3.3.1997

Q. No., Date & Name of M.P.	Subject	Promise Made	How Fulfilled	Reasons for Delay
USQ No. 1822 dt. 4.12.96 by Shri I.D. Swami	FARM HOUSE IN DELHI ASKING FOR :- (a) Whether any action has been taken by the MCD in the remaining 184 cases of violation of the norms laid down for the construction of farm houses in Delhi under Section 343 and 344 of DMC Act, 1957; and (b) If not, the reasons therefor ?	(a) to (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.	(a) to (b) Yes, Sir. In one case in Najafgarh Zone the farm house has been demolished. In the remaining 183 cases, action has been initiated under sections 343 and 344 of the DMC Act and Building Bye-Laws. These structures will be demolished as per the policy.	The assurance could not be fulfilled during the stipulated period as the information was awaited from M.C.D.
USQ No. 1790 dt. 4.12.96 by Shri S.B. Thorat	FARME HOUSES Asking for:— (a) the policy regarding construction of Farm houses in Outer Delhi and the number of such farm houses constructed so far. (b) whether construction in and around farm houses has been declared unauthorised and demolition carried out; (c) if so, the total number of unauthorised constructions in Outer Delhi area and the actual demolitions carried out ?	(a) to (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.	(a) the policy regarding construction of farm houses in Outer Delhi is Annexed. 579 Farm Houses have been construction in outer Delhi. (b) Yes, Sir. In some cases, non-compoundable deviations have been noticed and action has already been initiated against them under 343 and 344 of the DMC Act, 1957. (c) 10 Farm Houses in Najafgarh & Narela Zone have been noticed unauthorisedly constructed, out of which one has been demolished in Najafgarh Zone and action in the remaining cases have been initiated as per the DMC Act and Building Bye-laws.	The assurance could not be fulfilled during the stipulated period as the information was awaited from MCD.

Policy of Farm Houses

Farm houses are allowed in the rural area zone where land use is agricultural green as per MPD-2001. The following norms have been prescribed for construction of dwellings in Farm houses.

1. Size, Coverage & Height of Farm Buildings will be as under .

Sl.	Size of Farm Maximum of dwelling	Maximum No. of dwelling	floor area height of units
a.	1.0 ha and above but less than 2.0 ha	100 sqm	Single storeyed maximum height 6m.
b.	2.0 ha and above	150 sqm.	Single Storeyed maximum height 6m.

- Set back in dwelling houses iron boundary line of the property is required 15 mt.
- Where property abutts on Urban road the dwelling house building should be set back from the centre line of that road by 60mt. where property abutts a villages road the building set back the centre line of that road should be 30mt.
- Approach road should be a shrai-aam of which at least 12' -0" width should be metalled surface (W.B.M.)
- when the approach road serves more than one farm house then the minimum right of way shall be 18.2mt. (60'-0")
- As per policy of the department Right of way (R.O.W.) of the road other than village road shall be 60' -0" and in case of village-road, R.O.W. of the road is maintained as 100' -0" by taking equal widening on either aide of the road. In case where R.O.W. of the road is indicated the same is ensured.
- No dwelling unit should be built within 400mts. of the right of way of any National Highway.
- Basement shall be permitted to the maximum extent of ground floor coverage.
- For various components of farm buildings specifications will be followed as per BBLs for residential buildings.
- Undertaking for handing over of land affected under the R.O.W of road/roads on non-judicial stamp paper of Rs.2/- as per appendix 'H'.
- In case of the net area of land after leaving for R.O.W. becomes less than the minimum required, such area effected under the R.O.W. of road shall be required to be handed over to M.C.D. free of cost before release of sanction;
- In case consolidation work is in progress in the village concerned., then N.O.C. from the consolidation officer for santion of building plan is required to be submitted.
- No objection certification from Delhi Administration that the end is not under acquisition.

Modernisation of Regional Research Laboratory

3841. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- whether the Government are planning to modernise the Regional Laboratory (R.R.L.), Jorhat;
- if so, the details of the scheme; and
- the funds allocated therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. It is planned to modernise laboratories in the CSIR including the RRL at Jorhat. The Government has allocated Rs.50 crore to CSIR for the year 1997-98 for modernisation of its laboratories.

Exploration of Gas

3842. DR. RAMKISHAN KUSMARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- whether the Government propose to take up fresh areas for exploration of gas in Rajasthan during 1997-98; and
- if so, the details in this regard ?

HOW TO APPLY

Application for construction of farm house shall consist of following documents :-

- Proof of ownership of land in the form of sale deed Akash Sajra, Zama Bandi, Khaara Girdawari etc.
- Proof of existing structures and completion certification if the proposal is for addition and alterations.
- Undertaking for non-stacking of building material on public property/road in the proforma is given in Appendix 'F'.
- Application on prescribed forms;
- Certificates from supervising agencies.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND (NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) During the year 1997-98 on going seismic surveys in Rajasthan are to be continued by ONGC. Exploratory locations are available in the areas where gas has been discovered by ONGC namely Sadewala and N. Bankia. OIL has also planned exploratory drilling of 5000 meters in their existing areas.

In addition following blocks in Rajasthan have also been awarded to private/multinational companies for exploration of oil and gas :-

Block	Name of Consortiums
RJ-ON-90/1	Shell International Production Development B.V. Netherlands.
RJ-ON-90/4	Essar Oil Ltd., India
RJ-ON-90/5	Essar Oil Ltd., India
RJ-ON/6	Phoenix Overseas Ltd., India
RJ-ONJ-94/1	Reliance Industries Ltd., India
JM-ONJ-1	European software Alliance Ltd., India and Okland International LDC, USA.

[Translation]

Hydro Power Generation

3843. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved a proposal of the State-owned National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) to enhance its authorised capital upto Rs. 1,000 crore;

(b) if so, the extent to which it help the NHPC to undertake new projects;

(c) the details of the projects which are likely to be undertaken by the NHPC during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

1995-96 - Nil

1996-97 :

Sl.No.	Project	State	Capacity (MW)	Executing agency	Estimated cost
1.	Adirappally	Kerala	2x80=160	Karnataka State Electricity Board	Rs. 150.16 crores
2.	Maheshwar (Private)	Madhya Pradesh	10x40=400	Shree Maheshwar Power Corporation Ltd.	US\$213.29 Million Rs. 612.09 Crores.

State-wise and year-wise;

(d) the total power in MW expected to be added in the hydel sector during the above period; and

(e) the details of projects which have obtained techno-economic clearance during 1995-96 and 1996-97

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The increase in the authorised capital of National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) from Rs. 2500 crores to Rs. 3500 crores would enable it to fund its on-going projects viz. Uri (480 MW), Dulhasti (390 MW), Rangit (60 MW) and Dhauliganga (280 MW). To undertake new projects, NHPC would have to enhance its authorised share capital further. While the Ninth Plan is under finalisation. The following Sanctioned/on-going projects of NHPC are scheduled for commissioning in the Ninth Plan:

Sl. Project No.	Location	Capacity	Schedule dated for Commissioning
1. Uri	Jammu & Kashmir	4x120=480 MW	3 Units to be commissioned in 1996-97 and 1 Unit of 120 MW in 1997-98.
2. Dulhast	Jammu & Kashmir	3x130=390 MW	2001.
3. Rangit	Sikkim	3x20=60 MW	1998-99

Besides, Dhauliganga Projects (280 MW) in Uttar Pradesh is scheduled for commissioning in the 10th Plan. Work has not yet started in Koel Karo Project (710 MW) in Bihar due to lack of availability of funds with NHPC.

(d) The Ninth Plan has not been finalised. However, the addition capacity in the hydel sector during the Ninth Plan would depend on various factors such as project preparedness, availability of financial resources etc.

(e) The details of hydel projects which have obtained techno-economic clearance in 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under :

Surat Lignite Thermal Power Project

3844. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- whether the Government have set-up a Committee to study the Surat Lignite Thermal Power Plant;
- if so, the results thereof; and
- if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The Central Electricity Authority has accorded the techno economic clearance on 26.8.1996 to setting up of the Surat Lignite Thermal Power Project (2x125 MW) by Gujarat Industries Power Corporation Ltd.

[English]

Energy Efficient Pumpsets

3845. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- whether the Government have formulated a Crash Programme for improvement in the Energy Efficient Irrigation Pumpsets in the rural areas;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the total number of such pumpsets installed and are in operation in the country at present, State-wise;
- the details of the pumpsets which need to be covered under the scheme and funds to be incurred thereon during the current financial year, State-wise; and
- the quantum of energy is likely to be saved by introducing the programme;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) With a view to tapping the potential for energy saving through the use of more efficient agricultural pumpsets in the country, the Central Government is assisting the States in a programme for rectification of agricultural pumpsets. Under this programme, besides giving financial assistance upto 50% of the project cost for taking up demonstration projects for rectification of agricultural pumpsets, awareness about installing energy efficient pumping systems is also being promoted amongst the farmers and the promotional agencies.

(c) and (d) State-wise details of energised electric irrigation pumpsets, a majority of which could be covered under the scheme, are given in the enclosed statement. About Rs. 16.2 crores have so far been spent in rectification of about 1.4 lakhs pumpsets in the country. During the current year, schemes for rectification of 26,800 pumpsets in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat are under implementation for which a total contribution of Rs.149 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Government.

(e) Evaluation studies conducted in certain States/Regions reveal that the saving of energy through rectification of pumpsets varies between 20% and 30%

Statement

Statewise details to electric agricultural pumpsets energised upto 31.1.1997.

Sl. No.	States/Uts	Total Achievement to the end of 01.97
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1737046 (b)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-
3.	Assam	3675
4.	Bihar	268342 (a)
5.	Goa	5972
6.	Gujarat	586384
7.	Haryana	408196
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4699
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5088 (c)
10.	Karnataka	1037998
11.	Kerala	311659
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1158754
13.	Maharashtra	2074617
14.	Manipur	45
15.	Meghalaya	65
16.	Mizoram	-
17.	Nagaland	176
18.	Orissa	69649
19.	Punjab	722708
20.	Rajasthan	538459
21.	Sikkim	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	1556666
23.	Tripura	1764
24.	Uttar Pradesh	772191
25.	West Bengal	102307
Total (States)		11366460
Total (UTs)		36094
Total (A-I)		11402554

- As on 31.12.1996.
- As on 30.11.1996.
- As on 30.09.1996.

[Translation]

Pending Schemes

3846. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether schemes of cities having population of more than twenty thousands are lying pending with the Government for clearance; and

(b) if so, the time by which these schemes are likely to be accorded clearance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some Water Supply & Sanitation Schemes have been forwarded by State Governments in respect of towns and cities having population more than 20000 for technical clearance.

(b) No time frame can be given regarding accordance of technical clearance. Since this can be possible only after detailed assessment of the technical & financial viability of each scheme, and this assessment is an on-going process involving frequent interaction with State Governments and their agencies.

[English]

Genetic Violations

3847. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether this Department has asked the Planning Commission for allocation of more funds to study the genetic violations of India's diverse population groups;

(b) if so, the main aims of this project;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has agreed to provide more funds for this project; and

(d) if so, the time by which this project is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main objectives of the programme are : a) to understand genetic variation among different population groups in the country, b) to develop the new science of genetic epidemiology and c) to assess the genomic variations and susceptibility/resistance of population to different diseases and disorders.

(c) and (d) Yes, the Planning Commission has provided adequate funds for the Annual Plan 1997-98. The programme has already started, as part of the ongoing activities under human genetics.

[Translation]

Allocation for EAS, IAY - 1996-97

3848. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated to Uttar Pradesh during 1996-97 under the Employment Assurance Scheme and the Indira Awas Yojana, separately;

(b) whether the Union Government have any monitoring mechanism so as to ensure that the State Governments do not discriminate in the allocation of amount to their respective districts after they have been allocated the plan outlay;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for the development of the most backward areas of Uttar Pradesh and to directly make allocations for the development of such areas;

(d) whether the Union Government are contemplating to formulate any scheme to spend more amount for the rural development schemes and the development of most backward areas so as to bring these at par with the development areas; and

(e) if so, by when and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The amount allocated to Uttar Pradesh during 1996-97 under the Indira Awas Yojana is Rs. 216.16 crores. No allocation is fixed for Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) as it is demand driven scheme. However the total availability of funds under EAS during 1996-97 is Rs. 251.57 crores.

(b) the monitoring mechanism, inter alia, consists of obtaining periodical progress reports/returns, financial returns/audit reports, intensive field inspections, reviews and monitoring by committees and by senior officers with the State Secretaries, Commissioners etc.

The Government regularly monitor and review implementation of programmes in various states through the Central Level Coordination Committees, State Level Coordination Committees and at the district level by the governing body of the District Rural Development Agencies.

(c) The Government have appointed a Committee to identify 100 most backward districts in the country including in the State of Uttar Pradesh

(d) and (e) It will depend upon the report of the Committee mentioned in (c) above.

[English]

Generation of Nuclear Power

3849. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal before the government to generate Nuclear Power in the coastal region of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present position of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Kaiga Power Plant

3850. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the Kaiga Power Plant likely to become functional; and

(b) the other details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Kaiga Atomic Power Project consists of 2 units of capacity 220 MWe each. As of now, all activities other than dome construction are in an advanced stage, with an overall physical progress of around 82%. In respect of IC dome of Kaiga unit-2, Design basis report has been approved by the regulatory authority. Steel support structure for I.C. Dome construction has been erected. Installation of wooden form work is expected to be completed by end March 1997. Mock-up for portion of dome near steam generator openings is expected to be completed by end March, 1997. Concreting of I.C. Dome is scheduled to be completed by June 1997.

As regards Kaiga Unit-1, Design Basis Report (DBR) for re-engineering work of I.C. Dome is expected to be submitted by end March 1997 to the regulatory authority for approval. After the approval of the regulatory authority is received for the DBR, design report will be submitted to regulatory authority by end April 1997. Clearance for the design report is expected in September, 1997 and the I.C. Dome construction is scheduled in October 1997. Most of the major equipments have been installed and testing and commissioning activities of certain systems have been started. Round and clock work will be carried out in the area of inner containment dome construction, nuclear piping and other critical areas of construction. With concerned efforts, Kaiga units-2&1 are expected to achieved criticality in May, 1998 and November 1998 respectively.

R And D Cess

3851. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI SI

Will the Minister of SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount accumulated in the R&D Cess Fund during the last three years;

(b) whether any loan is given from this fund for indigenous technology projects;

(c) if so, the total amount so disbursed;

(d) whether the Government proposes to give more autonomy to R&D Cess Board; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and likely benefits for acquiring more autonomy to this Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI. YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The cess collected under the Research and Development Cess Act, 1986 (as amended in 1995) during the last three years is as follows :

	Rs. (in crores)
1993-94	60.73
1994-95	71.42
1995-96	81.41

(b) and (c) The proceeds of the Cess are first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. Central Government makes funds available as appropriated by Parliament to the Technology Development Board (TDB) which was constituted in September, 1996 under the Technology Development Board Act, 1995. The Board includes representatives from Ministry of science and Technology, Departments of Expenditure, Industrial Development, Rural Development and persons having experience in technology development and application, banking and finance, industry, agriculture and rural development. The Board provides equity capital and financial assistance to industrial concerns and other agencies attempting development and commercial application of indigenous technology or adapting imported technology to wider domestic applications under the provisions of the Act. No disbursement has been made by the Board as 62 applications received are evaluated. The applications cover areas such as Agriculture, Medical, Electricals & Electronics, Rural Development, Biofertilisers & Biopesticides, Chemicals, Civil & Mechanical Engineering, Transport and Energy.

(d) and (e) The functioning of the Board is governed

by the provisions of the Technology Development Board Act, 1995. Government value the participation of non-official members on the Board.

[Translation]

Urban Development

3852. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the amount utilised for urban development out of the amount allocated by the Union Government during 1996-97;

(b) the amount spent on the sanitation in slum in the urban areas out of it; and

(c) the amount being provided for urban development during the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The amounts released for urban development projects out of the amounts allocated by the Union Government during 1996-97 (as on date) are given in the attached statement. Utilisation certificates for the amounts released this year will be due next year only.

(b) Urban development is a State subject and funds for sanitation are provided by respective State Governments and Municipalities. Out of the programmes supported by the Government of India, the Low Cost Sanitation (LCS) Scheme aims at improving sanitary conditions, particularly in slums. The amount released under LCS during 1996-97 is shown in Annexure. Data on the amounts spent under LCS on sanitation in slums are not maintained at the Government of India level and are not available.

(c) It is not possible to indicate the amount being provided for urban development during the 9th Plan at this juncture in the absence of the firming of the 9th Plan for the Urban Sector.

Statement

Allocations Provided and Releases Made for Urban Development Projects (1996-97)

Name of Scheme	Allocation (1996-97)	Released so far
1. Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns	Rs. 28.26 Crores	Rs. 15.76 Crores
2. Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme	Rs. 20 Crores	Rs. 20 Crores
3. Low Cost Sanitation	Rs. 13.80 Crores	Rs. 13.80 Crores

[English]

Supply of Petrol

3853. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the demand and supply of petrol, diesel in the country at present and the component of indigenous production;

(b) the amount spent for importing the same during 1996-97; and

(c) the subsidy component for the customers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) For the year 1996-97, the estimated demand of petrol and diesel in country is 5.18 MMT and 35.55 MMT respectively. The indigenous productions of petrol and diesel for 1996-97 is assessed at 4.52 MMT and 22.07 MMT respectively.

(b) During 1996-97 (April to December, 1996) an

amount of Rs. 152 crores and Rs. 7179 crores has been spent on import of petrol and diesel respectively.

(c) Subsidy on petroleum products is met through Oil Pool Account Mechanism by way of cross subsidisation of the products whose prices are fixed above their cost of production. During 1996-97 the subsidy on Diesel is estimated to go up to Rs. 8340 crores. There is no subsidy on petrol.

Levying of Tax

3854. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to levy tax on sale of houses and flats by the builders and property/estate dealers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) No

such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

Development of Villages

3855. SHRI YELLAIHAH NANDI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has developed a current model for Andhra Pradesh Village Development;

(b) if so, whether under this programme six lakh students have been sent to villages in the State from January 1, 1997 for a week long programme;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have agreed to provide funds for implementation of this scheme;

(d) if so, whether such schemes are also being implemented in the countries like China, Malaysia and Indonesia; and

(e) the extent to which the Union Government have provided aid and the extent to which these schemes have helped in developing the villages ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ambedkar Housing Scheme

3856. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people allotted houses under Ambedkar Housing Scheme during 1989;

(b) the time by which all the registered persons likely to be allotted houses;

(c) the rate fixed by the DDA for MIG, LIG and Janta Flats;

(d) whether the total income of registered persons has been considered for fixing the price of flats; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The DDA has reported that 7439 registrants under the Ambedkar Awas Yojana have been allotted flats upto 28.2.97.

(b) Due to constraints in the availability of land and infrastructural services, which are providing by other agencies, it is not possible to fix an exact time schedule.

(c) The present cost of different categories of flats is as under :

Janta	-	Rs. 1.50 to 1.75 lacs
LIG	-	Rs. 3.50 to 4.00 lacs
MIG	-	Rs. 5.50 to 6.50 lacs

(d) and (e) The Costing of DDA flats is done on the principle of no profit no loss basis and the income of the registered persons is not taken into consideration while determining the cost. However, while fixing the cost of Janta and LIG flats, the subsidies are provided in the following manner :-

(i) Liability on account of land component of Janta and Lower Income Group flats is brought down through cross-subsidization.

(ii) Over head charges are computed at a lower rates for Janta flats.

Employment

3857. SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed to create job opportunities under the new economic policy during the last three years;

(b) the number of job opportunities created during the above period;

(c) whether the target fixed in this regard was achieved during the above period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) No specific target was fixed to create job opportunities under the new economic policy during the last three years. According to the latest comprehensive survey of employment and unemployment conducted by the NSSO during 1993-94, the estimated number of unemployed persons in the country as per Usual Principal Status was 9 million.

Assessment on Housing Need

3858. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any fresh assessment on the housing need of the rural people in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide houses to each and every citizen in the country;

(c) the schemes drawn up for providing dwelling units to the poor families of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled

Tribes and other weaker sections of the society;

(d) the provisions made in this regarding during the Ninth Plan; and

(e) the achievements made in this regarding during the Eighth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) According to 1991 Census, the rural housing shortage in the country was estimated as 13.72 million.

(b) and (c) Under the Indira Awaas Yojana which is a centrally sponsored scheme, houses are provided free of cost to SC/ST freed bonded labourers and other living below the poverty line in the rural areas.

(d) The IXth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised.

(e) During the VIIIth Plan period as per the last available information about 21.8 lakh houses have been constructed so far.

Autonomy to Kashmir

3859. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :
SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the actual concept of greater autonomy to J&K by the Union Government;

(b) the terms of reference of the Committee on Kashmir headed by Dr. Karan Singh;

(c) the number of sittings the Committee have had so far and the progress made towards granting autonomy to Kashmir; and

(d) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) The Government is committed to grant maximum autonomy to the State of Jammu and Kashmir within the framework of the Constitution of India. It is not possible/feasible to spell out details in this regard at this stage.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee set up by the State Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. Karan Singh to look into the issue of autonomy are as under;

(i) To examine and recommend measures for the restoration of autonomy to the State of Jammu and Kashmir consistent with the Instrument of Accession, the Constitution Application Order,

1950 and the Delhi Agreement of 1952.

(ii) To examine and recommend safeguards that be regarded necessary for incorporation in the Union/State Constitution to ensure that the Constitutional arrangement that is finally evolved in pursuance of the recommendations of this Committee is invariable.

(iii) To also examine and recommend measures to ensure a harmonious relationship for the future between the State and the Union.

(c) According to information provided by the State Government, the Committee has so far held four meetings, and has collected extensive material, including views/suggestions from individuals and public organisations, relevant to the subject.

(d) No specific time limit for the submission of the report has been fixed.

Allocation of Fuel to Gujarat

3860. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any recommendation to the Union Government for allocation of liquid fuel for its various power projects;

(b) if so, the name and number of such projects and their requirements;

(c) whether the Union Government is unable to meet the demand of liquid fuel of the State; and

(d) if not, the time by which the requirement is likely to be fulfilled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d) The Government of Gujarat have made recommendations from time to time for liquid fuel linkages for various power projects. The recommendations for projects for liquid fuel linkage within the capacity (in MW) allocated to the State of Gujarat are awaited from the Government of Gujarat.

[Translation]

Central Assistance for Rural Sanitation Programme

3861. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought central assistance under the Rural Sanitation Programme during the year 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount proposed to be provided to the State;

(c) whether the Union Government would provide

additional central assistance for attaining the target fixed by the State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh requested for release of funds under Centrally sponsored Rural Sanitation Programmes (CRSP). An amount of Rs. 357.00 lakh has been released for the year 1996-97 to the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh under CRSP.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Employment Assurance Scheme

3862. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the financial and physical target fixed for Employment Assurance Scheme in the country during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the financial and physical achievements made upto January, 1997 against the said target; and

(c) the number of districts and blocks in the country where this scheme is being implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) is a demand driven scheme. Therefore there is no fixed allocation under EAS for a State/block and targets are also not fixed.

(b) The financial and physical achievements made upto January, 1997 are given in the statement attached.

(c) The scheme is being implemented in 4329 blocks of 461 districts of the country.

Statement

Year	Total Funds Available (Rs. in crores)	Funds Utilised	%Centage Utilisation	Mandays Generated (Lakh Mandays)	No. of Works Completed
1994-95	1775.26	1235.45	69.59	2739.56	114199
1995-96	2671.45	1720.61	64.41	3465.27	128420
1996-97	2779.06*	1116.51**	40.18**	2085.35	121439**

N. B. - Upto 4-3-1997
- Upto December, 1996.

[English]

Demand and Supply of Power in Orissa

3863. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand and supply of power in Orissa at present;

(b) whether required demand is to be met by the local power plants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total power generating capacity of the existing power plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) During February, 1997 the power supply position in Orissa was as noted.

	February, 1997		
	Energy (MU)	Peak Met (MW)	
Requirement	9650	Peak Demand	1950
Availability	9342 *	Peak met	1614
Shortage	308	Deficit	336
%	3.2	%	17.2

(* Based on the availability of generation during the month of February, 1997).

(b) and (c) The present requirement of power in Orissa is met from its own generation, its share from Central Sector Generating Stations in the Eastern Region and assistance from neighbouring States/system.

(d) The total power generating capacity in Orissa including share of Orissa in the Central power generating stations is 2325 MW.

Compensation for Acquired Land

3864. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether amendments made by the Land Acquisition (Amendment Act, 1984) are applicable to the lands acquired by the UP Avas Evam Vikas Parishad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to amend the UP Avas Evam Vikas, Parishad Adhinyam and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether during 1987, the Secretary, Avas and Nagar Vikas, UP Government, was required to comply with the 1986 decision;

(e) if so, whether during 1995, UP Government reiterated the above decision;

(f) if so, the steps taken so far and time frame laid down to implement 1986, 1987 and 1995 decisions;

(g) whether the UP Government propose to remove the prevailing inequalities in compensation-scales for land acquired by UP Avas Evam Vikas Parishad and other bodies; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (h) The information is being collected from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Allotment of Flats

3865. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of DDA flats built under SFS and Group Housing Societies at Dwarka are ready for allotment; and

(b) if so, the time by which roads, electricity, water, sewage, drainage system is likely to be provided to enable the people to shift there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The DDA has reported that 3580 SFS flats are ready in Dwarka for allotment. However, none of the Group Housing Societies, who have been allotted land has so far reported the completion of flats.

(b) In the absence of provision of services by the concerned local bodies, interim arrangements have been made for water supply through tube well and through

oxidation ponds for sewage disposal. Interim arrangements for drainage have also been made and roads have been constructed. Out of 3580 flats electricity is available in 2640 flats. In the remaining 940 flats, it may take 9-12 months for the Delhi Vidyut Board (formerly DESU) to provide electricity.

Peripheral electricity services around Group Housing Societies in Dwarka are already available. Electric connection to the Group Housing Societies would be released by Delhi Vidyut Board on request and fulfilment of the required formalities by the concerned Societies.

Reservations in Pre. Exams

3866. SHRI M. SELVARASU :
SHRI V. ALAGIRI SAMY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any reservation for scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other backward communities for preliminary examinations of All India Services including Indian Administrative Service;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir. All eligible candidates are entitled to appear at the Civil services (Preliminary) Examination, including Schedules Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBC candidates.

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

Crude Oil

3867. SHRI V. ALAGIRI SAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of imported crude oil per barrel;

(b) the cost of refining this crude oil at various oil refineries; and

(c) the final selling price of the petroleum products extracted out of the imported crude oil with percentage of profits in these oil refineries per barrel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The average cost of imported crude oil for the period April, 1996 to January, 1997 is assessed at US \$ 20.75/ barrel.

(b) and (c) The cost of refining crude oil would vary from refinery to refinery depending on the type of crude processed, level of crude thrupt, patterns of production, infrastructure facilities, technologies and secondary pro-

cessing facilities etc. The ex-storage point prices of administered petroleum products are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Ex-Storage Point Price of Administered Petroleum Products w.e.f. 3/7 July, 1996.

Name of Product	Selling Unit	Revised Basic Ceiling Selling Price Ex-Storage Point exclusive of Excise Duty Etc.) (Rs./Selling Unit)
MS-87	KL	16055.43
MS-93	KL	19180.43
MS-80	KL	16091.86
HSD WEF 3.7.96	KL	7432.46
WEF 7.7.96	KL	6574.87
LSHF HSD – Bunkering	KL	7432.46
– Others	KL	11059.31
LPG PKD. (Domestic)	MT	6901.95
ATF – Other than International Airlines	KL	10837.56
Aviation Gasoline	KL	12584.77
SKO-Domestic	KL	2001.40
SKL-Industrial Use	KL	6518.63
LDO	KL	7263.82
MLO	KL	7296.32
Naphtha – Fert.	MT	4839.61
– Others	MT	6683.26
FO – Fert.	KL	3656.16
– Others	KL	5895.86
LSHS – Fert.	MT	3707.04
– Others	MT	6245.29
Bitumen – Bulk	MT	5362.53
– Packed	MT	6215.76
Match WAX	MT	15804.74
Paraffin WAX (1st Qlty).	MT	20030.41

U.S. Ambassador's Observation

3868. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Ambassador who recently visited Jammu & Kashmir has commented on the Kashmir problem, including the organisations/individuals he met;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The US Ambassador to India had visited the State of Jammu & Kashmir on 18-20 February, 1997. During the visit, he attended a function organised by the Jammu University and addressed the gathering. He is also reported to have met the Chief Minister and some of his ministerial colleagues, senior State Government and Security Force Officials, and various other political, social and business groups. During his address at the Jammu University, he referred to various issues pertaining to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) The whole State of Jammu and Kashmir including the area illegally occupied by Pakistan, is an integral part of India. This position is well known to the US Government.

[Translation]

Handing Over of Bungalows;

3869. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allotted the bungalow Nos. 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21 at Janpath to the Ministry of Welfare for setting up of Dr. Ambedkar National Public Library;

(b) if so, whether these bungalows have been handed over to the Welfare Ministry for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the action being taken by the Government to hand over these bungalows to the Ministry of Welfare ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) This Ministry has agreed in principle to allot land underneath bungalow Nos. 13, 15, 17, 19 & 21, Janpath to the Ministry of Welfare for construction of Dr. Ambedkar

National Public Library. As the said bungalows are with the Lok Sabha M.P. Pool, they were requested to hand over the vacant possession of the same to CPWD for further necessary action. Since the handing over of the possession of these bungalows to CPWD by Lok Sabha Secretariat is still awaited, the formal allotment of land in favour of Ministry of Welfare could not be made. The matter is being pursued with the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

[English]

Review of Rural Sanitation Programme

3870. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any review on the implementation of Rural Sanitation Programme;

(b) if so, the percentage of rural population in each state which have excess to the above centrally sponsored scheme during the Seventh and Eighth Plan;

(c) the reasons for not including the Scheme in the

Basic Minimum Programme; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make the scheme successful and to provide the facility to move the people in rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) The Chief Minister's Conference held on 4-5 July, 1996 recommended that there should be effective convergence of sanitation hygiene and public health with the drinking water sources and facilities.

(d) the Centrally sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme and The State Minimum Needs Programme are under implementation to provide sanitation facilities in the rural areas. Creation of awareness through information, Education and Communication about necessity of sanitation has been an integral part of rural sanitation programme.

Statement

State/UT	Rural Population as per 1991 Census (in lakhs)	Population coverage			
		as on 1.4.90		As on 31.1.97.	
		POP	%	POP	%
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	486.209	46.873	9.64	73.531	15.12
Arunachal Pradesh	7.539	5.710	75.74	5.955	78.99
Assam	199.265	111.752	56.08	114.372	57.40
Bihar	750.215	45.020	6.00	62.525	8.33
Goa	6.900	2.378	34.46	3.018	43.74
Gujarat	270.635	45.728	16.90	56.159	20.75
Haryana	124.089	4.929	3.97	18.956	15.28
Himachal Pradesh	47.217	2.763	5.85	18.330	38.82
Jammu & Kashmir	58.790	9.850	16.75	12.385	21.07
Karnataka	310.694	21.353	6.87	48.042	15.46
Kerala	214.182	105.444	49.23	113.769	53.12
Madhya Pradesh	508.423	16.605	3.27	38.833	7.64
Maharashtra	483.956	34.118	7.05	45.189	9.34
Manipur	13.315	12.288	92.29	12.913	96.98
Meghalaya	14.447	3.092	21.40	3.615	25.02
Mizoram	3.718	3.410	91.72	3.625	97.51
Nagaland	10.013	0.184	1.84	0.741	7.40

1	2	3	4	5	6
Orissa	274.248	12.325	4.49	20.472	7.46
Punjab	142.887	13.968	9.78	16.640	11.65
Rajasthan	339.389	33.490	9.87	48.066	14.16
Sikkim	3.695	1.889	51.12	2.260	61.15
Tamil Nadu	367.814	25.639	6.97	42.322	11.51
Tripura	23.355	18.785	80.43	19.426	83.18
Uttar Pradesh	1,115.064	83.925	7.53	136.819	12.27
West Bengal	493.704	54.634	11.07	68.735	13.92
A & N Islandsan	2.057	0.483	23.48	0.905	43.98
Chandigarh	0.662	0.049	7.40	0.050	7.50
D & N Havelliel	1.268	0.224	17.67	0.247	19.51
Daman & Diu	0.540	0.063	11.67	0.078	14.52
Delhi	9.490	0.543	5.72	0.564	5.94
Lakshadweep	0.226	0.188	83.19	0.213	94.46
Pondicherry	2.908	0.319	10.97	0.426	14.65
Capart		2.847		9.538	
All India	6,286.914	720.868	11.47	998.719	15.89

Working Group for Power Sector**Statement**

3871. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Working Group has been set up by the Government for power sector for Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of new schemes drawn up by the Working Group for various States, State-wise; and

(c) the projection made by the Working Group on Power generation during the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) A Working Group on Power was set up by the Planning Commission for formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan. As per the projections made by the Working Group, the total capacity addition requirement during the Ninth Plan has been assessed to be 57734.7 MW from various schemes in different States. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statements.

(c) With the total capacity addition of 57734.7 MW, it is assessed that there would be marginal peaking surplus of 0.2% and energy surplus of 6.7% during the terminal year of the Ninth Plan for the country as a whole.

S. No.	State	Assessed capacity requirement (in MW)
1	2	3
1.	Haryana	2,507.0
2.	Himachal Pradesh	1,626.0
3.	Punjab	3,326.0
4.	Uttar Pradesh	3,775.5
5.	Rajasthan	3,873.0
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	157.5
7.	Gujarat	3,486.7
8.	Madhya Pradesh	5,614.0
9.	Maharashtra	5,929.5
10.	Andhra Pradesh	3,745.0
11.	Karnataka	3,058.7
12.	Kerala	1,636.0
13.	Tamil Nadu	2,147.5

1	2	3
14.	Pondicherry	22.5
15.	Bihar	1,162.0
16.	Orissa	1,664.0
17.	Sikkim	19.0
18.	West Bengal	1,745.0
19.	Assam	287.5
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.0
21.	Meghalaya	18.0
22.	Nagaland	24.0
23.	Mizoram	9.0
24.	A&N Island	25.2
25.	Central Sector Projects	11,870.0

[Translation]

Oil Selection Boards

3872.DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Oil Selection Boards ka punargathan sigrah" appearing in 'Navbharat Times' on February 25, 1997;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to provide representation of one member each amongst the Scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes, women and general in oil selection board; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Revised policy guidelines for selection of dealers/distributors are being decided shortly to reactivate the selection process.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Supply of Drinking Water.

3873.SHRI GOPAL TANDEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps taken by the Gujarat Government and the Daman Administration to provide drinking water in Daman ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWRLU) : As per available information, augmentation to water supply scheme for Daman and surrounding villages, Phase-I and Phase-II, was entrusted for execution by the Gujarat Water Supply & Sewerage Board at an estimated cost of Rs. 528.22 lakhs and Rs. 96.55 lakhs respectively. The work of Phase-I, part-I has been commissioned and completed in April, 1994. The works of Phase-I, part-II and Phase-II are in progress and expected to be completed by June, 1997. After commissioning of the scheme, all 29 habitations would be fully covered, including Moti Daman area.

Rural Development Projects

3874.DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural development projects funded by the Union Government are being delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the number of projects cleared alongwith the amount incurred thereon during 1996 and projects pending with the Government, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The details of the projects cleared and amount released during 1996-97 under special innovative projects under 3rd stream of JRY are given in the enclosed Statement.

The information in respect of projects under Rural Water Supply Programme is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Project approved during 1996-97	
		Total cost of project	Amount released during 1996-97
1	2	3	4
Bihar			
1.	Socio-economic upliftment of 3000 families of Lac Growers in Ranchi distt. by BISCOLAF	239.94	79.98

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh			
	Community Development project for Saharia in Laitpur district	100.00	40.00
2.	Integrated watershed Development for the Ghararea of Saharanpur district.	209.81	70.26
Himachal Pradesh			
1.	Mandi district on the Green Gold Track	100.26	58.56
Manipur			
1.	Improvement of Rural economy of Tamenglong district through cultivation & distillation of citronella grass in Tamenglong district	25.00	15.00
Karnataka			
1.	Sustainable development of Malnand Region of Hassan district	20.00	16.00
Total			279.80

[Translation]

High Level Committee

3875. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have constituted a High Level Committee under National Wastelands Development Board;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) the name of States which have been recommended by this Committee for development of wasteland during the last five years and the names of districts covered thereunder, and

(d) the amount spent on the development of wastelands in the country during the last five years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREA AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A High Level Committee on Wastelands Development (HLC) was set up in November, 1994 under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohan Dharia by the Department of Wastelands Development. The composition of the HLC is given at Statement I.

(c) and (d) The Report including the recommendations of the HLC is under consideration of the Government. The HLC's recommendation cover development of wastelands of the entire country. State-wise details of funds released during the last 5 years under Central Wastelands Development Sector Schemes are given at Statement II.

Statement-I

No. 6-17/94-TE

November 4, 1994.

ORDER

Subject : Constitution of a High Level Committee for development of non-forest wastelands.

The Department of Wastelands Development was created in July, 1992, with the mandate to take up development of about 95 million hectares of non-forest wastelands in the country. In the first two years of its existence, the Department has achieved a very high percentage of utilisation of plan funds allocated to it. However, it has been felt that there is a need to evolve a strategy and a Plan of Action for the development of vast areas of non-forest wastelands with full appreciation of vast magnitude of the problem and the financial resources required to address these problems.

2. In view of the need to have a comprehensive plan for development of wastelands in the country, it has been decided to constitute a "High Level Committee on Wastelands Development" with the following composition and terms of reference.

I. Composition :

- Shri Mohan Dharia, Chairman
'VANARAI',
2064 Vijayanagar,
Pune - 411 030
(Maharashtra)

2. Shri B.B. Vohra, – Vic-Chairman
D. 7-7, Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi – 110057
3. Shri Anna Saheb Hazare, – Member
Sant Yadav Baba Shikshan,
Prasarak Mandal,
Ralegaon, Shiddi,
Taluk : Parner,
District : Ahmednagar
(Maharashtra)
4. Shri Anil C. Shah, – Member
Principal Adviser,
Agra Khan Rural Support
Programme,
8, Jupiter Apartment,
Sardar Patel Nagar,
Ahmedabad – 380 006 (Gujarat)
5. Dr. D.R. Bhumbra, – Member
Near Central Soil Salinity
Research Institute,
Karnal
(Haryana)
6. Shri K.L. Chugh, – Member
Chairman,
ITC Bhadrachalam Paperboards Ltd.,
Virginia House, 37, Chowranghi Lane,
Calcutta – 700 071.
7. Dr. P. Kotaiah, – Member
Chairman,
NABARD,
Sterling Centre,
Dr. Annie Basant Marg,
Worli, Bombay – 400 018
8. Dr. R.K. Pachauri, – Member
Director,
Tata Energy Research Institute,
Darbari Seth Block,
India Bahit Centre,
Lodi Road,
New Delhi 110003
9. Shri Subodh Bhargava, – Member
President,
Confederation of Indian Industry,
23-26 Institutional Area,
Lodi Road,
New Delhi – 110003
10. Mrs. Viji Srinivasan, – Member
Managing Director, 'ADITI'
2-30, State Bank Colony-II,
Bailey Road, Patna – 800 014
(Bihar)

11. Shri Ranjit Issar, – Member
Joint Secretary,
Secretary
Deptt. of Wastelands Development,
Ministry of Rural Development,
New Delhi – 110011.

II. Terms of Reference :

- evolve a comprehensive strategy and action plan for the development of wastelands in non-forest areas with reference to a time frame of 10-15 years;
 - assess the level of financial resources required and suggest the ways and means and sources of raising them;
 - indicate the respective roles of the Central and State Governments and their Departments, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Voluntary Agencies, the corporate sector and the financial institutions/banks in the development of non-forest wastelands;
 - suggest the specific policy initiatives which the Department of Wastelands Development may take in pursuance of the mandate given to it;
 - broadly outline the mechanism through which the NWDB may seek to implement the strategy and action plan proposed for the development of non-forest wastelands.
3. The Committee will submit its report within 6 months.

– Sd –

(RANJIT ISSAR)
JOINT SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA

Statement-II

Statement showing amount of investment made on the development of Wastelands in the Country during last five years (1992-93 to 1996-97) – State-wise

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
States		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,426.91
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	–
3.	Assam	2.61
4.	Bihar	1,414.39

1	2	3
5.	Gujarat	2,190.05
6.	Goa	-
7.	Haryana	1,203.21
8.	Himachal Pradesh	652.53
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	219.37
10.	Karnataka	763.91
11.	Kerala	962.14
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1,449.94
13.	Maharashtra	514.61
14.	Mizoram	354.65
15.	Manipur	213.54
16.	Meghalaya	59.57
17.	Nagaland	747.17
18.	Orissa	1,256.37
19.	Punjab	776.56
20.	Rajasthan	2,203.70
21.	Sikkim	774.81
22.	Tamil Nadu	733.08
23.	Tripura	123.13
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2,133.59
25.	West Bengal	2,054.26
26.	Delhi	26.95
Total		23,257.05

[English]

Shankar Committee

3876. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shankar Committee, set up by the Union Government for the restructuring of power sector has since submitted its recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad have been assigned to study the issue of restructuring the regulatory system. The ASCI team is led by Shri T.L. Sanker, Principal, ASCI. ASCI is yet to submit its final report.

(c) The Government could take a final view only on receipt of the final report by ASCI.

Encroachment upon Footpaths

3877. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the footpaths in Delhi, including residential colonies have been encroached upon the making it impossible for the pedestrians to use the footpaths and the same has been appearing in the newspapers off and on;

(b) if so, whether the Government has carried out any survey of such encroachments;

(c) if so, the details/outcome thereof; and

(d) the action the Government propose to take to clear the footpaths and varandahs in the residential colonies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (d) Encroachment on public land in Delhi is a continuing problem and its removal is an on-going process. As and when such encroachments are detected/noticed action is taken to remove them by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council and the Delhi Cantonment Board in their respective jurisdictions. Besides, the Lt. Governor of Delhi has constituted a Special Task Force in each of the nine Districts of Delhi to check unauthorised constructions and encroachments on public land.

LPG Connections

3878. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to allot LPG connections to Freedom Fighters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of freedom fighters in Kerala are not getting LPG connection on priority basis; and

(d) if so, the action the Government propose to take to allot LPG connection to freedom fighters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, LPG connections are released on out-of-turn basis to Freedom Fighters on demand, on payment of normal deposits as applicable for general domestic consumers.

(c) PSU Oil Companies have not received any established complaint regarding non-release of LPG connections to Freedom Fighter category in Kerala.

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

[Translation]

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana

3879. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether programme Appraisal Organisation of Planning Commission has studied the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in the country;

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

(c) whether the study has revealed that some Gram Panchayats in the State have not utilised the funds provided under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A quick study to Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was conducted by Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO), Planning Commission, during 1992 covering the period from April 1st 1989 to September, 1991. The PEO had selected 10 States, 20 districts and 40 Gram Panchayats for this purpose. The Evaluation Study of JRY did not give State-wise findings.

(c) and (d) The Study revealed that out of 40 selected Gram Panchayats, 2 in 1989-90 and 6 in 1990-91 did not utilize the funds at all. In the first half of 1991-92, 19 Gram Panchayats did not report any utilization of funds.

The Government of India have taken a number of steps to improve the implementation of JRY. The programme was

first restructured during 1993-94 again in January, 1996. Instructions have also been issued to constitute vigilance and monitoring committees at State, district block level for effective implementation and proper utilization of funds.

Assistance for Fishing/Cold Storage

3880. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken for the development of infrastructure facilities for presentation and processing of fish at sea-shores in the country, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) whether any scheme is in operation for providing grant-in-aid to private entrepreneurs and other agencies for the construction of cold storages and purchase of fish processing machines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount of grant-in-aid sanctioned during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) the names of companies/private entrepreneurs and agencies, specially from the State of Gujarat which were sanctioned Grant-in-aid for the purchase of fish-processing machines; and

(f) the details of other States, (State-wise) in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (c) The Ministry has a scheme for the development of infrastructural facilities for preservation and processing of fish. Under this scheme, grant in aid is given to various organizations and private entrepreneurs towards part of the capital cost of ice plants, cold storages, refrigerated vehicles, processing machineries etc.

(d) to (f) The details of assistance provided under this scheme during the last 3 years are attached Statement.

Statement

Year 1993-94

Sl No.	State	Name of Organisation	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	The Andaman & Nicobar Islands Intergrated Dev. Corporation Ltd., Port Blair	69.75
2.	Orissa	The Orissa Maritime & Chilka Area Devt. Corpn. Ltd., Bhubaneswar	31.00
3.	Mizoram	Govt. of Mizoram	23.00
4.	Delhi	Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board	11.88
5.	West Bengal	West Bengal State Fishermen Cooperative Fedaration Ltd., Calcutta	42.00
6.	Maharashtra	Sudesh Sea Foods Ltd., Bombay (*)	67.50

1	2	3	4
Year 1994-95			
1.	Orissa	The Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar	50.00
2.	West Bengal	West Bengal State Fishermen Cooperative Federation Ltd., Calcutta	11.00
Year 1995-96			
1.	Kerala	Oceanic Fisheries Ltd., Kollam (*)	25.00
		Uniroyal Marine Exports Ltd., Kozhikode (*)	24.28
		Innovative Marine Foods Ltd., Cochin (*)	25.00
		International Creative Foods Ltd., Aroor (*)	25.00
		Koluthara Exports Ltd., Aroor (*)	12.70
		Accelerated Freeze Drying Co. Ltd., Ezhupunna (*)	25.00
		Padinjathalakkal Plantations (P) Ltd., Cochin (*)	9.28
		Lansea Foods (P) Ltd., Cochin (*)	25.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Coastal Trawlers Ltd., Vishakhapatnam (*)	13.81
		Survana Aqua Farm and Exports Ltd., Hyderabad (*)	25.00
		Sharat Sea Foods Ltd., Hyderabad (*)	25.00
		Suryachakra Sea Foods Ltd., Kakinada (*)	20.52
		DCL Maritech Ltd., Hyderabad (*)	25.00
		Pennar Acqua Exports Ltd., Secundrabad (*)	25.00
		Kalyan Sea Foods Ltd., Kakinada (*)	25.00
		Alsa Marine & Harvests Ltd., (*)	5.00
3.	Gujarat	Veraval Marines & Chemicals Ltd., Veraval (*)	25.00
		Hiravati Exports (P) Ltd., Porbandar (*)	25.00
		Cham Foods Ltd., Porbandar (*)	25.00
4.	Maharashtra	Viceroy Foods Ltd., Bombay (*)	15.47
5.	West Bengal	Alsa Marine & harvests Ltd., (*)	20.00

(*) Through MPEDA, Cochin.

[English]

Central Assistance to Orissa

3881. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa have sought financial assistance from the Centre or the improvement of power supply to the existing grid in Dhenkanal and Anugul;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has sanctioned two loans for installation of capacitor banks for system improvement.

(i) Loan for installation of 250 MVAR Capacitor banks for Rs. 7.60 crores. 10 MVAR at Dhenkanal town.

(ii) Loan for installation of 52.5 MVAR capacitor banks for Rs. 1.04 crores. This includes capacitor installation of 1x600+7x300 MVAR at Dhenkanal town and 3x300+5x300 MVAR at Annugul.

Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) was also sanctioned 13 System improvement Schemes in Dhenkanal District for Rs. 568.616 lacs.

Regional Office of SSC

3882. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a Regional office of the staff Selection Commission in Kerala;

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

(c) whether the fees collected from among the applicants of Kerala would be sufficient to meet the cost for running such an office; and

(d) if not, the other resources with the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Amount for National Social Assistance Programme

3883.DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned full amount under the National Social Assistance Programme in Assam;

(b) the amount sanctioned and yet to be released under this scheme in the State; and

(c) the reasons for not releasing the sanctioned amount so far ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Out of Rs. 1594.80 lakhs allocated to three schemes of NSAP in respect of Assam Rs. 588.79 lakhs have been released so far during the year 1996-97. Funds to the eligible districts will be released as and when utilisation reports are received.

(c) The release of funds under NSAP is dependent on the utilisation of 50% or more funds already released. As the districts have not utilised substantial part of funds already released it has not been possible to release more funds.

Migration of People

3884.SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the incidence of unemployment among the educated rural youths, separate figures for different stages of formal education;

(b) whether the incidence of unemployment in the

rural areas is on the rise and that resulting in rural-urban migration; and

(c) if so, the annual average figure of this migration during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) According to the Ministry of Labour, no information is available in regard to unemployed rural educated youth.

(b) and (c) In rural areas, the unemployment rate (number of persons unemployed per 1000 person in labour force) for both male and female declined as per 50th round of NSS (1993-94) as compared to 43rd round of NSS (1987-88). As per CWS (Current Weekly Status), unemployment rate for male is 31 according to 50th round as against 42 according to the 43rd round. Likewise, unemployment rate for female is 29 according to 50th round as against 44 according to 43rd round.

Various programmes such as Jawahar Rozagar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) etc. implemented by the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment aim at providing wage employment as well as self employment to rural poor living below the poverty line which results in prevention of rural-urban migration also.

Mini Hydel Project

3885.SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a small Mini-Hydel Project started more than 2 years back at Rungmook Tea Garden in Darjeeling is yet to be commissioned;

(b) if so, the reasons for such an inordinate/unnatural delay;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c) The Roongmook & Cedars (4x125 KW) Small Hydel project at Roongmook Tea Garden in Darjeeling is being set up by West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA). It has been supported by the Ministry under the Capital Subsidy Scheme is May, 1994 with a completion period of 32 months i.e. January, 1997. The trial runs have already been completed and commercial generation is planned for April, 1997. There has, therefore, not been any under delay in the implementation of the projects.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Tehri Dam

3886. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government for extending benefits of the dam reservoirs and Hydel Power Projects to the local people being affected by their construction in the Himalaya region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is an acute shortage of drinking and irrigation water in catchment areas of Tehri Dam and the people have been demanding to lift the water of the rivers for several years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any provision for a scheme for supplying electricity and water to Meerut and Delhi, which are 300 and 350 km. away from the dam and for supplying irrigation water to Aligarh;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the remedial measures taken by the Government to remove the water problem of the people of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (g) There is no general scheme evolved for extending benefits to persons affected by the construction of hydel power projects in the Himalayan region. The rehabilitation benefits such as compensation for the land acquired, employment, vocational training etc. are extended on case to case basis by the project authorities in consultation with the concerned State Governments.

Amongst the main benefits envisaged in the completion of Tehri Hydroelectric Project Stage-I, inter-alia, include supply of 162 million gallons (300 cusecs) of drinking water per day to Delhi and 108 million gallons (200 cusecs) of drinking water per day for the towns and villages of Uttar Pradesh. Schemes for lifting water from the rivers and alleviating the water problems of the people living in the catchment areas of Tehri Dam and in the region are the responsibilities of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Inter Personnel Communication Skill

3887. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any training programme relating to inter personnel communication skill to Government employees to interact with public and to others;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI. S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) The Department of Personnel and Training has been sponsoring a number of training programmes on a range of subjects. The subject of communication skills has also been one on which the training programmes have been sponsored. In the year 1996-97, for example, the following programmes related to communication skills were sponsored.

1. Effective Communication for Inter-personal Relations at Institute of Administration, Hyderabad (04-06th June, 1996)
2. Communication Skills & Managerial Effectiveness, Anna Institute of Management Chennai (12-14th June, 1996)
3. Communication Skills for Effective Managerial Decisions at Institute of Co-operative Management Guwahati (17-21st June, 1996)
4. Mass Media & Public Relations at Institute of Administration, Hyderabad (13th-17th May, 1996)
5. Media & Strategies for Development at Yashwant Rao Chavan Development Administrative Institute Pune (20-24th May, 1996)

(c) In view of the above, does not arise.

D.D.A. Houses

3888. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "REJECTED DDA houses on offer" appearing in The Times of India dated March 7, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reasons for the public sector undertakings rejecting the flats offered to them by the Delhi Development Authority;

(d) the reasons for fleecing the common man by offering the houses under expandable housing scheme floated in 1996; and

(e) the steps taken to allow a locality of choice to the registrants of New Pattern Scheme, 1979, instead of thrusting upon them a locality not liked by them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The DDA has reported that no houses have been rejected by the Public Sector Undertakings. However,

some of these Undertakings wanted to have houses to suit their requirements.

(d) The expendable houses were also offered to the general public who had not registered earlier with the DDA. These houses would be allotted only to those who have applied for these houses.

(e) Allotments to the registrants of the New Patterns Registration Scheme 1979 are made by draw of lots and no area preference is allowed.

Uses of Atomic Energy

3889. SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount spent on atomic reactors so far;
- (b) the details of various uses of atomic energy;
- (c) the benefit strictly in financial terms; and
- (d) the different uses of atomic energy proposed to be put in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) The information is being compiled and a statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

Wastelands Development Programme

3890. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give some incentives to motivate the Corporate Sector for taking up Wasteland Development Programme and providing tax relief under this programme and if so, the time by which it is likely to be done;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 12 Wasteland Development Projects of Rajasthan are pending with the Union Government;

(d) if so, whether Union Government propose to issue the sanction of these projects;

(e) if so, the time by which these projects are likely to be sanctioned;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Union Government propose to revise the cost per hector of Wasteland Development Programme in view of the geographic conditions and adverse climatic conditions of the States;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The on-going Central Sector Investment Promotional Scheme for development of Non-forest Wastelands (IPS) envisages involving corporate sector in the development of wastelands. The objective of the scheme is to facilitate/attract/channelise/mobilize resources from financial institutions, banks, corporate bodies including user industries and other entrepreneur for development of non forest wastelands belonging to Central/State Governments, Panchyat, Village Community, Private Farmers etc.

Under the scheme, Central promotional subsidy/grant is provided by Central Government subject to a maximum of Rs. 25.00 lakhs or 25% of the total cost of the project as approved and firmed up by the financial institutions/banks, whichever is less. In addition, project formulation assistance for the preparation of bankable/viable projects at the rate of 1% of the project cost is permissible; however, in the case of projects promoted by Members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, they are eligible for 50% promotional grant/subsidy subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50,000 per project, in addition to the provision of 1% of the project cost as project formulation assistance.

The Investment Promotional scheme has no provision for tax relief.

(c) to (f) Presently, three proposals are pending for consideration under Integrated Wastelands Development Projects (IWDP) Scheme in the Department submitted by Sikar (two project proposals) and Dholpur, districts of Rajasthan.

Other 10 proposals have been returned to the State Government for re-formulation as per Guidelines for Watershed Development. On receipt of required information these proposals will be considered on merit. No time limit can be indicated for sanction of these projects.

(g) Presently, no proposal for revision of cost norms per hectare under IWDP scheme for Watershed Development is under consideration.

(h) Question does not arise.

(i) No specific request has been received so far.

Uptron India Ltd.

3891. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Uptron India Ltd., a UP Electronics Corporation Unit, is lying sick from 1994 with BIFR and the Prime Minister had assured that the Uptron will not be allowed to be sold;

(b) if so, the number of employees on the strength of Uptron, as on date, category-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to offer a 'golden handshake' to such employees; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Ujptron India Limited, a public sector unit of the Govt. of U.P. has been declared as a sick industrial company by the BIFR on 19.8.94.

The Prime Minister had stated at Allahabad on 28.8.96 that the Public Sector Undertaking UPTRON shall not be sold during President's Rule in U.P. and the new elected government will take final decision in this regard.

(b) Number of employees as on 31.1.97 are as follows :

Class I	145
Class II	244
Class III	1584
Class IV	365
	2338

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Information Technology Industry

3892.DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the visit of the Israeli President and his delegation has been a boon to the Indian Information Technology industry;

(b) if so, whether according to the representative of the Israeli soft-ware industry and Managing Director of MLL and Services Ltd., India's weakness in systems software programming, India will need to focus on skills for development of packages, in addition to its current strength in projects;

(c) whether any agreement was signed in this regard with the Israeli Government; and

(d) if so, the details of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Both sides evinced keen interest to explore possibilities for cooperation in various high-technology areas including Information Technology.

(b) There was no such discussion.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Polluted Water

3893.SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the supply of polluted water to the people of Kanpur city by water supply department of Kanpur (U.P.);

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking stern action against the persons found responsible for it; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide safe drinking water ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The Kanpur Jal Sansthan has reported that polluted water is not being supplied to the people of Kanpur city.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Raw water from river Ganga and Lower Ganga Canal is treated by conventional methods, i.e. coagulation, filtration and disinfection. Ground water from deep tubewells is supplied after disinfection. Under the World Bank project, settling tank no. 2 has been remodelled.

A new 200 mld filtration plan and pre & post chlorination plants have been commissioned to improve the water quality. Regular monitoring of water quality is being done.

[English]

Private Sector Transmission Projects

3894.SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that many private sector transmission projects are violating the Electricity Act and they are earning the return more than permissible amount fixed under the Act;

(b) if so, the percentage of returns by these private projects during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against such projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) There are no private sector transmission companies, as on today, dealing exclusively with transmission of power.

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

Raids by CBI

3895. LT. GENERAL (Retd.) PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) carried out raids at the houses of seven Officers of U.P. Government and found a large sum of unaccounted money and properties disproportionate to their source of income;

(b) whether these officers are continuing in their respective posts inspite of the said raids and that no disciplinary action has been initiated against them so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir. The CBI has not carried out raids at the houses of seven officers of the U.P. Government.

(b) and (c) When any investigating agency brings to the notice of the State Government the commission of any offence of possession of assets disproportionate to the known sources of income by any officers of the State Government, the State Government is the competent authority to deal with them under Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Allocation of Funds to Chandigarh

3896. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of funds was made during 1996-97 for the development of villages of Union Territory of Chandigarh and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of amount utilised and development activities completed or initiated by December 31, 1996; and

(c) the details of future plans to be undertaken in this direction by March, 1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) the (c) Programmes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) and Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) are not being implemented in the Union Territory of Chandigarh and so no funds are allotted.

Under Rural Water Supply programme, all habitations of the Union Territory of Chandigarh are fully covered with drinking water facility. No allocation of funds has been made for water supply during 1996-97. but Rs. 5.00 lakhs has been allocated under Central Rural Sanitation Programme.

Availability of Sophisticated Weapons

3897. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to non-availability of modern and sophisticated weapons with Security Agencies posted at Pak border of J&K region, a lot of difficulties are being faced in tackling the terrorists' activities; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide them sophisticated weapons and better communication/transportation services ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Action is being taken on a continuous basis to look at the requirements of weaponry and equipments in the context of the Challenges faced by the Security Forces in tackling terrorist activities, both along the border/LOC and in the hinterland. The upgradation of weaponry and equipments etc. is an on-going process and there is regular inter-action in this regard between the heads of the Security Forces and the Central Government.

[Translation]

Policy on Agriculture Marketing System

3898. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the policies formulated by the Government under the Agricultural Marketing System for safeguarding the interests of producers, businessmen and consumers;

(b) whether the Government have made any survey to ensure that the benefits under this scheme are reaching the proper persons; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The subject of Agricultural Marketing comes under the purview of the State Governments/Union Territories. The role of the Central Government is limited to providing technical advice and guidance to the State Governments/Union Territories to formulate suitable policies and programmes on agricultural marketing for safeguarding the interests of producers, businessmen and consumers. At present, there are no Central Sector schemes being implemented in the field of agricultural marketing through State Governments/Union Territories.

(b) No survey has been conducted.

(c) Not Applicable.

Drinking Water Facility

3899. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :
SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the percentage of urban population provided drinking water during 1985, 1990 and 1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : As per available information, the percentage of urban population provided drinking water is as under :-

Date	Percentage
31.3.85	72.9
31.12.90	84.15
31.3.97	85.00 Anticipated

Fire in ONGC Oil Well

3900. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K PATIL :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an onland exploratory well of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation in the Krishna-Godavari basin at Mandapeta in Andhra Pradesh caught fire on February 19, 1997 following a massive blow-out;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the causes thereof and estimated loss caused by the fire;

(d) whether experts from the United states have been invited to cap the blow-out in the well;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the amount being paid per day to these US experts;

(g) whether the blow-out in the well has since been capped;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the preventive steps the Government have taken/propose to take in case of such eventuality ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A blow out occurred at Mandapeta (West)-1 in East Godavari District of Krishna Godavari Project of ONGC on 19.02.1997 at 1300 hours.

(c) While drilling at a depth of 2754.5 mtrs. the well at the Mandapeta West drill site became active and suddenly oil and gas started gushing out from the cellar pit and caught fire. The rig and equipment belonging to M/s Hitech Drilling Co. have been damaged. The losses incurred by ONGC as a result of the blow out are estimated to be around Rs. 7.02 crores.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) 3 experts were mobilised from M/s. Wild Well Control Inc., Texas by ONGC to advise and assist in planning execution of well control related activities.

(f) In amount of US\$ 3500 per day per expert has been paid by ONGC.

(g) and (h) The fire died down on 24.02.1997.

(i) Efforts have been made by ONGC to organise the "Crisis Management Team" with its available infrastructure and man power in all the regions. However, ONGC have initiated a high level enquiry, inter alia, to suggest steps required to be taken to avoid similar incidents in the future.

{English}

Funds For Drinking Water Scheme

3901. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have so far spent Rs. 34.90 crores under the National Conservation Plan (Godavari) to provide drinking water to Ramaundam, Rajamundry municipalities etc. in Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether HUDCO has also agreed to sanction Rs. 438 crores to provide drinking water in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to extend loan facility to other (25) new municipal towns also in the State; and

(e) if so, the total amount from HUDCO so far spent for providing the drinking water in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, However, the Ministry of Environment & Forests (National River Conservation Directorate) have informed that prevention of pollution of river Godavari in four towns of Andhra Pradesh viz. Mancherial, Bhadrachalam, Rajamundry and Ramagundam has been taken up under the Centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan at an approved cost of Rs. 53.7872 crores. The cost is to be shared equally between the Central and the State Governments. A sum of Rs. 3.813 crores has been released to the State Government, as Central share, so far, for the execution of the scheme, This does not include any funds to provide drinking water to Ramagundam, Rajamundry municipalities, etc. in Visakhapatnam.

(c) HUDCO has sanctioned loan assistance of Rs. 293.14 crores for 40 water supply schemes in Andhra Pradesh for a total project cost of Rs. 465.64 crores.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) HUDCO has released an amount of Rs. 7.12 crores to the State Government for implementation of the drinking water schemes in the State.

Utilisation of Funds for Water Supply

3902. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAJ
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had granted a sum of Rs. 40 crores for reviving the alternative irrigation and drinking water supply aimed at providing uninterrupted water supply to 265 villages in various places of Baroda Distt;

(b) if so, whether the amount sanctioned and released by the Union Government has been fully utilised by the State Government; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government or propose to take for the utilisation of the funds for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The Union Government has released Rs. 40.395 crore to the State Government of Gujarat during 1996-97 for safe drinking water supply to not covered and partially covered habitations including such habitations in Baroda district.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Petroleum Conservation

3903. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
KUMARI UMABHARATI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether petroleum Conservation Research Association has been promised Rs.84 crore by the United Nations Development programme;

(b) if so, the manner in which the funds are likely to be utilised;

(c) the schemes/programmes drawn up by PCRA; and

(d) the percentage dependence of imported crude at present and likely dependence after the implementation of this conservation programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) to (c) No, Sir. However, dialogue is on with Global Environment Facility (GEF) for funding of a project for saving 30-39% consumption of energy by about 200 steel re-rolling mills spread all over the country.

(d) As per the revised estimates for the year 1996-97 the dependence on imported crude is 53.1% of the total crude processing. The implementation of this project is estimated to result in a saving of 0.5 lakh tonnes of oil and 0.8 lakh tonnes of coal per year. Implementation of the conservation programme is not likely to reflect in dependence on import of crude oil, since, the later depend on refining capacity and indigenous crude production.

Neelam Oil Field

3904. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount invested by ONGC in the Neelam Oil Field Offshore Project;

(b) whether it was planned to produce 6 million tonnes of crude every year from the Neelam Oil Field;

(c) whether the production of crude there has never reached three million tonnes in a year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is proposed to invite multinationals for Neelam Oil Field consultancy;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether Neelam Oil Field is proposed to be awarded to Joint Venture Company; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) Total investment of Rs. 2755.39 crores has been made by ONGC in the Neelam Oil Field development upto 31.3.1996.

(b) Plateau oil production from Neelam field, envisaged in the June, 1993 was 4.5 MMTPA for five years from year 1995-96 onwards.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The crude oil production during 1994-95 and 1995-96 was 3.808 MMT and 3.528 respectively.

(e) and (h) There is no such proposal presently under the consideration of the Government.

Dwelling Units.

3905. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of dwelling unit constructed and handed over to the urban poor during the last 3 years under Central sector schemes and expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the total provision of funds under Central sector schemes of housing for urban poor for the current year with State-wise targets;

(c) whether a critical review of implementation of housing for urban poor has recently been undertaken at the apex level for effecting suitable restructuring/reorientation of schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) There is no Central Sector Scheme for construction of new dwelling units for urban poor. However, under the Scheme of Employment through Housing & Shelter Upgradation under the Centrally sponsored schemes of Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP), Central subsidy is available to the States for renovation/repairing of the units belonging to the households below the Urban poverty line.

While there is no provision in the current year for shelter upgradation under Nehru Rozgar Yojana, an amount of Rs. 70.60 crore has been provided for in Prime Minister's Integrated urban Poverty Eradication Programme of which Shelter Upgradation is one of the components.

(c) and (d) The Working Group on Urban Housing for Ninth-Five Year Plan has reviewed the requirement of

urban housing and has estimated that the requirement of EWS and Lower Income Group housing would come to 15.02 million units during the Five Year Plan period 1997-98 to 2001-2002. Restructuring/reorientation of urban housing schemes will depend on the finalisation of the Ninth-Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification in U.P.

3906. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI RAM SHAKAL :
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :
DR. AMRIT LAL BHARTI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has chalked out any programme to identify those villages which have not been electrified in Uttar Pradesh so far;

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

(c) whether any time bound scheme have been proposed to electrify these villages;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which these villages are likely to be electrified ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) As per the available information, 25250 villages in Uttar Pradesh remain to be electrified as on January, 1997.

(c) to (f) Rural Electrification Programme is a continuous process. Funds for the programme are annually allocated by the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Governments/State Electricity Boards for the state as a whole. The balance unelectrified villages of the State are likely to be electrified during the 9th and subsequent plan periods depending upon the availability of resources and other inputs.

[English]

Deep Sea Fishing

3907. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI GOPAL TENDEL :

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

(a) the number of foreign fishing vessels granted licences for deep sea fishing during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 till date; and

(b) the details of vessels at present operating in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and when their permits are likely to be expired ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) Permits for Chartering and Leasing of foreign fishing vessels were granted to Indian companies. Number of such foreign fishing vessels permitted yearwise is as follows :-

year	Charter	Lease
1994-95	34	20
1995-96	9	25
1996-97	Nil	Nil

(b) At present there are two foreign fishing vessels operating under Charter and ten such vessels operating under Leasing. Permits of vessels under charter will expire on 9.4.1997 and last of the permits for leasing will expire in the year 2000 A.D.

Resources Mobilisation by State

3908.PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the State Governments have not mobilised the desired quantum of resources during the Eighth Plan resulting in stoppage of various development works and increase in financial burden on Union Government; and

(b) if so, the action, proposed to be taken by the Government against the States which have not mobilised the resources ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The outlay for Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) was fixed at Rs. 175,485 crore at 1991-92 prices which was to be funded through States Own Resources of Rs. 95,954 crore and Central assistance of Rs. 79,531 crore. As against this the anticipated resources mobilised works out to Rs. 138,658 crore at 1991-92 prices which includes States. Own resources of Rs. 69,679 crore and central assistance of Rs. 68,979 crore. Thus the States are expected to realise about 79% of the approved Eighth Plan. Several states could not realise the committed resources shortfalls have been mainly in the balance from current revenues and net contributions from State public enterprises. Under Central assistance the main shortfall occurred in the utilisation of external assistance. However, shortfalls in resources mobilisation do not increase the financial burden of the Central Government.

(b) the States resources/Plan Expenditure is reviewed every year in the Annual Plan discussions at various

levels (including at the level of Dy. Chairman and Chief Ministers/Governors). In case of shortfalls in resource mobilisation against the commitments made, the State have been advised from time to time, to take effective steps for mobilising the resources, improve the working of State level public enterprises and effect economy in non-plan revenue expenditure, improve collections of small savings, etc. to avoid shortfalls in plan expenditure.

Bay Exploration Project

3909.SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil India is planning to wind up Bay Exploration Project (BEP) located in Orissa and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the total amount invested by Oil India Ltd. on this project; and

(c) whether the Government propose to reconsider the issue in view of short-term permission given by the defence authorities for drilling in the area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir. OIL was granted Petroleum Exploration Licence in 1978, 1981 and 1983 for Mahanadi Offshore, Orissa (Mahanadi) Onshore and North-East Coast Offshore areas respectively.

A total of 15 exploratory wells, i.e. 4 in Mahanadi Onshore, 7 in Mahanadi Offshore and 4 in North-East Coast Offshore have been drilled without any success. The areas in Mahanadi Offshore and Mahanadi Onshore were surrendered by OIL in 1986 and 1988 respectively. However, an area of 6100 Sq. K.M. was kept in the North-East Coast Offshore and OIL planned to drill one 5,000 m. deep exploratory well in this area during 1996. As per OIL, the drilling of this well could not be achieved due to following reasons :-

- (i) The apparent inefficiency observed on the part of the drilling contractor to take up drilling operations of this complicated well. Also there was delay in mobilisation of the drillship as per the contractual obligation.
- (ii) The area was falling within the restricted area of Ministry of Defence and approval for drilling operation was available only upto 31.12.1996.
- (iii) There was no other drilling location available in the North East Coast Offshore area.

(b) Oil India Ltd. has so far incurred an expenditure of approximately Rs. 260 crores in its exploration activities in the Bay Exploration Project.

(c) The stated timeframe was not sufficient to complete drilling of the well.

Minimum Common Programme

3910. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are planning to send the team to the different States to assess the implementation of Minimum Common Programme in the districts and in Blocks;

(b) if so, the present position of the implementation of Minimum Common Programme State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated/utilised for the purpose during 1996-97, upto February 1997, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) has been operationalised and action points alongwith the concerned administrative Ministries have been identified for the different points of the CMP. The Department of Programme Implementation (DPI) has been designated as the nodal department for monitoring the CMP. The administrative Ministries concerned with the action to be taken by them on particular items send implementation reports to the DPI.

There is no separate provision for funds for the purpose. However, the concerned Ministries make suitable provisions for their programmes.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Funds

3911. SHRI DATTA MAGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds provided for various Urban Employment Schemes have been fully utilised;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total amount allocated and the extent to which it has been utilized ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) Two Centrally sponsored urban employment schemes namely, Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP), are being implemented in the country.

N.R.Y. :- So far as NRY concerned funds have not been fully utilised.

The main reasons are that Banks under-finance the projects under the scheme of Urban Micro Enterprise (SUME). Secondly, the scheme of housing and shelter

upgradation (SHASU) not being an income generating scheme has not found favour with the urban poor. Since the inception of the Yojana in 1989, the total funds (Central + State) upto 1996-97 available with the States/UTs are to the tune of Rs. 924.06 crores, against which the expenditure reported is Rs. 605.12 crores.

PMIUPEP :- The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP) was launched in November, 1995 to address the problems of urban poverty in small towns with a multi-pronged whole-town and integrated approach to the economic, physical and social dimensions of urban poverty. Most of the States are in the preliminary and foundation stages of the implementation of the Programme, such as house-to-house survey, spatial mapping, need assessment, preparation of project reports, building community structures etc.

A sum of Rs. 105.80 crores was released to the States/UTs for 1995-96 under the programme. Rs. 26.227057 crores have been utilised till now, as reported by the State Governments Rs. 32.1434 crores have been released upto now in the current financial year.

Transparency in Administration

3912. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee set up by the Government to recommend measures for an 'open and transparent administration' has submitted its recommendations; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

UPSEB

3913. DR. BALIRAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the resources from which the power is being supplied to the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB);

(b) whether power generation has been reduced or increased by any of these resources;

(c) the reasons for decline in power generation, any;

(d) the details and number of Power Stations/Sub-stations in the State at present; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the generation of power in the State ?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d) Details of the resources from which the power is being supplied to UPSEB along with energy generated by each station from 1993-94 is given in the statement enclosed. Generation at Obra, Panki, Harduaganj and Paricha had been less as compared to previous year due to the reasons given below:

Obra : The Generation was less during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 due to higher forced outage rate as 36.37% and 46.0% respectively.

Panki : The generation was less due to higher Forced Outage Rate as 18.06% and 27.1% during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. These units are very old.

H Ganj 'B' : The Generation was less due to higher F.O Rates as 32.48% and 39.40% during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. These units are very old.

Paricha : The generation was less during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 due to higher Forced Outage Rate as 17.01% and 63.8% respectively.

(e) Various measures taken to increase the generation in Uttar Pradesh includes maximising the generation from existing capacity, early stabilization of new generating capacity, implementation of R&M Programme, reduction in T&d losses, effective load management and energy conservation measures and obtaining assistance from neighbouring States/System.

Statement

The Resources of Power Supply in the UPSEB

State/System	Station	Category	Power Generation (MU)		
			93-94	94-95	95-96
1	2	3	4	5	6
Uttar Pradesh					
UPSEB	Obra 1-13	Thermal	6,475	4,288	4,677
	Panki	Thermal	774	701	564
	H. Ganj A	Thermal	0	0	0
	H Ganj B&C	Thermal	1,011	751	604
	Paricha	Thermal	746	321	492
	Anpara	Thermal	4,745	8,777	10,450
	Tanda	Thermal	817	774	1,016
	Others	Thermal	0	0	0
	Total	Thermal	14,568	15,612	17,803
	Rihand	Hydro	726	1,428	758
	Obra Hy.	Hydro	271	484	283
	Matatila	Hydro	130	134	107
	Ganga Canal	Hrdro	150	150	146
	Khatima	Hydro	216	201	210
	Ram Ganga	Hydro	383	371	326
	Yamana 1&4	Hydro	583	522	543
	Yamuna II	Hydro	838	877	952
	Chila	Hydro	724	688	661
	Khodari	Hydro	388	409	443
	Maneribhali	Hydro	478	416	197
Khara	Hydro	399	378	373	
Total	Hydro	5,286	6,058	4,999	

1	2	3	4	5	6
NTPC	Singrauli	Thermal	14,643	14,291	14,985
	Rihand	Thermal	6,868	6,476	7,622
	NCR Dadri	Thermal	1,545	2,568	4,439
	NTPC Uncha	Thermal	2,523	1,924	3,108
	Auriya GT	Thermal	3,438	3,577	3,510
	Dadri GT	Thermal	1,352	2,292	3,795
	Total	Thermal	30,369	31,128	37,459
NPC	Marora APS	Nuclear	334	950	2,751
NHPC	Tanakpur	Hydro	401	466	445
	Total (UP)	Thermal	44,937	46,740	55,262
		Nuclear	334	950	2,751
		Hydro	5,687	6,524	5,444
		Total	50,958	54,214	63,457

Improvement of Environment

3914. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is drastic need to improve the environment in Delhi and to check atmospheric pollution and to provide large open green spaces as lungs for the citizens of the Capital;

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

(c) whether NDMC, DDA and CPWD have miserably failed in improving the environmental conditions in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS : (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the Master Plan for Delhi-2001, an area of 8722 hac. has been earmarked as green inclusive of lands meant for parks, open spaces under recreational land uses, etc. Besides the following measures have been adopted in the Master Plan to improve the environment in Delhi:-

- (i) The Ridge to be conserved with care and afforested.
- (ii) Strict enforcement of anti-water pollution measures to keep River Yamuna clean.
- (iii) Development of hierarchy of recreational areas, open green spaces such as regional Parks, District Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, Play areas,

Sports Centres, Major Children Parks, Colony/housing scheme tot-lots/parks, etc.

- (iv) Re-plantation of substitute the tress that have completed full life-span.
- (v) Conservation of urban heritage.
- (vi) Specific recommendations for prevention and control of water, air and noise pollution.

In order to control vehicular pollution and improve the city environment, a rail-based Mass Rapid Transport System has been approved.

Trees and shrubs are also planted every year in various areas/localities by CPWD for improving the environmental conditions in the surrounding areas. Parks/lawns in Government colonies are maintained by CPWD.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Schemes for Urban Development in Kerala.

3915. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes for urban development in Kerala; and

(b) the allocation made in this regard to the State for the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The schemes taken up for urban development in Kerala, which are

supported by the Government of India, include Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP). IDSMT aims at the development of integrated infrastructure in selected regional centres capable of generating economic growth and employment opportunities. The projects approved under IDSMT include the strengthening/upgradation of Master Plan roads and drains, sites and services, shopping complexes, bus terminals, Master Plan street lighting, solid waste management, etc. The Scheme applies to towns with population upto 5 lakhs. AUWSP aims at the creation of water supply facilities in towns with population less than 20,000. The details of towns taken up under IDSMT and AUWSP during the 8th Plan are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The allocation (grant) made for Kerala for the current financial year is Rs. 25 lakhs under IDSMT. No specific allocation is made under AUWSP as release will depend on project reports received.

Statement

Towns in Kerala covered under IDSMT Scheme and AUWSP during VIII Plan, Approved Project Cost and Central Assistance Released

A: IDSMT Scheme (Rs. in Lacs)

S. No.	Name of Town	Year of Approval	Approved Project Cost	Central Assistance Released
1.	Alappuzha	1992-93	890.60	25.00
2.	Kollam	1993-94	880.60	40.00
3.	Cherthala	1994-95	166.00	13.00
4.	Aluva	-do-	170.60	30.50
5.	Thiruvalla	-do-	500.00	60.00
6.	Chalakyudy	-do-	216.00	15.00
7.	Kozhikode	1995-96	947.00	62.00
8.	Chenganur	-do-	185.00	18.00
9.	Varkala	-do-	194.50	15.59
			Total :	279.09

B: AUWSP

1.	Paniyannur	1993-94	233.72	124.83*
2.	Pudukkad	1996-97	137.10	

* This is a consolidated amount released to the State Government for implementing the approved schemes in both these towns.

Threat Posed by Taliban

3916. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Taliban has its eyes on Kashmir now, fear analysts" appearing in the 'Indian Express', New Delhi dated February 19, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONYAN) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government continues to follow the developments in Afghanistan closely, and evaluate their implications for us. Continuous vigil is being maintained and all necessary steps to safeguard the country's security are being taken.

Legislation for Tribal Lands

3917. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RURAL AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have called upon the State Governments to enact legislation for preventing alienation of tribal lands;

(b) whether Government have also urged the State Governments to indicate the latest position of alienation and restoration of tribal land to enable the Government to monitor it at the national level;

(c) if so, whether all the States Governments have submitted their information to the Union Government; and

(d) the time by which the States would indicate alienation of Tribal Land Act ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The latest request sent to the State Governments was in the month of November, 1996 and only 11 State Governments submitted latest position of alienation and restoration of tribal land in the format prescribed for monitoring the same by this Ministry at the National level.

(c) and (d) All States have never submitted the information on the subject and some States do not keep such information as they do not have any separate Act or even any provision in the existing Land Reforms Act to prevent alienation and restoration of tribal land.

Rental Tariff

3918. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Govt. to revise the rental tariff for different categories of Government accommodation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to revise the rental tariff for different categories of Government Accommodation. Under the provisions of the rule, the last such revision was made w.e.f. 1.7.1996.

[Translation]

LPG Connections

3919. SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH :
SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the applicants in the waiting list for L.P.G. connection in the country during 1996, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government had fixed any target for allotment of L.P.G. connections during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, whether this target was achieved during the above period; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) State-wise details of the applicants in the waiting list for LPG connection in the country are given in attached statement.

(b) and (d) No target was fixed for allotment of LPG connections during the VIII Five Year Plan as a whole. Due to the increasing popularity of LPG as domestic cooking gas and subsidised price, the demand for LPG exceeds LPG availability from indigenous production and possible imports and therefore, new enrolment plans are drawn up on the basis of LPG availability on a year to year basis. The enrolment during the VIII Plan has been as follows:

Year	New LPG Connections (in Lakhs)	
	Target	Actual
1992-93	7.5	8.7
1993-94	12.0	13.6
1994-95	20.0	22.9
1995-96	15.0	20.5
1996-97	20.0	12.6
(April-Dec, 96)		

Statement

State	Waiting list as on 1.1.97 (Fig. in lakhs)
Andhra Pradesh	10.74
Arunachal Pradesh	0.19
Assam	1.93
Bihar	4.18
Goa	0.89
Gujarat	8.43
Haryana	5.14
Himachal Pradesh	1.08
Jammu & Kashmir	1.63
Karnataka	7.19
Kerala	6.79
Madhya Pradesh	7.17
Maharashtra	19.05
Manipur	0.07
Meghalaya	0.08
Mizoram	0.08
Nagaland	0.07
Orissa	2.15
Punjab	7.56
Rajasthan	7.62
Sikkim	0.03
Tamil Nadu	14.73
Tripura	0.36
Uttar Pradesh	15.19
West Bengal	10.25
Union Territories	
Andaman & Nicobar	0.11
Chandigarh	0.88
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.02
Delhi	7.91
Daman & Diu	0.04
Lakshadweep	0.00
Pondicherry	0.47

Shortage of Potable Water

3920. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Sambhal Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh is facing shortage of potable water;
- (b) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme in view of the approaching summer season;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the amount likely to be allocated for this purpose during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNADIU) : (a) No report has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard.

(b) to (d) Powers have been delegated to the State Governments to formulate and implement suitable drinking water supply schemes. An amount of Rs. 122.78 crore has been allocated under Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and an amount of Rs. 128.00 crore has been provided under State Sector Minimum Needs Programme for 1996-97. District-wise/Scheme-wise allocation has been done by the State Government.

[English]

Supply of LPG Cylinders

3921. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether IOC plans to launch a pager aided LPG delivery system in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to introduce to such system in other parts of the country particularly in Andhra and Orissa; and
- (d) if so, by when it is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation has introduced the pager aided delivery system for supply for LPG cylinders on a trial basis with one distributor in New Delhi.

(c) and (d) Introduction of the system for other locations also will depend on the success of the trials at New Delhi and its feasibility and economic viability for wide application.

Assistance of Japan in Power Sector

3922. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have sought any financial assistance/loan from the Government of Japan for setting up of power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details and response of the Government of Japan in this regard; and

(c) the name of the States where these projects are likely to be set up, location-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The following power projects have been posed for financial assistance to the Government of Japan for their consideration under Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) 1997-98 loan package :-

1. Transmission Scheme (400 KV) to evacuate power from Vishakhapatnam & Simhadri Thermal Power Stations (Andhra Pradesh).
2. Tuivai Hydro Electric Project (3x70 MW) (Mizoram).
3. Renovation & Modernisation of Bandel Thermal Power Station (4x82.5 MW) (West Bengal).
4. Western Yamuna Canal Hydro Electric Project Stage-II (16 MW) (Haryana).
5. Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project (Second Tranche Loan) (2x210 MW) West Bengal).
6. Dhauliganga Hydro Electric Project (Second Tranche) (4x70 MW) Uttar Pradesh).
7. Simhadri thermal Power project (Second Tranche) (2x500 MW) (Andhra Pradesh).
8. Varahi Hydro Electric Project Stage-II (2x115 MW) (Karnataka).
9. Srisailem Left Bank Power Station Project (6x150 MW) (Third Loan) Andhra Pradesh.
10. Line of Credit to Power Finance Corporation.

DECF/Government of Japan have started appraising these schemes for taking a decision about funding.

Fast Breeder Reactor

3923. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had commissioned Kamini, the world's first thorium processing experimental fast breeder reactor last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to create an aggregate capacity of at least 3,000 MW through new and ongoing nuclear power projects during 1997-2002;

(d) if so, whether the Government are also examining proposals to involve the private sector in nuclear power generation;

(e) if so, the locations where these plants are likely to be set up; and

(f) the total cost likely to be involved in these plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Kamini, a 30 MW Uranium 233 fuelled thermal reactor for research attained criticality on 29th October, 1996 at Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam. This is the only reactor in the world presently using Uranium 233 as fuel.

(c) During the ninth plan period, the nuclear power projects currently under construction with a total capacity of 880 MWe, comprising Kaiga Atomic Power Project Units-1&2 in Karnataka and Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Units-3&4 in Rajasthan are expected to be commissioned taking the total generating capacity to 2720 MWe. In addition to these, it is proposed to commence construction of 2x500 MWe capacity at Tarapur (Units-3&4), 2x200 MWe capacity at Kaiga (Units 3&4), 2x1000 MWe Kudankulam Atomic Power Project in Tamilnadu in co-operation with the Fussion Federation and also one Unit of 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR), towards end of the Plan.

(d) and (e) The Government propose to continue with its nuclear programme and are open to specific offers for private participation. Such offers when received will be considered on the basis of technical suitability, economic attractiveness and conditions attached thereto.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Illegal Construction

3924. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Sarkari Kalonion mein Kiraye ka Jugad" appearing in the 'Dainik Jagarn' dated December 29, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of illegal constructions in Government colonies;

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

(d) the action being taken or proposed to be taken

by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the number of encroachments removed in the Government colonies by the Government during the last three years and the action taken or being taken against the erring allottees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) On receipt of a report of unauthorised construction, a show cause notice is issued to the concerned allottee for the removal of the said unauthorised construction within the stipulated period, and if the allottee fails to remove the unauthorised construction within the stipulated period, allotment of accommodation is cancelled as per the provisions of the allotment rules and eviction proceedings initiated under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(e) The onus to remove the unauthorised construction lies on the individual allottee. Action is taken against the erring allottees under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971, if the unauthorised construction is not removed within the stipulated one month's notice.

[English]

World Bank Loan to Orissa

3925. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total loans received from the World Bank for the improvement and development of power sector in Orissa;

(b) whether the loans have been fully utilised;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d) Position of World Bank loan utilisation for the improvement and development of power sector by the State of Orissa is as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Loan amount sanctioned	Status of utilisation & reasons for shortfall
1.	Upper Indravati HE Power Project (4 x 150 MW)	a) 156.4 Million US\$	The loan could not be utilised, as the loan was cancelled w.e.f. 5.12.91 due to slow progress of civil works.
		b) 156 Million SDR (170.00 Million US\$)	Fully utilised.
2.	Orissa Power Sector Restructure	350.00 Million US\$	Sanctioned recently in July, 1996 which has to be utilised upto December, 2002. Reimbursement claim of Rs. 31.29 crores made so far.

Thermal Power Project

3926. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Coal has suggested the Ministry of Power to set up new thermal power plants away from the pit heads;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the reaction of the Ministry of Power thereto; and

(c) the number of new thermal power plants proposed to be set up during the Ninth Five Years plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Ninth Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised.

Allotment of Land

3927. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the Group Housing Societies, which had applied for allotment of land in Dwarka phase-I have been allotted land;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which all the Societies are likely to get land there;

(d) whether DDA proposes to invite fresh applications from some more Group Housing Societies in the near future; and

(e) if so, the registration number of Group Housing Societies which are likely to be covered in Dwarka phase-I ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) The DDA has reported that on the basis of seniority list received from the Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Government of NCT of Delhi, it makes offer of allotment to the eligible Cooperative Group Housing Societies asking them to deposit 35% of land premium and also to submit an application for allotment of land. On receipt of the demanded amount and the required application within the stipulated period, the concerned Society is allotted specific plot by draw of lots. So far, 232 such societies have been allotted specific plots in Dwarka Phase-I.

(d) and (e) So far, eligible cooperative Societies having registration numbers upto 1400 have been offered land. A further list of eligible Societies having registration number up to 1590 has been received from the Registrar, Cooperative Societies, and offer of land of some of these Societies will be made subject to the availability of land in Dwarka.

ONGC Contract

3928. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Transchart blames ONGC for wrong award of contract" appearing in the "Pioneer" on Feb. 28, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto the observations made therein and facts of the matter;

(c) the action taken/proposed by the Government on the serious charges/observations made by the Transchart; and

(d) the present status of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No letter has been received by ONGC from Transchart, blaming it for non ward of contract of M/s Dalmine. The evaluation has been done on the basis of Bid Evaluation Criteria and freight rates received from Transchart before price bid opening, as per the orders in force. However, while placing the order on the L-1 evaluated offer, ONGC has reserved its right to convert the terms of delivery on C&F basis and offering the lowest FOB price to M/s Marubani.

(d) The contract has been awarded to the lowest evaluated bidder M/s Marubani Corporation, Japan by ONGC on 27.1.97.

Production of Crude Oil

3927. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether the Oil & Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has prepared a long term plan for the production of crude;

(b) if so, the period of that long term plan;

(c) whether ONGC has fixed any target for the production of crude in that long term plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the investment proposed to be made during that long term plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) ONGC has prepared a Five year Plan (1997-2002) coinciding with the 9th Five Year Plan for the production of crude oil.

(c) and (d) ONGC's total crude oil production target in the 9th Five Year Plan is 144.894 MMT and total plan outlay during the 9th plan would be of the order of Rs. 24099 crore.

Withdrawal of Forces

3930. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether security forces were withdrawn from militancy affected areas of Doda district in J&K and other parts in view of the elections in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the States authorities are pressing for their return; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAM) : (a) to (d) Central Forces are made available to various States, keeping in view the overall availability and the specific requirements of each State from time to time. So far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, sizeable Central Forces have been made available to the State Government, and close interaction with the State Government is being maintained to assess the situation and related requirements on a continuing basis. Within the State the details of deployment in different areas, including Doda, is in the domain of the State Government.

Oil Exploration

3931. SHRI K. PRADHANI :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the private and public sector domestic oil companies participating in oil exploration and production;

(b) whether some of those oil companies have fallen sick;

(c) if so, the reasons of their sickness; and

(d) the steps taken to rescue those companies from financial orisis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Apart from the two public sector companies viz. ONGC and OIL who undertake oil exploration and production, Government of India has awarded contracts to 18 private sector domestic companies either on their own or as consortium partners for exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

100 Days Employment

3932. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government had promised to provide 100 days employment in a year to the unemployed persons under its Common Minimum Programme; and

(b) if so, the number of unemployed persons provided employment under this programme till date, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The objective of the Employment Assurance Scheme is to provide wage employment for 100 days during lean agricultural season in rural areas to the persons who get themselves registered for seeking employment.

(b) The number of unemployed persons provided employment is not monitored. However, the number of persons registered State-wise in mandays generated may please be seen in the Statement attached.

Statement

*Number of persons Registered under EAS
and Mandays generated.*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of Persons Registered since beginning	Mandays generated (Lakh Mandays)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	672000	164.08
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	127047	16.17
3.	Assam	295862	48.18
4.	Bihar	3996956	211.84
5.	Goa	NR	NR
6.	Gujarat	584000	98.74
7.	Haryana	268505	17.17
8.	Himachal Pradesh	33992	6.35
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	919800	49.57
10.	Karnataka	2257900	173.83
11.	Kerala	224000	16.60
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2285959	189.57
13.	Maharashtra	550329	168.51

1	2	3	4
14.	Manipur	100650	9.96
15.	Meghalaya	42285	2.63
16.	Mizoram	106573	17.18
17.	Nagaland	417168	0.11
18.	Orissa	2724000	276.15
19.	Punjab	NR	NR
20.	Rajasthan	1063675	144.47
21.	Sikkim	43300	2.43
22.	Tamil Nadu	556600	119.72
23.	Tripura	334700	41.31
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1232000	192.80
25.	West Bengal	4841000	116.06
26.	A & N Island	888	0.24
27.	D & N Haveli	1679	0.38
28.	Daman & Diu	181	0.00
29.	Lakshadweep	2971	1.30
30.	Pondicherry	NR	NR
All India		23684020	2085.35

NR = Not reported

[English]

Indira Awas Yojana

3933. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) the procedure and guidelines followed in sanctioning Indira Awas Yojana in the country alongwith the amount sanctioned for each such scheme;

(b) the maximum number of houses sanctioned under Indira Awas Yojana;

(c) the details of amount sanctioned to each State for each Indira Awas Yojana during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether there is any increase in the amount sanctioned to each State under each such scheme during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the details of competent sanctioning authority of houses under Indira Awas Yojana at the district-level alongwith guidelines therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) During the current financial year Rs. 1140.00 crores has been allocated so far to different Status/UTs under Indira Awas Yojana. A brief abstract of the procedure and guidelines followed in IAY is attached as Statement-I.

(b) to (d) A Statement-II showing number of houses targetted and the amount allocated (Centre+State share) during the last three years State-wise under Indira Awas Yojana is attached.

(e) The Selection of beneficiaries from among the eligible persons is done by the Gram Sabha with the approval of the concerned Panchayat Samiti.

Statement-I

Indira Awas Yojana

The Government of India is implementing Indira Awas Yojana since the year 1985-86 with the objective of providing dwelling units free of cost to the members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and freed bonded labourers living below the poverty line in rural areas. From the year 1993-94, its scope has been extended to cover non-scheduled castes and scheduled tribes rural poor subject to the condition that the benefits to non SC/ST should not exceed 40% of the total allocation. From 1995-96 the benefits of the scheme have also been extended to families of servicemen of the armed and paramilitary forces killed in action.

Funds under the scheme allocated to the States/UTs are further distributed to the districts in proportion to the SC/ST population in the district. Under IAY the benefits for non-SC/ST poor should not exceed 40% of the total allocation. IAY funds are operated by the DRDAs/ZPs at the district level.

The allotment of house under the scheme is done in the name of the female member of the beneficiary household. Alternatively, it can be allotted in the joint names of both the husband and wife. The beneficiaries are to be involved from the very beginning in construction work and have to make their own arrangements for construction to suit their requirements. As far as possible houses are built in clusters so as to facilitate provision of common facilities. The permissible expenditure per house is Rs. 20,000 in plain areas and Rs. 22,000 in hilly or difficult areas.

The Indira Awas Yojana is a centrally sponsored Scheme funded on a 80:20 cost sharing basis between the Centre and the States/UTs.

Statement-II

(Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT's	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
		Target	Allocation (C+s)	Target	Allocation (C+s)	Target	Allocation (C+s)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	49034	2462.01	23817	3334.38	87642	10955.26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	222	32.25	204	32.25	797	99.64
3.	Assam	6209	810.49	5987	892.12	25560	3194.94
4.	Bihar	37396	4829.14	85249	7038.69	217292	21349.01
5.	Goa	276	34.85	249	34.85	861	107.65
6.	Gujarat	6598	903.75	9574	1383.54	34501	4312.61
7.	Haryana	1848	217.09	1707	238.96	10846	1355.79
8.	Himachal Pradesh	809	110.73	701	110.73	2736	342.06
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1084	157.17	1964	310.38	10561	1320.09
10.	Karnataka	14197	1653.13	16365	2291.14	52133	6516.66
11.	Kerala	13245	623.83	12570	662.01	24624	2370.85
12.	Madhya Pradesh	28399	3119.72	35416	4958.34	113384	14172.99
13.	Maharashtra	6974	2683.93	26684	3976.02	89776	11330.08
14.	Manipur	290	41.34	268	41.34	1022	127.70
15.	Meghalaya	353	48.36	306	48.37	1195	149.43
16.	Mizoram	185	20.38	129	20.38	504	62.95
17.	Nagaland	438	51.85	328	51.85	1281	160.16
18.	Orissa	11649	1997.26	20158	2912.82	62986	7873.25
19.	Punjab	5963	163.43	4855	169.93	7047	608.56
20.	Rajasthan	11388	1296.13	13035	1883.57	50875	6359.36
21.	Sikkim	142	18.88	119	18.88	1491	208.31
22.	Tamil Nadu	18930	2225.62	19824	2775.29	74205	9335.91
23.	Tripura	431	53.69	340	53.69	1327	165.86
24.	Uttar Pradesh	44135	5999.84	51472	7437.68	204003	25500.18
25.	West Bengal	19860	2206.32	21722	3041.05	69579	8697.34
26.	A & N Island	120	15.27	109	15.27	377	47.17
27.	D & N Haveli	71	8.29	59	8.29	205	25.61
28.	Daman & Diu	38	4.88	35	4.88	121	15.08
29.	Lakshadweep	0	7.66	0	7.66	189	23.65
30.	Pondicherry	79	14.95	107	14.95	369	46.18
	Total	280363	31812.24	353353	43769.31	1147439	136834.33

Pay scale of UDCs

3934. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board of Arbitration has not heard the matter of revision of pay scale of UDCs after June 14, 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the staff side has demanded any particular pay scale; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (d) The demand of staff side for revising the pay scale of UDCs of the Central Secretariat Clerical Service from Rs. 1200-2040 to 1400-2600, raised in the Departmental Council of the Department of Personnel and Training, was referred to the Board of Arbitration in May, 1992, consequent upon a disagreement recorded in the matter. The Board has heard the case on various dates. The same was scheduled to come up for further hearing on 24.7.1996. However, the hearing was adjourned indefinitely at the instance of the Member, Staff Side. Fresh date of hearing is yet to be fixed and communicated by the Board. Further action in the matter can be taken by the Government only on receipt of the Award of the Board.

Pending Application under CAPART

3935. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of applications from Kerala for grant of financial assistance under CAPART are

pending before the Government for clearance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay in clearing these applications ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) No, Sir. CAPART is a society registered under the Societies Act. As per the prescribed procedure, applications for financial assistance under the schemes of CAPART are not approved at Government level.

(b) Does not arise.

Programme for weaker Sections in Assam

3936. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of programmes implemented for weaker sections in the country, particularly in Assam during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount spent under these schemes during the above Plan period in Assam;

(c) whether this amount was adequate; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to allocate more funds during the Ninth Five Year Plan for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The various programmes which are implemented by the Centre during the Eight five year plan for the benefit of weaker sections and people living below the poverty line in the rural areas in the country including Assam, are IRDP, TRYSEM, Supply of Improved Tool Kits, JRY, EAS, IAY, MWS and NSAP. The details of amount spent under these schemes during eight five year plan in Assam are as under.

ASSAM

Scheme	Amount spent				
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Upto Jan., 1997)
1	2	3	4	5	6
IRDP	1584.46	2532.34	3105.55	3519.89	1078.06
TRYSEM	123.76	143.22	214.05	237.83	80.64
Tool Kits	75.00	81.98	19.32	78.11	55.08
JRY	4034.49	7911.51	10386.94	9583.33	2694.37

1	2	3	4	5	6
EAS	Not started	963.09 (started on Oct. 1993)	4115.31	9822.98	2780.34
IAY	172.24	130.76	573.08	934.47	567.75
MWS	370.29	1898.75	1426.60	666.70	221.77 (upto Dec. 1996)
NSAP		Not started		201.10 (Provisional)	189.64

The allocation of funds to various States is made in accordance with the guidelines issued for the purpose. The size of the Ninth Five Year Plan is not yet decided. However, the total outlay for 1997-98 are proposed to be more than the corresponding figures for the current financial year.

Bank Loan Under IRDP

3937. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYEMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether proposals for bank loans under the IRDP are still being handled by the Block Development Officers and are not being placed before the Block-level Panchayati Raj institutions for consideration and approval;

(b) if so, whether any instructions in this regard have been issued by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYEMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The list of families living below poverty line (BPL) is approved by the Gram Sabhas in a general meeting in the presence of Block and Bank Officials. The list is then sent to the Panchayat Samiti, Block and the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). As far as proposals for bank loans under IRDP are concerned, as per existing guidelines, the application forms of the beneficiaries for loans are prepared in a camp attended by the beneficiaries, the Block functionaries, the other concerned departments including the revenues Department and the bankers. These are then forwarded with suitable project proposals by the Block Development Officer to the DRDA who in turn transmit the same to the banks. A register of all such cases is kept in the Block officer/DRDA.

Kendriya Bhandar Elections

3938. SHRI RAMSAGAR :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Registrar, Cooperative Society, Delhi has advised the Kendriya Bhandar not to hold elections to the Delegates and the Board of Directors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Board of Directors is represented by five retired Directors;

(d) if so, the reasons for participation of retired Directors;

(e) whether the Government propose to take to review all the decisions taken by the Board of Directors in which the retired Directors participated; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The elections of the delegates in the Kendriya Bhandar were last held in August/September, 1983 and of the Board of Directors in December, 1985. The revised bye-laws of the Kendriya Bhandar which took effect from 10.4.1987 were challenged by some elected Directors/Delegates in the Delhi High Court in 1987. The writ Petition is pending for final disposal before the Delhi High Court. Elections of the Directors/Delegates are to be conducted under the supervision of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, who has advised that status-quo may be maintained and that elections be held after final judgement of the High Court is available. Applications have been filled in the High Court for early hearing of the case.

(c) and (d) The Board of Directors consists of Chairman, eight Directors nominated by the Government and eight elected Directors. With the retirement of six elected Directors from service and with the disqualification of another elected Director on the ground of his having interest in the business of the Society, the elected side on the Board of Directors has been reduced from eight to one. The Board at present comprises Chairman, eight

Directors nominated by the Government and one elected Director. In order to strengthen the democratic character of the Board, six former Directors and one Delegate who is the Chairman of the Delegates, Forum, are being associated with the deliberations of the Board of Directors as invitees, and do not have either the status of Director or voting rights.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of reply to (c) & (d)

[Translation]

Clearance to GPCL

3939. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been sent by the Department of Power and Petrochemicals of Gujarat

Government to the Union Government regarding clearance in principle to GPCL from Central Electricity Authority during the last three years. till date;

(b) if so, the details and latest position thereof; and

(c) the time by which the clearance is likely to be given to GPCL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Five project proposals were received in the Central Electricity Authority from Gujarat Power Corporation Limited (GPCL) for accord of 'in-principle'/techno-economic clearance. The details of these projects and their present status is as follows :

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Date of Receipt in CEA	Date of issue of IPC	Present Status
1.	Akrimota Lignite TPS	240	12/93	22.7.94	Project returned on 7/95 as GPCL transferred the project to M/s. GMDC. Subsequently, GMDC was informed on 19.2.1997 that IPC is not required in case of project being executed by State Public undertaking.
2.	Gogha Lignite based Power Plant	240	8/93	21.7.94	Project returned on 12.7.1996 as GPCL is yet to identify the executing agency for the project.
3.	Pipavav dual fuel based Power Station	615	12/93	-	Project returned on 14.10.1996 as GPCL is yet to identify the executing agency for the project.
4.	Kharsalia Lignite based Power Plant	120	10/95	-	Project returned on 28.2.1996 as GPCL is yet to identify the executing agency and yet to tie-up inputs/clearances for the project.
5.	Coal based Coastal Thermal Power Station (near Pipavav)	1000	1/96	-	Project returned on 17.9.1996 as GPCL is yet to identify the executing agency and yet to tie-up inputs/clearances for the project.

[English]

Drinking Water Projects

3940. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) the details of various drinking water projects

pending with the Union Government, State-wise;

(b) the action being taken by the Government on these projects;

(c) the time by which clearance is likely to be given to these projects;

(d) whether sanction and financial assistance has

been accorded to these projects so far;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYEMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) to (f) The information is given in statement attached. These projects are isolated projects. Since all the quality affected problem habitations cannot be tackled with this type of isolated projects, State Governments have been requested to prepare a comprehensive action plan to provide safedinking water to all quality affected habitations. No comprehensive project proposal has been received from the State Government.

Statement

Details of List of Projects pending

State Name	No. of Projects pending
Andhra Pradesh	36
Gujarat	6
Karnataka	1
Madhya Pradesh	2
Maharashtra	3
Rajasthan	2
Uttar Pradesh	2
West Bengal	1
All India	53

UT/State Cadre Officers

3941. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the officers belonging to U.T./State Cadre are ignored and in their places I.A.S. officers are posted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government ensure that such usurption of rights of cadre officers is put to an end immediately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Posting of IAS officers serving in connection with the affairs of the State

Government is entirely within their competence and such decisions are based on administrative requirements.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Refineries

3942. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of refineries proposed to be set up during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the States where these refineries are proposed to be set up;

(c) whether any such refinery is proposed to be set up in Orissa also during 9th plan; and

(d) if so, the details of their location ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The new grass-root refineries proposed to set up/commissioned by PSUs/their JVCs during the IX Plan, are as under :-

S.No.	Name of Refinery	State
1.	Panipat Refinery	Haryana
2.	Numaligarh Refinery	Assam
3.	Central India Refinery	Madhya Pradesh
4.	West Coast Refinery	Maharashtra
5.	East Coast Refinery	Orissa

[Translation]

Investment in Wastelands Development Work

3943. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a hugh amount has been misappropriate in the wasteland development work during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of amount invested for wastesland development; and

(d) the outcome of this investment during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Mis-appropriation of huge amount in the waste-

land development work has not come to the notice of the Department during the last three years.

In a few cases at the time of evaluation of the project, performance of some projects for which funds have been released have not been found satisfactory on some counts or lagging behind in time schedule, the concerned authorities of such projects have been directed

to take suitable corrective measures.

(c) and (d) During the last three years (1993-94 to 1995-96), a total amount of Rs. 164.19 crores have been invested under the various schemes of the Department of Wastelands Development for treatment of 1,90,571 ha. of wastelands. Details are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	Funds released during last three years (1993-94 to 1995-96) (Rs. in crores)	Area for treatment during last 3 years (1993-94 to 1995-96) (Area in ha.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme.	148.53	1,73,000
2.	Support to NGOs/Voluntary Agencies (VAs).	9.40	13,100
3.	Technology Development, Extension and Training Scheme.	5.29	4,000
4.	Investment Promotion Scheme.	0.21	91
5.	Wastelands Development Task Force	0.76	380
Total		164.19	1,90,571

[English]

Power project at Ramagundam

3944. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a 520 MW BPL power project which is being set up at Ramagundam has been referred to the Central Electricity Authority; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project has obtained in-principle clearance of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on 6.2.1996. M/s BPL Power Projects (A.P.) Ltd. has submitted the Detailed Project Report (DPR) to CEA in February, 1997, envisaging setting up of 2X260 (520) MW at Ramagundam at an estimated cost of Rs. 2369.76 crore (@ 1 US\$=Rs.35.50). The DPR was considered by the CEA. but could not be recommended for techno-economic clearance.

[Translation]

Defacing of Lucknow

3945. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the High Court is unhappy with top officers of Lucknow Development Authority and Municipal Corporation for converting Lucknow into a slum;

(b) if so, the reasons for defacing of Lucknow;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to improve the situation there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (e) So far as Lucknow Development Authority is concerned, Uttar Pradesh Administration has denied the statement that the High Court is unhappy with top officers of the Authority.

As regards the Municipal Corporation of Lucknow, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Mini ITIs Training Centre

3946. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of High Power Expert Committee on IRDP for establishment of Mini ITIs (Training Centres for Skill Development) for giving training to the BPL family youths to enable them getting self employment and issued instruction to this effect to the State Governments;

(b) whether some of the State Governments have informed that establishment of Mini ITIs has not been more useful for giving quality training to the BPL youths which provide themselves employment and some of the States have already closed down such Mini ITIs due to not finding positive results;

(c) whether the Government of Rajasthan has submitted the proposal to establish full fledged ITIs at Block level with only 25% contribution as Central share under TRYSEM infrastructure and rest of the amount would be funded by the State Government;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to sanction the Central share under TRYSEM infrastructures for ITIs at Block level; and

(e) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since, the Scheme of setting up of Mini-ITIs was launched only last year it is too early to comment on the usefulness/efficacy of these exclusive TRYSEM training institutes. None of the States has so far informed the Government of India about the non usefulness of these institutes except the State of Rajasthan which had requests assistance for setting up of ITIs and not Mini ITIs. This was considered in this Ministry and since setting up of ITIs does not come under the purview of this Ministry, the request of the State Government could not be acceded to.

(d) and (e) In view of the position explained above, the question does not arise.

Irregularities in JRY

3947. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any incidents of irregularities in the

distribution of funds under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in some States have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the responsibility for the alleged irregularities in distribution of rural funds has been fixed on any officials;

(d) if so, the action taken or recommended against the officials found responsible for the said irregularities ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) No, Sir. However, as and when any complaint is received the same is referred to the concerned State Government for taking necessary remedial action.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Dwelling units

3948. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of dwelling units constructed and handed over to the rural poor during the last three years under the Central Sector Schemes and expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the allocation of funds under central sector schemes of housing for rural for the current year with state-wise target;

(c) whether a critical review of implementation of housing for rural has recently been undertaken at the Apex level for effecting suitable restructuring/reorientation of schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The details of the number of dwelling units constructed and expenditure incurred State wise/year wise during the last three years under Indira Awaas Yojana is given the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) So far Rs. 1140.00 crores has been allocated to different States/UTs as Central share under Indira Awaas Yojana during the current financial year. The State-wise Central allocation figures are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) The programme has been evaluated by the Planning Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission which carried out a quick study of the Indira Awaas Yojana in 1992-93. Besides the programme is also being reviewed on the basis of the monthly reports received from the State/UTs. Senior officers of the rank of Dy. Secretaries and above in the Ministry

have been appointed as Area Officers for different States/UTs. These Area Officers visit the allotted State/UTs from time to time and inspect actual implementation of the Programme in the field. The Programme is also

reviewed at the meetings with the State Secretaries of Rural Development and with the Project Directors of DRDAs in the workshop held in June/July every year.

Statement-I

Houses Constructed : Nos.

Expenditure : Rs. Lakhs

Sl. No.	State/UT's	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
		House Constructed	Expenditure	House Constructed	Expenditure	House Constructed	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44897	5956.77	57483	6610.08	69086	6317.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	120	26.88	219	26.16	420	56.00
3.	Assam	4304	573.08	6862	934.47	24871	3381.70
4.	Bihar	88960	13664.86	59216	7121.09	114506	19168.71
5.	Goa	358	32.22	329	30.07	967	31.51
6.	Gujarat	7117	937.63	7895	1137.37	31770	3669.26
7.	Haryana	1552	217.55	3536	507.68	9024	1233.81
8.	Himachal Pradesh	629	84.37	853	126.26	1727	244.55
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	390	45.02	1697	245.74	3554	543.04
10.	Karnataka	8820	1221.87	13831	2060.40	37460	5812.80
11.	Kerala	16999	2349.73	18549	2687.74	29368	4864.14
12.	Madhya Pradesh	48108	2931.17	48967	3246.09	125757	11807.75
13.	Maharashtra	18870	3189.84	22812	3219.14	66648	10606.35
14.	Manipur	208	24.15	197	32.13	784	141.18
15.	Meghalaya	353	44.20	283	39.59	207	30.01
16.	Mizoram	240	33.21	368	48.01	569	87.68
17.	Nagaland	1536	222.72	895	141.41	470	74.26
18.	Orissa	10588	1434.83	13297	1942.02	51033	7494.88
19.	Punjab	2739	704.33	3849	527.34	1121	96.50
20.	Rajasthan	19958	2287.96	28934	2989.27	41756	4701.44
21.	Sikkim	142	20.37	108	19.81	1065	163.76
22.	Tamil Nadu	33758	4526.95	33176	7619.52	56885	14398.41
23.	Tripura	636	108.42	567	95.65	1348	144.77
24.	Uttar Pradesh	47722	5585.68	50908	6412.97	159073	17039.77
25.	West Bengal	13389	1843.68	15526	2170.54	34278	4468.87

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26.	A & N Island	21	15.57	21	15.98	21	15.98
27.	D & N Haveli	60	8.60	59	8.64	13	1.19
28.	Daman & Diu	13	1.64	45	5.06	62	9.25
29.	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0	0.00	10	5.18
30.	Pondicherry	48	6.65	0	18.17	36	25.74
Total		372535	48099.95	390482	50038.38	863889	116636.44

0—Nil/Not Reported.

Statement-II

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	Central Allocation (Rs. Lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8870.30
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	79.71
3.	Assam	2919.68
4.	Bihar	17398.92
5.	Goa	86.12
6.	Gujarat	3255.70
7.	Haryana	782.14
8.	Himachal Pradesh	273.65
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	556.07
10.	Karnataka	5956.29
11.	Kerala	2167.06
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11240.56
13.	Maharashtra	9669.47
14.	Manipur	102.16
15.	Meghalaya	119.54
16.	Mizoram	50.36
17.	Nagaland	128.13
18.	Orissa	7195.91
19.	Punjab	556.24
20.	Rajasthan	4670.13
21.	Sikkim	46.65

1	2	3
22.	Tamil Nadu	8018.92
23.	Tripura	132.82
24.	Uttar Pradesh	21616.11
25.	West Bengal	7949.67
26.	A & N Island	47.17
27.	D & N Haveli	25.61
28.	Daman & Diu	15.08
29.	Lakshadweep	23.65
30.	Pondicherry	46.18
Total		114000.00

Registered Cooperative Housing Societies

3949. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Cooperative Housing Societies registered with DDA; and

(b) the number of Societies out of these have been allotted land and by when the land is likely to be allotted to remaining ones ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that there are 2097 registered Cooperative Housing Societies in Delhi. Out of these, 154 are House Building Societies and the remaining 1943 are Group Housing Societies.

(b) The DDA has reported that in so far as the Cooperative House Building Societies are concerned, land

has been allotted to all such eligible Societies by the Land and Building Department of the erstwhile Delhi Administration.

518 Cooperative Group Housing Societies registered prior to 1983 have been allotted land by DDA. Another 232 Societies having registration number upto 1400 who have been allotted land in Dwarka Phase-I have accepted the offer. A further list of eligible Societies having registration number upto 1590 has been received from the Registrar, Cooperative Societies. Offer of land will be made to them after assessing availability of land. However, it is not possible to indicate any time schedule in this regard because allotment of land depends upon various factors such as availability of land, development of land and acceptance of offer by the concerned Societies.

Out of Turn Allotment

3950. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken by the Government so far on various issues relating to out of turn allottees mentioned in the judgement of Supreme Court dated December 23, 1996; and

(b) the other details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The details of action taken by the Government on various issues relating to Out of turn allotment mentioned in the judgement of Supreme Court dated 23.12.96 are enclosed in the Statement.

Statement

The details of action taken by the Government on various issues relating to the judgement of the Supreme Court dated 23.12.96 in writ petition (civil) no. 585/94 are given below :-

- (i) A new list of out of turn allottees who would face eviction, pay enhanced rate of licence fee or would be provided alternate accommodation, wherever applicable, have been prepared. The notices to the allottees are accordingly under issue.
- (ii) A High Powered Medical Board was constituted to consider the cases of out of turn allottees who were made allotments on medical grounds, not covered under the existing policy guidelines. The Board has submitted its recommendations and the same have been accepted by the Government.

- (iii) A Committee has been constituted to work out a scheme to compensate those government employees who were denied allotments despite having become eligible on in-turn basis. The Committee is likely to finalise its report shortly.
- (iv) The Guidelines for discretionary allotments of general pool residential accommodation in Delhi have been formulated and approval of competent authority is being obtained before the same are duly notified
- (v) Guidelines are being framed for allotment of Govt. accommodation to the Political parties.
- (vi) The Court has ordered to initiate/expedite recovery proceedings against 127 cases wherein waiver of rent was ordered by the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation. It has been decided to file a review petition against the said directions of the court. However in the meanwhile individual notices are being sent to the concerned allottees as per the direction of the Court.
- (vii) The Court has held that subletting of government accommodation is a grave mis-conduct on the part of allottees and it would be obligatory for the Disciplinary Authority to initiate Disciplinary proceedings against him under Rule-14 of the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965. The matter has been referred to the Deptt. of Personnel & Training for taking necessary action.
- (viii) The question of earmarking of bungalows for various dignataries is under consideration.
- (ix) A High Powered Committee has been constituted to examine the necessity of construction of more residential accommodation in Delhi. Two representatives of the have been associated with the Committee, as directed by the Court.

[Translation]

Provision of GAS

3951. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide gas facility to all industries functioning under, Taj Trapezium in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the number of entrepreneurs who have applied so far for the gas facility;
- (c) then norms fixed for supplying gas to the units of the said areas;

(d) whether this has caused any adverse impact on small units; and

(e) If so, the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) 0.6 MMSCMD of natural gas has been allocated to industries in Agra and Ferozabad and 1.4 MMSCMD to the Mathura Refinery.

(b) GAIL has received 1258 applications for gas.

(c) Gas will be supplied on a first come first served basis subject to technical feasibility of laying the pipeline and conclusion of the gas supply contract with GAIL.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Disturbance in Northern Grid

3952. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Member (Grid & Operation), CEA, to analyse causes leading to frequent disturbances in the Northern Grid, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the remedial measures suggested by the committee in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGAPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The remedial measures suggested by the Committee are :

(i) Improving of voltage profile particularly at Dadri/Panipat/Muradnagar sub-stations by load management, installation of additional shunt capacitors in the Northern Region on a priority basis and reduction of under-voltage relay setting of shunt capacitors banks.

(ii) Preventive maintenance at 400/220 KV switch yards of NTPC including regular hotline washing of insulator discs at these switchyards.

(iii) Timely and properly scheduled maintenance of all the equipments to minimize the incidents of equipment failure.

(iv) Arrangements for monitoring of maintenance activities by an external agency, such as CEA, in various Regions.

(v) Measures have been suggested for enhancement of reliability of Rihand-Dadra HVDC system

by modifying the auxiliary power supply arrangements.

(vi) Utilisation of full transformation capacity at Dadri by inter connection of two 220 KV buses at Dadri NCTPS and gas turbine stations.

(vii) Modification and upgradation of protection scheme provided on 400 KV Dadri-Panipat Line at Panipat.

(viii) In order to provide redundancy particularly to 400 KV Dadri-Panipat line and transmission corridor from Anpara/Obra/Singrauli/Rihand complexes to the Western parts of the grid few 400 and 220 KV transmission lines have been identified for expeditious commissioning.

(ix) Revival of full capacity of SVC Stations at Kanpur.

(x) Free governor operation of the thermal units of 200 MW and above and hydro units of 100 MW and above.

(xi) Modification in the islanding scheme of DESU system.

(xii) Reliable black start facilities for Singrauli/Rihand STPPS by providing AC by-pass between 400 KV north and west buses at Vindhyachal HVDC back-to-back stations.

(xiii) The start-up procedures for speedy restoration of Northern Grid have been formalised for gas stations of NTPC. Gas stations at Dadri. BTPS and GT stations of DESU, as well as by augmentation of data telemetry system of NRLDC.

(xiv) Periodic operation system studies to be carried out by NRLDC for the dynamic stability of the system including contingency evaluation.

[Translation]

Metalled Roads

3953. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is lack of metalled roads in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh particularly in Lalganj Constituency of Azamgarh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the total amount provided to the Public Works Department for repairs of roads in rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c)

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

[English]

Inspection of TIFR

3954. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a committee of foreign experts visited and examined the working of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) during the month of February, 1997.

(b) if so, the reasons for permitting the inspection;

(c) the details of the recommendations and suggestions made by the above Committee; and

(d) the details of recommendations adopted by the Government and reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), the premier scientific research institution in the fields of physics, Mathematics and allied sciences, is an autonomous institution supported by the Department of Atomic Energy. TIFR completed fifty years of research activities in 1995-96. As a sequel to the TIFR's Golden Jubilee, its Council for Management decided to invite a group of eminent scientists to review TIFR's achievements and make recommendations on, inter alia, international collaboration with other institutions, scope for greater purposeful interaction with industry in selected areas and the steps needed to enable the Institute to attract creative talent in the light of increasing specialisation of research.

A Committee consisting of the following experts visited and reviewed the working of TIFR during 13-18 January 1997

- (i) Prof. Lord Porter, OM, FRS, Nobel Laureate, Chairman, Centre for Petromolecular Sciences, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Imperial College, London, UK.
- (ii) Prof. D. Mumford, Department of Mathematics, Harvard University, USA.
- (iii) Prof. Sir Arnold Welfendale, FRS, Department of Physics, University of Durham Science Laboratories, UK.

- (iv) Prof. B.V. Sreekantan, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bangalore and Former Director, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

Prof. S. Brennex, FRS was prevented by illness from attending as a member of the Committee but gave written evidence.

(c) and (d) The above mentioned Committee has just submitted its report to the Chairman of TIFR's Council of Management. This report is due for consideration by the TIFR's Council of Management at its next meeting to be held in April 1997. It will be possible for the Government to take decisions on the recommendations of the Committee only after TIFR's Council of Management has considered the report, and on matters referred to it.

Oil Exploration

3955. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated quantity of resources of oil and natural gas in Gujarat;

(b) the areas in the State where these resources are located; and

(c) the progress made in exploration so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU) : (a) State of Gujarat encompasses onland part of three sedimentary basins viz., Cambay, Kutch and Saurashtra. The prognosticated resources of the onland part of these basins are 2260 MMT of oil + oil equivalent of gas (O+OEG) in the onland.

(b) Resources in Cambay basin are located in the districts of Sabarkantha, Banas Kantha, Mehsana, Ahmedabad, Gandhi Nagar, Kheda, Vadodara, Baruch & Surat.

The resources in Saurashtra are located close to the Coastal areas in the districts of Jamnagar, Junjgarh and Bhavnagar and in Kutch basin in Kutch districts.

(c) As on 1.1.97 a total of 225 structures (219 in Cambay, 5 in Kutch and 1 in Saurashtra) have been probed by drilling of which 83 are hydrocarbon bearing and fall in the Cambay basin.

Service Heads Accounts to the Courts

3956. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court in its order dated February 13, 1997 dealing with accountability of the

bureaucracy to the competent court in "Judicial review" for the result of an action done or decision taken in a given case-held that "the head of the department/designate officer is ultimately responsible and accountable to the court" for the action taken;

(b) whether the Government have considered the judgement of the Supreme Court; and

(c) if so, whether any directive has been issued in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) By its order of February 13, 1997 the Supreme Court dismissed a Special Leave Petition by the State of Bihar against the order of the Patna High Court whereunder the High Court had imposed costs personally against the respondent for non-compliance of the order of the High Court within the period of two months specified by the High Court. In disposing of the above case the Supreme Court had observed, inter-alia, that "the bureaucracy is also accountable for the acts done in accordance with the rules when judicial review is called to be exercised by the Courts. The hierarchical responsibility for the decision is their in-built discipline. But the head of the Department/designated officer is ultimately responsible and accountable to the Court for the result of the action done or decision taken

(b) Government are aware of this judgement.

(c) No, Sir.

Fruit based Industries

3957. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH :

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

(a) the number of fruits based food processing industries in the country, State-wise;

(b) the scheme formulated by the Union Government to encourage the fruit processing industry in future; and

(c) the norms fixed by the Government to set up a food processing industry in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) The total number of fruit and vegetable based food processing industries licensed under the Fruit Products Order as on 1st Jan., 1997 was 4674. The State-wise data is not maintained because a manufacturer under one address can have relabelling facilities in various States.

(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has formulated various plan schemes for implementation during the 8th Plan period for the development of fruit & vegetable processing industries, the details of which are given in the attached Statement. Similar schemes are proposed to be continued in the 9th Five Year Plan.

(c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up any food processing unit directly in any State.

Statement

Details of the Plan Schemes Formulated for Implementation during the Eight Plan Period

S.No.	Name of the Plan Schemes
1.	Scheme for Food Processing and Training Centres in Rural Area
2.	Scheme for Assistance to State Government Undertakings and Cooperatives for Establishing or Upgrading of Fruit and Vegetable Processing facilities.
3.	Scheme for strengthening backward linkages for the Fruit and Vegetable Processing Industries.
4.	Scheme for Development of infrastructure for Mushroom cultivation and processing.
5.	Scheme for development and processing of hops.
6.	Scheme for generic advertising of processing food and for providing marketing assistance.
7.	Scheme for research and development in food and vegetable processing.
8.	Assistance for infrastructure for fruit and vegetable products (From 1993-94).

[Translation]

INCLUSION OF BLOCK

3958. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any proposals to the Union Government seeking inclusion of some more Blocks under employment Assurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the number of such Blocks; and

(c) the number of Blocks of Sabhal parliamentary Constituency proposed to be included under this Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of Uttar Pradesh requested for inclusion of all the remaining 291 blocks of the State under EAS including all the blocks of Sabhal Parliamentary Constituency. All the remaining blocks in the country are proposed to be covered during 1997-98.

Processing of wastes

3959.KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any units for collecting and processing wastes have been set up in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No units for collecting and processing wastes have been set up in Orissa by this Ministry and the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

(b) Does not arise.

Assured Water Supply

3960.SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the States where Centrally sponsored Assured Water Supply Schemes are being implemented;

(b) whether the said scheme is being implemented in Karnataka;

(c) if so, the total hectares of land brought under the Assured Water Supply Scheme so far; and

(d) the position of other States where this scheme is being implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) No such scheme is being implemented.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Health Hazards Process of Pepsi Bottles

3961.DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the plastic pepsi bottles from the United States are being dumped in India where they are processed under unsafe conditions;

(b) whether such bottles are stockpiled in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to prevent the use of such bottles as they are posing health hazards for the workers engaged in the bottling and transport of cold drinks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (c) There are no restrictions for the import of PET bottles waste under the current. Export Policy as a scrap. The PET bottles when used for the packaging of food are required to conform to the standards laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. No manufacturer can undertake the bottling of soft drinks without conforming to the laid down hygienic conditions and without a licence under the Fruit Products Order 1955.

Gas to Fertilizer Plants

3962.SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether working of several fertilizer plants along the HBJ pipeline has been paralysed following the reduced supply of gas resulting in a daily loss of production of more than \$ 1.5 million;

(b) if so, the details of the plants affected and loss incurred with nature and magnitude of the problem;

(c) the details of action taken proposed to be taken to resolve the problem and restore the normal gas supply; and

(d) the present status of the issue and permanent steps proposed to be taken to ensure adequate and regular supply of gas through HBJ pipeline to the fertilizer plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU) : (a) and (b) The supply of gas to the fertilizer plant and other consumers along the HBJ pipeline was affected due to the shutdown taken by ONGC for 23 days in January, 1997. The total supply ex-Hazira was reduced to 14-15 MMSCMD as against the normal supply of around 25 MMSCMD. The loss of production has been estimated to be 2.02 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) The pre-shutdown level of supplies has been restored. The supplies will further increase with additional development in Basse in and the commissioning of Tapti fields.

Assembly Resolution

3963.SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hon'ble Minister of Tourism of Jammu and Kashmir disclosed at a press conference at Chandigarh that Kashmir propose to bring an official resolution in the coming session of the Assembly to

surrender POK area of Kashmir;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) Government is aware of reports in this regard. The position of the Government is that the whole of the State of J&K, including the area under illegal occupation of Pakistan, and portions of the State illegally ceded by Pakistan, is an integral part of India.

Exploration of Oil

3964. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the areas have been demarked on different sedimentary basis for exploration of oil in Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the new areas have been demarked in different sedimentary basis during 1996-97; and

(c) if so, the details there of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The new areas taken-up/planned for exploration during the year 1996-97 fall in Cambay, Cauvery, Krishna-Godavari, Upper Assam & Assam Arakan Fold Belt, Rajasthan, Vindhyan & Satpura, Ganga Valley and Himalayan Foot-hills basins in onland and in Eastern and Western offshore areas.

Power Policy

3965. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Power Cos. demand policy to tap indigenous sources" appearing in 'The Financial Express' dated February 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the context of paucity of resources in the State/Central Public Sector for capacity addition in

power generation and distribution, a policy to encourage private investment in power sector was initiated in October, 1991 and is currently under implementation. The policy encourages participation of domestic as well as foreign promoters in the Indian Power Sector.

Funds for Potable Water

3966. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for supply of potable water to Delhi during the last three years; and

(b) the details thereof, till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking has reported that the following funds have been allocated for the supply of potable water to Delhi during the last three years :-

Year	Rs. (In Lakhs)
1994-95	10,265
1995-96	8,869
1996-97	12,407

Bore Wells

3967. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any provision of funding for deep bore well has been made for the farmers in the drought prone area of the country;

(b) if so, the names of districts which have so far been covered under the schemes during Eighth Five Year Plan, state-wise; and

(c) the details of programmes in this regard to the State of Orissa particularly for Kalahandi district ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) No, Sir. There is no specific scheme for funding of deep borewells for the farmers in the drought prone areas of the country. However, this Ministry has made provision for funding of borewells and tubewells under the Centrally Sponsored sub-scheme under IRDP, namely 'Ganga Kalyan Yojana' which has been recently launched in all districts of the country w.e.f. 1.2.1997. However, the States have been given the freedom to select the areas/districts depending upon the ground water potential to implement this

programme. This scheme will become an independent Centrally Sponsored Scheme from 1.4.1997.

(b) The names of the districts covered under the programme during 1996-97 are given in the Statement

enclosed.

(c) During 1996-97, Rs. 554.00 lakh has been released to the State of Orissa. The Share of Kalahandi district is Rs. 27.71 lakh.

Statement

Information pertaining to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3967 due for reply on 19.3.1997

Statement showing state-wise coverage of number of districts under Ganga Kalyan Yojana.

Sl. No.	Name of State	Districts covered
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22 out of 23 districts except Hyderabad.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	All 13 districts.
3.	Assam	All 23 districts.
4.	Bihar	All 55 districts.
5.	Goa	All 2 districts.
6.	Gujarat	17 out of 19 districts except Gandhinagar and Mehsana.
7.	Haryana	12 out of 17 districts except Ambala, Panipat, Panchkula, Kurukshetra and Karnal.
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11 out of 12 districts except Kinnore.
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	No proposal received.
10.	Karnataka	All 20 districts.
11.	Kerala	All 14 districts.
12.	Madhya Pradesh	All 45 districts.
13.	Maharashtra	Akola, Amravati, Buldana, Dhule, Jalgaon, Nagpur, Yavatmal and Chandrapur have been covered out of the total 29 districts.
14.	Manipur	All 8 districts.
15.	Meghalaya	All 7 districts.
16.	Mizoram	No proposal received.
17.	Nagaland	All 7 districts.
18.	Orissa	All 30 districts.
19.	Punjab	12 out of 17 districts except Moga, Fatehgarh Sahib, Sangrur, Jullundhar & Kapurthala.
20.	Rajasthan	All 31 districts.
21.	Sikkim	The only district covered.
22.	Tamil Nadu	No proposal received.

1	2	3
23.	Tripura	All 4 districts.
24.	Uttar Pradesh	51 out of 68 districts except Banda, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Sonbhadra, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Mohawa, Badaun, Aligarh, Ferozabad, Agra, Almorah, Pithoragarh, Uttar Kashi, Chamoli, Tehri Garhwal & Pauri Garhwal.
25.	West Bengal	16 out of 18 districts except Darjeeling and 24 South Parganas.

*Union Territories of A&N Islands, D&N Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have not submitted the proposal.

SCAMS

3968.DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Scams exposed rot in Ministry" appearing in 'The Hindusan Times' dated December 27, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether it has been decided to re-organize the functioning of the Ministry in order to avoid Scams in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the action taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The facts regarding the issue mentioned in the News item and action taken thereon are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) So far as "the streamlining of the system of allotment of general pool residential accommodation is concerned to avoid Scams in future, the Ministry has taken all necessary steps to make such allotments strictly as per rules. The waiting lists for initial/change allotments are being maintained scrupulously. Regarding out of turn/discretionary allotments, the Government has formulated detailed policy guidelines which will be notified after obtaining approval of the Cabinet Committee on accomodation, so as to maintain total transparency. The cases of un authorised occupation are being sought to be minimised by timely cancellation/initiation of eviction proceedings under the relevant rules.

Statement

The details of the facts mentioned in the news item and action taken thereon by the government

- (i) During the year 1995-96, the Supreme Court of India heard the Public Interest Litigation filled by Shri Shiv Sagar Tiwari. Out of turn allotment of Government accommodation, subletting, unauthorised occupation and allotment of shops were the major subject matter of the PIL. Smt. Shiela Kaul, the then Urban Development Minister has been imposed a fine of Rs. 60.00 lacs as exemplary damages.
- (ii) The court in its judgement dated 23.12.96 has directed that all out of turn allottees of Type-III and above accommodation except those whose names were included erroneously, who were given change of accommodation in the same type and those who were given allotments on medical grounds within the existing policy would face eviction, incase their date of priority have not been covered for inturn allotment. Such allottees have also been directed to pay enhanced licence fee at 2/3 times for the period of their occupation of accommodation on out of turn basis and shall be provided with an alternate accommodation of lower type which they were occupying earlier or are entitled to the same in their turn. A new list shall be drawn in terms of the Court's order within a period of two months and allottees who are liable to be evicted, shall be served individual notices within 30 days thereafter requiring them to vacate the premises within 90 days of the notice. Such list has been prepared and the notices in terms of the court's order are under issue.
- (iii) The Government shall get the medical cases where out of turn allotments made outside the existing policy, examined by a high powered Medical Board within two months with a view to

ascertain whether such out of turn allotments were justified on medical grounds. The Medical Board constituted for the purpose, has since submitted its recommendations which have been accepted and implemented.

- (iv) The Government shall frame appropriate rules relating to out of turn allotments and will duly notify the same within a period of three months. While making out of turn allotments speaking orders would be passed giving the reasons and list of such allottees shall be notified and circulated to all the Government departments. The extent of out of turn allotments would be 5% in each type of houses which would fall vacant in a year. Freedom fighters, artists and social workers and voluntary organisations/institutions may be considered for discretionary allotments from the quota of 5%, if guidelines so framed, permitted. The guidelines have been formulated and approval of the competent authority is being obtained before the same are notified.
- (v) The Supreme court has held that the subletting of Government accommodation is a grave misconduct on the part of the Government servants, and therefore, it would be obligatory for the disciplinary authority to initiate disciplinary proceedings against him under rule 14 of the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 (Major Penalty). Subletting of Government accommodation has been made a misconduct by amending the provisions of the CCS (Conduct) Rule, 1964. Department of Personnel & Training has been requested to issue necessary instructions regarding initiating of disciplinary proceedings under Rule 14 of the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 in proven cases of subletting of Govt. accommodation.

2. The Union Cabinet has accorded investment approval for Delhi MRTS Project in September, 1995. For the project, the OECF, Japan have agreed in January, 1997 to provide loan assistance amounting to Rs. 478.78 crores. Steps have since been initiated to make the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, the implementing agency, fully functional who has since started making global enquiry for appointment of General Consultant for the project.

3. The amendment of Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation Act, 1976) is presently under consideration of the Government. The State Governments/UTs have since been requested to offer their suggestions regarding amendment of the Act and for the purpose, an Inter-governmental Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary (UD). It is proposed to finalise the amendment in the light of the recommendations of the Committee.

4. A proposal is under consideration for utilisation of surplus Govt. land to generate resources to augment budgetary provisions.

Condition of Government Flats

3969. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government quarters in Sri Niwasपुरी and East Kidwai Nagar, particularly in Type I and II are in a dilapidated condition;
- (b) if so, whether any complaints have been lodged in this regard by the allottees;
- (c) if so, whether no action has been taken by CPWD to repair the quarters;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir. However, electrical wiring in some of quarters of type-I & type-II in Srinivasपुरी is in a bad condition.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) In all the complaints pertaining to Civil work, repairs were carried out immediately. On electrical side, defective wiring in some of the quarters of type-I & II of Srinivasपुरी has been replaced recently. The wiring in the remaining quarters of Srinivasपुरी, where it is considered essential, will be taken up for replacement depending upon the availability of funds.

Export by FPIs

3970. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether our own domestic food processing industries are exporting any proposed food items or beverages; and

(b) if so, the quantum of exports and the names of the countries to which these are exported ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement showing quantum and countries to which exported respectively, is enclosed.

Statement*Export of Agricultural and processed Food Products quantity in MTS*

Value : In Rs. Lakhs

Product	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		Major Markets
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	
PROCESSED FRUITS & VEGETABLES. (Mango Pulp, Pickles and Chutneys etc.)	120521.950	26850.26	144322.036	34821.67	193509.560	49159.21	U.A.E., Sri Lanka Singapore, U.S.A. Germany, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, U.K., Netherlands, Russia.
ANIMAL PRODUCTS (Meat, Poultry and Dairy Products)	118285.595	37401.48	164107.100	44838.42	183897.979	68258.23	Malaysia, U.A.E. Philippines, Oman Jordan, Saudi Arabia, U.S.A., South Africa, Bangladesh, Germany, Russia, Portugal, Netherlands, Spain, France, Zaire, Seychelles.
OTHER PROCESSED FOODS (Guar Gum, Cereal Preparations and Alcoholic Beverages etc.)	375671.430	45968.86	176886.925	41548.57	1007330.047	117197.31	Indonesia, U.K., Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, U.S.A., Germany, Japan, Netherland, Belgium, Sri Lanka, France, Bangladesh, Nepal, Italy, U.A.E., Bhutan, Russia, Yamen.

*[Translation]***Review of Works**

3971. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether HUDCO has conducted or propose to conduct any review of the works undertaken with the loan provided by it in different States particularly in tribal/rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) HUDCO makes regular monitoring of progress of various

housing and urban infrastructure projects sanctioned by it, through quarterly progress reports and site inspection(s), through its Regional Officers. Such monitoring also includes monitoring of schemes financed by HUDCO in the rural areas. No Special review has, however, been conducted for the schemes sanctioned by it in tribal/rural areas.

*[English]***Naptha on OGL**

3972. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to place Naptha on OGL for power projects;

(b) if so, whether this violates the recent State-wise allocation of liquid fuel for power projects;

(c) whether any estimate has been made as to what will be the total requirement of liquid fuel for allocation to power projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Power Ministry has opted for a two-pronged strategy for the upcoming liquid fuel power projects; and

(f) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f) Detailed Guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Power on 23.12.1996 to the concerned states for recommending projects for naphtha/liquid fuel linkage within the capacity (in MW) allocation to the respective States. The total capacity allocated to the states is 12,000 MW. States are making project-wise recommendations for provisional linkage.

Anta gas based Power Project

3973. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :
SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether NTPC has earlier planned second gas power station of 413 MW capacity at Anta and no head way on it was made as the Union Government has not provided gas linkage for Anta gas thermal power project stage-II;

(b) if so, whether the Government had allocated gas to power stations in Delhi & Gujarat after the Anta Stage-II was conceived, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the Anta Stage-II gas based thermal station of NTPC is likely to get gas allocations and the Union Government sanction;

(d) whether the gas allocation for the existing Anta GTPS is adequate to operate it as base load station; and

(e) if not, when additional allocation of gas is likely to be made for Stage-I and also for Stage-II ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) had planned in September, 1988 a second gas power project of 413 MW at Anta in Rajasthan for which only 0.25 MCMD of gas was allocated.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) NTPC is now planning to put up a dual fuel fired combined cycle gas station of 650 MW capacity using

either naphtha or LNG till gas is made available in the 9th plan.

(d) and (e) The present gas allocation to the existing Anta gas power station is adequate for running at about 62% PLF.

Off-Shore Exploration

3974. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of oil produced from deep off-shore exploration per year;

(b) whether the Government propose to intensify the off-shore exploration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No crude oil is presently being produced from the deep off-shore.

(b) and (c) The exploration activities are planned to be intensified through acquisition of 2D and 3D seismic data in the Eastern and Western off-shore. 2 locations each in the East and West deep off-shore has been prioritised for drilling on the basis of evaluation of seismic data already acquired.

Further during the IX Plan. ONGC plan to acquire 179000 LKm. of 2D and 3D seismic data in Western offshore, and 9800 LK of 3D and 1405 LK of 2D in K.G. off-shore and 680 LK of 2D in Cauvery off-shore. OIL plans to carry out exploratory drilling of 9000 M in the Saurashtra off-shore in the 9th Plan.

In addition to above, Government has since 1991, awarded contracts for exploration of oil in 12 off-shore blocks to various companies under the different exploration bidding rounds.

Encroachments

3975. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item entitled "Union blames Government land mafia : Fraud on landless rural workers" appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated February 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The attention of this Ministry has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Pioneer' dated 15.2.97. It appears that the persons aggrieved by the order of the

Consolidation Officer have sought redressal from the superior authority and the matter is now pending for decision before the Financial Commissioner of Delhi, who has stayed the orders of the Consolidation Commissioner until the final order/judgement of the highest appellate authority is delivered. Therefore, this Ministry does not like to pass any comments or judgement on this subject.

LPG Agency

3976. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in Maharashtra for which advertisements for allocating LPG/Kerosene/Petrol agencies were made during the last three years;

(b) the details of places for which interviews for Agencies/Dealerships were held and agencies which have actually started functioning/operating, company-wise;

(c) the details of complaints received against faulty/wrong selection of Agents/dealers and action taken thereon alongwith details of agencies under suspension;

(d) the names of agencies/dealerships under suspension for indulgence in irregularities and operating on ad-hoc basis without regular selection alongwith locations, companywise; and

(e) the details of marketing plan for petroleum products for the current year, company-wise indicating places to be covered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU) :

(a) and (b) Company wise details of the Ro, LPG and SKO/LDO dealerships/distributorships advertised, interview held and commissioned during the last three years i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (upto January, 1997) is indicated below :

Retail output

	Advertised	Interview Held	Commissioned
IOC	61	18	10
HPC	21	04	02
BPC	16	10	02
IBP	07	02	00
Total	105	34	14

	Advertised	Interview Held	Commissioned
LPG			
IOC	54	00	00
HPC	32	11	03
BPC	20	09	05
Total	106	20	08

SKO/LDO

IOC	15	07	01
HPC	03	03	00
BPC	03	02	02
IBP	03	00	00
Total	24	12	03

(c) Complaints are received from time to time alleging irregularities in allotments. Government has laid down guidelines for proper and fair selection of dealerships/distributorships by the OSBs. Instructions were issued on October 22, 1996, by the Government directing oil companies to accept and act on the merit panels advised by the OSBs within a week from the completion of interview. For locations where merit panels were advised after a week, fresh selections are required to be made.

(d) Company wise details of dealerships/distributorships operating on ad hac basis in Maharashtra owing to the termination/suspension of the regular dealerships/distributorships for violation of the marketing discipline guidelines are given below :

	RO	LPG
HPC	02	08
BPC	03	00
IBP	01	00
Total	06	08

(e) 106 RO dealerships, 133 LPG distributorships and 8 SKO/LDO dealerships have been included in the approved RO 1993-96, LPG 1994-96 and SKO/LDO 1993-96 Marketing Plans for Maharashtra.

Potable Water Shortage

3977. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of potable drinking water in Allahabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work stated on a new water treatment plant at Allahabad has since been stopped;

(d) if so, the reasons for stopping the work there; and

(e) by when the work on the new water treatment plant is likely to start to tide over the shortage of potable drinking water problem in Allahabad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The U.P. Jal Nigam has reported that there is no acute shortage of potable drinking water in Allahabad. However, there is some shortage in certain pockets of the city due to power failure as a result of which the water supply is 170-175 mld as against the total requirement of 200 mld.

(c) The work started on a new water treatment plant at Allahabad has not been stopped.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Backlog of SC/ST Vacancies

3978. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the backlog of posts reserved for SC and ST in the services of Indian Oil Corporation, ONGC, Gas Authority of India Ltd., Oil India during the last three years as on January 31, 1997;

(b) the specific efforts made during these years to fill these backlog and the number of time advertisements to fill these backlog were issued and whether relaxation in standard permissible under rules were also included in these advertisements; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and how these organisations then propose to fill the backlog of reserved posts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) The backlog of vacancies reserved for SC and ST in services of IOCL, ONGC, GAIL and OIL during the last three years is given below :-

Name of PSU	1.1.95		1.1.96		31.1.97	
	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
IOCL	9	25	-	-	17	27
ONGCL	73	83	170	183	146	140
GAIL	23	36	31	46	44	47
OIL	87	44	82	21	91	29

(b) The specific efforts made during the last three years by these PSUs. to fill up the backlog of above vacancies are mentioned below :-

- (i) A Special Recruitment Drive was launched by each PSUs., in 1995 and 1996 to fill up the backlog of vacancies reserved for SC and ST.
- (ii) Camp recruitments were made to recruit SC/ST candidates.
- (iii) All the vacancies in group 'A' were advertised in leading National News papers and vacancies in group 'C' and 'D' were notified to local employment Exchanges. All relaxations permissible under the rules were included in the advertisements/notifications.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Employment Schemes

3979. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various employment schemes under operation in the urban areas;

(b) the total number of mandays generated, State-wise; and

(c) the total amount provided to the State Governments for the purpose during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Two Centrally

sponsored Urban Employment programmes namely, Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP) are being implemented in the country.

NRY The Nehru Rozgar Yojana is being implemented since October, 1989 with the objective of generating employment opportunities for the employed and under-employed urban poor living below the poverty line. The employment contemplated is of two types; self employment through setting up of micro enterprises and wage employment through the creation of useful public assets in low income neighbourhoods and also through the houseing and shelter upgradation.

PMIUPEP The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP) was launched in November, 1995 to create a conducive environment for a significant improvement in the quality of life of the urban poor

through a whole-town, multi-dimensional and integrated approach to the economic, social and physical conditions of those below poverty line in small urban agglomerations having a population between 50,000 and 1,00,000. Provision of employment to the unemployed and under-employed urban poor through setting up of self employment ventures is one of the many components of the programme.

(b) and (c) NRY : The total number of man-days of employment generated and the amounts providing to the State Governments during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise are given in the attached Statement.

PMIUPEP : There is no wage employment component under this scheme and, therefore no mandays of employment are created under this programme.

A sum of Rs. 105.00 crores has been released for 1995-96 under the programme to States/UTs.

Statement

Nehru Rozgar Yojana

(Figures in lakhs) (Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of mandays generated upto 28.2.97	Amount provided to the State Government during the last three years		
			1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20.44	679.53	508.90	463.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.20	19.75	45.09	57.20
3.	Assam	7.48	89.49	184.72	147.20
4.	Bihar	41.16	359.30	429.95	471.45
5.	Goa	1.19	17.85	18.25	18.30
6.	Gujarat	12.93	212.52	194.45	215.90
7.	Haryana	6.96	123.29	122.72	111.99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3.01	56.19	64.75	66.15
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4.89	87.48	73.61	77.88
10.	Karnataka	35.76	440.17	398.25	252.06
11.	Kerala	10.07	234.82	241.58	154.60
12.	Madhya Pradesh	32.64	684.48	595.03	508.25
13.	Maharashtra	50.20	669.50	494.85	521.33
14.	Manipur	2.31	43.33	66.42	62.91

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Meghalaya	0.77	24.10	22.27	31.80
16.	Mizoram	1.00	21.74	29.06	27.58
17.	Nagaland	—	15.70	21.95	3.50
18.	Orissa	14.98	219.80	168.50	156.60
19.	Punjab	6.37	216.47	196.12	105.60
20.	Rajasthan	20.12	319.50	361.55	330.37
21.	Sikkim	0.73	29.68	29.15	28.46
22.	Tamil Nadu	40.34	765.58	631.76	563.49
23.	Tripura	1.77	25.50	28.81	26.411
24.	Uttar Pradesh	109.73	1711.54	1549.54	1138.89
25.	West Bengal	26.61	259.00	392.18	441.00
26.	A & N Island	0.20	13.53	21.21	16.70
27.	D & N Haveli	0.46	13.86	15.79	12.03
28.	Daman & Diu	0.41	11.05	10.35	9.65
29.	Lakshadweep	0.13	18.25	13.82	22.00
30.	Delhi	N.A.	22.00	22.00	22.00
31.	Pondicherry	0.42	11.70	27.30	18.60
Total		455.28	7477.00	6980.00	6084.00

[English]

Exploration of Gas

3980. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has stopped the exploration of Gas in the desert of Kutch;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to restart the exploration there very soon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above. However, in order to accelerate exploration and to augment the indigenous production Govt. of India has been offering exploration acreages in Kutch area. The blocks GK-ON-90/2 and GK-ON/4 in Kutch onland offered under fourth and seventh round respectively have been approved for

award, subject to finalisation of contract terms and conditions.

Assistance for drinking water schemes

3981. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government have sought assistance from the various international agencies for drinking water supply in the urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have recommended for external funds for any schemes submitted in this regard by the Government of Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the schemes pertaining to drinking water supply in the urban conglomeration of Dhenkanal, Anugul and Bhuban is one of these; and

(f) if so, the funds likely to be obtained for implementation of urban water supply schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The Central Government has been seeking loan assistance from international agencies, such as the World Bank, the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan, etc., for specific urban water supply and sanitation projects submitted by the State Governments from time to time.

(b) to (f) The Central Government had recommended the Regional Water Supply Scheme for Talcher, Meramundali, Anugul, Dhenkanal and Bhuban urban conglomerations submitted by the Government of Orissa at an estimated cost of Rs. 139.31 crores for OECF assistance under the 1996-97 and 1997-98 loan packages. However, the proposal was not finally approved by the Government of Japan for funding.

Raising of Money by HUDCO

3982. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to boost its programme of financing different infrastructure projects in the country, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) propose to raise over Rs. 3,000 crore from various overseas sources during 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the sources from which this amount is likely to be raised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) HUDCO has signed an agreement with Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan to avail a line of credit of 8670 million Yen (approx. Rs. 300 crores at current exchange rates) for augmentation of its resources for urban water supply and sanitation improvement programmes in various cities. The line of credit will have to be availed before 2002. Actual disbursements under this credit line will, however, be linked to the proposed project implementation. It is proposed to avail loan of Rs. 50 crores under the above mentioned line of credit during 1997-98.

Development of Slums

3983. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount earmarked for the development of slums during Ninth Plan;

(b) the State-wise allocation made for the purpose during 1997-98;

(c) whether different States have asked for enhance-

ment in allocation for slum development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The amount for the development of slums during the Ninth Plan is yet to be decided by the Planning Commission. However, Planning Commission has allocated an amount of Rs. 330 crores for slum development during the year 1997-98.

(c) and (d) During 1996-97, an amount of Rs. 250 crores was provided by the Planning Commission.

Supply of Petroleum products

3984. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to lay pipe lines to supply petrol and diesel in various cities; and

(b) if so, the cities which are proposed to be connected with pipe line for supplying petrol and diesel during Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of cities would be known only when proposals are firmed up.

[Translation]

Development of Old Delhi

3985. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'Sahajanabad Scheme' was formulated for the maintenance of the "Old Delhi" are of the National Capital Region, Delhi;

(b) if so, the time when the said scheme was formulated;

(c) whether the Government have constituted any Board for that or whether any amount was allocated for making available the necessary basic amenities in the streets of dense population of old Delhi;

(d) if so, the year-wise details thereof, till date;

(e) whether the Government have made provision for separate financial assistance/grant for the maintenance of Slum 'Katras' of Old Delhi and for providing necessary basic amenities there during the last three

years or propose to make provision for that;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the effective steps being taken by the Union Government for providing necessary basic amenities in slum 'Katras' of old Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1985-86.

(c) and (d) No Board has been constituted by the Government so far. The year-wise expenditure made for maintenance work in the Old Delhi city area is as under

1994-95	Rs. 253.82 lacs
1995-96	Rs. 358.66 lacs
1996-97	Rs. 187.85 lacs

(e) to (h) The maintenance and provision of basic amenities in the Slum Katras of Old Delhi come under the purview of the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi. The GNCTD has reported that the Slum & JJ Deptt. of MCD is implementing an approved plan scheme of Structural Improvement and Rehabilitation of Katras which has been formulated for providing repairs to the dangerous properties under the management & Control of Slum & JJ Deptt. The details in respect of financial assistance/ grant for the last three years as under :

Year	Financial Assistance/Grant
1994-95	Rs. 100 lacs
1995-96	Rs. 199.68 lacs
1996-97	Rs. 200 lacs

As far as providing basic civic amenities in Old Delhi is concerned. MCD is providing such basic amenities in this area. In addition, S&JJ Deptt. of MCD is also extending such basic amenities in the Notified Slum Areas in the Old Delhi under the approved plan scheme of Environmental Improvement in urban slums.

[English]

Taxation Powers to Panchayati Raj

3986. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give taxation

powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions to bolster their resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issue of resources for local bodies will assume importance by this increased role; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Article 243 H of the Constitution provides that the Legislature of a State may, by law, authorise a Panchayat to levy, collect and appropriate such taxes, duties, tolls and fees in accordance with such procedure and subject to such limits, as may be specified in the law.

Joint Venture in Power Sector

3987. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Ministry has decided to encourage Central and State Government power companies to go in for joint ventures with multinational;

(b) the total number of power projects signed during 1995, and the total power to be generated after the completion of these projects;

(c) the countries with whom these power projects are being set up; and

(d) whether all the power projects have been cleared and started their work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

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

GEO-Stationary Satellite

3988. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have stationed its own Geo-stationary satellite in Space;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether stationing of a Geo-stationary satellite is likely to give tremendous boost to our industry; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not having made an effort in this direction so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) INSAT Satellites have given a tremendous boost to the Indian industry in telecommunications, television, radio networking, information technology and satellite meteorology.

[Translation]

Per Capita Allocation

3989. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita allocation for agriculture and rural development, particularly tribal, backward and rural areas during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount demanded by the State Government and the amount sanctioned by the Planning Commission for this purpose during above period; and

(c) the reasons for allocating less amount to States including the State of Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The overall Plan outlays of the States are decided through mutual discussions between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Minister/Governor of the concerned State keeping in view the availability of resources including the normal central assistance which is provided to the States by way of block loans and block grants. The sectorwise allocations within the overall outlay are also proposed by the States and finalised in Consultation with Planning Commission keeping in view their priorities and the overall objectives of the Five Year Plan and these are not decided on a per capita basis. The allocation of the outlay for different regions within a State is also done by the State Governments without reference to Planning Commission. A statement indicating the Statewise details of outlays approved for Agriculture and Rural Development during the last three years is attached.

Statement

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	States	ORIGINALLY APPROVED OUTLAY					
		Agriculture & Allied Activities			Rural Development		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	64.70	72.00	64.48	153.36	143.00	241.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	42.93	49.70	52.14	12.25	19.38	20.18
3.	Assam	139.33	166.00	159.53	59.65	96.00	132.41
4.	Bihar	158.02	155.43	80.58	230.13	385.56	726.68
5.	Goa	11.34	11.19	11.91	2.88	3.15	3.06
6.	Gujarat	133.31	189.48	255.72	81.95	167.17	182.55
7.	Haryana	75.14	89.64	108.80	27.46	34.27	34.22
8.	Himachal Pradesh	100.11	107.69	121.85	21.09	25.32	39.19
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	94.46	110.11	117.65*	24.24	32.44	44.69*
10.	Karnataka	227.58	237.35	254.46	178.81	90.55	276.41
11.	Kerala	192.25	207.25	243.20	73.10	76.00	191.19
12.	Madhya Pradesh	185.05	213.83	319.95	199.20	314.04	317.68
13.	Maharashtra	372.87	435.72	535.57	379.59	488.57	1002.95
14.	Manipur	24.51	26.63	24.85	4.55	12.97	11.17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Meghalaya	41.99	38.12	40.37	10.95	18.30	21.25
16.	Mizoram	24.02	21.90	24.98	35.81	37.35	39.15
17.	Nagaland	21.10	21.10	21.10	25.99	34.14	39.45
18.	Orissa	150.12	170.83	135.06	134.64	185.28	220.02
19.	Punjab	89.55	107.89	104.79	53.78	46.48	100.72
20.	Rajasthan	245.55	317.40	314.58	147.50	196.74	276.36
21.	Sikkim	12.92	19.42	21.80	2.36	9.76	10.22
22.	Tamil Nadu	243.60	265.63	344.27	122.52	145.10	302.33
23.	Tripura	32.26	47.58	36.50	16.08	35.55	32.72
24.	Uttar Pradesh	367.68	396.07	504.10	450.84	459.93	1047.33*
25.	West Bengal	96.00	102.78	119.58	130.95	154.93	254.60

Proposed Outlay

[English]

Indo-France Co-operation

3990. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have established co-operation with France in the Field of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the specific work done under the ongoing co-operation between the two countries;

(c) whether the Government propose to expand Indo-France co-operation; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken under the Indo-France Scientific and Technology expansion programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Indo-French Co-operation agreement there are exchange programmes for scientists of the two countries. An Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advance Research has been in operation at New Delhi since 1987 and is funded jointly by the two Governments. The Centre supports Collaborative research programmes, related workshops and seminars etc.

(c) and (d) The Government values the bilateral co-operation between the two countries in S&T. The scope of co-operation including participation of industries from

both sides are reviewed. The S&T programmes are approved jointly taking note of these reviews.

Water Supply and Sewerage projects of Rajasthan

3991. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the status of water supply and sewerage projects for five major towns of Rajasthan, which were sent to Union Government for sanction;

(b) whether the Government propose to include such projects in the Ninth Plan;

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

(d) the action taken by the Union Government on the projects till now;

(e) the time by which the clearance is likely to be given to such projects;

(f) whether the Government propose to seek World Bank assistance for the projects; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The water supply sewerage projects of five major towns of Rajasthan, Viz., Kota, Ajmer, Bikaner, Udaipur and Jodhpur submitted by the Government of Rajasthan at an estimated cost of Rs. 2022.17 crores have been accepted in principle by this

Ministry from technical angle and recommended for external assistance. However, no external funding agency, such as the World Bank O.E.C.F. etc., have indicated their willingness to finance the project so far.

(b) and (c) Such projects have to be included by the State Government in the Ninth Plan under the State sector. There is no provision for such projects under the Central sector, except for the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for towns of less than 20,000 population (as per 1991 Census).

(d) Action taken by the Union Government has been indicated in reply to part (a) above.

(e) No definite time can be indicated at present.

(f) and (g) The projects will again be posed to the International Funding Agencies during the 9th Plan.

Illegal Structures

3992. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the operation of demolition squads in village Jamrudpur adjoining Greater Kailash and partially damaged the illegal structures;

(b) if so, the number of illegal structures booked and demolished recently;

(c) whether any survey of demolished structures has been conducted :

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) whether there has been resurfacing of more illegal structures in the areas which is hampering the widening of Nandi Vidhi road, pending for more than two decades; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has reported that the on-going unauthorised construction has been demolished by it in village Jamrudpur.

(b) Three cases of unauthorised construction have been detected and booked by MCD for action.

(c) MCD has reported that no such survey has been conducted by it.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) of the question.

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

[Translation]

Achievement made in TRYSEM

3993. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of achievements under TRYSEM in Madhya Pradesh during the Eight Five Year Plan, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed this programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this programme has not achieved the desired success in Chhattisgarh; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken to strengthen this programme ?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The monitoring of TRYSEM programme at the Central level is done State-wise and not district-wise. However, a Statement indicating year wise performance during the Eight Plan in respect of Madhya Pradesh is attached as statement.

(b) and (c) At the instance of this Ministry an Expert Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India to review IRDP and its allied programmes. The Committee has submitted its interim report. With a view to strengthening of training infrastructure in those districts/blocks where no organised training facilities exist, the Committee had recommended setting up of mini-ITIs in 3.4 selected trades. The Committee's recommendation has been accepted.

(d) and (e) Since the Programme is not monitored district wise at the Central level, separate figures for Chhattisgarh are not available. However, the Statement at Annexure shows that the performance of TRYSEM in Madhya Pradesh is satisfactory. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee and the Ministry's own experience, many steps have recently been taken to improve the efficacy of the TRYSEM programme. Some of the major steps are; setting up of exclusive TRYSEM training institutes popularly known as mini-ITIs, making it incumbent on the DRDAs and the training institutions to complete the formalities of sanction of loans during the training period itself to improve linkage with IRDP, restructuring training programme to meet the requirements of the Corporate and Service sectors which have large potential

for providing employment and development of inbuilt monitoring mechanism in the training institutions etc. on the progress of their trainees towards self/wage employment.

Statement

TRYSEM in M.P.

(Rs. in lakh)					
Year	Youth to be trained (in nos.)	Youth trained (in nos.)	Trained youth (in nos)	Central allocation	Central Release
1	2	3	4	5	6
1992-93	22950	22156	17489	152.22	152.22
1993-94	44096	54111	32442	701.79	701.79
1994-95	30998	30415	15343	433.98	274.83
1995-96	Not Fixed	60107	35733	433.98	505.57
1996-97 (upto Jan. 97)	Not Fixed	27105	13071	433.98	296.90

[English]

Basic Amenities

3994. SHRI K.S. RAYADU : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the plan made for providing basic amenities in rural areas of the country; and

(b) the amount allocated/sanctioned for its implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The Plan for providing basic amenities in rural areas of the country as identified in a Conference of Chief Ministers held in July, 1996 includes 7 basic minimum services. There are :-

- i. 100% coverage of primary health facilities
- ii. Provision of safe drinking water to all
- iii. Universalisation of primary health
- iv. Public housing assistance to shelterless
- v. Nutritional support to children.
- vi. Connectivity of all unconnected villages and habitations.
- vii. Streamlining the Public Distribution System with a focus on the poor.

The allocation of additional central assistance for Basic

Minimum Services and Slum Development Schemes for 1996-97 is Rs. 2244.48 crores and Rs. 250.01 crores respectively.

Oil Terminal

3995. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the places for the location of oil terminals during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any site has been selected for the establishment of oil terminal in Orissa during the plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The consideration of proposals to be included in the IX Plan finally is under progress and not finalised.

Drinking Water

3996. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of financial allocation sanctioned by the Union Government to the States where shortage of drinking water has been noticed during 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) whether any demand has been made by the Government of Maharashtra in this regard for assistance to meet drinking water problem in view of the drought; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Statement showing releases made to the states during 1996-97 under ARWSP

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	Amount Release
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6572.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1200.00
3.	Assam	2353.57
4.	Bihar	3113.00
5.	Goa	550.35
6.	Gujarat	4039.50
7.	Haryana	2550.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1823.13
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3705.00
10.	Karnataka	6470.74
11.	Kerala	3263.70
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7313.61
13.	Maharashtra	8810.00
14.	Manipur	478.56
15.	Meghalaya	572.00
16.	Mizoram	428.91
17.	Nagaland	211.00
18.	Orissa	3993.83
19.	Punjab	1289.00
20.	Rajasthan	11587.00

1	2	3
21.	Sikkim	472.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	5333.00
23.	Tripura	850.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11728.19
25.	West Bengal	3781.25
Total		92489.52

[Translation]

JRY

3997. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by the Government to Madhya Pradesh for various schemes, separately, under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana during each of the last two years;

(b) the amount released by the Government for various schemes, separately during the current year;

(c) whether the said amount has been fully utilised by the Madhya Pradesh Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The amount allocated by the Central Government to Madhya Pradesh during each of the last two years under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) are as follows :

Year	Amount Allocated
1994-95	39667*
1995-96	36131*

*Including IAY, MWS and IJRY.

(b) to (e) From 1.1.1996, the JRY scheme was restructured and streamlined. The sub-schemes of JRY i.e. Indira Awaas Yojana and Million Wells Schemes were separated and made independent schemes by themselves. The Intensified JRY (IJRY) was merged with Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). Now, the JRY is being implemented separately. Till date, an amount of Rs. 15052.58 lakhs have been released as Central share during 1996-97 to Madhya Pradesh under the scheme. The State Government have reported that an amount of Rs. 111961.01 lakhs has been utilized upto December, 1996.

[English]

TRYSEM

3998. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the year-wise figure of the rural youths covered under TRYSEM in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, the number of these youths got bank loans to get settled in the trade in which they have been trained;

(b) whether evaluation have been made of the TRYSEM by an independent non-Governmental agency; and

(c) if so, the details of those agencies and their main findings ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Under TRYSEM, training to upgrade technical/vocational skill is imparted to rural youth living below the poverty line to enable them to take up wage/self employment ventures. A statement indicating total youth trained and the number of trained youths wage/self employed in the State of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and the current year is enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) and (c) To assess the efficacy of the TRYSEM programme, a 'Quick Evaluation' was conducted by this Ministry by involving 16 reputed independent research Institutes/Organisations. The main findings of the 'Quick Evaluation' are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

TRYSEM in M.P.

(In nos.)

Year	Total Youth trained	Total Youth Employed	
		Wage	Self
1993-94	54111	10230	22212
1994-95	30415	6976	8363
1995-96	60107	14713	21020
1996-97 (upto Jan. 97)	27105	5240	7631

Statement-II

Highlights of the Quick Evaluation of TRYSEM

To adjudge the efficacy and impact of TRYSEM on the target group, the Ministry has carried out a 'Quick Evaluation' of the programme through 16 reputed independent research institutes in 61 districts of 10 major States between June-August, 1993. Some of the important

findings of the 'Quick Evaluation' are given below :-

Positive points :

- (i) About 89% beneficiaries found Master Craftsmen (trainer) competent.
- (ii) Majority of the beneficiaries (57%) were exposed to training for a period of 12-26 weeks as prescribed in the guidelines.
- (iii) About 92% of the beneficiaries acquired vocational/technical knowledge as a result of TRYSEM training.
- (iv) About 58% beneficiaries expressed confidence in taking up self-employment after the training.
- (v) As a result of self-employment activities, about 91% of the beneficiaries had an average net income of Rs. 500 per month, for 8% of beneficiaries the same ranged between Rs. 500-1000, while 1% earned between Rs. 1000-Rs. 2000 and above.

Areas of concern

- (i) About 47% of the TRYSEM beneficiaries were unemployed.
- (ii) About 63% beneficiaries considered the monthly stipend as inadequate.
- (iii) About 68% beneficiaries felt the duration the training was inadequate.
- (iv) About 47% beneficiaries felt 'lack of funds' as the major bottleneck for taking up self employment activities.
- (v) About 14% beneficiaries found the practical training as insufficient.
- (vi) About 63% felt no improvement in their socio-economic conditions after getting trained under TRYSEM.
- (vii) About 54% of TRYSEM trainees did not apply for loan. Of the remaining beneficiaries only 50% were given assistance under IRDP.

[Translation]

Amount for JRY

3999. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount released and yet to be released to Uttar Pradesh under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Rozgar Committee Yojana during the current financial year; and

(b) the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be given for each programme ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), an amount of Rs. 32348.02 lakhs have been released as Central Share of assistance due to Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year. There is no Centrally Sponsored scheme named as Rozgar Committee Yojana being implemented in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Official Accommodation to Political Parties

4000. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government allot official accommodation to political parties.
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the criteria fixed for such allotment;
- (d) the number of political parties whom such allotment has been made;
- (e) the number of political parties whom such facilities have been denied;

(f) whether Presidents of some political parties have requested for allotment of office accommodation; and

(g) if so, the reasons for not allotting office accommodation to them so far and time by which they are likely to be provided office accommodation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) Information upto July, 1996 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Residential buildings are allotted for office accommodation subject to availability after screening the space requirements on payment of market rate of licence fee to those political parties who have been recognised as such by the Speaker of Lok Sabha.

(e) to (g) The Supreme Court of India in its Judgement dated 23.12.96 has directed that Political Parties, which are recognised as National Parties by the Election Commission may be provided Government accommodation. Action on the requests of political parties for allotment of office accommodation will be taken in the light revised guidelines to be issued.

Statement

Sl. No.	Names of Political parties	Accommodation No.	Date of Allotment
1	2	3	4
1.	A.I.C.C. (I)	24, Akbar Road	7.8.92 Regularised w.e.f.) 18.7.90
2.	A.I.C.C. (I)	26, Akbar Road	8.3.94
3.	Samajwadi Party	18, Copernicus Lane	3.5.94
4.	Samajwadi Janta Party	16, R.P. Road	20.11.90
5.	Congress (I)	5, Raisina Road	5.7.76
6.	D.P.C.C. (I)	2, Talkatora Road	24.3.84
7.	B.J.P.	11, Ashoka Road	21.3.85
8.	Lok Dal (A)	15, Windsor Place	29.11.79
9.	Lok Dal (B)	3, Pt. Pant Marg	1.5.88
10.	Janta Party	5, Pt. Pant Marg	1.7.88
11.	Bahujan Samaj Party	12, G.R.C. Road	5.3.91
12.	CPI (M)	8, V.P. House	25.10.83
13.	CPI (M)	14, V.P. House	23.7.71
14.	B.J.P	24, V.P. House	14.6.82

1	2	3	4
15.	B.J.P	523, V.P. House	26.9.83
16.	C.P.I	119, V.P. House	30.10.70
17.	C.P.I	201-A, V.P. House	19.11.70
18.	C.P.I	309, V.P. House	6.5.70
19.	Janta Dal	17, V.P. House	15.6.90
20.	Janta Party	418, V.P. House	17.4.78
21.	Janta Party	115, V.P. House	30.1.87
22.	Janta Party	416, V.P. House	31.1.87
23.	AIADMK	16, V.P. House	26.6.92
24.	AIADMK	310, V.P. House	26.6.92
25.	Samajwadi Janta Party	13, Windsor Place	16.4.91
26.	General Secretary Congress (I) in Parliament	C-401, C-402 Albert Square	11.7.79
27.	-do-	781, L.B. Nagar	8.9.88
28.	Congress (I)	STV/181, R.K. Puram	17.10.67
29.	Congress (I)	STV/209, R.K. Puram	30.12.77
30.	Congress (I)	STV/892, R.K. Puram	7.9.67
31.	Congress (I)	896, B.K.S. Marg	17.7.80
32.	Congress (I)	80 H STV/DIZ	21.9.82
33.	Congress (I)	87 T STV/DIZ	20.12.91
34.	Congress (I)	J-556, Mandir Marg	17.7.80
35.	AICC (I)	DI/109, Chankyapuri	7.8.91
36.	Samta Party	220, V.P. House	15.2.95
37.	Congress (I)	45 A/SIV/DIZ	26.10.93

[Translation]

Displaced on Bhakra Dam

4001. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the persons of the villages surrounding Vilaspur displaced as a result of the Bhakra Dam are agitating for the facilities of potable water, irrigation, roads and bridges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the people of the villages located around the Bhakra Dam lake are not entitled to pump water from it and Nangal village located on the bank

of the lake still has no electricity; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the basic facilities are likely to be provided to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d) The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) had fulfilled all its commitments to Government of Himachal Pradesh regarding supply of potable water, roads and bridges. BBMB has been supplying free of cost, 38.8 cusecs of water per day from Gobind Sagar for providing irrigation facilities to lands around Gobind Sagar in Himachal Pradesh and 19.64 cusecs (average) of water for Phase-I and Phase-II of Irrigation Scheme in

Himachal Pradesh from Nangal Dam Reservoir. Besides, BBMB has been considering favourably the proposals as and when made to it by Government of Himachal Pradesh for lifting of water from Bhakra Reservoir/Nangal Pond. Lifting of water by individual from the flowing rivers is, however, not permissible without specific permission.

Provision of electricity to the villages located on the bank of Gobind Sagar is the responsibility of the State Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Land Reform Scheme

4002.DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons benefited under the land reform scheme in Ajamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the number of persons likely to be benefited by the Scheme during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) There is no Central Sector or Centrally Sponsored Scheme for land reforms. The concept of land reforms include a large number of activities relating to distribution of land assets, protection of land rights of various categories of owners as well as tenants and sharecroppers etc., which are done under the respective state Acts and by the respective State Governments. As per Entry No. 18 and 45 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, all legislative and administrative jurisdiction relating to aforesaid subjects lie exclusively with the State Governments. The National Government does not collect, keep or monitor the district level figure of achievements under various programmes covered by land reform measures. It is, therefore, not possible to make any statement regarding achievements under various activities falling within the land reform programmes and benefits accrued therefrom in the district of Ajamgarh of U.P. It is also not possible to give any indication about the number of persons likely to be benefited by land-reform programmes in the said district during 1997-98.

Displaced Families of Pond Dam

4003. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of families rehabilitated twenty years back from the surrounding areas of the pong dam returned to Himachal Pradesh after leaving Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether there is any scheme for rehabilitation of those families who have returned to Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) Out of about 30,000 families displaced by the construction of Pong Dam, 16100 families were considered eligible for allotment of land in Rajasthan. Out of these, 9195 were initially allotted land in Rajasthan and of these 4329 oustees have since been rehabilitated and are in possession of the land. In compliance of the directions given by the Supreme Court in writ Petition (Civil) No. 439/92. Government of Rajasthan has appointed a District Judge in Rajasthan to review the cases of oustees whose allotment of land was cancelled subsequent to 1.1.92. Central Government has also constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources with a representative each from the State Governments of Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan as per aforesaid orders of the Supreme Court inter-alia, to ensure carrying out the recommendations of District Judge and to ensure that all basic amenities are available to the oustee allottees.

[English]

Agreement with Germany for Food Processing

4004. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the business delegation from Germany visited India during the month of February 1997 and had offered to invest in food processing projects in India;

(b) if so, whether any agreement between the two countries have been signed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) Yes Sir, a business delegation from Germany had visited India during the month of February, 1997. But during the discussions no specific offer was made by them for investing in food processing projects in India.

(b) No agreement between the two countries was signed in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

TRYSEM

4005. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any programme to impart training to the rural youths under TRYSEM;

(b) if so, the number of youths imparted training in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi under this scheme during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(c) the target fixed for the current financial year;

(d) the number of youths who had been successful in setting up their own business under the said scheme; and

(e) the total backlog during the Eighth Plan under TRYSEM who have not yet been either wage-employed or self-employed ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. TRYSEM is an ongoing programme launched in the year 1980-81 with the objective to impart skill/vocational training to rural youths belonging to below poverty line families to enable them to take up wage/self employment ventures. A statement indicating total number of youth trained in the state of UP and Haryana from 1994-95 to 1996-97 up to January, 1997 may be seen in part I of statement. TRYSEM is not implemented in Delhi.

(c) Under TRYSEM, physical targets are not fixed by the Government of India. It has been left to the States to decided their own targets, keeping in view their own needs and requirements.

(d) and (e) The Ministry monitors information only relating to total number of youths trained and employed, either in self or wage employment ventures. The Statement indicating total number of youths trained, wage/self employed may be seen in part II of the annexure.

Statement

TRYSEM in U.P. and Haryana

Part I

State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (upto Jan. 97)
U.P.	62394	63721	38629
Haryana	3733	3582	2449

Part II

*Performance under TRYSEM (All-India)
during Eighth Plan*

	Total Youth trained	Trained Youth Employed		
		Wage	Self	Total
1992-93	275993	42058	99334	141392
1993-94	303821	43004	107919	150923
1994-95	281874	44965	86466	131431
1995-96	301651	48450	97757	146207
1996-97 (upto Jan. 97)	205474	28577	56261	84838

Anant Ram Dairy Colony

4006. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Regularising Anant Ram Dairy Colony: Dave kicks up another controversy" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated December 9, 1996:

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In July, 1994 a representation was received from the Anant Ram Dairy Gaon Sudher Sabha requesting for regularisation of their colony and provision of basic facilities like water and electricity in it. So far as regularisation of unauthorised colonies in Delhi is concerned, the subject matter is subjudice in the light of order of the High Court of Delhi in CW No. 4771/93.

As regards provision of basic facilities, since the subject matter comes under the purview of GNCTD, a copy of the said letter was forwarded to Government of NCT of Delhi for suitable action in accordance with the Delhi High Court's order dated 19.8.94 in CWP No. 4771 and CM 7829/93 and CM 4889/94.

Hydro Carbon Reserve

4007. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of survey undertaken in the Mahanadi Godavari basin to explore the possibility of oil and hydro-carbon reserve;

(b) whether the Krishna and Godavari basins have also been explored in the past;

(c) if so, the oil and hydro-carbon or natural gas reserves discovered so far; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by the Government on the exploration of oil, gas and hydro-carbon in these river basins ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) In Mahanadi basin ONGC has carried out about 8642 stations Gravity Magnetic Surveys and 1644 L.K. seismic surveys. OIL has also carried out about 3814 SLKM and 13,943 LKM of seismic surveys including processing and interpretation in Mahanadi onshore and Mahanadi and North East Coast Offshore areas respectively and based on the above seismic data 15 wells have been drilled without success in these areas.

So far as Krishna-Godavari basin is concerned, ONGC is working there and following surveys have been carried out :-

Onland :

Geological survey :	53.427 Sq.km.
Gravity Magnetic survey :	7330 stations.
Seismic survey :	33609 GLK of 2D 1016 SSK of 3D.

Offshore :

Gravity Magnetic :	17820 LK
Seismic Survey :	45555 LK of 2D 8181 LK of 3D

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As a result of exploration and development activities of ONGC in the KG Basin, as on 1.4.96, initial inplace hydrocarbon reserves of 73.97 MMT (O+OEG) in the Onland and 81.12 MMT (O+OEG) in the Offshore areas of KG Basin have been established.

(d) In addition to the above exploration/development activities of ONGC and OIL, Government of India have been offering blocks in these river basins for exploration by private/multinational companies/consortiums thereof under various bidding rounds. Block Nos. KG-OS-90/1, KG-OS/6 and KG-ON/1 have been approved for award of contract.

12.0½ hrs

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1698/97]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism for the year 1997-98

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1699/97]

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Finance

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : on behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 12 of 1997)—(Revenue Receipts—Direct Taxes) for the year ended the 31st March, 1996, under Article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1700/97]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Finance for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1701/97]

Statement regarding Legislation by the Port Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU) : On behalf of Shri T.G. Venkatraman, I beg to lay-on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Port Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1702/97]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1703/97]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Environment and Forests

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1704/97]

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Ocean Technology Madras and Detailed Demands for Grants of the Department of Ocean Development etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Madras, 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 National Institute of Ocean Technology, Madras, 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-1705/97]
- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Science and Technology for the year 1997-98.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1706/97]
- (4) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Ocean Development for the year 1997-98.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1707/97]
- (5) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants

(Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Electronics for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1708/97]

- (6) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1709/97]

- (7) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Atomic Energy, for the 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1710/97]

- (8) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1711/97]

A copy of the Coco Powder Grading and Marking Rules, 1996

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA DEO PRASAD VARMA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission. I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Coco a Powder Grading and Marking Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) Published in Notification No. GSR 561 in Gazette of India dated 14th December, 1996 under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1712/97]

[English]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND

PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R.
BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and pension and Union Public Service Commission for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1713/97]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1714/97]

**Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of
Petroleum and Natural Gas and a Copy of
Production Sharing Contract between the
Government of India and the Oil India
Ltd. and the Essar Oil Ltd.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :
I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1715/97]

- (2) A copy of the Production Sharing Contract (Hindi and English versions) between the Government of India and the Oil India Limited and the Essar Oil Limited with Respect to Contract Area Identified as Block RJ-ON-90/5.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1716/97]

**Annual Report and Review by the Government of
the working of the Central Government Employees
Welfare Organisation etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(PROF. UMMARE VENKATESWARLU) : I beg to lay on
the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation, New Delhi, 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 Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation, New Delhi, 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-1717/97]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Prefab Limited, New Delhi for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Prefab Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1718/97]

- (5) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1719/97]

12.01 hrs.

[English]

**MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND**

BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA – Laid

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Port Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th March, 1997.
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of

Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (Amendment) Bill, 1997 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th March, 1997.

Sir, I also lay on the Table the Port Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997 and the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (Amendment) Bill, 1997, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 18th March, 1997.

12.02 hrs.

[English]

CONVICTION AND LODGEMENT OF MEMBER

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to inform the House that the following wireless message dated 17 March, 1997 was received on 18 March, 1997 from the Superintendent, Jail number 5, Tihar, New Delhi :

"Shri Kalpnath Rai, Member of Lok Sabha has been convicted today by the Court of Additional Sessions Judge, Shahadra in case numbers 140 to 144/93 Police Station Preet Vihar under TADA Act. He is lodged in Jail number 5, Tihar, New Delhi."

12.02½ hrs.

[English]

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL AND RESOLUTIONS

Seventh Report

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : I beg to present the Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.02½ hrs.

[English]

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Third Report

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimate Committee on Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment (Department of Urban Development)—Delhi Development Authority.

12.02¼ hrs.

[Translation]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Fourth and Seventh Reports and Minutes

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Sir, I beg to present following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee :

1. Fourth Report on Union Government Appropriation Accounts (1994-95) Tele Communication Services and Minutes of the Sitzings of the Committee including thereto.
2. Seventh Report on Action taken on 72nd Report of Public Accounts Committee (10th Lok Sabha) on Janta Cloth Scheme.

12.03 hrs.

[English]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Reports

SHRI ABDUL REHMAN ANTULAY (Kulaba) : I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals :

- (1) "Sixth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Third Report on 'Demands for Grants' (1996-97) of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- (2) Seventh Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in First Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) of Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals.
- (3) Eighth Report on action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Second Report on 'Demands for Grants (1996-97)' of Department of Fertilizers".

12.03½ hrs.

[Translation]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Fifth Report and Minutes

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I beg to

present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Railways (1997-98) on Reorganisation of Zonal Offices in Indian Railways and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee including thereto.

—————
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you do not shout and sit quietly, you will get a chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us have an orderly Zero Hour today.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get a chance.

(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Sir, I wish to submit that from the List of Business for today which has been circulated, item No.14, the Constitution (Eighty-Second Amendment) Bill, has been deleted. Delisting can be made in the List of Business only with the consent of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be seated.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur) (U.P.) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to raise a matter of privilege.
... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Please be seated. Please raise your points one by one.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : When I am standing on my legs, how can you raise a point of order ?

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I am referring to page No.382 of *Practice and Procedure of Parliament* by Kaul and Shakhder for the purpose of supporting my objection. It says that an item which has been included in the List of Business once, cannot be delisted without the permission of the House. The Constitution (Eighty-Second Amendment) Bill in respect of the judiciary was sought to be introduced by the Law Minister and that was placed at Item No.14. Item No.14 was for the purpose of introduction of Constitution (Eighty-Second) Amendment Bill and it does not find a place in the List today. Kaul and Shakhder Saus, I am just reading relevant portions from it . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Lodhaji, can you hear me for a minute ? It was under the direction of the hon. Speaker that it was removed. It is under the consideration of the hon. Speaker now.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : It was in the List at Item No.14.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the hon. Speaker consider the issue and come back to the House. You are taking up a matter which is under consideration of the hon. Speaker.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : It is not under consideration. It was on the agenda at Item No.14 The book says :

"The Speaker has ruled that an item of business fixed for a particular day should normally not be postponed. However, on a request . . .

I am referring to page 382 of Kaul and Shakhder.

"However, on a request made by a Minister and agreed to by the House, the order of an item of business as set down in the List of Business may be changed or the item may not be taken up."

Then, it says that after two sentences, the hon. Chairman may read it.

"The Speaker has rules that an item of business which has been included in the advance List of Business cannot be taken out on the ground that it may not meet with approval of all sections of the House;"

Now, Sir, this is the Speaker's ruling, Lok Sabha Debates in 1962.

Now what happens here is that the Law Minister has said that item No.14, the Eighty-second Amendment of the Constitution was listed. Now, the Law Minister says, not in the House, he does not come to the house to make a request, 'I want to defer it'. He does not say to the Speaker, 'please, allow me to defer it for this reason'. He does not request the hon. Members of the House to allow him to defer it. He speaks to the Press, in the newspapers, in the média. He says because the CPI (M) has objected to it, because the BJP has got certain reservations, therefore, he is deferring it. He has given these reasons in the Press, not in the House.

Now, I would submit that according to the Speaker's ruling, this is not permissible. This is an act of serious impropriety on the part of the Law Minister for having gone to the Press instead of . . . (Interruptions) coming to the House. It is a breach of privilege also. He should have come here and requested the hon. Speaker, 'item No.14 may not be taken up, the House may kindly grant the permission'. The Speaker would have permitted; not that he would not

[Justice Guman Mal Lodha]

have permitted it. But, the Law Minister instead of coming here, rushes to the Press. Item No.14 is not in the agenda today. What I want to submit is . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now please complete.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : What is your ruling ?
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me say something. You be seated.

(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I have invited your attention to the impropriety and the breach of privilege committed by the Law Minister. I have invited your attention to the Speaker's ruling contained in Kaul and Shakhder. I only seek your honest protection. That is all. I do not want anything. I seek your protection. You are the guardian of the House and the House should not be taken for a ride, not to be taken for granted . . . (Interruptions). It is the contempt; it is the breach of privilege of the House. Therefore, the Law Minister should come here . . . (Interruptions) and he must make . . . (Interruptions).

AN HON. MEMBER : He should tender an apology . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : I told you to say one by one.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please be seated.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Lodhaji, Your point of order has been taken note of and it will be reported to the hon. Speaker.

(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I have given a written notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : You may take it up. I do not want just now. You may give a ruling later on.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Later on, it will be done.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : In consultation with the hon. Speaker, it can be done. But please do not allow the Law Minister to degrade the House . . . (Interruptions). That is all . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me hear the Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member, Lodhaji, a former Chief Justice of the High Court. This Bill which was scheduled to be introduced in the House was not introduced. It was withdrawn by the Law Minister and that was not a property of the House unless it was introduced in the House. Therefore, I hope . . . (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : They are misleading the House . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Once the List of Business is circulated to the Members, it becomes the property of the House. We are raising the issue out of that . . . (Interruptions) After it has been told, the authority has also been quoted by him. Now the Minister cannot just say that it is not the property of the House. Okay, you are deferring the ruling . . . (Interruptions) Let the ruling come after due consideration. It is a law. What Parliamentary Minister says is illogical and it is beyond consideration . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already given my ruling.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak one by one.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul) : Sir, on behalf of the Parliamentarians of Tamil Nadu . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already decided. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Mr. Chairman Sir, on behalf of the Parliamentarians of Tamil Nadu, I rise to draw the attention of the House to a very serious matter. It relates to the ethics of the legislators and parliamentarians. At a time when the image of the elected representatives is the lowest in the public eye, we are shocked and distressed to say that . . . (Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I will not allow this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This cannot be allowed to be raised here.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, that will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : It is against the rules, Sir.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : . . . *(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : The conduct of any Assembly cannot be the subject matter of discussion here.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot denigrate any Assembly here.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not getting anything. Please speak one by one.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Sir, I urge upon the Central Government to hand over this case to the CBI . . . *(Interruptions)* and to recall the Governor immediately . . . *(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Chairman Sir, through you I want to bring to the notice of the Govt. a matter regarding future of my relations, my family members and myself I raised a matter about S.P. Mahua and also about S.P. Jhansi. A person know as Rakesh Kaushal was murdered by the S.P. Mehua in his office. After I raised this matter in the House and since then my relatives are subject to torture and were told that since your relative had raised this matter in the Parliament, you will have to pay far it. My brother in law who is residing in Bilwai Village of Mahua his residence is frequently visited by the Police

* Not Recorded

and female members in the house are insulted and foul language is used against them. Only yesterday night police entered the house of my inlaws and through the belongings of the house out side and insulted the women folk and told them that since your son in-law has raised the issue against S.P. in Parliament, we will set you right. We will put you behind the bars in some case on the other. If a matter is raised hereby some Member of Parliament against the S.P. or some other official of his constituency his family members and relatives are tortured, then no Member of Parliament would be able to raise such issues against the Police officials. I want your protection in this regard. I want to bring a privilege motion on this. This matter should be referred to the Committee on Privileges.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have given a notice in this regard.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : I have given a Notice to this effect. All this is done under the protection of a Union Minister. When I pointed it out to DIG and DGP his reply was it is better if you talk to the Administration. The DGP has said that it is beyond his powers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. What ever procedure you want to adopt, you are free to do that.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : I want a statement from Govt. in this regard. My relatives are taken away by the hooligans in front of Police Station. They are beaten up and shot at. Named FIR has been lodged. Although two months have elapsed but, the police has not taken any action so far. The hooligans are still at large. A total anarchy and hooliganism is prevalent in Bundelkhand region. Five of my workers were severly beaten up. This all is being done at the behest of a Union Minister. When I discussed it with the Governor he also understood my problem and said that you have taken enimosity with a powerful minister and I shall not be able to save you. When Governor is saying that he shall not be able to save. DIG and DGP say that they can not save, in such a situation Mr. Chairman, Sir I want your protection. Please protect my family members and relatives. The Govt. should make a statement in this regard . . . *(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister is here. He will take note of it.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraha) : The entire Bundelkhand region is in a state of anarchy. Similar situation prevails in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : This is happening with all Members of Parliament in U.P. Similar incident was reported in the recent past. . . *(Interruptions)*.

[Shri Rajendra Agnihotri]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. This is not fair, I have called her name.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : A relative of Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria, M.P. was kidnapped recently.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called the name of Geeta ji. Please sit down. Speak one by one. How is it possible to run the House if all of you stand.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : But, allow me to present my view . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, you have allowed me to speak. Hon. Members, we should all go by what the hon. Chairman says. Therefore, I request my colleagues not to disturb me. They can get up and speak after me because my name has already been called by the Chairman . . . (Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way. When you are given a chance, you can speak. If two-three persons speak at a time nothing can be understood. I have called her name. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way. I have already called her name. Can you not see that ? When I give you a chance, you can get up and speak. This is not the way to conduct yourself. You are a very senior Member.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, the Korkus are one of the oldest pre-Aryan aboriginal tribes of India and today they are one of the smallest tribes in the country. Their population is approximately 1,13,800 according to the 1991 census. They mainly live in Melghat, one of the best forest areas of Maharashtra. It is officially disclosed that 4000 infants and toddlers of this tribe have died among 20,000 to 21,000 families within four years from 1993 to 1996. An average of 1000 children die every year. They die because of malnutrition and for want of health care. Now if this goes on, this tribe will be wiped out in the near future. Now it is known that a renowned social worker, Sheela Barse had filed a Public Interest Litigation before the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court in 1993. Though two BJP MLAs also had filed similar Public Interest Litigation cases at that time but later when the BJP-Shiv Sena Government came to power, they withdraw but Sheela Barse went on, She had already spent Rs. 1 lakh for this Public Interest Litigation.

My submission is that the Union Government has to act positively on this question. They should become a party to the Public Interest Litigation and thereby try for expeditious disposal of the case. Moreover, some special schemes for the nutrition and health of these children thereby saving these children from malnutrition and death must be taken so that one of the oldest tribes, the Korkus tribe is saved from extinction. I think this will be supported by the whole House.

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that under the banner of AIFUCTO, about 10,000 teachers of college and university staged a *dharna* on 18.3.1997 at Jantar Mantar, Delhi for some legitimate demands which are long due. About four years ago, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. R.P. Rastogi has been formed to furnish a report relating to these demands along with the demands of the pay scale revision related to the Fifth Pay Commission Report. But nothing has been done in this regard. So I urge upon the Government to look into the matter so that the following demands of the teachers of colleges and universities throughout our country may be fulfilled without any delay:

1. To increase the allocation in education, particularly in higher education.
2. To make primary education compulsory and thus to uphold our Constitution.
3. To stop privatisation in higher education and to adopt a legislation in the Parliament.
4. To introduce new pay scale for college and university teachers following the Fifth Central Pay Commission Report; and
5. To give due weightage and justice to the part-time, contractual and piece-rate teachers.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Shri Jena, please listen to me. Sir, 150 terrorists with AK-47 rifles and other arms and ammunitions entered into my constituency from Bangladesh in broad day light. From the PWD road, they went to N.C. Hills. They took the same route which was taken by Phizo when he went to Bangladesh. The Chief Minister of Assam has admitted this on the floor of the Assembly but he has said that it is the Central Government, the BSF and the Army which should be made responsible to check the border. I am not here to blame anybody.

I am only requesting the Government that they should alert the Army and BSF appropriately to see that such occurrences — like 150 people coming with arms and

ammunition in a place where there is no law and order problem do not recur. In the Barak Valley there is no ULFA and there is no BSF. It is peaceful as in the Indira Gandhi Island of Peace. Today also it is an island of peace. So, I will request the hon. Home Minister to ensure that there is a unified command in Assam. The Government of Assam agreed that the Army will lead the BSF and combinedly take up the operations.

In that context the Central Intelligence told me not to go to the border areas because anything may happen. I am avoiding to go to the border areas but what is happening? Why are they not taking action? I am not saying anything against the Assam Government; I am not saying anything against the Central Government. What I am saying is, the Government must tell the Home Minister or Home Secretary to call the Army and alert them so that they should tighten the border to ensure that it does not happen. This is happening in Tripura; the people are coming, creating problems and going back. This is happening in other parts of Assam also. So, I will draw your attention to look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussions have been held in the House many a times regarding the proposed separate State of Uttarakhand. On the basis of such discussion, it was being hoped that the State of Uttarakhand would be constituted by the Central Government before 31st March. In this regard, hon. Prime Minister has made a statement once again from the ramparts of Red Fort on 16.3.97. He wishes to drag the matter further by giving an assurance that the bill regarding the Constitution of State of Uttarakhand will be referred to the Uttar Pradesh Assembly after an Assembly is constituted there and the very next day, the State of Uttarakhand will be constituted. Hon. Finance Minister has made statement in the House in this regard on 15.3.97. Through you, I would like to make a humble submission that the Central Government, hon. Prime Minister and hon. Finance Minister have tried to mislead the House and the entire nation. The truth is that Article 3 of Constitution of India provides for referral of such a proposal to the State Legislative Assembly however, its exception also exists. An exception is mentioned in the Manual of the Constitution in proceedings of Lok Sabha which reads as follows :

[English]

"Except in case of Himachal Pradesh and Billaspur New State Bill and Punjab Reorganisation Bill, 1996 as the State of Punjab was under the President's rule, and provisions of proviso to Rule 3 relating to Legislature of Punjab were suspended under the

Proclamation issued by the President under Article 356 in relation to a new State."

[Translation]

My submission is that as the Assembly is suspended and all the legislative powers are vested in the Parliament. We have exceptions in form of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh but now it is being said that the Bill would be referred to the Assembly. I strongly demand that this bill should be taken up in the House. Agitations have been launched at many a places in Uttarakhand and this matter can not be kept suspended for long now. It is a very serious matter but the Defence Minister of the country goes to Jhansi and says that if Uttarakhand is constituted the country will be divided like Russia. In Calcutta it has been stated that Constitution of Uttarakhand would prove to be fatal for unity and integrity of the country. Our Marxist friends openly say that this step would be harmful for the integrity of the country. This is a very serious matter and a very sensitive issue. Atrocities have been committed there. Hence the State of Uttarakhand should be constituted before 31st March without further delay and hon. Prime Minister should make a statement in this regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get your chance. Please wait.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : He is coming from Assam. He wants to add one sentence.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Ferozepur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the districts of Ferozepur, Gurdaspur and Amritsar. These districts are located at Indo-Pak border. Fencing of the border was done in Punjab around ten years ago. It was the policy of the Central Government that where the border line is uneven, the fencing would be done 50 yards away from the border and where the border line is even, fence would be 150 yards away from it. However, the border fencing agencies set up the fence about two to three kilometres away from the border ignoring the prescribed limit of 50 and 150 yards due to which thousands of acres of land now lies beyond the fence. The gates have been provided in the fence at a distance of two kilometres each. The farmers have to show their identity cards in morning and evening in order to go for work in their fields. They have to get their identity cards checked. Often reed grows in the border fencing and BSF personnel ask the farmers to remove it without paying them any remuneration. Those who refuse to remove reed from the fence have to wait at gates for two hours. This kind of injustice is being done to them. Those who remove grass

[Shri Mohan Singh]

from a around the fence are allowed to pass through the gates Government had formulated this policy also that those farmers, whose land falls beyond the barbed fence, would be given compensation @ Rs. 200 per acre however no compensation has been paid to them by the Central Government so far.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say to the Government that fencing has been done in a wary manner. This fence should have been set up near the border and in accordance with the policy determined in this regard. However, the policy was flouted and fencing was done in an arbitrary manner due to which farmers are facing problems every single day . . . (Interruptions).

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a problem pertaining to the border area. Our employees are working there. In 1992, the former Minister of Home Affairs and presently the Member of Rajya Sabha, Shri S.B. Chavan had promised to pay compensation allowance to the employees working in border area . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should put your point in brief in Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Sir, this is the problem of the employees working in border area, hence I would like to request that their problems should be solved immediately . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an urgent matter of public importance through you. The facility of higher education is not being provided especially for women in Uttar Pradesh. In 1993-94, the Government had taken a decision that it would provide a grant of ten lakh rupees for setting up of Intermediate Girls' Inter College in such areas and districts of Uttar Pradesh where facilities of higher education for women do not exist. It was stated that the funds would be released in two instalments. The Government has released one instalment for the areas where such colleges have been set up however the second instalment has not been released so far. Due to this, the construction of girls' inter college has come to a grinding halt and the colleges which have been set up, have not yet got the permission to hold classes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to release the second instalment for completion of construction work which is stalled as it is a matter pertaining to girls' education. Such colleges, as have already been set up, should be permitted to hold classes. I am making this request to the Central Government because Uttar Pradesh is under the

President's Rule and it is the responsibility of Government to direct the Government of Uttar Pradesh with regard to the problem of girls' education. The construction of Girls' Inter Colleges should be completed and they should start functioning immediately . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the long sufferings of the workers of Metal Box (India) Limited. It has been closed for a very long time and the workers have been suffering. The Calcutta unit has been shut down for nearly 10 years. A number of workers have passed away and to be correct, the figure is 127. Now BIFR had announced a package for rehabilitation in June, 1996. Since then, nine long months have passed and the package has not been implemented. In February this year, the matter come up before the AIFR but the deliberations are inconclusive. Now, the institutions like BIFR and AIFR are there to help the ailing units and suffering workers. It is a matter of regret and concern that decisions take so long and when decisions are taken, are not implemented and the workers continue to suffer.

*SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA (Davanagere) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hail from the State of Karnataka. I, therefore, want to speak in Kannada. The Government of India has several programmes like Rozgar Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana, IRDP, Ganga Kalyana and other programmes for the development of rural areas. There is a separate programme for providing drinking water facilities to the rural people. Funds from the five year plan are provided for implementing the above programmes. Centre is also sending sufficient funds for these programmes. Unfortunately Zila Panchayat officials, Legislative Assembly Members and some local persons decide the mode of utilisation of these funds. They do not bother to consult the members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. There are four members of Parliament in my area and none of them are taken into confidence by the local authorities. This haphazard way of utilisation of funds should come to an end. The representatives of the people in Lok Sabha and members of Rajya Sabha should have a say in the various developmental programmes of the rural areas.

About 60 huts belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were burnt very recently in Bellulli village, Harihar District. We have requested the Centre for providing financial assistance for constructing houses under the scheme Indira Awas Yojana. So far there is no response from the Government of India. We have sent representations to the Hon'ble Minister of Planning Shri Yogendra Kumar Alagh regarding this matter. We have also

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister to come forward and to provide funds for constructing houses for the people who have lost their huts in the fire.

I hope that the Centre would realise the urgency of the matter and release funds for all the programmes mentioned above. Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : You may do whatever you want to . . . (Interruptions) Just tell the hon. Minister what he should do . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever is said in the Zero Hour, it is taken note of by the Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta) : Sir, my colleague, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev has already raised this issue. This is a very grave matter that already 150 cadres of ULFA, NSCN and PLA have entered Assam from Bangladesh border. Extremism is creating a lot of problems in the NE region. The Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Prafulla Kumar Mohanti has also accepted that these people have entered Assam. So, I ask the Home Ministry that while efforts to have a dialogue with the extremists be continued, the Central Government should take other effective measures also so that life and property in the area can be saved and at the same time, the unity and integrity of the country is maintained. Thank you.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : The Minister should react to this.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I will convey the issue which was raised by the hon. Member and Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev to the hon. Home Minister today. I will request him to take immediate and appropriate action in this regard.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, everybody has raised the matter of rise in anarchy in Uttar Pradesh. The Government should have given a reply in this regard but it has not given any reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I had asked them to note it down.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : How would that help ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : They will convey it to the Minister.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Murders, looting, harassment of MPs would continue unabated and the Government will continue nothing it down.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The concerned Ministry of Home Affairs has been informed.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I have already taken note of it. The Chair has made the observation and I will convey it to the concerned Minister.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be assured. That would be done.

[English]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : I honour the observation of the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : The words that have been spoken here tantamount to contempt of the House . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : That may or may not be the case but it is necessary to convey the information to the concerned Ministry and that would be done.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House which I have been raising in the two last Sessions also. This is a case of the dictum that justice delayed is justice denied. There are thousands of people even now who are languishing behind the bar and who have been detained under the TADA of 1987. As a matter of fact, this Act of 1987 has already lapsed on 23.5.1995 . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ahamed, this matter has already been raised.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I will take only two minutes . . . (Interruptions) Sir, I have the right to raise the issue. Thousands of people are languishing behind the bars. They have not been given proper investigation, they have not been given proper prosecution and they have not been given proper care . . . (Interruptions). Sir, what is this ?

MR. CHAIRMAN Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this matter has been raised time and again. How long would they continue raising it ? . . . (Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN : If you say such things, neither you nor they would get the chance to speak. Everyday would follow suit.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I am raising a point about the innocent people who are still languishing behind the bars under the TADA which has elapsed. I would say either they may be tried and found guilty and punished or if they are not found guilty, they should be released. They are not being tried in a proper court of law. Their cases have not been properly investigated. Even the Review Committee which had been set up has not functioned very well. Therefore, I want a statement by the hon. Home Minister which has already been assured.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, the hon. Home Minister has promised a statement on this subject but it has not yet come. When would that statement come? Let us ask the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs when would that statement come. This assurance regarding statement about TADA detenus was given before the House only last week . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given floor to Mr. Yadav.
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Banatwalla, this point has already been made by Shri Ahamed.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Modhepura) : I rise to support it.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : If you are supporting me, I thank you for that. But when is that statement going to come ?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I seek your apology. You had called out Shri Pappu Yadav's name but this is such an urgent matter that I felt compelled to express my views on it. I would like to speak briefly on it. The TADA matter has been raised in the House earlier also. Several innocent people were detained under TADA. When Mulayam Singh Government was in power in Uttar Pradesh, those detained under TADA cases were released. This did not result in spurt in anti-national activities. I am not advocating the case of those detained under TADA but especially in case of Maharashtra, the State Government should be directed to provide relief to the affected people there . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North East): Sir, he has referred to Maharashtra. So please allow me to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not proper that while I am making my submission these Members are on their legs. . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question is that the Home Minister of this Government was to make a statement in the House but Home Minister of this inefficient Government is not doing so. I would like to know the reasons for this ? Sir, please ask him to make a statement here.

[English]

SHRI DWARAKANATH DAS (Karimganj) : Sir, please give me a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : After Shri Pappu Yadav, I will give you the chance.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is Zero Hour. He should also be given a chance.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Home Minister of the country and the Government. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN ; What do you want to say ?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : We are raising this issue in this House time and again. The Government should take immediate steps to release the innocent TADA detenus, who were put behind the bars without any reasons. This issue should be solved permanently. The Government should take stringent action in this regard. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the time of the House is being wasted by raising this issue time and again. They themselves have to take decision on this issue. Again and again they point out towards Maharashtra. At present their party has formed Government in centre then why decision is not taken on it and why time of the House is being wasted ? The dignity of the House is not being maintained. It is a platform to safeguard the criminals . . . (Interruptions). Mr. Chairman, Sir, why this issue is not taken up for discussion in the House when their party is in power it is not proper that the same issue is raised here by the ruling party. I therefore, oppose this . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given the floor to him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given a notice regarding the matter of Naugachhiya in Bihar.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : When will the statement come. . . (Interruptions). Let the issue be not scuttled. The Home Minister has promised to make a statement on this . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear the Minister.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir the Government, on that day also, has categorically said that there would a review by the Union Government, so far as the TADA detenue cases are concerned. The Prime Minister and the Home Minister have categorically said that a review will be made and, whether it is in Maharashtra or Gujarat or anywhere, the Union Government will review all TADA detenue cases.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a boy named Samrathi has been murdered by miscreants in Naugachhiya area of Bihar. When a dharna was staged by workers in Naugachhiya, Barauni and Aurangabad, Police lathicharged and fired at workers. Now situation is that market places and petrol pumps are lying closed and roads are blocked . . . (Interruptions). This matter does not relate to Bihar Government but to S.P. and D.M. of that area. . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : This matter pertains to law and order situation of the State. It should not be raised here in Parliament.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : There is no law and order in Bihar. District president of our party, Shri Gayasuddin Ansari and State President of Youth assembly were arrested in Barauni. People were killed in Patna . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : This subject relates to State, therefore, it cannot be taken up here.*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : There is no one to hear our grievances in the State. Now you are saying that the question regarding law and order relates to the State. Where should we take up such issues? People are being lathicharged and fired at. Market places and petrol pumps are lying closed for last six days in Bihar . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This subject relates to State Government. It cannot be raised here.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I am talking to him. Why are you interrupting ?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, protect me, please. . . (Interruptions). Help me, please.

[Translation]

Miscreants are threatening me. S.P. and the collector are not providing security to me. I have written several letters to the Minister of Home Affairs and the Prime Minister on this issue. I seek your protection. The Government should make arrangements for my safety.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister may take note of it that the hon. Minister may be given protection.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barn) : Pappu Yadav ji has rightly said that there is no law and order in Bihar . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already said about this. Do you want to say anything more on this ?

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I was just listening . . . (Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a senior Member. Now you are speaking in such a manner. . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Sir, an orientation course should be stated for Zero Hour, so that Members could know about it.

[Shri Syed Masudal Hossain]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The situation will not improve even then ?

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been listening to this. On a number of occasions, there was a demand from a section of the people to release the TADA detainees . . . (Interruptions).

13.00 hrs.

There is a demand to release the detainees under the TADA. This matter was discussed in the House on a number of occasion. Every time the finger has been pointed towards the State of Maharashtra. I would like to bring to the notice of the House that hundreds of people have been killed by the explosion of bomb and hundreds of people have become disabled. They have become totally helpless in the city of Mumbai and Maharashtra. No one has got any sympathy for those people who have been affected by the explosion of bomb in the city of Mumbai. But there has been a tremendous demand in respect of persons who have been arrested that they should be released. If they are innocent, I would not insist that they should be detained any further. But they are under trial. When there is a regular hearing in the TADA court and the hearing is going on, it appears to me that the pressure has been put on the case through this august House to release them. There are many activities of ISI in this country. The other day also I had raised this very important matter saying that there was a direct threat to the life of Shri Thakeray and Shri Davod has taken Rs. 9 crore for this assignment. Yesterday, I read in the newspapers that in U.P., ISI agents are active as well all over the country and creating problems everywhere. Not a single person has raised it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is that you want to convey to the Government ?

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I want to say that they are under trial in the TADA court . . . (Interruptions) My appeal is, when the trial is going on, these detainees should not be released by the TADA court . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It was because of the TADA that many innocent people have been detained . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : There are still so many innocent people against whom charge-sheets have not been filed and still they are behind the bar . . . (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel that Shri Banatwalla is supporting the views of ISI. It is really unfortunate if it is so.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The TADA law is an undemocratic law. You can have recourse to the ordinary criminal law of this country . . . (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, they are supporting the ISI and the precious time of the House is being wasted. This issue should be debated in the House comprehensively and the time of House should not be wasted daily like this. The actually TADA offenders should be punished essentially.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Therefore, the hon. Minister has asked to review it.

[English]

Shri Dwaraka Nath Das to speak.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : On 17th, 25 insurgents entered Barak Valley and went to Nagaland, Manipur and North Cachar Hills. The peace and security of the Barak Valley is threatened. The Government of India should look into the matter very seriously . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Banatwalla, the Minister has already clarified that they are going to review it. Why are you again raising it ?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The point is that the TADA law is an undemocratic law. It is grossly misused . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shri Dwaraka Nath Das to speak.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Hundreds of villages are to be electrified in Assam . . . (Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is the reason why the Minister has asked to review it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : There are several villages in my constituency Karimganj where the facility of electrification has not yet been extended.

Moreover, in southern Assam there is heavy load

shedding and still load shedding is going on. So, I request the Government of India, Ministry of Power to extend electrification to SC/ST villages in Assam, particularly the southern Assam. At the same time I would request the Adamtala and Baskande gas based projects to be pressed into service, so that this heavy load shedding there would come to an end at a very early date.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards an important issue. Lakhs of people belonging to 'Meena' community are living in Uttar Pradesh and about 6 lakh people of this community are living in 161 villages of Bulandshahar district. These people have shifted from Rajasthan and now settled in Uttar Pradesh. They are included in the list of Scheduled Tribe in Rajasthan but not given any facility in Uttar Pradesh. This has created resentment among them. In 1993-94 Uttar Pradesh Government had sent a proposal to the Union Government for including them in the list of the STs. A survey report was also enclosed with it. But so far the Union Government has not paid any attention towards it and no decision could be taken on it. This is the reason that lakhs of people are deprived of their right to these facility to which they are entitled.

Sir, through you, I would like to make a demand that the Government should take immediate action for including the 'Meena' community in the list of Scheduled Tribe and provide the facilities for which they are entitled and getting in Rajasthan. The attention of the Government has been drawn towards this problem time and again through questions and everytime an assurance for taking appropriate action is given. I request you that special instructions should be issued to the Government for it 'Meena' community should be included in the list of Scheduled Tribe and given all facilities immediately . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahar) : I would also like to make my submission on this subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please sit down. He has said what was to be said on this subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Sir, injustice is being done with 'Meena' community in U.P. by not including it in the list of Scheduled Tribes . . . (Interruptions) This caste should be considered, Scheduled tribe at the earliest.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Now a days reputation of MPs among common man is dwindling.

Their dignity and faith in them is affected adversely. In view of it, through you I would like to make a demand that setting up of ethics committee should be announced at the earliest in Lok Sabha.

Now a days conduct of an M.P. can be criticised discussed in newspapers, courts and everywhere on roads etc. They can be doubted or can be considered a multi-farious personality but it is not correct that no such ethics committee has been constituted in this House. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you can see the newspapers as well whether it is a matter of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha bribery, St. Kitts case of fictitious signatures or cases of bribery and corruption, MPs are involved in that. Even in Lakhubhai Pathak forgery case, MP is involved . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak on your subject without creating any controversy.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : It does not seem to be correct that the whole world can discuss and criticise the conduct of MPs but no ethics committee is constituted in Lok Sabha. Every institution has its own internal system to control its functioning. As computer programmes and orientation programmes are introduced, in the same way an ethics committee should be constituted essentially to keep their credibility untarnished.

Ethics Committees have been constituted in developed countries like Britain, Australia, America etc. On the 5th March this year, an announcement has already been made for setting up of ethics committee in Rajya Sabha also and Shri Chavan has been appointed president of this Committee. Therefore, through you, I would like to make a demand that in Lok Sabha also ethics committee should be set up at the earliest. Such a stage may not come that the whole world may start pointing fingers towards our MPs and we may still the be hesitant to review their conduct . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Saran district of my area 70 bus passengers have been looted in broad day light at 11 O'Clock . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, all of us are really very serious about the constitution of an Ethics Committee. In the Rajya Sabha, an Ethics Committee has already been constituted by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

This was discussed in the past also. In the Tenth Lok Sabha also this issue was discussed in a meeting with Leaders of Parties. I hope, the hon. Speaker can hold a meeting of the Leaders so that a consensus could be arrived at and we can come to a conclusion on this issue.

[Shri Srikanta Jena]

While speaking so, I would only make this request to all hon. Members. If we cannot conduct ourselves in a disciplined manner. If one hon. Member stands up to say something and ten other hon. Members are also on their legs, it indicates a reflection on our behaviour. It goes out to the people through the television to show how we conduct ourselves in the House. It may be a bitter issue that is being discussed but we have to tolerate ourselves and we have to conduct ourselves in a systematic manner so that we can behave in a proper manner in the House itself. In this, all Leaders of Parties and the Government are equally responsible. We will convene a meeting of all Leaders on this.

13.11 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Eighteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[PROF. RITA VERMA *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Madam, I want to raise a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not now, Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : He has raised the point of order, before you occupy the chair.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Madam, I want to draw your kind attention towards the rule 224.

[English]

"The right to raise a question of privilege shall be governed by the following conditions, namely :

- (i) not more than one question shall be raised at the same sitting;
- (ii) the question shall be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence; and
- (iii) the matter requires the intervention of the House.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rudy jee, the ruling will be given on day after tomorrow. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I am reading the rule. For your kind information, I may tell you . . . *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know your problem. Please sit.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I would like to draw your attention to the enclosed letter of document.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I know your case. The ruling will be given afterward.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Does my notice is in order or not ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not now.

[English]

One can raise it at any point of time.

[Translation]

(Interruptions) I am making efforts for the last three days. At least, please hear my subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not, Please sit down. It is not zero hour.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : It is not a matter for zero hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already said that ruling will be given afterwards.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : If it is not covered under Rule 223, then why should I sit here fully prepared for debate. Please read rule 223. . . *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have said, yours is a Privilege motion, the ruling will be given later on.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Madam, I would be satisfied if I know whether my notice is in order or not and whether it has been accepted or not. For the last four days, I have been trying to know on this point. . . *(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not make a noise. I will give my ruling later on.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Madam, for the last four days. Mr. Speaker was saying that he will give ruling on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can meet the speaker and ask him to give his ruling at an early date. Mr. Rudy, please sit down.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Madam, the matter is so important that I can not leave it undecided . . . (Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rudy, Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Enough is enough. Please sit down.

[Translation]

No body is hearing anything.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The name, I am now calling, will go on record.

14.21 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to provide telephone facilities in rural area of Bhilwara, Rajasthan early**

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA (Bhilwara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of Ministry of communications towards the installation of telephone exchanges in 36 villages in the rural areas of my parliamentary constituency, Bhilwara. There is a demand to instal telephone exchanges in 36 villages. Requisite fees alongwith applications from for about 25-50 applicants have been deposited in the telecommunication department for providing telephone facilities in each villages. But due to non-installation of telephone exchanges then are not provided.

Hence, I request the Hon. Minister of communication to provide telephone facilities in the above rural areas early and to provide equipments for telephone exchanges. We can speed up the economic and social development in the country by providing infrastructure facilities.

* Not Recorded.

- (ii) **Need to release funds to State Government of Madhya Pradesh for providing relief to the drought affected people of the State**

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN (Mahasamund) : Mr. Chairman, Madam, Their is seven drought in Raipur district and its adjacent districts in Madhya Pradesh. The poor and the farmers living in the area have been badly affected by the drought. Orrisa is also affected by drought. The Central Government have provided assistance there. The drought affected districts of Madhya Pradesh are adjacent to Ornsa.

I therefore request the Central Government to release the amount of Rs. 100 crore as demanded by the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh for taking relief measures.

- (iii) **Need to start work on Yamuna Action Plan**

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandani Chowk - Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Madam, the Government had formulated Yamuna Action Plan to clean the Yamuna river, but no effective steps is being taken so far in this regard and River Yamuna is getting polluted day by day. The Government had announced many a times to clean this river and to save it from getting polluted.

Religious sentiments of crores of people of the country is hurt as a result of delay in cleaning the Yamuna river. Therefore it is essential that Central Govt. should take immediate concute steps to save the river from pollution and implement the scheme that was evolved for cleaning the river.

I demand from the Govt. to take immediate concute steps in this regard so that river can be saved from pollution.

[English]

- (iv) **Need to Release Remaining Amount Under Watershed Scheme to Kakinada Parliamentary Constituency (Andhra Pradesh)**

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA (Kakinada) : Sir, day by day, the environmental pollution is increasing and, at the same time, the diseases are increasing. The population is also increasing. The Government has to provide some kind of livelihood to the people affected by them. To solve these two problems, the Government has introduced watershed scheme. The main purpose of this scheme is to grow mango trees, cashew trees and other trees on the tops of the hills. In my constituency, trees are planted on many tops of the hills. Many people, who were given land *pattas*, come forward to plant the trees on the tops of the hills. They have already put in Rs. 36 lakh worth of labour force and other inputs but the Government has released only Rs. 6 lakh. So, the remaining amount may also be released to help the poor people.

[Shri T. Gopal Krishna]

I also request the Union Government to extend the watershed scheme to more places and increase the facilities and give help to the under privileged.

[Translation]

(v) Need to amend suitably the environment laws so as to ensure implementation of development projects

SHRI LALIT ORAON (Whardaga) : Consequent upon the Supreme Court's decision on conservation of forests, the very continuance of the projects in Vananchal region in Bihar is in trouble. The people have to suffer from their basic facilities. Permission for the schemes pertaining to roads, canals, telephones lines, water supply and electricity lines passing through the forests are not being accorded. Forest is a nature gift to mankind, and its conservation is our duty but forest conservation Act is becoming a curse for Vananchal region. All the developmental work become stand still.

I, therefore request the Government to make environmental Laws flexible for the developmental schemes, so that implementation of these schemes could be ensured.

(vi) Need to re-open spinning mill, Marella Akbarpur in Ambedkar Nagar district, U.P.

SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR (Akbarpur): Mr. Chairman, Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Marella Akbarpur spinning mill where lock-out has been continuing since 11th June 1990. Our district Ambedkar Nagar is already a backward one. There is only one industry in the district and even then lock-out has been made this district is becoming backward. Since the lock-out by management and workers were force fully evicted from the mill, the four thousand employees and about twenty thousand persons dependent on them are on the verge of starvation.

Madam Chairman, through you, I demand' that this spinning mill Marella Akbarpur may be reopened and all the irregularities committed after 4th May, 1990 may be investigated by a judicial commission.

14.29 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—1997-98

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT
(GENERAL) – 1997-98

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS –
GENERAL – 1996-97

AND

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS
GENERAL – 1994-95 contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri L. Balaraman.

*SHRI L. BALARAMAN (Vandavasi) : Madame Chairperson, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Union Budget for the year 1997-98. On behalf of the United Front Government, Hon'ble Thiru. P. Chidambaram, our Finance Minister has submitted the Budget this year. I am here to welcome this Budget and my party joins with me in doing so.

As far as this august House is concerned, for many a times, right from the beginning, from the time when 'the light of Asia'. Late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, our first Prime Minister was there, Tamil Nadu had played a significant role through the Finance Ministers from there. Late Shri R.K. Shanmugam Chettiar was the Finance Minister in Nehruji's Cabinet. Later on Late Shri T.T. Krishnamachari was our Finance Minister. Later on, Thiru. C. Subramaniam and Thiru R. Venkatraman were there as our Finance Ministers. Now we have Thiru. P. Chidambaram holding the Finance portfolio.

The Budget presented by Hon'ble Thiru. P. Chidambaram is a welcome budget in the sense that it is welcomed by all the people from various sections of the society. The features of the budget are quite welcome and the criticism against the Budget are far less. Hon'ble Thiru. P. Chidambaram has presented his second budget in the Eleventh Lok Sabha in an appreciable way.

On the one side we find criticism that economic growth may not be achieved through this Budget. But at the same time we find the accolades the Budget gets from the industrialists and common people and appreciated by them all. Even the earlier Governments with absolute majority in this House could not submit a Budget of this kind. That was the situation then.

Tamil Meenila Congress (Moopanar) Party is one among the 13 parties that have formed a Government at the Centre. Thiru P. Chidambaram is a member of the TMC Party which is a constituent party of the ruling United Front. Through our Hon'ble Thiru. P. Chidambaram we have contributed our role. The Budget presented by our beloved Thiru. P. Chidambaram ensures the stability of this Government. It also stabilises our economy. We are very happy about this. We feel proud and we are proud of him.

In this multifaceted Budget that has several aspects, he has increased allocations to many sectors and ensured subsidies to the areas where they are required. This balancing act of his is considered a big feat and people are amazed and admire him for this. Cut in duties and reduction in taxes have been announced. These cuts are not normally made by any Government. But Thiru. P. Chidambaram has managed to bring down the tax rates. He has also indicated that there will be effective finance management and thereby an efficient Administration.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Now we find ourselves in a position to appreciate this welcome Budget that could ensure economic development. He had stated in his Budget that the Gross Domestic Product had come down to 6.8% from 7.2% of the previous year. Now he had prepared his Budget in such a way that our economic growth rate will get an impetus and the hopes for an increase in the GDP is high. Industrial growth rate that had come down from 11.7% to 9.8% is poised for an upward trend again. Likewise growth rate for agriculture that had fallen from 4.9% to 3.3% is expected to see its rise again through rational allocation of funds through grants, subsidies and credit facilities. When our growth rate is 6.8% and at a time when sliding trend is seen in certain other sectors, he has given a Budget that gives us hope.

Inadequate power supply would hamper the industrial growth. He has rightly reminded the people of the country that the shortage of power might reduce industrial growth rate. He has attempted to provide for increasing the power generation.

He has pointed out that our foreign debts have come down from 9900 crores of dollars to 9220 crores of dollars. He has saved the country from the debt trap.

He has also introduced a new literacy and special education scheme for the girl child. When we think of women's education we must also think of child labour. In order to curb the child labour, our Hon'ble Labour Minister is contemplating several legislations. He is enacting several laws to put an end to this child labour. Girls are the most affected in this exploitative child labour. The new scheme envisaged by the Finance Minister paves way for a social change and social transformation to render social justice. The upliftment of women through education is a well thought out programme. This should be further strengthened by introducing compulsory education upto certain level. Unless and otherwise it is done, programmes for girl-child-education and abolition of child labour would not be yielding results. I would like to remind our Government of this reality.

Basic Minimum programme to benefit the rural poor gets an allocation of about Rs. 3300 crores. The people who live below poverty line are about 70% of the total population. We are taking several steps and measures to change this situation. Creating job opportunities for the rural poor, self-employment and training programmes for the youth, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana are among the many poverty alleviation programmes that are continued to be implemented. We ensure change with continuity. But at the same time the ever continuing problems of the poor should go permanently. Effective steps in this direction in the social sector should reach the poor. I request the Government to accord priority to wipe out the tears of the poor once and for all.

When we talk of the poor and poverty, we must also take into consideration the widening gap of growth between the urban and rural areas. In search of a livelihood to earn their bread the rural poor work hard. They also move towards urban areas. Because industrial units are set up mostly in urban areas. Be it the Union Government or be it the State Government, the policy remains the same to promote industries in the urban towns and cities. If we are to ensure rural development and rural poverty alleviation, we must share the Gandhian thought to set up industrial units in villages. This should not remain merely on paper, it should be translated into action. There are certain things like inadequate infrastructure facilities come in the way of setting up industrial units in rural areas. Government should come forward to effect a shift in focussing industrial growth. I request the Government to create a conducive atmosphere and then alone the lot of the poor especially from the rural areas could be improved.

Rs. 3300 crores of allocation for poverty alleviation must reach the needy and rural poor the – intended beneficiaries. They should get the benefit completely. We must take care to see that there is a proper mechanism. We must ensure that the entire allocation meant for the poor is not misused anywhere else. The Government must have an appropriate control and monitoring mechanism. Otherwise our efforts will only go in vain. As such we find certain lacunae here and there. The Government must take steps to plug the loopholes. You must create a right kind of environment. There should be proper check and balance and monitoring mechanism.

When we want to help the poor and the needy, we provide for several grants and subsidies. These funds flow through our nationalised banks. There was a time when the managers and the administrators of the banks were men of integrity. Now corruption is rampant among many of them. Integrity is lacking in good number of them. Now we find that they distribute the aid and loans meant for the poor only after getting their undue share or cut from the beneficiaries. I am to request the Finance Minister to ensure that this Rs. 3300 crores reach the rural poor intact. This must not grow into a big problem.

Subsidy for fertilisers and foodgrains have been increased. Most of the fertiliser manufacturing units in India come under the public sector undertakings. Their production costs are always on the increase. The benefits of these subsidies go mainly to these fertiliser units. Of course there are many problems to give these subsidies to the farmers directly. At times the problems faced by the small and marginal farmers are more and they may not have adequate resources and inputs. The Government must prevail upon these public sector undertakings to bring down the manufacturing costs. We must also devise ways

[Shri L. Balaraman]

and means to distribute these subsidies directly to farmers. You must create proper atmosphere to bring about this change.

The fund allocation for the highways development in the infrastructure sector has gone upto Rs. 500 crores from Rs. 200 crores in the previous year. This is a welcome change. As far as road accidents are concerned, it gives us real concern to note that India tops the list at the international level. Statistical datas reveal that the incidents of road accidents are more in Tamil Nadu than in any other State in India. In order to change the trend, Government must take effective steps like widening the roads and laying durable strong roads. I would like to highlight the figures of road accidents in the Madras-Banagalore National Highways. Almost everyday road accidents do occur and it is said that there is a death of one person for every kilometre of the total length of the road. What could be done to avert and bring down the road accidents ? Rs. 500 crores might be spent on maintenance. Alternative plans to ensure road safety should be contemplated. State Government should cooperate with the Centre, while the Centre comes forward to help the State Government in all possible ways to improve this infrastructure facility.

About Rs. 15,770 crores of rupees have been allocated for social sector and social welfare programmes. These are channelised through various schemes. They must be restructured, streamlined and improvised. If we think of social sector beneficiaries, most of them live in villages. They should be rendered justice and given their due.

Again I would like to stress upon the need to ensure the beneficiaries, the rural poor really getting the benefits. I request the Finance Minister to be cautious and be watchful in this social expenditure to avoid its becoming wasteful. I would like to remind the Finance Minister of his added responsibility here.

New concessions announced in the rural housing schemes are measures that are to be welcomed. This is meant for the poorest of the poor in the villages. The rural poor get a roof – a shelter and these kinds of social measures would bring in a social transformation.

NABARD gets an increased allocation of Rs. 500 crores. This will greatly benefit the farming sector. This is a progressive move. This would help the rural development process to gain momentum.

We find the foreigners and the western economists appreciating this year's Union Budget. Our economy is moving in a right direction. The Central revenue collection has increased by about 16%. Direct taxes like corporate tax, personal income, customs and excise duties would

fetch a revenue 16% more than the previous year. This is a welcome move.

The administration should be free from corruption and this can be done only by way of streamlining the administrative powers that are vested with the bureaucracy. This can be effected through decentralisation and paying allocated funds directly to the Panchayats to carry out microlevel planning in every rural unit. The urban population is only 30% whereas rural population in 70%. The Government owes it to the rural people to improve their lot and help them to improve their living standards. The fund allocation should also be proportionate to both the urban and the rural population. I hope our Finance Minister would consider this and try to adopt it when he prepares next year's Budget.

Economic liberalisation is the need of the hour. Then alone we can widen our economic base. Panchayats and village people should get enhanced allocation. When late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was our Prime Minister, his plans envisaged direct allocation of funds to Panchayats at the grass root level. Based on that we could streamline the democratic form of Government right from the Panchayat upto the Parliament at the national level. Panchayati Raj system mean this. This alone would give impetus to rural development..

In order to add new vigour and dynamism to our agro-economy our Finance Minister of should come forward to allocate more funds to social sector especially rural sector. Agriculture is the basis of our economy. The country depends on its growth through expansion and modernisation.

I hope our Finance Minister would consider the needs of the farming and rural community and would introduce several new schemes and projects for the uplift of the poor especially the rural poor who are much deprived even in poverty.

Multinationals intrude our economy through several ways and means. For instance, Tissue culture technology is there. Industrialists venture into these modern agro-production methods. They take away the Governmental subsidies meant for promoting modernised agriculture related activities. These subsidies are basically aimed at benefiting directly the farming community especially able and informed farmers who are progressive. But these subsidies are now going to industrialists. They may go directly to foreign investors and multinational giants. Crores of rupees would go to them. Government must look into it and nip it at the bud.

I fervently hope our Hon'ble Finance Minister would take more steps to keep our farmers happy. I wish he takes steps to create a better atmosphere for the farming community to grow and thrive. Welcoming and supporting

the Budget both on my behalf and on behalf of my party Tamil Maanila Congress, let me conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, once it so happened in 1985 that I was holding parleys with some of the friends of the then Primiere. One of them told me that nothing could be done for 50 per cent hopeless people of India and therefore we should give up thinking about them. Now if 10 per cent people out of remaining 50 per cent people are entertained well, then it becomes easy reach 40 per cent people. Then he come to election and came to the conclusion that if these 10 per cent people are served well, then one can run the State very smoothly. Such talks we had. When I expressed my resentment on such thinking and condemned the way of thinking of the people running the country. But at that time I did not have even the ghost of the idea that his opinion, which he expressed in 1985 would be followed by the United Front Government in the beginning of 1997 but I am sorry to say that with the support of CPI and CPM such policy would be introduced through the budget. Which would keep out not 50% but 70-80 per cent people out of its ambit

14.49 hrs.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR *in the chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the budget brought by Hon's Finance Minister and Prime Minister declaration has been made mainly in favour of 10% people of the country and then obviously the multinational would also be included with them as the local as well as foreign people related to them would also be benefited with it. But it would be great illusion if one thinks that this budget has been made for common people. You have reduced the custom duties and then help the foreign companies to flourish their trade in the country. You reduced the excise tarrif with a view that if some taxes are reduced then our people would be able to compete with the foreign countries but the reduction in excise duty made no difference and the foreigners have made their hold here in the country. One man or a singal company was hold 60-65 percent trade of cold drinks in the country. One multinational company purchased it for 60-70 million dollars, or say Rs. 180 crores approximately and liquidated it. I don't think that with reduced excise duty we will become capable of competing with foreign companies products but the worst that you have done is that you have opened the insurance sector for foreigners. For this you have used the words very cunningly but do your pranks where they work. You can not entice us with them. I am addressing my leftist friends specially, who is their zeal were terming this budget as a pro-pooors in their over enthusiasm. Here I would like to narrate a came's

story. The Finance Minister, in other worlds the Government has taken an initiative by handing over the entire insurance industry and the SEB under the control of foreigners. Even if all the Ministers of the Government come out with folded hands and assures that such thing would not happen, that will have no credibility at all because earlier also this thing was said in Dabos. They made promises where ever they had a chance to talk to foreigners. That's why we lend to credibility to the statements made by the Government, inside or outside the House. You gave success to elite class. The relief given to affluent people and the foreigners will cause a deficit of Rs. 30-32 thousand crores to the exchequer. The Government would have enriched its exchequer if they had not done this tax arrangement.

Sir, I would like to tell the Minister that clever manipulations should not be made in the budget. Better if we had given a clear cut policy to the nation through the budget and had told them about its consequences. You took some decisions regarding Income tax, Excise and Custom due to which our exchequer is sustain of loss the extent of which have not been assessed by you, nor you mentioned about it in the budget. You must have mentioned that. You have tried to enlite the people by not mentioning about it. You made no mention of oil pool, we don't ask you to impose more taxes to the tune of Rs. 16,000 crores or of Rs. 20 crore after the expiry of the month. Rather we would ask for no taxation at all. I do not want to mention about other States. The Government is aware of the fact that in Maharashtra and Gujarat people are minting money by indulging in wrong practices, such as giving threatenings to the Ministers. The oil Mafia tried to get one Minister killed by paying assassins Rs. 5 crores. We are aware of it. I have also taken a strong stand on this issue. I have good relations with workers. I have fully apprised the Government in this regard on behalf of trade Unions. After giving this information to the Government, one of our colleague had to take police protection for six months. Still he sleeps with a revolver under his pillow, we know where the money is.

As for the oil sector, it is essential to check the earning spree of the oil companies. Tomorrow you will have Rs. 20 thousand crores at your threshold but you will not do that becuse you brought a programme 'Dhobighat'. You have stated in the budget that you are going to enact a legislation to check laundering of money but where is that piece of legislation, you are about to indulge in laundering. The cost is 30 percent,. If washing costs Rupee one, then 30 paise has leave aside 30 paise. Charge 60-70 paise and after washing carry away a clean bundle. This is what you did. I am not asking for a increase in taxes. I know you will raise them. Perhaps the same thing you want to hear from the people. One day very cunning by you will say that all the economists, members of opposition and

[Shri George Fernandes]

leaders are asking you about the future of oil pool. That is why, agreeing to all of them I have come here to get this increase materialised.

You would say that the entire world is aware of it. At that time also I will ask you to check this looting in the western India. You need not borrow a single paise. You misguided the middle class people by telling them that you are going to set every thing right for them and have brought it to 10 per cent. I want to bring one thing to the notice of the House, that is section 80 of the Finance Bill is worth reading. So for the excise used to be levied on liquor, cigarettes etc. at the factory gate but now the act has been amended. This amendment will empower the Government to levy excise directly on retail rate after giving a notification in official dossier. It suggests that Section 4(A) be added after Section 4 of the Central Excise Act, 1944, i.e. in Section 80 of this Finance Bill. The middle class people of the country should listen to it. It reads as follows.

[English]

'For the purpose of this section, 'retail sale price means the maximum price at which the excisable goods in packaged form may be sold to the ultimate consumer and includes all taxes local or otherwise, freight, transport charges, commission payable to dealers and all charges towards advertisement, delivery, packing, forwarding and the like, as the case may be.

Explanation (2) : Where on any excisable goods more than one retail price is declared, the maximum of such retail price shall be deemed to be the retail price for the purposes of this section."

15.00 hrs.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, So far excise on drugs used to be assessed on factory gate itself on the basis of which manufacturing cost used to be assessed. Now of this act is passed and the prices of drugs are notified accordingly, then you will have to bear the amount spent on press advertisements and hoardings etc. showing boys and girls dancing. Tax relaxations have been given. By these means you have made all arrangements to charge more money. If you don't do that, you will tell that but you have taken arms in your hands. You can not deny this thing, as I have read out your own legislation to you. This budget has tried to allure and confuse the people. I would like to know from the Minister as to what efforts were made to move this Bill. Today or perhaps yesterday I read in a newspaper that an Ambassador asked someone as to why 40% tax and 45% corporate tax imposed on the rich has been reduced to 30%. That persons had no reply to this query.

Then the Ambassador said as to where was the need to borrow money from other countries on lesser and concessional rate of interest in future ? He also said that probably no other instance would be found throughout the world where the upper class have been placed in 30 percent tax bracket. Certain elements in western countries like U.S.A. who wish to impose their policies throughout the world are shooting such orders to persons who are a part of this House and this Government. From Davos to New Delhi, this step is being appreciate. But tell me about the income tax levied on higher level people in U.S.A.. Hon'ble Minister should be aware of it. In U.S.A. such a tax stands at 39.6% at the maximum at higher levels and maximum corporate tax is 38.9%. Not only this, the States levy their own income tax. For example California may be the richest State in U.S.A. but New York is most renowned state where a number of people are involved in court cases. I raised this matter in the House but nobody pays any attention to it. In New York, personal income tax for corporation and individual stands at 8 to 8.5 percent and corporate tax is 39.6% and 38.9%. If we add them up, it comes to 47% and here the limit is 30%.

15.02 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, India is a poor country. Those who are rich or have some means should contribute some money to the exchequer and this is the purpose of levying tax that they should be making the contribution. If they make money in this country, they should make the contribution also. But Hon'ble Minister is unable to understand this basic purpose. Which is the country in the world that has served as his model and what instance the Hon'ble Minister has kept in mind while announcing a reduction in taxes. The matter does not end here. We said that a laundry has been opened. I am not concerned whether clothes would be washed there or the money would be laundered. At this, they will say that it has been done earlier also. Such a reply is given. It is no reply at all. You are reminding the nation again and again not to be honest, for, the honest are punished and the dishonest are rewarded. You have re-iterated once again that if one turns dishonest leaving honesty, he would be given all sorts of facilities. When Hon'ble Minister would rise to give a reply, he would speak very cleverly.

[English]

Section 63 of the Finance Bill says :

"Subject to the provisions of this Section. . . the net wealth chargeable to wealth tax for any assessment year for which he has failed to furnish return under Section 14 of the Wealth Tax."

[Translation]

Which, in other words, means that if money was earned in a certain year but was not shown in the returns filed that year, may be laundered now. This issue is not limited to laundering of money but even gold or other assets can also be laundered in this manner. The biggest pull off is being observed in case of gold. Today the rate of gold is Rs. 5127 per 10 grams whereas the price of gold was Rs. 1220 per 10 grams in 1979. Those who have the hidden stock of gold, which might have been purchased last year or 10 years ago or even earlier, will not have to answer any questions. One may say that he has not maintained any Account books. Nobody would ask any questions about it and there is no need to say anything. The only thing which one has to say is that this gold was purchased in this particular year and that year could be 1979 and then one would have to pay only Rs. 366 for laundering that gold even if the price of gold is Rs. 5127 per 10 grams now. Hence one may launder gold worth more than 5000 rupees by giving only Rs. 366. One may even encash it the very next day in order to purchase certain other item.

When you are making such sort of arrangement, I fail to understand as to how that is going to benefit the nation. Leave aside the issue of development, the Government seems to be conveying this message to the scrupulous persons that they should leave aside their honesty and earn money unscrupulously. We are showing them a way to be honest once every five years. Hence, I strongly oppose the proposal mooted by the Government.

I feel very sorry when I see such steps being taken in the name of development of nation. As Hon'ble Minister would shield himself by saying that he'll try to raise money in whatever manner possible or he will say that Jyoti Basu had put such a proposal or the Left parties had put this proposal. Now, I am not aware of the proposal put by Shri Jyoti Basu of whether any such proposal was forwarded or not. May be there is some committee. He might be aware of it. I do not know anything about it but I have definitely read in the newspapers. I do not know anything about that proposal and such a proposal should not have been forwarded by Left parties. But if they wanted to implement that proposal, he should have announced it here. If he wishes to take all these steps in the name of development, I would like to ask Hon'ble Minister that if you have mentioned the point of employment generation in budget, which is the area wherein you propose to generate employment. As the Minister of Finance, you have announced adoption of the same policy as you'd proposed during your tenure as the Minister of Commerce which means that you do not wish to leave your past behind. You are still attached to your past.

You were the Chief Advocate of the new economic policy which was introduced in the country in 1991. The

Economic survey laid on the Table this year reveals that in the last four years, i.e. from 1991 to 1996, in all 2,56,000 employment opportunities were generated in public undertakings which includes all the employment opportunities under the Central Government, State Government, Semi-Government and Public Sector Undertakings, under local bodies. This figure does not include industrial employment figures for they are covered under separate head. There the number of job opportunities have gone down. As you are aware that all the public sector companies, are closing down. A total of 2,56,000 employment opportunities have been generated under departmental undertakings whereas 2,13,000 employment opportunities have been generated under Private Sector. If anybody tells me that even while eliminating public sector companies, employment opportunities are being generated by inviting private companies of foreign companies, the truth is that only 2,13,000 employment opportunities have been generated in private sector. Spread over four years, the figure would stand at 1,17,000 employment opportunities generated per annum under both the public and private sector. If we deduct the figures pertaining to the public sector and take into account the figure of 2,13,000 employment opportunities, an average of 40-50 thousand employment opportunities have been generated per year in the private companies in these five years under your policies.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what else is the Government going to do. One should see as to where the country is headed under these policies. I have held the charge of Ministry of Railways and I have a very close relationship with the railway workers. Everybody knows as to what is the current situation regarding employment in that sector. In the last two years, the Government has abolished 38,000 posts in Railways. This is very much clear in the budget papers. Otherwise also, a large number of posts have been abolished in Railways during last five years. Now this system has been set into motion that employment opportunities are being contained which is giving rise to helplessness and poverty. Consequently, according to the budget presented by the government, 70,537 new recruitments have been made in the police services. 70,573 persons have joined Central Police services. More recruitment will have to be made as some people must have retired also. On one hand, the Government is giving rise to unemployment and generating hopelessness and on the other hand, the number of police personnel is being increased. This has been going on for the last five years and they are still following the same policy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am quoting this data here and I would like to say to the Minister that the day the budget was presented here, I had commented that much more is being concealed than what has been revealed in these papers. The Government has recruited 70,000 police personnel. Last time the original budget estimate was Rs. 4368 crores which was revised to Rs. 4511 crores. Now that the number of police personnel has gone up by

[Shri George Fernandes]

70,000, the budget this year is Rs. 4468 crores which means that the budget has gone down whereas the number of personnel has gone up by 70,000. So, whether the Government has decreased the pay? If the number of people is increased and pay is given to them, the amount of money kept aside for paying salaries should also increase whereas the amount mentioned in budget papers is lesser than last year. The Government thinks as to who will go through the papers so minutely. Their strategy is to keep on speaking, show some data and then do whatever they feel like. Who is there to keep a check on them. As was done last year also. This year, the figure given under Plan Investment in budget has gone down by ten thousand crore rupees in comparison to last year's budget. The amount has been reduced under all the heads but nobody enquired about it. Now is the time to make an enquiry but how would that help? Hence I would like to ask the Minister as to which are the other departments wherein this sort of discrepancy exists as I have detected in case of police department that the requisite funds not released?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, their economic policies are leading us to a different direction. The Prime Minister of this Government is holding a document in his hands which has been presented here by several Members during the last two-three days. The coastal land was acquired, procured by any means and then prone cultivation started there. Then the Supreme Court gave its verdict in this regard. We have come to know that now they are trying to violate that verdict and to avoid its follow up. You are thinking a lot in this regard. The outcome of all your policies and thinking is that the small artisans, fishermen, weavers and the common men who however, take out their livelihood find no mention in this Budget, no provisions have been made for them. Don't tell us that you have allocated crores of Rupees for a particular item, as the truth is that a sequence has been started to liquidate the entire industry. We want that investment be made in this entire sector and in other sectors as well. You please explain in the House the reasons which prompted you not to invest in these sectors.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one thing more, regarding which we positively want a reply from the Minister today itself. We were told in 1991 that the entire policy aims at boosting exports.

'Export or perish,' this slogan railed the air in India. You gave the slogan that export has to be increased. Now tell me in which field export were increased. You claimed in your budget that India can become a super power. But in which field. We can become super power or a major power in the field of computer softwares, Hardwares, I think

you have written the super power.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have seen in the Government documents that till January, this year, or till December during the last year the electronics goods worth Rs. 2,137 crores or 481 million dollars were exported from India. As for the Computer softwares, their export has been to the tune of Rs. 167 crores, i.e. 47 million dollars. One per Bill Gate come here who was received here with much of fanfare, that it was a shameful display of our weakness. Will you run after a man who makes money by any means. There are various means of earning money in the world. I think the Prime Minister want after him up to Bombay. Here he was treated in such a way as if he were a man from some another planet, It appeared as if without seeing him, without greeting him with talded hands, without making a request to do something in our country . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : For several day we did not forget the hand.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : We export to the tune of Rs. 47 million of which you boast so much. Our primary products, agricultural and allied products constitute 29 percent of our total exports and 50 percent of this is comprised of fish, Basmati rice, non-basmati rice, wheat, Coffee, cashew, tea and oils.

So far as manufactured goods are concerned, I have told you how we are befooling the entire passing our selves as a Super power in the filed of electronic goods, Computer software etc.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in all we have four items of export, rather I should say two items i.e. Gems and jewellery. Uncut dimonds are brought and polished here and then exported. We also export ornaments, cotton, woolen, man made fabrics and ready made garments. These two items from the 50 percent of our manufactured goods, exports. It is worth 9 billion out of 17 billion. This is the position. Here we claim that we are making all these exports just for advancement of people. What are your developmental achievements. Then they start befooting and misleading the people, their Budget includes grants. You have a cursory glance of it and see their calculations. He has written that Rs. 767 crores are being granted. for National Social Assistance programme. Rs. 700 crore has been sanctioned for 82 lakh people, which means each family gets Rs. 2 per day. This is our programme but this too has not reached my constituency. It will reach your area next time so far it has been launched in his area. I am telling you as an example that they are getting only Rs. 2 per family. He was all pride while declaring that a sholarship is being granted. Rs. 65 crore are being disbursed among 22,456 students, i.e. Rs. 23 per month to each student.

Go in the market. There you won't get even a cup

of tea for Rs. 23, not to talk of a square meal with this amount. We are giving so much monthly scholarship to them, I am telling you all this as an example, if I go on dwelling on all such things, then I will have to continue my speech till morning of day after tomorrow which is not possible.

I want to conclude my speech after dwelling upon two points. First, they befool us in the matter of inflation. Nothing is left for saying as far as the price hike during the last five years is concerned. But I felt very much puzzled when I found that there has been 120 per cent increase in the price of salt. Leave aside wheat, rice, vegetables, fruits and pulses; take this singular item only. Now tell me how a poor person can survive in these circumstances. You have not said anything about it in your Budget. After all what can you say ?

I have a copy of the answer to a question which was raised by me on 11th March. In that I had asked.

[English]

"What is the *per capita* expenditure being incurred on the dietary and other needs of the prisoners in the Tihar jail ?"

The answer was :

The expenditure on meeting dietary and other needs of the prisoners is of the order of Rs. 42.60 per day.

Rs. 42.60 per day is the dietary and related expenditure !

[Translation]

Where there is a free house, water, electricity and television, there is no expenditure. No overhead expenditure is there. All goes directly into their stomach. If the Government spends Rs. 42.60 on each jail bird, then what about the expenditure done on the people of this country and the Government employees. Please calculate this amount and leave all other things aside. 45x30x12, that mean to feed a family Rs. 60,000 are required per month; and that too just for the diet which is given to a convicts in the jails. We want to know whether the Minister ever thinks about all these things. He thinks of all these or just confines to thinking about Daos only. He is mindful of only those who bring multinational Companies here in this Country, with the help of which you want to build this nation. This shows that you are concerned about only 2.5 percent to 10 percent people only. Will you ever think about all these things. Everyday Members point out that rail passengers have been looted in Bihar, or in M.P. Why the dacoits will not loot the trains ? What else they will do except looting of trains. You are not creating employment opportunities. Instead you are wiping out the jobs. You are not reducing the inflation, rather increasing the prices day by day. You are not ready to think about the poor. If we

raise any thing about the poors, they say they are professional in pleading the interests of the poor as they fill their bellies by talking about the poors. They insult us. Who you are thinking about ? For whom you are doing all this. Therefore, after having undergone lot of harassment we are putting forth all these facts before the Ministers. There is a report of National Council for Applied Economic Research, It is being circulated through out the world. Earlier its circulation was confined to India only the others might not have seen it earlier. . . . (Interruptions). Recently I saw it, mention in the newspapers world wide. As per this report 80 percent of our people – make assessment treating a family as an unit – one living with an income of Rs. 40,000 per family on an average and have comparatively shorter life span. The Minister, the Government and my leftists comrades are banking on one single slogan of secularism and such secularism is nothing but merely a secular loot, secular laundering of black money. If you are making them instrumental in doing all these things, then it is my humble request to you to postpone the Controversy of secularism versus fundamentalism for some other occasion and at least give up of the association of such people as one engaged in deliterating the poor people of this country . . . (Interruptions).

The last point is about the Defence and I often dispute on it. With this I am concluding.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not disputing that he is a senior Member. But he has taken 42 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding. It seems that my point will lost in this dispute . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you disturbing him. Now he is going to conclude.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I generally avoid to take up issues pertaining to Defence. But last year at the time of discussion on the grants of this department, I spoke on corruption and oppression prevailing in military I tried to uncover this fact in this House but so far no action has been taken to improve the situation. It is a separate issue and I am not taking it now. I would like to point out that in the current budget injustice has been done to military and related persons. Injustice has been done to them in two ways. One by the pay commission. I was not aware of the fact that an I.A.S. Officer has been inducted in this commission, which should have not been done. Now-a-days except for one's own interest, no one thinks about the welfare of the country

[Shri George Fernandes]

or society. It is considered that now a days budget is prepared in the interest of 2½ percent of total population and every person think about the welfare of his own category. While preparing report of the Pay Commission, a Committee of 5 or 6 secretaries was set up and they have given their recommendations in favour of their own category. You can say anything to them and do injustice because they are in uniform and cannot speak but you cannot stop them for a long time. This situation should be improved. Not only for military, but justice should be done to police personnel and people engaged in other departments, especially in the matters of recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission.

Secondly, I would like to say something about the funds allocated for defence in the current budget. While making announcement in this regard hon. Minister has given assurance that more funds will be allocated if and when required. This all showed that enough funds have been allocated for defence. A total sum of Rs. 35,620 crore were allocated for defence budget. The revised estimate of previous year was Rs. 29,498 crore, it means that the budget allocation was increased by Rs. 6122 crore or 20 percent. Now out of this total increase of Rs. 6122 crore, Rs. 3620 crores are meant for additional expenditure to be incurred on implementation of Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations, Rs. 837 crore are supposed to be spent on other services, dearness allowance and annual increment of defence personnel and Rs. 32 crore for pension of ex-servicemen, this all amounts to be Rs. 4489 crore. It means that actually only Rs. 1633 crore have been increased. I would like to make my submission that hon. Minister should not take the defence matters so lightly and appropriate steps should be taken to improve the situation at the earliest.

In the end, I would like to urge to this House that the system of launching schemes and programmes in the name of dead or renewed living persons or leaders should be stopped like the Nehru Rozgar Yojana, Indira Awas Yojna, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna and Prime Minister's Yojna. I do not understand that why a scheme has been launched in the name of Prime Minister, then why the government or cabinet has been constituted. Why not the scheme should be in the name of the President, Defence Minister, Finance Minister and Governors of a State. I knew that it is due to the reasons of politics of votes. These people are manipulating to win the votes by using the name of dead leaders of their party. It is not correct for the democratic system. Worship of dead or living persons is not in the interests of democratic system. I therefore, request you for suspending this tradition to save the democracy in the country.

With these words, I conclude and oppose this budget.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, budget is the mirror of the policies and intentions of any Government. The present Government is a motley crowd of 13 political parties of different policies, ideology and intentions. We cannot achieve goods results with different policies and intentions. The same is the case with this budget. The hon. Minister of Finance has presented the current budget in an attractive and delusive manner. This budget seems to be good and attractive but it is going to cause inflation, price rise, unemployment and further deteriorate our economic system. The country is facing economic crisis at present. In spite of various proposals and announcements made by the Government, neither the external and domestic investment is increasing nor NRIs are coming here. In such a situation how economy will be improved. Budget proposals do not reveal that at all. This budget can be called a spider's web and has created confusion.

Hon. Minister of Finance has made announcement that inflation will be curbed by this budget but it does not seem to be feasible. The way in which the planned and non-planned expenditure has been shown in the budget it does not seem possible that he will be able to control the market or balance the earnings and expenditure in the budget.

I would like to draw your attention towards two points of this budget. During his budget speech, hon. Minister of Finance has made announcement that foodgrain production will be increased by 191 crore tonne and secondly he proposed to provide additional Rs. 2486 crore to states for seven minimum basic amenities like 'Jeevan Suraksha' 'Jan Arogya Beema Yojna', 'Twarit Sinchai' etc. The details given in this regard are illusory and created a confusion. In 1996-97 the budget estimate for agriculture was Rs. 2831 crore which has increased upto 2971 crore in this year. In view of price rise of commodities in market, inflation and other economic developments, this increase cannot be considered effective and appropriate. It is just a meagre increase. In the same way in the budget for 1996-97 a provision for Rs. 7520 crore was made for Rural Development which has increased just to Rs. 7691 crore in the present budget.

The allocation under irrigation and Flood control has been reduced from 1248 crore rupees to Rs. 323 crore. You will see that there has been comparative less budget allocation under industry and transport sector in the present budget.

I want to draw the attention of Minister of Finance that our export will increase and import decrease. But according to data available our export has been reduced, while there has been an increase in the import. Our position is the

market is not good because of decrease in the export. There has not been very significant changes in our agricultural sector.

[English]

"The overall plan outlay for the agricultural sector, however, has been stepped up in the next year's Budget only marginally."

Expressing his dissatisfaction over the marginal hike in the agricultural outlay the Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Chaturanan Mishra said :

"The proposed allocation was too low to achieve the targeted growth of about 4.5 per cent. He also regretted that the Budget had not given fresh incentives for promoting agricultural export."

[Translation]

Minister of Agriculture has said that allocation made for agricultural sector this you will not help the agro band export or other export. May economists have expressed their views on the budget. I want to quote an example.

[English]

"1997 Budget will go down in the country's history as one of the Budgets which provided maximum benefit to taxpayers. *Prima facie* the Budget would be welcomed but on giving closer look the Budget is a mere document to please the people rather than to attempt to face problems bothering the tax administration."

[Translation]

As per his statement and also according to Shri George Fernandes this budget will be beneficial to some special people and capitalists only. The common people are not going to be benefitted by it. I am quoting the views of Hon'ble Shri Chaturanan Mishra regarding former Finance Minister.

[English]

"Dr. Manmohan Singh, the former Finance Minister has failed to formulate constructive response to the two pressing problems facing the economy, namely, rise in food prices and the burgeoning oil pool deficit. Dr. Singh found impracticable the proposal to distribute grain at half the issue price to those who are below the poverty line."

[Translation]

The people living below the poverty line or are poor, will be provided foodgrains at half the price; but it is not possible in anyway. The present Minister of Agriculture and

former Finance Minister, both, are of the views that your policy is helping them, because of budget allocation. The party which is a supporting this Govt. from outside and also which is in the Govt; both are saying the same thing. You have mentioned something about social services. You want to extend the social services and there are little budgetary allocations for social services, minimum necessities of education, heaving, medical treatment, drinking water and problems relating to SC's and ST's. The minimum need is also not fulfilled.

I want to say something on the present days position of industrialists. After all which industry is progressing. It is only those industries which have multinational companies or for those where foreign capital in being invested, rest of the industries are gradually becoming extinct. Textile, sugar, cement and other industries of the country are becoming gradually extinct. In spite of all this you are asking the multinational companies to come, invest and take away the profit. Therefore only from industries are being benefited which are collaborating with the multinational companies, otherwise rest of at industries are gradually becoming extinct. These industries should be revived. Members have expressed their views about the crises being faced by sugar and textile industries. Kindly look into this aspect also. What are the reasons for this even after declaration of the economic reforms ? My friend Shri Nand Kumar Singh is just saying that Nepa paper will is on the verge of closure.

Thousand of workers will become jobless. Why ? They are saying that imported Newsprint is cheaper as compared to indigenous Newsprint. It is because of concessions given in the customs duties. The consumption of domestic products has yielded place of consumption of foreign products. The capital is going out of the country which is now facing capital Crunch. Our export is gradually decreasing. There is less allocation in the budget for export promotion.

The ordinance issued to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act is going to further aggravate the crisis. It is proposed to pass a bill in this regard. Common people will not get the capital easily. I want to know what is the position of Foodgrain production ? Why the production is being less ? The production of wheat is less. We have to import the wheat. Why this situation has arisen ? At page 150 of Economic survey, it has been stated that the import is being made because of less production of wheat, rice and Bajra. It has been said that this year wheat production will be 62.6 million tonne, which is about 3 million tonne less as compared to the last year. The investment which was to be made in the agricultural sector is not being made. Fertiliser are not provided in time. It is all because of faulty export import policy. As a result of this there has been

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

a fall in the production of wheat and other foodgrains. Wheat is being imported today at the rate of Rs. 7 per kg. as against the rate of Rs. 4 per kg. to our own farmers. So we are not willing to pay Rs. two and a half more to the foreigner instead of our own farmer. Why this situation has arisen? We have to boost our wheat production.

The same at situation is with Power sector. There is down fall in power production . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : The other members of your party may not be able to get a chance to speak.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : I am concluding. Because of Power shortage there is Power crisis and production is affected. There is fall in Power production. Now there is shortage of production of crude oil, the market has run short of money. The percentage of people living below the poverty line is constantly on the increase. Even then the Hon. Minister say that he has presented a good budget. We anticipated that the situation has improved. But common people, poor people are suffering. Only rich people will be benefited by this budget. But common people will not be benefited by this budget. Please take some steps to become self-sufficient. I want to know the schemes being introduced in this regard. Please clarify the position. More economic assistance should be provided. There is need to check administrative expenditure, whether it is in the social service, medical or Health Sector. I have placed these points in brief. It will not be proper to allocate meagre fund of Rs. 200 crore for the creation of an authority for the maintenance of National High ways. Our roads are not safe. It is not proper to allocate meagre amount for National Highways. At the same time there is need to increase the budgetary of allocation under the heads of fertiliser, education, defence etc.

Hon. Minister, Sir, the way you have presented this budget, we do not support it. I hope, the Hon. Minister will certainly pay attention to the points that I have raised.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that from the Congress Party, we have a political and constitutional obligation to support this Budget and that is why we are performing the duty. But we have a very critical observation of this Budget.

My dear friend, the hon. Finance Minister ended his Budget speech quoting Tagore out of context, and also Deng Xiao Ping, of course, to please the Left components of the United Front. I quite find the change of my dear friend Shri Chidambaram. By changing from the Indian National Congress to the Tamil Meenila Congress, he has

forgotten to remember Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru in his entire speech. I do not think it is his fault. But it is due to the arrangement and compulsion. In future, I wish that I will find him more in the Nehruvian framework than in the Deng Xiao Ping framework. Even in the Deng Xiao Ping framework, had he made some positive reflections in the Budget, I would have appreciated him.

The liberalisation that is taking place in China has a very solid background. Having completed the total infrastructure needs in the rural sector by their own, having a total command in their own national arrangements in the key sector, then only they tried to embark on liberalisation, that too according to their own dictates. Of course, they are clubbed with us in the key ten members of the nations which are not in the debt trap but in the main line of foreign debt.

This is a budget whose customs duty re-arrangements ensure the West and the ASEAN countries to treat India as a dumping ground at the cost of self-reliance; it is to confine the inbuilt infrastructure of our own developed technology only for small and medium scale industries, excepting the case of R&D equipment and life-saving drugs. This is an abject surrender to the dictates of the International Monetary Fund and the Western economy which would try to prevail to that extent.

This Budget is a real reflection of the United Front's divergent views and their constituents' views excluding the Left. While drafting the Budget. The Left was given a kind of feeling that the Finance Minister is smelling only their essence but when it was shaped in the form of the Budget, the richest of this nation got the signal that it is their Budget. When it was placed in Parliament, the poorest found that they have no hope. Only the multinationals understood that it is their Budget. This is the process in which the Budget came in the Parliament.

To support a Finance Minister is not to flatter him but to tell him his danger. I am his supporter, not in terms of being a supporter of the United Front, but a genuine supporter. When Shri Chidambaram piloted his last Finance Bill, I did say that I desired to see him place the next Budget. I continue to desire to see him place the next Budget also. It is for only one reason that he did make a commitment to keep the fiscal deficit within the limit of four per cent. Of course, he could not do it. It does not matter. Now, it is marginally at 4.5 per cent. I hope next year he will try to bring this deficit at the level of four per cent of the GDP.

I do hope that you will do that.

Now, this Budget is very peculiar exercise. I do not know whether Shri Chidambaram was a student of mathematics in his school days at the secondary level.

There are a few kinds of exercises in the mathematics known as logarithm. How to bring in a few equations to keep it over-rate and then the equation is on the minus side. This is an interesting exercise of the Budget. It goes like this : I shall pay you 30, you spend 20 with a promise that next year I shall pay you 40, to spend 30 and bringing the ten from the past. That means. I have a commitment to the nation that for the entire planned development growth, certain sums are to be spent. The commitment given to the Parliament for the planned development is a commitment given to the nation. If you compromise for the plan expenditure and save money from there and adjust in your Budget with the hope that next year something will be managed unfortunately, it is not very fair. They are not posing their trust on the nation. Your non-plan Budget can fluctuate. But if you save from your plan Budget, it is not a sign of goods health. You have reflected that picture in this country. Mr. Finance Minister, this is giving a warning signal. And we the Congressmen feel very sad because the overall performance of planned growth of the Seventh Plan and the Eighth Plan has reached beyond the targeted growth. I do not say it was overall. I have known to be a to be a little critical of the liberalisation policy. Not that I am against liberalisation. I can appreciate it. I understand the international compulsions, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the growing resource situation of the leading developing nations of the Third World that compelled many of us to embrace a kind of reform that we never expected. I really feel very shocked and sorry for this.

When I joined politics, I had a dream that poor people would get the final answer on the last day. We enchanted the word 'socialism'. We used to talk of it in many previous Budgets. I am not blaming Shri Chidambaram. The main casualty in India is not the word 'socialism', the concept of socialism, the belief of socialism. Now a new slogan has come to replace socialism which is called 'reformism' – reformism at the cost of self-reliance. I am really worried as to what will happen to this country in future. I am not prepared to believe that we have no capacity. I am not prepared to believe that we have reached such a stage where we have lost everything. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had a dream. Whatever he did for this nation was not to see that at the time of fifty years of our national Independence, our country will be at the mercy of other countries to see as to how much foreign investment has come at the diktat of multinationals and trans-nationals. I do not think the country can prosper at all. Yes, we need to think on it but not at the diktat of others but by having arrangements with others. What is the impact of the liberalisation ? I just give you three answers. You go to any village Mr. Finance Minister including a village in Tamil Nadu or Gujarat. You ask any villager for a glass of water. He will tell you that he cannot offer you a glass of water.

He will say that he can offer you a Pepsi or a Coke or a Thumps Up from a nearby shop. There is no drinking water available in that village. That is the impact of liberalisation.

We have ten to twelve motor cars plying including Daewoo all over India. There are ten to twelve motor car companies coming in India in SKD condition or CKD condition. But no such company is assuring the Finance Minister or the Foreign Investment Board that it will invest only on the production of cars but also invest some ten to fifteen per cent on the road-making process in India. Can you give an assurance to this House ? No. Is it a dumping ground ? Is this the same country which fought for its freedom, just to please or provide comfort and amenities for the few ? What is happening ? When I read the Economic Survey, I, as a political worker, shed tears. What do we find when we go to our constituencies ?

We find money has been allotted and the scheme has been sanctioned. But when I go to the village year after year to the same constituency.

[Translation]

People do not have water to drink and a shelter to live.

[English]

Year after year we find some tables. What is wrong with us ? Is it with the implementation ? What is wrong in it ? Who will find the answer ? Nobody is taking any responsibility. We are giving some figures.

You said you have done a great job by providing Rs. 2000 crore to the basic services. It is your Common Minimum Programme. But I term your CMP not as Common Minimum Programme, but as Common Multinational Programme. Is it Common Minimum Programme ? While the fiscal deficit is more than Rs. 60,000 crore, you personally assure the Parliament and the nation that your CMP ensures Rs. 2,000 crore distributed to the whole nation. How much does it come to ? A drop in the ocean. Even if all the registered beggars as per the police station records are invited by special trains by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to be assembled at Delhi from Jamunapaar to Lal Qila Maidan and this Rs. 2,000 crore is distributed, they will also get a little more. What is the priority given to the basic minimum services ? You are talking of poor people's needs.

Madhu Dandavateji is in the Planning Commission now. I just quote the Planning Approach Document on regulation.. I do not blame Shri Chidambaram. He is not responsible. We must all collectively admit it. We have to rethink very aggressively.

[Shri P.R. Dasmunsi]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : You are also responsible.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Yes, I say that. It is a collective responsibility. The document says that the experiment of the Eighth Five Year Plan, in particular the growth pattern, has not benefited the poor and the underprivileged. It is not my comment. The Ninth Plan Approach Document says that the growth pattern has not benefited the poor and the underprivileged. If that is so, what should be the lesson of the Ninth Plan ? For the basic minimum services you give only Rs. 2000 crore. There is an increase for the poverty alleviation and for the rural development programmes by only Rs. 150 crore or Rs. 160 crore than the previous Budget. This is your priority for the poverty alleviation programme. This is how you think you are going to achieve things in the country. This is your emphasis.

With the kind of exemption you have made in the Customs tariff regime, do you feel things will be very steady ? I request the hon. Finance Minister to just make a study coolly, about the Customs tariff that he has reduced, as to which are the established units in India whose technologies are already developed, how many of them will be hit and how many of them will not be hit. If you find that a bulk of them will be hit in selling their products in the market, please reconsider your decision.

15.59 hrs.

[COL. RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

This country cannot be made a dumping ground of the ASEAN and the Western economic power. Please make a study. Whatever we did, we did. It is on record . . . (Interruptions) If You feel so, you drastically change it. We give you the support. Who prevents you ? Nobody has prevented you. You persuade the UF to do it.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : The Customs was once 135 per cent; it came down to 40 per cent.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Congress might have done something right and something wrong But Congress has done one thing because of which this parliament is still on. The democracy is still alive in this country. We did that. You must agree to this. It is because of Congress that the Parliament is on. It is because of Congress that India is India. It is because of Congress that in spite of differences of opinion you are sitting there. It is because of Congress and not because of anything else. Do not interfere in that kind of politics. Try to understand what you do.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : My dear friend Shri Priya Ranjan

Dasmunshi is entitled to criticise the policies of his own party. How can I stand in his way ? But to say that this Parliament is on only because of one party, I think, is taking it to an extreme point which I do not think anybody can share.

16.00 hrs.

This Lok Sabha is here because all of us wanted to work together and try to provide a Government. There was a Government. It went out and another Government came in. Now, it is theoretically quite possible that a Government will go out and another Government will come in. But if this Parliament is dissolved for some reason, it cannot be at the will of any Party. If all of us decide that we are ready to go in for elections, we will go in for elections. But please remember that another Parliament will be convened. The people will elect another Parliament. I do not believe that Parliament lives or survives or continues at the will or whim of any one Party. It is for all of us working together . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I think, my dear friend, the hon. Minister of Finance could not understand what I said.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have understood that.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : He should not have taught me in this way. I do not say that he is not a goods advocate. I know, whichever side he pleads, he can plead the case properly. It is not his fault.

What I wanted to place is this. I wanted to place that the Congress could have done many wrongs but it has done one good thing. It did see that the democratic system functioned in the country. That is why the parliamentary system functions today. Am I wrong in saying that ? I never said that Parliament is here because of the Congress.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I know what you said.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I am not a fool, Shri Chidambaram. I also know a little bit of politics. I said, 'Congress could have done many wrongs but it did some good things also.'

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We heard what you said.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Do not talk too much. We also know that if Parliament is dissolved, the will of the people will decide, not your will or my will . . . (Interruptions) I am not yielding to you. I have yielded only to the hon. Minister of Finance, Please try to understand . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Your party has deprived the nation and extended the life of Parliament for one more year . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Unfortunately, in that

Parliament, when those people went to jail, you did not resign. You sat and enjoyed that on year. All of them had gone to jail with Shri Jai Prakash Narayan. Do you want to see the record ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : May I request the hon. Member to stick to the subject at hand ?

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : If they want to cite the record, we have also many records to cite. Come on, I am prepared . . . (Interruptions) You cited an example and I have cited an example.

SHRI ANIL BASU : You are delivering a very good speech. Please confine yourself to that.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : You forget that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs was on our side.

SHRI ANIL BASU : What is wrong in that ? You should confine yourself to your speech and the merit of your speech.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the per capita benefit to the tax paying population is around Rs. 4500 per head. The per capita benefit of the increased allocation for poverty alleviation is around Rs. 40 per head. This makes the present Budget the best Budget of the decade. Should I treat it that way ? The only good thing in the Budget in which I compliment the hon. Minister of Finance is the extension of the tax net. I compliment him on this because it is required to be complemented. He has done this good job and the nation will remember him for this.

I compliment him for another matter also, for which he has done another good thing, that is, the programme of slabbing the tax structure. But for the forty per cent slab, this slabbing programme also a good one. It would give relief only to the section which enjoys all the privileges.

I think, morally, the hon. Prime Minister stands on a very high point. When the hon. Prime Minister sits in that chair and says, 'My Government should not be questioned for any irregularity', I think, he sings a very high moral tune. If that tune is perfect, how could the hon. Minister of Finance dare equate the dishonest people with the honest people ? While the honest taxpayer will pay 30 per cent, the dishonest people with their *hawala* money and hidden wealth will disclose their wealth and also pay tax at 30 per cent. How can we equate both ? It cannot be. The moment you do that, you do not stand by the tune that the hon. Prime Minister sings. Therefore, I feel, Mr. Finance Minister, you have got to change this view. It is not something new. It was started from the days of Shri Mahavir Tyagi and it continued so. I would like to say something in this regard. If this dishonesty is being

pardoned simply in the name of disclosure, it would give a bad smell. I congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance and the officers of the FERA Department and the Revenue Department. They are a dedicated lot. They have shown guts to unearth the hidden wealth from the big multinationals and the big monopoly houses of India who looted this nation for the last so many years.

Many people said that the corporate world would collapse. I congratulate the Minister of Finance and the officials of his Department for the guts they have shown in raiding the ITC, for having brought them before the nation and for having shown as to how long they have been looting this country. Irrespective of the party affiliations, they deserve support of the entire Parliament.

At the same time I am shocked to see one thing. While the Shaw Wallace Company was raided, the entire FERA team which waged the war against the Chabaria group, was transferred suddenly from Calcutta. Please check it up. Why were they transferred ? They were doing a good job. If they were not transferred, I would be grateful to you. By raiding Mescos, you have done a good job. This team of officials deserve the support of Parliament. They face serious challenge when they retire. I know the kind of elements in the society which threaten them. I know they are goons. Therefore, these officials deserve our support. If you continue with this job. Mr. Finance Minister, you would have done a good job as regards the commitment of your Government to the people.

There are some more things which I would like to bring to your notice. I hope you will take them very seriously and do the needful. The inflationary pressure cannot be contained, if the borrowings of the Government remain at the current level of ten per cent of GDP. Generally, Finance Ministers used to indicate the revenue implication of each item. In all the speeches of the earlier Finance Ministers, this is mentioned clearly. They take the Parliament and the nation into confidence and would indicate the revenue implication of every important proposal, whether it is loss or gain. But this year the Minister has not indicated the revenue implication of a single item. It would have been desirable if the hon. Minister of Finance had indicated the revenue implication of important items. It is necessary to make it more substantial. I hope the Minister of Finance would take the House into confidence and respond to this in his reply because there is a gap in it.

The next important point is regarding *kisans*. I am sure that I will not get the support of any section of the House. I do not understand the meaning of *kisan*. To me *kisan* is the one who goes in the morning to the field, toils there, produces something and comes back. To me, *kisan* is not the one who does not go to the field but enjoys the harvest. But in the entire North India, there is a lobby, called *kulak*

[Shri P.R. Dasmunsi]

[English]

lobby. They do not go to the field, but enjoy the harvest and get the entire benefit of the produce. It is a very serious point. This is the aspect which no Government dared to touch. I only hope that the present Minister of Finance would consult the Prime Minister and deal with it. Following the recommendations of the Chelliah Committee and Chelliah's own observations, will you deal with them? They are not *kisans*. It is a lobby. They own thousands of acres of land. I wish Prem Chand to be born once again. I wish a revolution takes place once again. They just exploit the people and enjoy the entire benefit of the produce. On the one hand they enjoy subsidy and on the other hand they cheat the Tax Department. In the name of exemption they exploit the people who work in the field for years together. I was very keen that the naxalite movement should have shifted from Bengal to this part of India so that they would have taken these people in their own hands. This is going on perpetually.

It is happening day in and day out. Whenever that situation happens, they get united. Everybody knows what is their demand. The so-called cotton lobby, the wheat lobby and the sugar lobby determine half of India's politics now, at the cost of the poorest of the poor. Out of the Rs. 18,000 crore subsidy that they give, benefit worth about Rs. 9,000 crore goes to them directly and not to the poorest of the poor.

So, I would earnestly appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to make an investigation and to tell the hon. Prime Minister to make an earnest effort regarding land reforms, and if possible, to copy the model of Bengal, to begin with. We may have political differences. But I genuinely admit that that has really changed the rural life of Bengal and the people genuinely feel that they have a right in that. They also feel that they can live together and survive. We are living in one India and we are all Indians.

One can go to Eastern or Western U.P. and see how the people are suffering there. From morning to midnight, they work. I asked them as to what they were doing.

[Translation]

They work in fields. Yes, few how many hours? 14 hours. What do they get? Rs. 20. If they speak, they will be thrown out.

[English]

This is one category of people. The other category is contract workers who work for seven or ten days.

[Translation]

Who cares for you.

Even the tractor driver is a wage earner. The tractor owner is a different person. This is the economy! In this economy, a bulk of our money is going into the hands of a few. But the poor people would come here, stage a *dharna* before the Prime Minister's place whether it is led by Shri Narasimha Rao or by Shri Rajiv Gandhi or by Shri Deve Gowda and shout slogans. We should get something. But when they go back, they would find that it is not percolating down to the people. This is the bottleneck of our hidden economy. The hon. Minister may kindly see that that is removed.

I know it is difficult to take it up. But this is the secret. That is the reason why poverty of North India is still there and that is the reason why the poverty of Bihar is still there. I am not supporting any naxalite movement or a gun battle. But if there is going to be any movement in Bihar in the name of 'getting the land and distributing it to the poor' it would be through guns only. I may not support it technically, but my moral support would go to them. I would feel that they are doing the right thing. For years together this exploitation is continuing.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister not to take it that I am criticising my own policy. In the beginning, I did say that the collapse of the Soviet Union and the crisis of the developing nations compel many nations including that of India to accept and embrace the so-called liberalisation. But that does not mean that the political belief of socialism and social justice the concept of public sector and the foundation of self reliance as thought of by Nehru are becoming a casualty. I am not prepared to believe it. That also does not mean that we shall have to open the floodgates to all the transnationals and multinationals to come and loot our country as they like.

If you feel that our party or our Government, to a certain extent, is a party to it, you say so, and I do not mind. Every political party has to learn from the people and prepare its own agenda in response to the urges of the people.

I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister not to be sensitive about the criticism, but to understand that we are not confining within the boundaries of cities of Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai or New Delhi. What we have to understand is, how much money is actually going to the villages, how much is spent and how much is the requirement. There are priority areas. I have no time otherwise, I would have touched that also today.

What is the foreign investment that has come which is mostly of 'portfolio', how much approval is given, what

is the real investment and how much has actually gone to the key sectors ? It is very negligible. But we have no responsibility for these things. Should we not do it ? Whatever I say is not a criticism, please understand. This is what I want to submit.

I want to tell you about the kind of duty concessions that they have given. I am sorry to say that. The workers of the Hindustan Copper are crying. Due to the customs duty on copper and steel, in the name of non-ferrous items, the Hindustan Copper is suffering. You may please see what is happening in the Aluminium sector now. Even the inbuilt technology that India has is going to collapse, if they do not prevent the opening of the floodgate.

The famous Professor Rajiv Singh said very correctly that liberalisation in India may not be bad. But if restricted arrangements are not made now, then we may soon go in a Mexican way and collapse very soon. Therefore, I only urge upon the Finance Minister on one point. He is not only young but has also got a good vision. Of course, political arrangements may differ from time to time. But he has a good desire to respond to the urges.

Then at the end of the day, let us quote Gandhiji and nobody else. That is enough and that is the end of the day. We have to ask this question to ourselves. Have we been able to solve the problem of that man who is in tears and who is not properly clothed ? If that answer can be found step by step with a time-bound programme, then I think the Budget will respond to the core. Otherwise, I am sorry to say that the Mid-day Meal Scheme and the Public Distribution System will not help. I am not questioning the Prime Minister's bonafides. Shri Devendra Yadav is seen here. He may help the Prime Minister. Parliament declared that 35 crores of people would be given subsidised food. The statement says like that

MR. CHAIRMAN : May I request the hon. Member to wind up please ? You have taken half-an-hour.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I went to my constituency. How can I divide the poor ? They say that your circular says that only 30-33 per cent unit of a local ration area is to be enlisted. I would like to know one point from Shri Yadav. If in a particular ration area in a village or a city, there are 600 poor people below the poverty line who are the poorest of the poor, how can the public representative or the panchayat or others segregate 100 or 500 out of them? Sorry, I cannot help it. It is a mess and a mockery. We cannot manage like that. Let us not say 35 crores. Let us say that it is a step.

[Translation]

It will take time. Don't give figures, you confuses us by giving figures.

[English]

It creates a lot of confusion.

With these words, I say that we have a constitutional and political obligation to support the Budget but we have a strong and critical observation that this Budget does not give any direction to fight poverty. This Budget does not give any direction for the public sector. This Budget does not give any direction to defend the concept of self-reliance. This Budget is further submitting itself to the trap of the multinationals and transnationals.

SHRI P. SHANMUGAM (Vellore) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister on 28th February, 1997. For the first time such a Budget had been presented and more than 80 per cent of the people of our country are in support of this Budget.

Sir, coming to the Budget, I welcome the reduction of slabs in income tax. The hon. Finance Minister had reduced the slabs from 40 per cent to 30 per cent, 30 per cent to 20 per cent and 20 per cent to 15 per cent. My suggestion is that 15 per cent should be further slashed down to five per cent instead of ten per cent. Standard deduction should be raised to Rs. 30,000 from Rs. 20,000. The House Rent Allowance and other allowances given to the employees should be made tax free.

The concession given to the senior citizens is worth appreciation. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister that the age of senior citizens should be reduced to 60 years instead of 65 years. This will benefit quite a lot of people.

Many eminent people have criticized that this is an anti-poor Budget. I would like to ask them whether any other previous Budgets had ever provided a subsidy to the tune of Rs. 8200 crore for wheat and rice for helping 320 million people who are living below the poverty line. So, those eminent people should understand first the problems faced by these poor people before making any comments on the Budget. In this regard, I would like to say that the United Front Government only wants to help the poorest of the poor and they strongly suggest that the Government's Common Minimum Programme should be used to help the poor.

Our able Minister of Finance has raised the hopes ushering in a new era—a new age of more financial powers to the States. Leader of our Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the forth time Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaingar has welcomed the sharing of taxes at the Central pool. This augurs well for the improved Centre-State relations.

At this juncture, I have a suggestion to make. The revenue mechanism of the respective State Government

[Shri P. Shanmugam]

may also be roped in to share the responsibility of collecting the revenue pertaining to Central domain also. I hope the hon. Minister of Finance can consider this. He may introduce it from this year on an experimental basis in any of the States, preferably in Tamil Nadu where there is an able administration and clean Government led by Dr. Kalaignar.

I appreciate the achievements of the United Front Government in regard to sharing of Ganga Water with Bangladesh and also sharing of Gandak water with Nepal. I also appreciate the talks that the United Front Government had with China, particularly, about marine. This clearly shows the foreign policy of the United Front Government.

The subsidy given to the farmers has been appreciated. Of course, the hon. Minister of Finance has allowed 10 per cent increase in fertilisers subsidy by pegging Rs. 9,190 crore for the purpose from the revised estimate of Rs. 7,747 crore in the current year. Even then, it is not sufficient to the farmers. For example, the United States provide subsidy to extent of 27 per cent to their farmers and Japan gives subsidy to the extent of 70 per cent to farmers who produce paddy. In other European countries, subsidy to the extent of 30 to 40 per cent is provided to the farmers. On the other hand, we give subsidy to the extent to just 10 per cent. It should be increased. The subsidy to the farmers will be helpful to the country and also to the agriculturists.

Unless and until we provide employment to our educated youth, setting up of any number of industries will not help in carrying our country forward.

The hon. Minister of Finance has said that the Budgetary support to the Central Plan is being concentrated on rural development, employment and poverty alleviation programmes and on the human resource development. This year, a sum of Rs. 9,096 crore has been provided. So, there is an increase of Rs. 1,271 crore.

The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is estimated to generate 520 million mandays of employment. It is also mentioned that 90,000 habitations will be provided. Under the accelerated rural water supply scheme, safe drinking water will be provided in 1997-98.

For the social services sector, a sum of Rs. 3,922 crore has been allotted. For urban development, the Finance Minister has allotted Rs. 775 crore. For education, the hon. Minister has allotted Rs. 1,189 crore and for family welfare, Rs. 282 crore have been allotted. For water supply and sanitation, he has allotted Rs. 312 crore.

A sum of Rs. 9 crore was allocated towards irrigation in the last year's Budget. This year, the hon. Finance Minister has increased it by Rs. 4 crore and thus the total amount allocated for irrigation is Rs. 13 crore. The hon. Finance Minister has also increased the allocation for minor irrigation from Rs. 71 crore to Rs. 141 crore. The allocation for flood control has also been increased. He also has proposed modification of the current employment schemes meant to address different target groups. The PMRY, IRDP, NRY, DPAP, DDP and TRYSM is proposed to be reoriented. It would be very helpful and also in the national interest.

Sir, as per the statement, 12 lakh people are paying income tax and only 10,000 people are paying income tax to the tune of Rs. 10 lakh. The hon. Finance Minister has introduced the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme for bringing black money for productive purposes. I would like to suggest that the concession given for voluntary disclosure of black money should be more so that more and more people can voluntarily disclose the black money which they are holding. This also would be in the national interest and this money could well be utilised for achieving certain targets.

Sir, the Indira Awas Yojana was launched with a view to constructing houses for the people in the rural areas. But the money lent for this purpose was Rs. 10,000. Now, with the help of the National Housing Bank this loan amount is proposed to be increased to Rs. 2 lakh for the poor farmers at reasonable interest. Disbursement of a loan amount of Rs. 50,000 is going to be started by the hon. Prime Minister from August 15, 1996. It must be appreciated by all that earlier a poor man in the rural area could not even think of constructing a house at Rs. 10,000 but now with Rs. 2 lakh he would be in a position to construct a house in the rural areas.

Modifications have also been suggested in the insurance sector. In this year's Budget a sum of Rs. 250 crore has been earmarked for the Kasturba Gandhi Shiksha Yojana – a programme under which there is a proposal to establish one school in each district of the country. Such provisions in the Budget was never made earlier. So, the Government is very much interested to start one school in one district. This should be appreciated by all.

Sir, the other point which I would like to mention is about the Sethu Canal which is being built in Tamil Nadu. It would be very much helpful and useful to the Port Trust. It is because the ship is coming from Calcutta to Tuticorin via Sri Lanka. So, if the canal is built immediately then only the southern region of Tamil Nadu would get the benefit.

Sir, sports is a very important element in our national

life. So, adequate allocation for improvement for sporting activities should be made in the Budget.

Sir, in conclusion, I would like to say that the hon. Finance Minister has presented a very good Budget and has done a wonderful job. But I would like to make a point here that 70 per cent of our people are living in the villages and the aspect of improving the conditions of the villages must be taken into account. In the absence of any help, either from the Central Government or the State Government, there is an inclination on the part of the farmers and the artisans who are residing in the villages to move away to the urban areas. They should not be allowed to move into the urban areas. They should be provided with opportunities so that they could start industries and other such things and remain within the rural limits. Then only our people would be able to get more employment, our thinking would also get rationalised and our nation would march ahead with glory. I extend my support to the Budget.

With these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the National Front Government has presented the general budget for 1997-98. Ours is an agricultural country in which 90 percent population depends on it. I feel that a meagre amount has been allocated for agriculture in this budget and farmers have been lured by it I, therefore, rise to oppose this budget. Last year hon. Prime Minister had said that water is an important factor for increasing agricultural production and gave proposal to improve the water management but, in this budget in comparison to last year just a meagre amount of Rs. 400 crore has been increased on this account. Presently water of Indian rivers is flowing to other countries and the receiving countries opposes it. Our Union Government is saying that it is going to improve the irrigation system and water management by increasing just Rs. 400 crore. In our country various states are fighting each other for water. It would have been better and Government's policies considered in favour of farmers if National Water Commission had been constituted to tackle the inter-state water disputes. The matter of S.Y.L. Canal is under consideration with the Supreme court but so far it has not been solved. In place of providing water to people of Punjab and Haryana, our leaders and playing politics on this issue.

So far as the issue of electricity is concerned, the Government proposes to privatise it. Sir, through you, I would like to make a submission that generation of hydro-electricity costs less and on the contrary thermal and gas poased power generation costs more. It would be better if this amount is spent on our natural resources for

generating power, so that there is no shortage of power and the farmers have not to pay that much for it. Farmers pay high prices for power and even then the Government claims to give subsidy on it. World Bank and IMF refuse disbursement of loan on this account that the Government provides subsidy on electricity. This budget would have been considered in favour of farmers if the Government spend money for tapping our natural resources for generation of power.

The same is the condition of fertilizer. In this budget, prices of cellular phones and Air-conditioners have been reduced but not the prices of tractors and urea which is used by farmers. The Central Government claims to introduce liberalisation but in the name of liberalisation multinational companies are setting up markets in India. This will affect the agricultural production as well as goods manufactured by our traders customs duty has been reduced but central excise is same as was being levied earlier. Whether it is pesticides, chemicals or any other item, imported goods are Cheaper. This has adversely affected the industrialists of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, You were Minister in the cabinet of Rajiv Gandhi Government. He had made an announcement regarding introducing Panchayati Raj. But what actually happened, there are district councils, Panchayat committees in Haryana but chairman of district councils have not been given their due rights. All the councils and Panchayati raj committees have been scrapped in Bihar. Panchayati raj institutions should be given more rights if Panchayati Raj system is to be implemented. At present, the chairman of district councils get a salary of Rs. 2500 and a car but they are not given any power. They should be equipped with certain powers for their efficient functioning. The hon. Member is pointing out that it is the debate on general budget. I also know that but how the prices of cellular phones and air-conditioner have been reduced ?

Agriculture sector has been ignored in this budget that is why agriculture production has fallen. We have to import wheat at a rate of Rs. 625 per quintal. The farmers would have got prices of wheat as are prevalent in international market if the Government had prepared a package for it in November it self. This would have encouraged farmers to boost their production and we would not have been compelled to import it.

Just now my friend was saying that in comparison to last year a sum of Rs. 161 crore have been given in the present budget. At present our villages lack drinking water facility, sewage and roads. Roads are in very dilapidated condition, if there are roads in some villages. The Government have tried to with the appreciation of people by allocating a meagre amount of Rs. 161 crore for

[Shri Jai Prakash]

development of villages. My district consists of 500 villages and only Rs. 8 lakh have been allocated for it. How many villages could be developed by such a meagre amount. We would have welcome this step and thank the hon. Finance Minister if more funds had been given for it. Although long speeches are made on development of villages and agriculture yet. The budget presented by this Government is contrary to that so far the issue of raising income tax limit is concerned, Sir through you I would like to say that filing of income-tax return has been made essential for people, who own a telephone, car and house in Calcutta, Mumbai and Delhi. Several big capitalists do not pay income tax but, poor people are compelled to file income-tax return. It is not correct. It is my personal opinion that common man will suffer more by it.

Telephone is necessity for common man and not a luxury item these days. Shri George Fernandes has rightly pointed out that in comparison to last year Rs. 370 crore more have been allocated for rural Employment. There are about 15 crore educated unemployed in this country and just a meagre amount of Rs. 370 crore more has been given for it. It is injustice to them. This budget has been presented keeping in mind for the coming elections and not for welfare of This country, our villages and youth. This Government is formed with the help of 13-14 parties and its policies are anti-farmers anti-labourers and anti-youth, I, therefore, oppose this budget.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It was decided in the Business Advisory Committee that two major parties and two minor parties will speak in that order.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There is no complaint, sir.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the beginning the budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister was considered pro-poor and growth oriented budget. At the time of budget speech, a say of hope emerged among people because they hoped that this budget is going to give a new direction of development as we are celebrating golden jubilee of our independence this year. But implementation of this budget revealed as to how poor people are looted by it. They have tried to suppress the small sector of the country. The scheme floated by the hon. Finance Minister for checking generation of black money is not very influential, people of this country have understood that.

Sir, at first I praise the hon. Finance Minister for lowering the maximum slab of income tax to 30 percent

in his budget. But I would like to say that his method of controlling the generation of black money is not correct. It may have been helpful in improving the economic condition of this country if hon. Minister of Finance had paid attention towards removing the reasons for generation of black money. Hon. Minister has provided relief of about 2500-2600 crore in customs duty but the main reason for generation of black money is excise duty which is being increasing since long. On the one hand customs duty is being reduced on the other hand excise duty is being increased, neither the country nor the industry is being benefited by it.

Sir, I want to tell you just as a suggestion that tax evasion is resorted to on account of higher excise duty and to check this trend the increasing excise duty, which has become unbearable for the industries, should be reduced. Various taxes are being levied on the textiles made fabrics, man-made fibers. Some when beside basic excise duty, additional excise is also being levied. This is how the Government seems inclined to liquidate the entire man made fabrics industries. No attempt has been made to reduce it had the Minister introduced the slab system in assessment of the excise duty of these industries, as he has done in case of his own income tax assessment, and thus reduced the excise duty, we could have ensured our industrial growth to accelerate which we are thriving. But this is not going to happen therefore, on one hand we have stipulated that after levying 30% tax black money can be converted into white money but on the other hand the Minister has not taken any steps to obliterate the prospects of generation of black money at its generation point itself.

I am sure that the amount involved in excise duty evasion would be far more than the black money converted into white money under the VDS introduced by the Finance Minister, that's why I urge the Finance Minister to ensure that the benefit of relief given in custom duty reach the consumers. Whenever we have given tax relief in the budget it did not reach the actual consumers. *The Industrialists avail the tax relief to the tune of crores and crores of rupees but they don't come in the notice of any Department, not even in the notice of Finance Ministry. That is why I say that the relief should reach down to the consumers. The Finance Minister should try to reduce the unbearable excise duty which leads to generation of black money.*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the another mistake done by the Finance Minister is that he has altogether withdrawn the tax relief which used to be given to small scale industries earlier. Today through out the country thousands and thousands of the owners of the small scale units are in a difficult position because on the one hand foreign goods are being damped here and on the other the Government

expects qualitative products at cheap rates. Such manufacturing is not possible in the country. So purchase foreign goods. Due to this trend only our small scale sector could not flourish and compete with them. You should take steps to make the competitive, to increase the capacity, to ensure mass production and qualitative products. But instead of this the Finance Minister has withdrawn the tax exemption from them which should be restored to them.

I this tallclaim of the UF Government is shallow that they are pro poors, working people and small industrialists. It is a cruel joke with them

Earlier the turnover of the aluminium conductor units in the small scale sector was to the time of Rs. Three crore and they used to pay only Rs. 2.75 lakhs but now, after withdrawal of the exemption in the current budget they would have to pay Rs. 9.10 lakh on their turnover of Rs. 3 crores. This is how four fold more duty would be levied from them. Now you yourself can see the difference between Rs. 2.75 lakh and Rs. 9.10 lakh. Now tell me in this condition where shall the small industrialists shall go?

On the other hand the big units would have to pay relatively lesser tax. The budget introduced by the Finance Minister aims at viping out the small scale units through out the country in a well planned manner. It is sans any such provisions as may help in advancement of small units or in boosting of production. As I have already told you very high duty is being levied on man made fabrics. Now it is March but yet the have not succeeded in achieving the target. Now a day all the excise Inspectors and Income Tax Officers are very active throughout the country but still I am apprehensive about fulfilment of the target.

I want to draw attention of the Finance Minister towards the textile industry of the country. Our textile machines are as goods as any other textile machinery in any other country in the world. I have personally seen the working to textile industries in Surat and Mumbai. Hon. Minister has provided the concessional duty of 10 per cent. It reads:

[English]

'I have decided to allow them to import the components and parts of this machinery at the concessional duty of 10 per cent

[Translation]

Our textile industries are producing very good cloths. If we resort to imports, then our textile machinery industry will perish. That is why I said that this budget contain such provisions as would undermine the small scale industries. The U.F. Government says that they are pro poors and working class but the provisions made by this Government with regard to social service, transportation and rural

development show that this Government attaching more priority to the imports of luxurious items. Thy are not interested in the development of villages, small farmers and transportation system. A provision of Rs. 7520 crore was made for rural development in 1996-97. Whereas in 1997-98 a provision of only Rs. 7691 crore was made for it. Today while the inflation rate is increasing and the value of Rupees is going down, provision for this head has not been actually increased. The Finance Minister has not made adequate allocation for rural development. Two years ago less provision was made for it in the budget in 1996-97 the revised estimate of Social Service was Rs. 10041 crores. In 1997-98 it is Rs. 13817 crores. Similarly revised estimate for transport was of the time of Rs. 1384 crores. For the current year it is Rs. 15-16 thousand crores. So in adequate is the allocation under the had social service that we can't provide even primary services with this allocation.

Just now Jai Prakashji said that we are reverting back and therefore we should change our priorities. This Government says that those who is having an income of Rs. 75,000 he is not required to pay income tax. You have determined 30 percent as maximum for extending the income tax limit and to reduce tax evasion.

Similarly we had demanded that for the purpose of income tax. Income tax limit should be raised to Rupees on lakh in the case of Government employees but the Finance Minister did to accept that. The Government terms this budget on 'Pro poor' but had it been actually pro poors, then a revenue to the time of Rs. 367 crores would have not been mobilised by increasing the rates of post cards and envelops. The poor labourers use Post cards, envelops and money order forms. I don't think that by burdening the poor and the working people with Rs. 367 crore through the budget, you have given any relief to them. This increase in rates is unjustified and thus this should be withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude my speech after making my last point, well our country has been doing imports and exports as well. Government endeavours to make imports and exports on large scale. Through we export goods of better quality even that the importing countries impose anti-dumping duty on them. The plastic goods exported from here are subjected to 7.5 percent 'anti-dumping duty.

What ever items are being imported in this country, they are reducing duty on those items. I would like to urge the Finance Minister that there are certain industries in our country which need encouragement and instead of providing incentives to them they have created 'open door' situation. Our hon. Finance Minister on his foreign visit has said, "I am here to invite you to my country." So, they should make sure that such a situation is not created which

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

was prevalent prior to Independence. Because they are not concerned to develop our industry and to improve the condition of poor of this country. What I feels is that they have made a provision to union the economy of this country by bringing in foreign foods here. I hope that the hon. Finance Minister would look into the situation prevalent in the country and try to find a way or make some announcement by which small sector industry of this country can be saved and poor can be benefitted.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would neither call this Budget Pro-Poor nor growth oriented. In my opinion it is a Pro-capitalistic Budget and I oppose it.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Chairman, Sir. The hon. Minister of Finance is to reply at 5.00 today on the discussion held on the general Budget. It was decided earlier. We want to know, when the Finance Minister is going to give his reply.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Not today, the Minister of Finance is going to give his reply tomorrow.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : In that case. No bill can be passed today and two bills namely The Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill and Second Electricity law (Amendment) Bill are to be brought before the House.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I do not know far certain; but one will go to the Select Committee. The Chairman may call Shri Srikanta Jena.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shrimati Meira Kumar.

17.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR (Karol Bagh – Delhi) : Shri P. Chidambaram is not here. I wish he were here because I meant to pay him a compliment. Shri Chidambaram is in an unenviable position of being the Minister of Finance of a coalition Government. It is called the 'rainbow coalition'. But instead of having seven colours it has 14 shades! And it was certainly not an easy task to harmonise all those different shades of opinion and produce a Budget. He has done a good job and I wanted to compliment him.

Near seven per cent of growth rate, containment of fiscal deficit, widening of the tax base, expected revenue buoyancy, foreign investment, these are some of the most positive aspects of the Budget. Lowering of the personal income-tax, of the corporate tax, of the MAT, removal of corporate surcharge, of the tax on dividend on personal income have delighted the corporate sector, the salaried

class and the foreign investors. The affluent, the rich, the upper middle class, even the middle class have gained from this Budget. That is why I want to congratulate the Minister of Finance.

All those who have benefited from his Budget are those who come from the articulated sections of the society, who are the opinion makers. Therefore, there is an unqualified acclaim for this Budget all over and in the electronic and the print media.

But that is not the end of the story. I want to know what is the opinion about this Budget, or what is the opinion of all those who suffered in silence ? What is the opinion of those who live below the poverty line ? What is the opinion of those disinherited ones, the impoverished ones, the poor, the have-nots, the underdogs ? What is the opinion of those people about the Budget ?

I am not criticising for the sake of criticising. I want to draw the attention of this august House to some serious shortfalls in the Budget which are a cause of great concern and anguish because I believe that no Budget can be worth even the paper on which it is printed if it does not pass the litmus test of bring pro-poor and pro-under privileged.

The poor in our country, those who live below the poverty line, are sustained on or should I say subsist on, on the one hand, the theory of trickle down effect of higher growth and, on the other hand, the promise of more expenditure in the social sector. We are all aware, we have all the experience, we see it with naked eye, and we do not have to be economists to find out that trickle down effect is more an illusion than a reality. However, till the trickle down effect shows some result, in the interim period the disadvantaged people have to be given support in the form of employment programme and more spending in the social sector. The Minister of Finance is not here. I wanted to point it out to him if he was here, because what I am going to say is a very serious matter. It is ironical that the United Front Government is overseeing a decline in the social sector spending in real terms. The Minister of Finance expressed satisfaction over considerable savings in the Plan expenditure of the Union Budget. But he forgot to mention the cut backs in three crucial areas of welfare account for almost half of those savings.

In the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme, which not only provides nutrition to poor children but also encourages them to attend school, there is a cut back of 40 per cent and the actual expenditure is less by Rs. 600 crore. It is ironical. In the Rural Development and Employment Programme, the actual expenditure is less by Rs. 460 crore. In the National Social Assistance Programme, the actual expenditure is less by Rs. 380 crore. The present Budget promises to increase a little Rs. 1,200 crore in the social

sector. But as I have just pointed out, last year the cut backs in three crucial sectors of social welfare amount to Rs. 1,440 crore. The hon. Minister had cut down Rs. 1,440 crore last year in social sector and he promises to increase a little less than Rs. 1,200 this year. I want to draw the attention of the august House to this very serious paradox. It is a very callous attitude. It is a sheer neglect and carelessness so far as the poor of this country are concerned. This is just an example.

A majority of the poor, of those who live below poverty line, are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is a very unfortunate state of affairs. In all other countries, in all other societies, in all other economics, there are only two divisions. There are the rich or the haves and there are the poor or the have-nots. But in our society, apart from having rich and the poor, we also have the caste system and we have a very large section of our society reeling not only under economic exploitation but also under social exploitation. Majority of those who live below poverty line, are SC/STs. As it is, the Finance Minister has provided next to nothing for the poor and for the SC/STs. has provided a minuscule proportion out of that. There is Rs. 96 crore provided for the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation. There is Rs. 326.26 crore provided for SC/STs in the Special Component Plan. It is a pittance.

General impression going around is that they have the reservation policy which will solve all the woes of the SC/STs, which will take care of all their development programmes. But the ground reality is that not more than two per cent of the SC/STs even today are in a position to take the benefit of their reservation policy. They all live in grinding poverty, incapacitating humiliation and in human discrimination, both in rural areas and in urban slums. Now, is it enough to say that they should benefit from reservation and we are not going to do much for them except just providing a pittance of about Rs. 400 crore? We are on the threshold of entering a new century. We have completed fifty years of our Independence. Even today I dread to open the newspaper in the morning lest I should come across a news about atrocities on SC/STs in any part of our country. This is the reality. These are the people who till today are engaged in unclean profession, they are petty artisans. They are daily wagers, they are wage slaves. And I am surprised that our Government which is committed to growth with social justice, has not provided any scheme specifically targeted towards this group.

Most of these people living in the rural areas are agricultural labourers. They are landless tillers. We talk no end about improvement in the agricultural sector. We talk of improving the seeds, we talk of providing assured irrigation and we talk of improving the quality of land.

17.15 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

We also talk of providing more and better fertilisers and subsidy on fertilisers. We talk of improving the technology. But we never really pay any attention to the man behind it all. He suffers from gross neglect. He is the backbone of our agricultural sector. We live in an agrarian economy. So, the agricultural labourer or the landless tiller is the backbone of our economy. If we want to improve our agricultural production, if we want to repeat the Green Revolution, we have to pay attention to, we have to improve the condition of the real man or farmer who tills the land. I do not even want to call him agricultural labourer. I want to call him landless farmer. We should provide him land which is not a waste land or a barren land as is the practice while distributing surplus land to our landless agricultural labourers. We should give cultivable land to the actual tiller and a respectable level of minimum wages. This is the dream which has eluded the agricultural labourer and the bonded labourer in our villages. I want to request the Finance Minister to convert this dream into a reality.

There is often an argument given and I hear it from all quarters that giving small holdings to these landless people will not be viable. I do not know who these economists are. They may have studied in Oxford. They may have studied in Cambridge. They may have studied elsewhere abroad. But they are not aware of the realities of rural caste-ridden India. Had they been aware, they would have known what it means and how it enhances the status of a person living in the villages to have land. So I again urge upon the Finance Minister to come out with a scheme for distribution of land for economic empowerment of these people.

There is another argument which is very often advanced which says that the poverty alleviation programmes, the schemes meant for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes suffer from leakages, from pilferages, from spillages, from inefficient implementation and, therefore, there is no point in sinking more money into these schemes. But, if the implementation machinery is faulty, the need of the hour is that it should be totally overhauled. But it is criminal to cut down on the poor, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

It is with great anguish and pain that I have to draw the attention of this august House to a very serious aspect which is missing from the Budget. India has the dubious distinction of having the largest child labour force in the world.

I am ashamed to say that, it is a disgrace that we sustain our economy on the shoulders of little children. You

[Shrimati Meira Kumar]

might have read Dickens and Blake. How Little chimney sweepers used to endanger their lives. That system was abolished in Eighteenth Century that England system was abolished. We are still continuing to exploit our children. We employ them in agricultural sector, industrial sector, organised sector, unorganised sector and hazardous sector. We abuse them. Here, everyone of us is worried about creating more employment opportunities, but instead of employing our adults, we employ our children and the adults sit idle. It is such an irony and paradox. India as a nation has a commitment in the United Nations to abolish child labour and the United Front Government has a commitment to the nation to abolish child labour. But there is no mention in the Budget of any scheme to fulfil this commitment.

There is one more worry that I have. I have read in the UNICEF report of 1996-97 that in U.K. and U.S.A., children of immigrants settled there are being employed as child labourers. The multinationals are looking for areas where they can find cheap labour and weak unions. What can be more cheap than child labour? And, they have no unions. So, I put a word of caution. I am not against inviting the multinationals, if it is going to strengthen our economy. If it is going to take our economy ahead and create a great nation out of India, please have them here by all means. Please also ensure that they are not going to use the labour of our children. So, before they come here in big way, please abolish the child labour.

Last but not the least, I will come to Delhi now because I represent Delhi. Although I must thank the Finance Minister that he has increased the central assistance to all the Union Territories and States, I would say that the Central assistance provided to Delhi remains more or less the same. I do not know why and what is the logic behind it. Only Rs. 265 crore are provided to Delhi. It is a pittance. You are aware the population influx to Delhi is alarmingly high. Apart from that, the infrastructure and civic amenities are falling apart. Pollution has reached a fatal level. There is no effective scheme for housing the poor and for providing employment to them. The food prices are skyrocketing, spelling a virtual collapse of the PDS in Delhi. To add to the agony of the Delhites, recently DESU has increased the power tariff. How are we going to manage with this pittance in Delhi? So, I would urge upon the Finance Minister to take Delhi seriously. After all, it is our Capital. It is a part of our history it is a part of our mythology and it is a part of our national movement. It was the scene of the transfer of power. It is our nerve centre. It is here that we shape the destiny of the nation. It is our pride. So, I would expect more an sufficient funds for the development of Delhi.

Sir, in the end, I would say that this Budget is a departure, an obvious departure from the United Front Government's commitment to growth with social justice. No doubt, there is exuberance and euphoria about the growth rate, about containing the fiscal deficit, about widening the tax net, about the expected revenue buoyancy, about foreign investment, about carrying forward of the liberalisation process and about the economic reforms. But all this is not an overnight development. Six years ago, when our economy was on the brink of a disaster, it was the Congress Government's Budget which brought it back on the tract and subsequently, year after year, it was the reform led Budget of the Congress Government – cutting out the controls, opening new vistas of growth, removing the anomalies – which has paved the way for this present Budget. But I am anguished because – despite being on a stronger footing, on a much stronger footing than the Congress ever was for the last five years – the Finance Minister has concentrated only on the thin upper strata and growth and growth alone, shopping short of social justice.

Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a balance and progressive budget. It is good more allocations have been made for basic services like drinking water, education, irrigation etc. It is also a welcome point that one ceiling of gratuity has been increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakh. I would request the Government that necessary amendments should be made in the Payment of Gratuity Act. Similarly two percent increase have been made in P.F. contribution. It is good. As regards Income Tax, the ceiling has been fixed for wage earners at Rs. 75,000. There was a long standing demand in this regard.

Ten kg. of foodgrains are to be supplied through FPS at half the rates. This step is being welcomed. Similarly all the sections of the society are welcoming this budget. From worker to it Harshad Mehta all are welcoming it . . . (Interruptions) You are also doing. The same thing. In fact concessions have been made in the taxes in the budget, to the rich people. But I ask the Finance Minister why he has taxed on umbrella. Poor people use it in raning and not whether. Please with draw it. The prices of post card and envelops have been increased. Kindly reconsider it. In fact Finance Minister is of the view that confidence of investors can be gained if concession in taxes are given. Business and industrial activities will be boosted and overall growth will be more than seven percent. That is way by allowing huge tax concessions, F.M hoped that people will come forward to pay their taxes voluntarily. But the Finance Minister was imposed some rate of tax on the honest tax-payers and the black money holders. He should have made

some . . . (Interruptions). You want that the number of dishonest is more, whereas we want that the number of honest is more. Therefore Finance Minister has satisfy both. Under VDIS and Income Tax limit, in both the cases the upper limit for tax is 30%. There should have been some difference.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ramendra Kumar, please address the chair.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Our domestic industry sector has been made open for the multinational companies, without imposing any restrictions regarding sale etc. I want to know whether our domestic industry will be able to compete them, because we are allowing tax concession to them. We should also stick to our self-reliance policy. We should also ensure that our country should become self reliant. We should not allow other countries to cure our indigenous industry. Import duty exemption has been given in the 80 items. It is a matter to consider that in which item we should allow concession in import duty.

In the ninth plan, it has been mentioned that priority should be given to the agricultural and rural development so that more employment can be generated & poverty can be removed. There should be more production in Agriculture sector. Until production is increased, the rates will not come down. The target from agriculture was fixed at 4.5 percent in ninth Plan. Can we achieve this target? I think we cannot achieve this target. Therefore I urge upon the Govt. to allocate more fund for this sector.

We cannot benefit the farmers from crop insurance schemes. There are many draw backs therein. Therefore I request the Govt. to formulate a comprehensive crop insurance scheme, so that medium and small farmers can be benefited. Nothing has been said about it in the budget. There is also no mention about setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Therefore I request that funds should be allocated in the budget in this regard. Therefore I urge upon the Govt. to allocate funds for the setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Cash money should be provided to the farmers. So long as the condition of small and marginal farmer are not improved, neither our production would increase nor rural development can take place.

I also want to draw the attention of Govt. towards fertilizer situation. we used fertilizer. Every we import fertilizers from abroad. Last year 34-35 lakh tonne fertilizer was imported. About 2-3 crore of foreign exchange was

spent thereon. We are also providing subsidy to fertilizers. This year we are going to provide subsidy to the tune of 8,359 crore Rupees. Our fertilizer plants, like Hindustan Fertilizers and Fertilizers Corporation of India are going to be closed. Two fertilizer plants in Bihar are sick units. We have our own fertilizer plant and we need their production, why we need to import fertilizer ? We should revive our own sick fertilizer plants. There is revival package for Rs. 800 crore for HFC Govt. should provide this money for this plant. A Japanese Bank is ready to provide loan for Baruani plant, but Govt. of India is not ready to provide guarantee in this regard and without guarantee this bank is not ready to sanction loan.

Theft of electricity frok place in our country. I would like to say that if we are able to check even 50 percent of thefts of electricity, and increase the plant load factor by one percent, we would be able to earn about Rs. 2000 crore more and that amount can be utilised for generation of electricity and other development purposes . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : You people are indulged in theft of power . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : I do not want to go into this controversy. I do not want to debate with you, because you have already change your party. I want to say that theft of Power should be checked ever for 50 percent. In Bihar Plant Load Factor is less than 20, whereas National average it is more than 50. We are shouting for Power in Bihar. I therefore urge upon the Govt. to take some steps in this regard. We do not need to spend any money, but can save upto 2,000 crore of rupees, which can be spent in Power sector . . . (Interruptions).

Sir, there is acute shortage of electricity in Bihar. But the Hon'ble Minister has made an announcement during his speech in Bihar that the farmers would be provided electricity free of cost. But it will be possible only if you remain in power, . . . (Interruptions) About the Government undertakings, I would like to say that I have reservations about the Disinvestment Commission set up by the Government. I am not in its favour. I would also like to ask as to what the Government is going to do with the money it would be receiving. Whether the Government intends to spend this money in order to revive those public sector mills which are sick or facing closure ? The Government should be spending some of the money for that purpose. I am not asking for the revival of all the public sector mills however there is a need to take into consideration the revival of such public sector mills which are serving a useful purpose, which are job-oriented and whose functioning is, important from social and economic point of view and is in the interest of the nation.

[Shri Ramendra Kumar]

Sir, as the Minister of coal is here, I am deliberately raising this issue. Coal is a basic source of energy in our country . . . (Interruptions) It is not available in abundance in Bihar . . . (Interruptions) Orissa and Madhya Pradesh are far ahead of Bihar in the field. My submission is that we are thinking about importing coal however earlier there was royalty on coal which means that 110 percent import duty was being imposed on coal which has now been reduced to 10 percent. Whichever Government came into power, it kept on reducing the import duty on coal. We are going to import 20 million tonne coal. The productivity point in our country is 5 percent which means that we are going to lose our coal by importing 40 million tonnes of coal. What would happen to our produce of coal? The Coal produced in our country stands nowhere in comparison with the coal produced by foreign countries in the open market. Thus we are heading towards closure of coal industry. Hence I would like to say to the Government that the report of Chari Committee has been submitted only recently to the Government and I am not aware as to whether the Government has accepted its recommendation or not. But they have made a recommendation that the coal India should be closed down. This is the recommendation made by Chari Committee. Hon'ble Minister is smiling. It seems that some action has been taken on it. I feel that if coal India is closed down, its subsidiaries especially in Bihar viz. B.C.C.L., C.C.L. and E.C.L. which is a Bengal Company and which are incurring losses would also not be provided budgetary support or funds and consequently these companies will also close down. In order to develop and strengthen Coal India, I would like to suggest to the Government that they should merge the subsidiaries with coal India to form one single company.

Then Coal India would be the single company. As you know that such a situation had arisen in the steel industry and all the companies were merged to form a single Steel company and rest of the companies were made its division. Similarly B.C.C.L., C.C.L. or E.C.L. should be given the status of division which should function under Managing Directors and the Board should be scrapped. If you do this, the coal India would be revived.

My submission is that on one hand the Government is claiming that it is giving autonomy to public sector and on the other hand, Hinduja's are setting up a washery in this country. What is happening in this case. As it requires coal, this coal would be sent to Hinduja washery by Railway wagons from the colliery. The coal India is being pressurised to give its approval. The Minister of coal is present here. Thus the coal would be taken to Hinduja washery by Railway wagons. The Coal India would pay

to Hinduja according to the weight borne. This facility has not been given to any Electricity Board so far and this sight has not been given to any state. This facility has not been provided to any public sector company either. I would like to ask the Minister of coal. . . (Interruptions) Why are you being so kind to Hinduja's . . . (Interruptions) I would like to say that a detailed discussion should be held in this regard and you should cancel the new agreement which you are going to sign with the Hinduja's. . . (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You had only 10 minutes to speak but you have already taken 25 minutes. Please conclude now.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : There is a need to formulate a central law for the form labourers.

Secondly I would like to state that many people of my village are suffering from diseases of kidney and heart. The situation is that even those who are in a better position from economic point of view are unable to get heart or kidney operated upon in Patna or Delhi as the treatment has become very costly. When we write to the Minister of Health or the Prime Minister we get an aid of 25 thousand or 30 thousand which is very meagre. Hence I would like to make a suggestion to the Government to formulate a scheme to provide medical facility to the poor and the common man so as to provide relief to all. Today the poor one dying due to absence of medicines and money. They are unable to meet the cost of treatment.

About Bihar I would like to say that per capita income in Bihar is on the decline, whereas per capita income in Uttar Pradesh is stable. I would like to say . . . (Interruptions) that we are discussing the issue of development. Rally is also its integral part. I want that a special scheme be formulated for Bihar and development of our state should be undertaken. I would also like to request the Minister of Finance that he should not allow the rich - poor divide to widens.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The next speaker is Shri Neil Aloysius O'Brien. Please listen to him patiently. It is his maiden speech.

SHRI NEIL ALOYSIUS O'BRIEN (Nominated Anglo-Indian) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to address this august House for the first time. I am also very grateful to you and the hon. colleagues for allowing me to come to the front benches. There is a saying in the Bible that "They who are last shall be first".

I would like to confine my remarks this afternoon to a very broad survey of the Budget from an economical point of view. In the run up to the Budget, a few days before

its presentation, there were many apprehensions as to what was in store for us. There were many Jeremiahs who made the most gloomy predictions. We have now seen with the presentation of the Budget that the apprehensions have turned out to be misapprehensions.

At the outset, I must compliment the Finance Minister of presenting a Budget that includes a number of measures for invigorating the sagging capital market such as the abolition of surcharge on companies, reduction in corporate tax, abolition of dividend tax and allowing buy backs on equities. The stock market responded euphorically to these measures as indicated by the immediate upward movement of the index of share values to eventually plateau out at a reasonable level. In the Chinese calendar this is the year of the Ox. We hope in the shares and business market it could be the year of the Bull. We hope it will be a year of new issues and encouragement of expansion, modernisation and construction schemes of companies.

The cuts in customs and excise duties on several commodities will be helpful in reducing cost price and boosting demand. I would take just one important example – slash on duties on both systems and application software. This will curb illegal import of software, E-Mail or Internet. By doing this he has not just encouraged competition among indigenous producers, the Finance Minister has done something very special. He has recognised software as an intellectual property.

Other measures proposed under the Budget are also commendable. Notable among them are the partial insurance reform covering pensions and health services. Although ushering in foreign companies in the domain of insurance was turned down by Parliament, the Finance Minister has rightly urged the LIC and GIC to go out for joint ventures. Overseas Indians can invest in health insurance companies and utilise their technical knowhow. Other progressive proposals are the imposition of tax on vehicles costing more than Rs. 5 lakh, taking production capacity rather than declared output as the basis of excise duty and setting up of a committee to study the convertibility of the rupee on capital account.

What I find specially praiseworthy is the underlying commitment of the hon. Minister of Finance to social welfare despite the fact that he is a votary of economic liberalisation. A reflection of this is the increase in allotments for subsidies on fertilizers – both indigenous and imported – as well as food, as in the previous Budget. At the same time, we must not forget that the amount of subsidy in agricultural sector, which is indispensable, is well below ten per cent of the value of the total agricultural output, a limit prescribed under the 1994 GATT accord.

Arguably, the most acclaimed of the reduction of tax rates in the Budget has – the lowering of income tax slabs

and the increase in the standard deduction – come as a boon to salaried persons, who, year after year, have looked forward to some relief on this score, but alas only got crumbs from the table. I have been a salary earner all thirty-seven years of my working life and I was always aghast at the tremendous discrepancy between what my salary was and what I took home. I am sure many of us have had the same experience including the added difficulty of trying to explain this to one's wife. At the same time, we must not forget that this has come as a boon to us.

There are some criticisms on these cuts and let me just deal with those criticisms. Critics of these cuts point out that historically tax cuts have not boosted revenues through greater compliance. They cite the policy of tax cuts tried over a decade ago, which did not ensure a buoyancy in income tax revenues and had to be reversed. Yet, I feel quite strongly that many more Budgets of the sort presented today are needed to break away from traditional mindsets and to take bold steps. The hon. Minister of Finance has shown that there is no connection between high tax rates and helping the poor.

Over a decade ago, or, twelve to fifteen years ago the maximum income rate went up to 97.75 per cent. Yet, poverty did not come down. However, we must also be careful. Even though the hon. Minister of Finance has displayed courage and foresight in several spheres of fiscal policy, he has not ventured to bring the rural rich of the country within the tax net, a measure long overdue economically. Thus, a cess on big farmers to pay for an agricultural workers' insurance fund has been shelved, I trust only temporarily.

India should aspire not only to reach South-East Asian levels of taxation. But we also need to raise levels of education, health care and land reform as those countries have done. In India, there is no dearth of resources. The tax to GDP ratio is put at 10.5 per cent, which is far below the average twenty to forty per cent in many developed and developing countries.

Now, let us come to the much ventilated concern about the inflationary potential of the huge deficit envisaged in the Budget. It is an underlying supply side economic philosophy that if growth materialises, it would directly curb inflationary pressures. This is not fully tenable inasmuch as a major inflation in the short-term may itself vitiate the growth process. There is no resolve in the Budget about slashing genuinely unproductive public spendings. The promise of doing away with the *ad hoc* Treasury Bills with the RBI for financing budget deficits does not necessarily imply a cessation of inflation, particularly, as there is an allusion in the Budget to accommodate, and I quote, 'temporary mismatches in Government's expenditure and revenues on an undisclosed basis.' I also think – and it

[Shri Ramendra Kumar]

is my personal belief – that the conventional method of expressing deficit as a proportion of GDP is somewhat nebulous insofar as the GDP itself is a great imponderable.

18.00 hrs.

The amnesty scheme for persons with ill-gotten wealth is questionable, both ethically and practically. Will those, with massive black money, really volunteer to come forward in the absence of severe punitive action for failure to do so? There is a warning that it would be the last tempting offer. There have been many 'last offers'. But as a host of committees have pointed out, it is an exercise in futility and earlier attempts have largely been observed more in the breach than in the keeping. There is no denying the supreme need for tightening of tax administration in India. But are such short-cuts which may end in a *cul-de-sac* the best solutions?

Sir, even if like the scorpion I have kept the sting in the tail of my speech, I would conclude by complimenting the Minister of Finance once again for his challenging fiscal exercise and by supporting this Budget which is revolutionary in many ways.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Mumbai – South) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, My name was to be called.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Names of BJP Members have been written but your party has taken more than the allotted time.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : was to be called after him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The BJP and Congress have taken more than the allotted time. However, there are some groups which could not get even one Minute and it is necessary to give them a chance.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : I have given my name. This is not fair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. I will look into it later on.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : It is my turn now. How can you call him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can get a chance when there is time. The BJP and Congress have taken more than the allotted time.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : How

can you avoid that? It was said that for certain parties only one minute has been allotted. How can anyone confine his speech to one minute on the General Budget? Yesterday, I was also restricted because I have consumed more time than what was allotted. Apart from the fact that this is going to be a mid-night drama, we must provide enough time. I think this kind of restriction should not be there.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : You can extend time but, presently allow me to speak since it is my turn . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You and the hon. lady Member are saying same thing.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are sitting upto 10 in the night. I will call you later on.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, everyday is sitting upto 10. But, you are excluding me and calling the next Member. I was told earlier that I will get a chance after him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are absolutely right but, after going through the time schedule I have found that your party has consumed the allotted time.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, It is my turn now and allow me to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Time allotted to your party has been consumed. I will first call names of the parties who have not got a chance to speak.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. You have called her to speak. Allow me after her.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will see to it.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : How can you call her when it is my turn.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him speak now.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Allow me to speak after him. I should get a chance after him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is far me to decide. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him speak now.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, I rise to support the Budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance for the year 1997-98 with certain reservations. This is the second Budget which has been presented by and on behalf of the United Front Government by the hon. Minister of Finance in this august House. When we analyse a Budget, the most important aspect we should first see is that whether it is pro-rich or pro-poor.

The *Magna Carta* or the Bible or the Quran or the Geeta of the United Front Government is considered to be the Common Minimum Programme which is an issue based programme. The Common Minimum Programme has been drafted and is being implemented for the upliftment of the poor people, the common or the ordinary people of the society.

First of all, I would like to analyse the Budget as to whether it has rendered justice with regard to the Common Minimum Programme. The Union Budget of this year has given rise to so many apprehensions; and doubts are still there to the effect that it is favouring the rich class of society, it is favouring the 'haves' of the society and it has ignored, in some way, the poor, the common or the ordinary people of this country. I would like to give examples.

Firstly, to say about the corporate sector, what are the benefits which are available to the corporate sector? Several tax exemptions, concessions and benefits are given to the corporate sector, the multinational companies and the rich class of people. The rate of surcharge on corporate sector has been reduced from 15 per cent to 7.5 per cent last year; and it has been abolished, unexpectedly. Secondly, the tax rate applicable to the domestic and foreign companies has been reduced to 35 per cent and 48 per cent respectively. Thirdly, the tax rate on royalty and technical services payable by the foreign companies has been reduced from 30 per cent to 20 per cent. In the case of MAT also, some benefits have been given to them. Coming to tax on dividend, the share market people have been exempted from payment of tax. The common people are forced to pay income tax, but the persons who are playing in the share markets have been exempted from income tax. Tax on dividend is a highly crucial one. This is favouring the rich and the corporate classes.

The rate of corporate tax has been reduced from 40 per cent to 35 per cent. Due to this, the net result is that the tax liability of the corporate sector is brought down by eight per cent, that is, eight per cent tax exemption has been given to the corporate sector. I do agree that for getting more investment, it is necessary. It may be the

policy that, for liberalisation or globalisation, we have to attract or to bring more foreign investment to our country. But what is the net effect? A close analysis by many eminent personalities reveals that most of the private companies in India such as Mahindra & Mahindra, Raymonds and Tata Chemicals, would get an opportunity to garner tax benefits amounting to Rs. 21.67 crore, Rs. 2.23 crore and Rs. 4.09 crore respectively. This is the benefit which is being given to the corporate sector. Similarly, more benefits would accrue to the multinational companies also.

We are all very happy to hear what our learned hon. Member Shri Dasmunsi was saying. He was critically analysing the Budget. He was attacking the Budget regarding reduction of customs duty. We welcome it. But I would like to say that the peak rate of customs duty has been reduced considerably, that is, from 50 per cent to 40 per cent. What is the net result? There is no doubt that the indigenous industries would be affected by this; and the death knell of the indigenous industries has been sounded which would adversely affect the interests of the indigenous industries.

I would like to cite an example. In my constituency in Kerala, there is the company called Kerala Metals and Minerals Limited. There is another company called Travancore Titanium Products. They do import the Titanium Dioxide, Grade-A from foreign countries. I would like to say that in the year 1993-94, the export duty of Grade-A Titanium Dioxide was 85 per cent. Sir, in 1994-95, it was reduced to 65 per cent. In 1995-96, it was reduced to 60 per cent. In last year's Budget, the customs duty was reduced from 50 per cent to 40 per cent. What was the resultant effect? The resultant effect was that multinational companies like Du Pont have started dumping titanium and other allied products in our country. As a result of dumping and export of these products, the customs duty has been reduced and indigenous industries like titanium industries in India are under threat. At this moment, I would like to urge upon the Government to maintain at least 50 per cent of the peak rate of customs duties. If it is reduced considerably to 40 per cent and further reduced to 30 per cent or 20 per cent, then there is no doubt that our indigenous industries will go away and will be replaced by the multinationals. All the doors are open for the multinational companies to dump their products. India is going to the market of the multinationals. So, I would say that the rate of customs duty should be maintained. At the present moment, 40 per cent is the import duty of titanium dioxide. That has to be enhanced to 50 per cent.

I would also like to say about the achievements made. I am not ignoring the achievements made in this Budget. Some measures are taken in this Budget to secure the

[Shri N.K. Premchandran]

welfare of our country. I am appreciating those measures also. At the same time, kindly look to the other side of the Budget. This is only first part of the Budget.

What about the other side of the Budget ? What about the poor and common people of our country ? As regards taxation, I would like to know the attitude and approach of this Government and of the Finance Minister about the small scale industries. I would like to cite so many examples. The brick industry and tile industry in Kerala have been imposed with heavy tax burden. Tax on umbrellas have been increased. These are well known and criticised. As regards postal tariff, one rupee postal cover has been increased to two rupees. Taxes on products which are used by the common people have been increased. On the other hand, the corporate sector has been given so many concessions. These are the two sides of the coin. So, analysing these aspects of the Budget, how can we say that this is a balanced Budget ? So, it cannot be said as a balanced Budget. It is giving much profit and benefit to the rich class, to the corporate sector and to the haves.

I would also like to appreciate the basic minimum service. Last year, the allocation was Rs. 2466 crore and now, it is enhanced to Rs. 3300 crore. The allocation for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme was Rs. 900 crore and now, it is enhanced to Rs. 1300 crore. Allocation for Ganga Kalyan Project is Rs. 200 crore and for Kasturba Gandhi Shiksha Yojana, Rs. 250 crore has been allocated. Subsidies on food and fertiliser have been increased to 20 per cent. I am appreciating all these things. As the same time, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to whether we are able to mobilise resources to meet the social requirements and welfare activities of the people of our country. That has to be answered because even the hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget, admits that the revenue deficit for the year 1997-98 is expected to be Rs. 30,266 crore, that is, two per cent of the GDP. Fiscal deficit for 1997-98 comes to Rs. 65,454 crore, that is, 4.5 per cent of the GDP. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to whether he is confident that he would overcome and bring down the fiscal deficit to 4 per cent by his limited resources.

Sir, as regards food and fertiliser subsidy and also the dual pricing policy of the public distribution system, it is definite that they will increase the deficit. The oil pool deficit is going up to Rs. 19,000 crore or Rs. 20,000 crore. Bringing down the fiscal deficit to 4 per cent has also lead to so many apprehensions.

The Hindustan Latex Limited in Kerala is earning profit for the last so many years. But the Disinvestment

Commission has recommended that 74 per cent of the shares should be sold to private parties. What is the benefit of such a proposal ? All the indigenous public sector undertakings are perturbed by this Disinvestment Commission. Even those undertakings earning profit are under such a threat. What is the economics of such a proposal ? What is the benefit to our country ? I cannot understand it. So, I would like to appeal to the Government to reconsider it.

As far as opening of the insurance sector is concerned, I vehemently oppose the proposal made in the Budget. It is well know that in the Ninth Plan, the LIC and the GIC have been earning huge profit. We are expecting that these two Corporations would be able to achieve the goal of Rs. 90,000 crore in the Ninth Plan. We are going to privitise them. What is the proposal of the Malhotra Committee ? It is efficiency through competition. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what was the position of the insurance sector before nationalisation of the GIC and LIC. Its efficiency has increased.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Premchandran, please conclude. Your party has already exhausted the time.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : I am concluding with two very important points. As far as health insurance sector is concerned, privatisation means that the entire insurance sector is going to be privatised. So, I oppose the proposal.

Regarding the agricultural sector, which has already been mentioned, 30 per cent of the total GDP is being contributed by the agriculture sector. What is the increase? We are expecting seven per cent increase in the GDP growth rate . . . (Interruptions) But there is only a marginal increase of Rs. 20 crore. Even the Economic Survey states that agricultural production has come down only because there is no new innovation. So, more allocation should be given to agriculture so as to increase the production.

Once again, I support the Budget with these limited reservations.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance that inspite of mounting pressure of internal as well as external forces he has tried his best to fulfill the aspirations of common man through this budget and created on air of enthusiasm. In this budget, on the one hand hon. Minister of Finance has taken several risky and daring steps, enacted some new laws, improved the taxation system and on the other hand also pointed out towards the shortcomings and problems of our economy in his speech as well as in Economic Survey. He also mentioned the reasons for decline in our external trade. Financial indiscipline, inflation, faulty infrastructure,

shortage of power and petroleum are the reasons for its decline.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to think over this budget from three viewpoints. The first is over-all National Development and Character, Secondly from socialists point of view as I belong to Samajvadi Party and believe in socialism. Thirdly from viewpoint of my area as I come from Uttar Pradesh which is the largest state from view population point to view and for the last many years is gripped in the quagmire of poverty and backwardness due to negligence. What will be the criteria of overall national development. Poverty can be that criteria and this is an issue which has been debated widely in this House. I am very sorry to observe that earlier MPs used to support and launch various poverty alleviation programmes but now this issue is not taken that seriously. Now our economists, who frame the economic policy have developed an entirely different ideology that poor class will receive proportionately more refuse if rich are made more rich. Thus poverty is not dealt seriously.

Sir, I would like to say that our hon. Prime Minister had, made an announcement in Rome & that we shall eradicate poverty by year 2000. I appreciate his sentiments in this regard. According to Lakadwala 37 percent population in our country is living below poverty line. Former Finance Minister Shri Manmohan Singh had said to reduce this figure from 37 percent to 19 percent, but no such provision has been made in this budget for it. Rs. 50 crore has been allocated for poverty alleviation of a population of 100 crore.

The second question is with regard to disparity between rich and poor. If this disparity is not removed, it will revive the country earliest because it can be the reason for ruining of the country. Today I do not want to say anything about socialism because since the presentation of general budget of 1984-85, our economists took a U turn and changed their ideology about socialism. How we can remove this disparity when we cannot discuss socialism here which is mentioned in the Constitution of India. It is very essential to remove disparity. . . (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will also get a chance to speak.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : The very first requirement for removal of this disparity is to impose a ceiling on expenditure and raise the production in rural sector. The people engaged in farming activities should be given remunerative prices for their produce. Diversification of crops should be introduced and like the creation of basis infrastructure for industry, the required infrastructure should be developed for agriculture.

18.23 hrs.

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE *in the chair*]

I would also like to say that earlier the share of agriculture in gross National income was more than 55 percent which has declined to 28 or 29 percent. In this House I would like to make a demand that a separate budget should be presented for Agriculture. This House should be informed about the earning from agricultural sector through banks, saving schemes etc. and funds spent on development of rural sector. So for the issue of unemployment is concerned, I would like to say that animal husbandry, dairy and agricultural sector have termination potential of employment opportunities for all. We cannot provide employment to everyone till this sector is exploited.

In his budget speech hon. Minister of Finance has said that we shall import wheat if needed. In this contexts, I seek his assurance that in place of import of wheat, its production will be raised to an extent of self-sufficiency and try to export wheat. It will be better if we pay remunerative prices to our farmers. In 1994-95 our agricultural production was to the tune of 191 million tonne. I had given a suggestion for imposing a ceiling on expenditure. Nicholas Carter has also mentioned in his report to impose tax on expenditure. Sir, the revenue figures given in this budget are on the basis of an estimated 15 percent increase in revenue and these are based on our 15 percent growth.

The hon. Finance Minister has a concept in his mind that relaxation in taxes will boost development and increase revenue. In this context I would like to submit that this can be possible only when there is decline in demand and pace of industrial development is slowed due to decline in demand but our problem is different. In his budget speech hon. Minister himself has admitted that industrial production is falling. It means that not the demand but there is shortage of supply. The main reason for it is our faulty infrastructure. We cannot boost our industrial production. If we do not pay attention towards improving the infrastructure.

In Common Minimum Programme an announcement was made for setting up of Road Development Fund and a provision of Rs. 500 crore were made for it but in the budget it has not been mentioned at all. We are trying to seek foreign investment for development of our country but efficient roads and rail service is must for it. But a meagre amount has been allocated for it which cannot be considered sufficient. The cars of such a fine quality and costly vehicles coming in the market can not run on our roads which are in dilapidated conditions. Our economy can develop only when there is adequate power supply

Public Sector as well as private sector both are the

[Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari]

two pillars of development. We are giving concessions and subsidies to the tune of Rs. 20,000 crores to the big industrialists in the private sector. In my district Basti, the owner of Oswal Mills set up a vanaspati ghee manufacturing factory at Khalilabad which was earning profit. But when they received full amount of subsidy then it was shown that the factory is running into loss. We have announced VDS. I had asked a question as to what steps are being taken to check the money going out from the country. The American economists of international standing had calculated it. In two years, 11 billion dollars have been sent to America and according to the broad estimate of the Reserve Bank of India about 180 billion dollars of the Indian people have been deposited in foreign countries. If this money is brought back in the country then we will not have to run after multi-national companies. But the question is how to bring this money back. This money can be invested in the infrastructure. This capital can also be invested in the real estate. This will check the flight of money outside the country. But today, we see that the public sector is being discouraged. This spirit behind the principle of developing the private sector was to check the disparity and concentration of wealth in few hands. But now the public sector undertakings are being dispensed with gradually.

We have to improve the working of public sector by utilising the upgraded technology. So, I will request for the constitution of the Committee comprising of Members of various parties to consider ways for improving the public sector.

Adequate amount has not been set apart for the defence budget. Our neighbour China has increased their defence budget by 16 percent but we have increased only about 2 percent. We will also have to increase our strength to check mate China because it is a question of national security. There is a feeling that only the strong, organised and rich sections of the societies can take lion share in the economy and the poor and unorganised people don't get their share. The poor farmer should also be given their due. Otherwise our country can not make progress. There is a need for providing education, irrigation facilities and full employment to our people.

We should be conscious about our oil deficit. The oil production in the country barely meets 40 percent of our requirements in that is why our import bill is rising continuously. The subsidy in respect of diesel is given in the name of the farmer but actually most of diesel is consumed by the rich sections of the society and they use for their rolls royce and other foreign motor cars. So there should be rationing of diesel and petrol. Only then we can become self dependent in the matter of oil and our country

will become strong. At the same time poverty can also be checked in this country.

Maximum provision in the budget should be made for irrigation, animal husbandry, education and flood controlling measures. Our plan expenditure is continuously decreasing. In this situation, how can our country make progress. It is a matter of grave concern, we should make higher provision for the welfare of the poor for which we are committed.

With these words, I support the budget provisions.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Bombay – South) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister Shri Chidambaram has very cleverly presented this budget to win the appreciation of public. I praise him for preparing this populist budget but there is a saying in Marathi which says :

"Dista tasa nasta,

Histam tasam nastam

Mrejoon jag Phastam.

Mahnoon jag Phansta."

It means all that glitters is not the gold. The whole world is taken by glitter of this object I will be happy if the hon. Minister listen to my comments on it. With this budget, I am not hopeful that it will expedite development or country will get rid of its debt problem on the occasion of golden jubilee celebration of the country, at present the life of common man has been disturbed. Economic disparity has been created between poor and rich and this divide is widening day by day. I would like to recite this couplet

"Dharti baanti, ambar baanta,

Baant diya Bhagwan ko

Is sansar mein rahna hai to

mat bannto insaan ko."

With this I request the hon. Minister of Finance to take steps for removal of economic disparity. The hon. Minister of Finance has floated a scheme for disclosure of black money worth Rs. 60,000 crore. It is doubtful that how much money could be recovered or how much black money is hidden in our country and in foreign countries.

Former Finance Minister has also floated such a scheme in October 1975 for disclosure of black money worth Rs. 250 crore. In 1981 black money worth only Rs. 88 crore was recovered through special bonds no such scheme is launched in any other country of this world. It is my submission or rather can be treated as allegations that the names of political leaders involved in recently unearthed scams reveal that how this black money is being

utilized. We cannot betray this bitter fact that politicians, industrialists and actors are involved in such activities.

Such schemes as introduced by hon. Finance Minister encourage dishonest persons. It seems that in oblation of economic system ethics are being sacrificed. I would like to say that income tax department is involved in corrupt practices. Therefore, alongwith the economic responsibility hon. Minister should also fulfil his moral responsibility, It is really a serious thing that since the regime of congress party even today the same practice is followed and traitors, who amass money at cost of moral values are forgiven and poor and small industrialists are punished in the name of corruption.

In view of the proposed new scheme for black money, some more people will not pay income tax because at present they have to pay 40 percent as tax whereas under the proposed new scheme they have to pay only 30 percent. People will evade income tax to get benefit of this scheme. In this way Government encourage tax evasion.

I would also like to say to the hon. Finance Minister that in this budget injustice has been done to domestic and small scale industry. Small-Scale industry and reserved industry have been brought in competition of foreign companies and now they will face the outcome of this improper and undesirable competition. Undoubtedly this will create a wrong atmosphere. For example I would like to say that Umbrella industry is a small industry of the country. In 1994-95 Shri Manmohan Singh had levied excise duty on it which was removed later on when questions were raised on it during zero Hour. I request the hon. Finance Minister to withdraw the 8 percent excise duty levied by him on unorganised cottage industries. It is not proper because mostly illiterate persons are engaged* in this sector. Umbrella is not manufactured at one place but its different parts like handle, wire and clothes are manufactured at different places. If these are collected and then it is manufactured. It is really injustice to this unorganised and scattered industry that 8 percent tax is levied by the Minister.

Because this way they shall have to pay double excise duty. Umbrella is used by the poor people. The people who are possessing motor-cars do not use umbrella. Electric power is not used in the manufacture of Umbrella. The electricity which is used to manufacture rain coats from PVC is exempted from excise duty, but the Umbrella industry has been subjected to excise duty. Such a step would be fatal of the craftsmen. This is not a perennial industry. These employees go to other places for other jobs like agriculture etc. during the lean period. What I mean to say that a craftsman collects material from 4-5 places and makes an Umbrella and it becomes necessary for him to give a brand- name to the product, like the company

which has produced it. When the product gets a brand-name, the Government decides to impose 8 per cent Tax on it. I would like to say that it is improper and this may there would be injustice to the craftsman and the cottage industry. Therefore, this excise duty should not be imposed. Secondly, they can't maintain a record as they are illiterate. Big companies is a separate thing, but it is important to forgive small companies, ordinary people and ordinary craftsmen. As far as I know, these ordinary people would be paying 2-3 crore rupees to the Government, but the Government is spending more amount to collect this amount. So, I would urge the Finance Minister to waive of excise duty from an umbrella which is priced upto Rs. 100. The Finance Minister should give some concession at least on an umbrella of low price. Other wise also this is a commodity which is used by the poor people. I believe the hon. Minister will consider this.

Secondly, I would like to speak about cakes and pastry. These thing have also been subjected to 8 per cent. I do not oppose if excise duty is imposed on big companies like Britannia, Modern, Mangesse, Nilgiris, Itala, J&B etc., but a demarcation line is to be drawn between packed and unpacked goods. There is a reason behind it and that is, ladies are making cakes and pastries while sitting indoors and earn a livelihood. Therefore, these unorganised people, and these minor companies should be exempted from excise duty. I have already said that these ordinary and illiterate people can't maintain a record if it very difficult for them. Therefore, I would suggest that a definite amount of money should be fixed for them and they do not deny paying that amount. They say that you can take a fixed amount of money from them every year, but they find it difficult to maintain an account. There is no going to be any loss to the Government. People are ready to pay revenue they don't refuse paying it. If so much money is spent to realise the revenue, then there is no sense in getting the revenue. Therefore, I would like that the hon. Finance Minister should think about it.

Now-a-days, deficit in agriculture and less production of food-grains is the main cause of economic downfall in the whole country. Physically, we are broken, spiritually we are thirsty and there are no coins in coffer, and this is the story of the entire country. The Government has got a scheme of giving wheat at cheap rates, a scheme of distribution of rice for increasing the note bank, but if sufficient wheat is not available in the country, where from the grains would be distributed. Where from can we get funds for these expenses ? It is not proper to propagate the living in a parasitic way on somebody else's earnings. Simply, there is no propriety in declaring the foreign consumer items as cheap and reducing the rates of luxury items. This will encourage materialistic and dazzling and glamorous way of thinking which is not proper.

[Shrimati Jayawanti Navinchandra Mehta]

So, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that keeping in view our nationality and patriotism the country is to be lead to the pinnade of affluence and we have to achieve economic affluence, in order to do so efforts may be made to develop industries and after wards a setting up of multinational companies may be thought. This will improve the economic situation of the country, farmers and labourers status will also improve and the people will get employment through the development of small industries. With this request, I would urge upon the Finance Minister to concentrate on small industries and no other subjects, and with that I would like to end my statement with a hope that excise duty on umbrella would be removed. Some relief may be provided to those people as well who are in cake and pastry business by providing relief by fixing an amount of further. This way all the ordinary people will be encouraged, with these words, I would conclude my Statement.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this budget vehemently. Otherwise also, this Budget is just like a mirage. In a desert when people look from a distance the shining sands appear to be water and the travellers move quickly to get it and the mirage continues. Likewise, some people are cheated and call this Budget as the excellent one. The Budget has been carefully and beautifully made up. Thanks to Shri Chidambaram who has tried his best to shroud the ugliness of the budget with a smooth front. This Budget is like that party which is working in the name of Dr. Lohia but he says . . . (Interruptions)** Like wise is big capitalists can bring about socialism. It is a misnorms, that socialism can be brought about in the leadership of capitalists. In the same manner, removal of poverty by this budget is nothing else but a joke . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Rightly or wrongly, he mentioned the names of the Members of the other House. You say anything about the Budget but you should not take the name of the Members of the other House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, you should not take the name of the hon. Members of the other House.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Madam, the names should be deleted from the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, that will go off the record.

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : I have no such intention. Now I am coming to the budget. In this budget, most of the relaxations are given to the middle class or the affluent class above them. I admit that, the Government has

increased the relaxation, but I would like to know one thing. When gold was available at the rate of Rs. 100/- the Income Tax rebate was Rs. 6000. If the whole rebate in income tax would be calculated it will come to more than Rs. 50,000, but how much gold you can buy now-a-days for Rs. 50 thousand ? When there was a relaxation of Rs. 6000 in the income tax, the rate of gold was Rs. 100 a tola. If we calculate on those lines a relaxation of 3.5 lakh will come to Rs. 6000. So, it is not correct at all to say that a big relaxation has been given in the income tax.

Sir, many Members have asked one question that budget is alright, but the question arises where from the funds would be raised and the question is proper where from to raise the funds. I believe that no efforts would be made to lessen the Budget deficit the funds wasted by hon. Finance Minister and the United Front Government.

It appears that there is no intention of the Government to curb unnecessary expenditure not to speak of efforts. Long time ago the Budget was presented, where there were certain items, certain schemes perhaps deliberately, perhaps for the corrupt officers to loot millions of rupees. Certain schemes likes Adult Education, National Literacy Mission etc. were included, which are not the least beneficial. Time and again this issue is discussed in the Parliament. Surveys be conducted, the way hon. Agriculture Minister has evolved a Scheme of Social Audit, likewise a social audist may be carried out and it will be gauged that millions of rupees which are spent in the name of National Literacy Mission and other types of schemes are being looted by the employees and corrupt officers. If a check is put on all these things, the budget deficit may perhaps go down.

Poor people will not be burdened, moreover, but no such intentions are visible. We are aware that the predecessors have left after making wrong schemes but for them it is like a holy book. Although they are aware that this money is going waste. They don't have the courage to lift them up.

Secondly, I would like to praise Shri Manmohan Singh ji that he has not make any big promises, but the 'Inspector Raj' (Rule) during his tenure had a less strength. But the same Inspector Raj (Rule) is being brought back by Shri Chidambaram.

Going through the proposals mooted far the poor, I am reminded of a saying, famous in Eastern Uttar Pradesh that a person had a cloth mill wherein he incurred losses. So he set up a loom to make up for the losses. My point is that the Government is unable to keep a check on large amount of money going down the drain and wants to make up for the losses through small measures. The Government imposed 5 percent excise duty on Road Transport because of this very tendency. I would like to ask as to how strong Inspector regime would have to be established in the country in order to recover this 5 percent excise duty. Transport Companies are operating even in small towns

** Not Recorded.

so whether the Government proposes to depute Inspectors in those areas also. We know that these Inspectors will loot the transporters.

Did you not feel even an iota of pity for the poor people who go to the gulf or other foreign countries in search of jobs when you imposed 5 percent tax on their tickets. People will surely pay taxes but what about the Inspectors regime ?

I had gone to Mumbai a few days ago. I saw Inspectors' Raj there. The Government will charge five percent tax for travelling and will also be providing opportunity to excise and custom inspectors to loot the money in frise of excise duty. My point is that revenue earned will be far lesser than the funds spent for recovering taxes.

I would like to enquire about the social justification of imposing excise duty on umbrellas. Only Poor people use umbrellas. No rich person uses the umbrella. The Government has imposed 8 percent tax on them. Thus Shri Chidambaram is making good of the losses of mills by setting up looms.

A person opens a bakery in a village and also provides employment to 10 other people by investing some money in it. Cakes and pastries are prepared therein. What is the justification of imposing excise duty on his operations ? If the Government had imposed excise duty on the large scale biscuit factories, one could have understood the rationale thereof.

Everybody knows that social equality does not exist in the country. The Government is spending crores of rupees on Delhi whereas it is not paying any attention to the villages. I agree that the Government has increased the expenditure on rural areas but not in the same proportions as in the case of urban areas. The disparity is more or less the same as it existed 100 years ago. The same disparity is present even today.

The cities in Uttar Pradesh are in a better condition, but as for my constituency, I would like to tell you that villages are located at a distance of 20 kilometers from the road and not even five percent villages have been electrified.

19.00 hrs.

An Inter-college is located at a distance of 25 kilometers. A lot of disparity can be seen every where. In the backward state of Uttar Pradesh, my constituency is the most backward area. I do not consider it proper to discuss my constituency during the discussions on General Budget. I have cited the names of areas as an example. The intentions and the resolution to do away with the disparity among the states and the areas is not visible at all. Whether the Government propose to make an attempt to remove this disparity. Whenever I was given a chance to speak, I did not take much time of the House. I always

speak point-wise. Today also, I do not wish to take much time. The Finance Minister is present here. It would be better if he expresses his views on it. The Government has imposed small taxes on the poor through which Inspector Raj would gain more ground. We got ourselves freed from such Raj after facing great difficulties. For God's sake, please do not try to re-impose the Inspector Raj.

The excise duty imposed on the tickets of labourers migrating to gulf and other countries should be waived off. This duty should be imposed on those who go to Europe and U.S.A. to enjoy themselves. I won't have any objection to that. The Government should impose it on the businessmen. It should not impose excise duty on such labourers who go to gulf countries after selling their fields in order to earn a living. This is injustice. Do not levy excise duty on small bakeries. Withdraw the tax imposed on umbrellas. No tax should be imposed on road transport. All such measures give rise to Inspector Raj.

With these words and with the hope that Shri Chidambaram is sympathetic towards the poor and I do believe that this Government has a sympathetic attitude towards the poor. I do not wish to put the entire blame on the Government but if this government has real sympathy for the poor, it should not impose taxes on the poor. The Government will not get large amount of money in this manner. If the Government is incurring heavy losses, it should shift the burden on those who are being given large concessions and then I won't have any objection.

With these words, I conclude. I want that Shri Chidambaram should express his views as to whether he proposes to withdraw the tax imposed on poor or not ?

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Hon'ble Madam Chairman, I thank you for having given me the opportunity to speak because I kept on sitting here last night waiting for my turn. Nobody from my state has participated in the discussion on the budget. First of all, I thank Hon'ble Minister for having presented such a good budget. I support this budget. Our Hon'ble prime Minister has made several announcements during his tour of Eastern States. Commendable work has been done in Kashmir. But he has not made any announcement for Himachal Pradesh which falls in the first category. I won't make a very long speech because a number of intellectuals are present here. They have used high flown language and have tried to prove on the basis of the data the drawbacks of the budget but nobody has come out with any solution to remove these drawbacks. The budget has only been criticised here.

As you are well aware that this Government consists of 14 parties. All of us have joined hands. Nobody wants to form any alliance with the commercial forces. We are running this Government unanimously and trying to strengthen it.

Madam, first of all I would like to say that the previous Government had allocated Rs. 900 crores for

[Shri Iliyas Azmi]

farmers and for irrigational purposes which has been increased to Rs. 1300 crores this year. I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister towards my constituency in this regard that tubewells can be installed in the plain areas. There are proposals to instal tubewells at several places but no allocation has been made for the purpose so far. I request the government to allocate money for the plain areas of my constituency so that the farmers may be benefited.

Madam, Rs. 200 crores have been allocated for Ganga Action Plan. All the rivers of Himachal Pradesh flow towards the plains because of which the land erosion is taking place. It is a national loss. Hence I want that forest farming should be taken up for checking the land erosion and rivers should be channalised. Funds should be provided for this purpose.

I had asked a Question no. 660 on February 26, 1996 wherein I asked for information regarding the package programmes. In reply, I was informed that several programmers have been announced for the economic development of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Jammu and Kashmir but I regret to state that Himachal Pradesh has been left out. I would request Hon'ble Finance Minister to include Himachal Pradesh in this list.

Madam, I would like to inform you that the Eighth Finance Commission reduced allocation of funds for all such states which fall under special category and accordingly allocation for Himachal Pradesh was also reduced. Thereafter Ninth Finance Commission was set up and then we got some money. Only yesterday, the issue of waiving off the debt of five – six thousand crore rupees of Punjab was raised here even as Akali – B.J.P. Government has come into power there. So far as Himachal Pradesh is concerned, 20,000 megawatt electricity can be generated through the hydel system and the requirement of northern zone can be met. But we have no money. I want that funds should be provided for power generation in Himachal Pradesh. I would like to inform you that so far as electricity in concerned, all the power projects set up in the country are generating power. Whether the Government wishes to boost their production or suffer losses by providing electricity free of cost in all the states? If that is the case, why this Department has been formed in the country? How will the Government pay them salaries? How will it repay the mounting debts? I am unable to comprehend as to why we wish to ruin our economy? If that is the case, how will we be able to run the country? There is a need to conduct a study in this regard and there is a need to offer help to the poor. The previous Government had waived off debts upto 10,000 rupees. Whose debts were waived off? Those who do not pay back either to the Government or to the other people in the village. The wealth of rich remain intact whereas the Government employees or farmers do not

benefit from it. Those who had borrowed money from banks, have had their debts waived off. We have wasted crores of rupees in this manner. We are leading the nation towards destruction.

We do not pay any special attention to strengthening of our economy and running the affairs of our country properly. You have envisaged in your budget that foreign companies would enter our country and make investment here. I hold the view that their will not be in the interest of our country. The foreigners should not be allowed to exploit our people. We must remain alert as far as the exploiters are concerned. It is true that we need money but if you go on distributing the foreign money as alms, then the entire country will be ruined.

The economy of Himachal Pradesh depends on the production of apples, potatoes, maushami and vegetables. Our farmers are badly exploited. When the reach Azadpur Mandi in Delhi, they are given the rates as determined by its load. The Government does not pay any attention towards the farmers. The people in Himachal Pradesh want support price for apples. During the BJP Government three persons were shot dead as they were demanding support price for apples, I urge upon the Central Govt. to declare support price for the items produced in hilly regions as declared in case of other goods.

Adjoining our State is Garhwal, which is also a hilly region. Hill people do not indulge in agitations but they do so when subjected to too lot of exploitation. They are demanding for a separate State. They should be given a separate state. Our Customs and retuals are all a like and we can understand the problems of hilly regions which cannot be comprehended by others. Our areas are without roads; there is no money for power there, no job opportunities, yet we have been ignored in the budget. Whom should we address our grievances. This is the only plat form from where we can voice our concerns. If you want to run the administration properly and honestly, then go and nab those who evade taxes. Who pays taxes today. The Government servants pay taxes but those who are affluent, they do not pay taxes, ultimately these people, who have Income Tax arrears of Crores of Rupees approach the Supreme Court or High Court. Nothing is being done with regard to them. Their houses should be raided and their money should be seized so that the nation may progress. If we just go on saying that it would be done, then nothing would be done. This should not be done until we consolidated our inherse strength.

Madam Chairperson. I had several points to cover but the time is short. How can we progress if develop tourism is not developed and industries are set up in our area. We can make our point through this House only. It is a sort of temple. If we go on making allegations on each other, then our no purpose will be served. We have to see the entire nation and people want into think unitedly about the nation. The leaders of various parties just say something and wash their hands . . . (Interruptions).

[Shri K.D. Sultanpuri]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sultanpuri, you have made your point. Kindly conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI. S.P. JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Please let him conclude.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Madam Chairman, you are our old colleague you too want to see some work to be done for the welfare of women folk. You too fight for women's rights.

But there is nothing for women in the budget. Now a days there are no jobs for SCs. Their backlog is not being filled. The SC people woder everywhere for jobs and subjected to atrocities alongwith their wise. But there is no solution to this problem. Please see U.P., Himachal or the entire country, atrocities are being committed everywhere. You should remain alert to safeguard their interests. We all should get unite and strive hard to make our country strong. The Finance Minister has presented a good budget to the nation. It can be harmful to many people and several persons can be benefited from it but the poor and the village should be provided more benefits thought it. To achieve this and the short coming of this budget should be removed.

Madam, with these words I conclude and thank you for giving me opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Minister will make an announcement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGAPALACHARI) : Madam, as the House is sitting late today, on behalf of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, I have to inform the House that arrangements have been made to serve dinner to hon. Members, Press and staff of the Secretariat. Dinner will be served to the hon. Members and Press from 8.00 p.m. in Room No. 70, and to the staff in Room No. 73, on the first floor.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Upto what time are we sitting ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are going to sit upto 10 O'clock.

*SHRI L. RAMANA (Karimnagar) : Madam Chairperson, Shri Chidambaram, our Hon. Finance Minister has presented the General Budget for the year 1997-98.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

Though it is general budget. It has many outstanding features. This budget has been well received by all sections of the society throughout the country.

The present Finance Minister has created a record by presenting two budgets within a span of nine months.

Madam, my party Telugu Desam is extremely happy at the fact that common minimum programme evolved by the United Front Government got a concrete and distinct shape through this budget.

As much as Rs. 3922 crores have been allocated for this year for social sector. Thus top priority has been accorded to the all round development of our society.

Farmers are the backbone of our economy. They toil day and night, round the year, to produce food grains to feed the nation. Our Hon. Finance Minister has displayed wisdom and maturity by offering subsidies on fertilizers at an unprecedented level. The subsidy on indigenous fertilisers has been enhanced to Rs. 5240 crores for the year 1997-98. Last year it was only Rs. 4743 crores.

More than 32 crores of people in the country are living below poverty line. Our Hon. Finance Minister has provided immense relief to these sections by offering an unprecedented subsidy of Rs. 7500 crores on food grains and sugar. This is a record in itself.

The budget support for Central, States and UT Plans this year is also at the record level. It reflects the Government's commitment to the planned progress of the nation.

The outlay for Defence for the financial year 1997-98 is Rs. 35,620 crores. There is a steep increase in the allocation for the armed forces this year and it shows how deeply the UF Government is committed to the cause of Defence of our motherland.

The special feature of this year's budget is the introduction of the voluntary disclosure scheme. This scheme would provide a golden oppotunity to unearth the black money in the country. I hope and trust that the voluntary disclosure scheme to harness 'black money' for productive purposes would be a story of success.

As Hon. Finance Minister himself stated in his budget, we are all extremely concerned about the meance of growing pollution in the country. The proposal to reduce the customs duty sharply of catalytic converters and their parts to 5% from the existing rate of 25%, would be welcomed by all those who are concerned about the health of the people.

To promote tourism, the Hon. Finance Minister has proposed to reduce the import duty on specified

[Shri L. Ramana]

equipment required for hotels from 35% to 25% and on specified speciality food items by foreign tourists from 50% to 25% I have no doubt, whatsoever, that this step would really promote tourism industry in the country.

Nearly half of the population in the country are women. The literary rate among them is very low. Keeping this in view, the Hon. Minister for Finance has announced a special programme called 'Kasturba Gandhi Shiksha Yojana' to promote literacy among girl children. Special schools for girl children in the districts which have a particularly low female literacy rate. On August 15, 1997, our Hon. Prime Minister will inaugurate the programme. That will be a historic day for the nation.

I am also happy that the Government has announced Ganga Kalyan Yojana to support farmers to take up schemes for ground water and surface water utilisation through a mixture of subsidy, maintenance and credit arrangements. Also, Madam, even after 50 years after independence majority of the villages in the country do not have safe water to drink. This year, I am happy that 90,000 habitations are being provided with this facility.

Madam, there are many schemes and programmes which are under the direct supervision of the Union Government. These programmes can be successful and yield the intended results only when they are implemented by the State Governments, as they possess required monitoring machinery. The Central Government could have announced in this very budget, the transfer of such schemes to States and made necessary amounts available to them for their successful implementation. I request the Hon. Minister to consider this proposal seriously and take appropriate steps to that extent.

Madam, I whole heartedly welcome the proposal of the Hon. Finance Minister to amend section 80 G of the Income Tax Act to provide 100% deduction in respect of donations made to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund or Lieutenant Governor's Relief Fund. By this step, the State Governments will be in a better position to undertake rescue and relief operations when they face emergency situations arising out of natural calamities like cyclones, floods and earthquakes, etc.

Andhra Pradesh is reeling under acute power shortage right now. The farmers are agitating for more power supply. Though the State Government is taking all the necessary steps, it is simply impossible for it alone to tackle the problem. The power shortage is too acute. This may affect the standing crops very seriously. Hence I take this opportunity to appeal to the Hon. Finance Minister to sanction Hinduja (1000 MW) power plant and Simhadri

Power Project (1000 MW) at once and ensure their speedy implementation. As a short term measure, I request the Central Government to take steps to transfer the required power from NTPC as is being done in the case of Karnataka now. I hope, the Hon. Finance Minister would attend to this problem immediately.

Madam, the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is now being implemented throughout the country. But unfortunately the Bank officials are not cooperating in the successful implementation. These bank officials are refusing to sanction the loans to the intended beneficiaries. Loans are also not being granted for the schemes under DRDA to the chosen beneficiaries from a cluster of villages. I request the Hon. Finance Minister to note this fact and take remedial measures immediately. No need to say that the successful implementation of this scheme, to help the poor and downtrodden in our rural areas, is the primary responsibility of the Central Government.

The small scale sector is making an important contribution to our economy. I am happy that the declared policy of this Government to free the small scale industry from the rigours of cumbersome procedures is being successfully implemented. The full exemption from duty on clearances up Rs. 30 lakhs in a financial year will undoubtedly boost the morale of small scale units. I have every hope that this step would encourage setting up of many more small scale industries in the country.

Madam, Karimnagar district in Andhra Pradesh is well known for handloom industry. Siricilla town is a well known place for weaving. The weavers and thousands of workers who are engaged in many dying and processing units in Siricilla are facing a crisis today. They are on the verge of starvation. Central Excise Duty was imposed on these units last year. This duty is applicable to units which run on 300 HP motors costing Rs. 5 crores and also to the units which run barely on 1/2 HP motors costing only Rs. 25000. These tiny units are cottage industries. Nearly 10,000 families depend on these units for their livelihood. The income is just sufficient to meet their expenses. Because of the imposition of duty, all these cottage units have been thrown out of their work. All the workers who have been engaged in these units have lost their livelihood. The dyed clothes in these units are dried in the open. It is a cottage industry in all aspects and hence they should be treated as such. These cottage units deserve to be exempted from the Central Excise Duty. I earnestly appeal to the Hon. Minister for Finance to extend the exemption from the duty to these cottage units also. The Hon. Finance Minister was kind enough to exempt fully from the duty those small scale units whose clearances do not exceed Rs. 30 lakhs an year. The dying and process units in Siricilla are cottage units and fully deserve the exemption

from the duty. Hence, once again I earnestly appeal to the Hon. Finance Minister to extend the exemption from the duty to the dying and processing units which happen to be the cottage industries. I hope the hon. Finance Minister would issue necessary instructions at once and save thousands of families from starvation.

Madam, I thank you very much for giving an opportunity to speak on budget and conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAUDDIN OWAISI (Hydrabad)
 Madam Chairperson, as far as India is concerned, it is budgetary conditions have changed. Earlier we had raised a slogan of socialism. There was a virtual turn around during the rule of Shri Rajeev Gandhi, the multi system was introduced during Shri Narsimba Rao's regime. Shri Chidambaram is not acting on his own, as far this budget in concerned. He wanted to do something but he has his own limitations is this coalition of various parties. It has not been stated in this budget as to how we would repay the foreign debt. How shall we mobilise the funds to repay that loan. There are many other things is the budget but not much relief has been given to the poor and the minorities who have voted this Government to power. At one point of time there was a proposal to provide Rs. 500 crores but so far not even Rs. 35 crores have been received. All such things are drafting and alienating them away from the main stream. They supported you whole heartedly but what have you given them. We do'nt find anything in the budget for the poor and the minorities. There representation is almost zero in Government jobs. Even if some one starts a petty business he is harassed by the Income Tax Department. Even if we establish a Madarsa or a school or a college, we are subjected to harassment. you yourself surprise about our plight. I am running one Medical College, one Engineering College and one I.T.I. as well. These we are asked to provide 50 per cent seats to non-muslims. I say I would give even upto 75 percent seats to the non-muslim but let them provide atleast 25 percent seats to muslims in all the Government colleges. It is a strange type of imperialistic policy is going on. Whatever you manufacture we will take that. How strange it. Then we feel whether we are not the urban people of India. Do we have no rights ? We do not take any financial assistance even then such wrong is committed against us, what alternative is left with us and where we should we go far redressal of an grievances. You want to give 10Kg. rice to the poor families. How the poor families having lot of children, can manage for a full month with 10 kg. of rice, Obviously he will resort to open market purchase, then how he will be benefited from this scheme. He will not at all be benefited. The Government says that financial assistance would be provided to the

backward regions but you can see the plight of Delhi or Hyderabad for yourself in the muslims dominated localities. The lanes and by lanes of old Delhi are so narrow and congested that I am reminded of proverbial Lailas then fingers. Nobody is bothered about their condition.

On the other hand. There are broad and big roads of New Delhi. How long will the poor man tolerate all this Mr. Chidambaram is aware of the fact that whenever we start any activity, the Income Tax personnel conduct raids and try to harass us on the basis of some minute technicalities of rules. Despite all this we have progressed. There are so many rules. We fail to understand as to what we should do. The situation is worsening because of this. The Naxalites have their hold in some parts of Andhra Pradesh. Earlier the muslims use to keep the Naxalites at an arms length but by now 250 muslim youth have joined the Naxalite movement. I can not provide jobs to them in my capacity as an M.P. The Navalites pay Rs. 2,000 to their families and also feed them. The family is also paid Rs. 10 lakh in care he dies. Tell me whether I am capable of providing them all these things.

I can simply sure their voice here in case they are victimised which is some thing like the annual urs. You do whatever you want to do and we may whatever we wish to say. But nothing comes out positively urs is an annual festival it is just like paying a floral tribute once is a year. This has created a sense of helplessness among the people and they do not know where to look for the redressal of their grievences. There is severe power crises in Andhra Pradesh. If immediate Central assistance in this regard is not given the crop standing on 27 thousand hectares of land will perish. It altogether. The farmers of Hatta in Telangana a district have committed suicide.

Telangana is a backward area. The people of this region are facing a lot of difficulties. Previously separate budget provision used to be made for them. There was a regional Committee which was dissolved. After that 6-point formula was evolved but everybody knows as to how each farmula materialised. The person who has authority can write the final judgement because the judgements are written on the gun point which are accepted all over the world. The ink is dried and omitted. That is what is happening there as a result of which a struggle for a separate Telangana has started. Without due consideration they make announcement. You made the announcement regarding Utrakhand and after that this demand was followed by all the people. If you really want to fulfill this demand, you form small states and if not you abolish this article from your system once for all. But what is it at all that people start agitation and court arrests unnecessarily. It is not a good thing. Some clear policy should be evolved in this regard.

[Shri Sultan Salauddin Owaisi]

I would also like to say that because of the rising prices you should provide some items to the poor at subsidised rates. Presently the rice is available at the rate of Rs. 17 per kg. I don't know what will be its price by 2000 AD. Perhaps the population of India may come down due to starvation. Poverty and starvation death may be bringing down the population of India. If it is a scheme I don't want to say anything. But it is not because of that.

As you have made provision for a number of items in the budget so whatever may be the verdict of the court I would like to say that make some provision in the budget for the construction of Babri Masjid accordingly so as to bring it in the same condition as it was earlier.

As I belong to Andhra Pradesh I would like to raise the issue with regard to I.D. & L. factory. This factory was closed down. 3000 workers of the factory have been rendered jobless. They have not been getting their salary for the last 3 months. They are starving. You don't have any clear policy as to what alternative employment or arrangement you want to make for them. We want that all the workers rendered jobless as a result of the closure of this factory, should be provided with suitable jobs.

Further setting up an Urdu University in Andhra Pradesh has also come under discussion. Announcements are being made but it is not clear as to what the Government is going to do, what steps the Government is going to take. I would like to say that the birthday of Maulana Azad should be fixed for opening the University otherwise it will be deemed that we are making announcements for the Muslims that of and so will be done for them and if any book is written on such promises it will be an addition of a set of volumes to the Parliament Library revealing the fact that the promises made so far were never fulfilled, whether the promises are made only for not fulfilling them?

Madam, you may also have sympathy on all these issues. Women have more tender hearts. Perhaps because of that, although very late, you have given me time. You have done good.

Anyhow I am thankful to you and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY (Bangalore North) : Respected Madam Chairperson, the second Budget of the United Front Government has been a novel one in many respects. It has sought to transform the policies and programmes contained in the Common Minimum Programme into reality. The thrust that is being given to the basic

minimum services is also considerable.

The Eighth Plan allocation of Rs. 30,000 crore for agriculture and rural development activities has been sought to be doubled in the Ninth Plan to Rs. 60,000 crore and the corresponding allocation has been sought to be incorporated in the Budget. On the agriculture and irrigation sectors, very laudable schemes are being initiated. The schemes like the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Scheme wherein the current year's allocation of Rs. 900 crore is sought to be increased to Rs. 1,300 crore. For Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, Phase-III, an amount of Rs. 2,500 crore is being earmarked for implementation of the various schemes.

Another important aspect is the attempt to strengthen NABARD with advance additional share capital of Rs. 500 crore out of which Rs. 100 crore is the Government support and Rs. 400 crore is sought to be routed through the Reserve Bank of India. NABARD is expected to incorporate state level agricultural development financial institutions.

Another important decision being taken by the Government is to recapitalise regional rural banks with a support of Rs. 270 crore. These go a long way in providing the needed rural credit. There is also a proposal to double the flow of credit to agriculture and agro-industries in the next five years and the present increase in this Head is increased from Rs. 22,000 crore to Rs. 28,600 crore, a considerable increase in the proposed flow of credit to the rural areas.

An important feature of the Budget is housing. There has been a provision for housing through various schemes for the people living below the poverty line or the poorer sections of the society. Now an attempt is being made for the first time to extend credit facilities to the farmers in the rural areas through the National Housing Bank by providing credit facility with nominal rates of interests. This programme to be launched on the 15th of August this year is intended to provide facility of credit to 50,000 families in the coming financial year.

In the field of rural development and employment generation, there have been various programmes aimed at implementing these schemes. Some of them have been the IRDP, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, etc. This kind of multiplicity of programmes has its own problems of integration and coordination. Now an ambitious decision has been taken to provide skill-based training with subsidy-linked bank assistance credit to over one million youth during the coming financial year. There is also an attempt to rationalise these various programmes. There have been numerous programmes with the same objective and a need was felt to have a unity of programmes, so that implementation through the same implementing agencies

can be effectively administered. The Planning Commission has been entrusted with this responsibility of bringing this into effect from 1.4.1997.

On the industry and infrastructure field, budgetary support to the National Highway Authority of India has been raised from Rs. 200 crore to Rs. 500 crore. An important feature of this year's Budget is the increased devolution of funds to the States. An additional Central assistance to States for externally-aided projects has also been mentioned. Another important aspect is the information technology revolution on which the Government has laid thrust and this encompasses national boundaries. When there has been a technological revolution all round us, it is essential that India does not lag behind in following this trend in the international arena.

Through rationalisation of duty structures in various fields, especially in the fields of investment and development, the Government has sought to provide incentive and encouragement to industrial activity and also for investment in infrastructural development like Power, Communications, etc.

Another aspect I would like to mention here is the general exemption scheme that has been extended to various small scale industries. Relief has been given to textiles, especially the jute industry which has been hit by various problems. There was an attempt made in the current year also to instil finances to fund the public sector undertakings with revival packages during the current year, that is 1996-97. Specific PSUs were selected for this purpose like the Bharat Yantra Nigam, Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam, Hindustan Paper Corporation, Scooters India Limited, HCL and Bharat Refractories. For the ensuing year 1997-98, Rs. 1107 crore provision has been made under the non-plan head for restructuring the public sector enterprises.

I would like to mention here that under the present Budget allocations there is also a mention of improving the functioning of the public sector undertakings, especially the *Navratnas*, the nine PSUs – IOC, ONGC, HPCL, BPCL, IPCL, VSNL, BHEL, SAIL and NTPC.

But I would like to mention here that in the field of communication and basic infrastructure, we have the public sector undertakings like the ITI, the Indian Telephone Industries and the HMT, which were once considered to be on top of the industrial map of India. Now, in order that we have indigenous technology, indigenous effort and upgradation, I feel, it is time that the Government included these two undertakings, that is, the ITI and the HMT, under the rehabilitation and encouraging programme of *navratnas*. These two *ratnas* could be included in that. There is also a need for this because the Research and Development

facility available here is one of the best in South Asia. Thus, we would be able to bring about local technology for utilisation in the country. We also have the C-DOT technology indigenously, wherein technology improvement is also passed on to the various units under the C-DOT and the technology is comparable to those in the advanced countries and especially with the technology in the ITI, we would be able to manufacture telecom equipment which are in great demand overseas also. The C-DoT technology is available and utilised in State sector enterprises like the Karnataka Telecom Limited also. It also needs the support of the DoT to strengthen its pace and it is high time the Government thought on those lines.

I would like to take up the point regarding an important aspect of the United Front Government in the field of restructuring the public distribution system and also extending fertilizer subsidy. An amount of nearly Rs. 16,690 crore has been set apart for strengthening the PDS cumulatively and for extending subsidy to the fertilizer sector. At this juncture, I want to mention that it was Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka which first introduced the Rs. 2 per Kg. of rice scheme. It was very popular and it helped people living below the poverty line.

SHRI R. GNANAGURUSHAMY (Periyakulam) : Prior to that, it was introduced by the DMK Government in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SHAMY : I stand corrected.

These are some of the States which were in the forefront of providing succour to the families living below the poverty line. Now, it is in the fitness of things that the hon. Prime Minister, who as Chief Minister of Karnataka revived this subsidised foodgrains scheme during his regime, has decided to extend it to the whole of the country. So, some of the States who initiated steps in this regard and were suffering heavy financial burden would be assisted now to implement this programme.

At this juncture, I would like to make an observation that foodgrains like wheat and rice have been included for extension of subsidy benefit. We normally have different food habits in different parts of the country. It is not that all areas of the country grow wheat or rice for that matter. Now, in our country, especially in my constituency, people generally use the local cereals like ragi. We also use jowar in certain parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka. I would call upon the Government to see that these local foodgrains are taken up for extension of this subsidy, to be included for public distribution through the setup.

So, it is very essential to see that the farmers growing these crops are also encouraged by giving them the advantage of support price for these crops.

[Shri C. Narayana Swamy]

Stress has been laid on increasing the women literacy. Under Kasturba Shiksha Yojana residential, education is sought to be provided for girls. For this scheme Rs. 250 crore has been provided in the current year's Budget. The Ganga Kalyan Yojana would provide minor irrigation facility to the poor farmers. Rs. 200 crore has been allotted for this programme. But this is not sufficient and I hope the allocation would be increased in future.

There is reference in the Budget document and in the Approach Paper of the Ninth Plan to the strengthening of the decentralised sector, that is, the panchayat raj institutions. I would, at the juncture, call upon the Government to bring about constitutional changes on the lines of 73rd and 74th Amendments in respect of cooperatives so that the control of bureaucracy is greatly reduced. It would also enable them to function democratically. Now, there has been a salutary increase in the Budget to the extent of nearly Rs. 8,000 crore which I welcome. Hon. Minister of Finance has given many concessions to the small scale units last time which are involved in the manufacture of tread rubber. Only common people who are not able to buy new tyres resort to retreading of tyres. Earlier, it was in the general exemption category for ten years. Now, for various reasons only seven per cent regular tariff rate is allowed to the small scale units. I request the Government to reconsider this decision. I also request the Government to accord to this industry the facility available to the small scale sector under the general exemption category. The levy on bricks and tiles which are used by the common people and the poorer sections of the society has become a hindrance. This would imply increased cost of building construction for the poor people.

I also feel that production of energy through non-conventional energy sources, like bio-gas, solar and wind energy should be encouraged. Financial Institutions must be given targets for financing these schemes so that the power shortage which we face now is greatly reduced.

With these words, I appreciate the hon. Minister of Finance for the initiatives which he had taken which would go a long way in helping overall development of the economy.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY (Sultanpur)
Madam Chairperson, many members have spoken on the general budget and the figures have also been quoted here. I don't want to go into detail regarding figures. The budget used to be presented in the last week of February even 50 years ago and the same situation continues even

now. In the earlier budget economy based on Gandhian philosophy and Nehru Socialism used to be discussed and it was to be observed whether more funds were being given for cottage industries or for infrastructural industries. This system has changed within these five years and it is being discussed whether the funds are being given for multinationals or for indigenous industries. How many capitalists in industrialists are being invited to the country ?

20.00 Hrs.

It is mentioned in the budget that it is being presented for the welfare of the poor people. But in reality it will prove must hazardous. It is not favourable for farmers. It is hazardous for poor people. It does not have any scope to encourage the feelings of self-reliance and self respect. Five years ago when foreign economic powers were started to be invited to our country Shri. Nar Singh Rao Government was in power. His government encouraged this tendency. But I don't know the reasons why the present Government is more interested and has come forward in inviting the foreign capitalist. The present Government has kept the tendency alive. They feel proud of themselves in giving such statements that they have opened their doors their burden and whatsoever, in any way, wants to come to this country he can come. Whatsoever money he wants he can get. We are providing them more facilities, wear reducing our tax rails for them.

What will be the result of all this and what is happening at present ? Very big foreign capitalists are coming to our country and the persons who are capitalists and industrialist of our country, who have set up their own factories here, are working with them as their small partners and after some years they would become their agents only, they will work as their agent. They neither have been able to retain their proprietorship nor they have been asked to have their contribution in the society.

Madam, our cottage industry is being ruined. I believe that in near future no such industry will remain in existence in our country. When cottage industries do not exist here we shall not be asked to set up big industries in our country. When foreign capitalists come to our country the whole money will be transferred to the foreign counters. And as a result of it crores of people will be rendered jobless in our country, what will happen that time in the country when crores of the people shall not have any job for their survival. We shall not have our own factory, our own trade, we shall be merely agents of multinationals. As that time how these jobless people shall react towards the country ? Whether at that time the democracy will survive ? At present neither the Finance Minister nor the Government is thinking about it. We are just being given a good news that a lot of money

is coming from the foreign countries but whether we shall get that money ? They shall invest their money, charge the interest on their money and earn profit on their investment, Ultimately they shall return to their respective countries alongwith their profit, their earnings leaving our crores of people jobless. As a result of it they either shall involve in noting or involve in corruption and misconducts and we shall be enslaved again as East Asian countries.

Madam it is being stated that we have opened path for enormous development. When you have not made any provision for power sector and when there will be scarcity of power how our country will make any progress ? No development can take place without power. We are being told that they would provide funds but to whom ? You did not give money for sius industries, cottage industries. You did not make any provisions forsick industries.

Sir, I shall cite an example with regard to my own state. In the Kanpur city which was used to be ever called Manchester of India, today all the factories have been closed down. Lakhs of people have been rendered jobless. Crores of people of their family are on the verge of starvation. Today this Manchester of India is known as dieing city in the General Knowledge book. Due to verdict of the Supreme Court Lakhs of artisams and workers have been rendered jobless in Ferozabad. Thousand of factories have been closed down there.

What the Government is going to do for such factories in this budget. This fact has not been taken into consideration so far. After independence most of the Prime Minister's have been from Uttar Pradesh 'but if is a misfortune of the state that inspite of having 16 percent population of the country only 7 percent of the total budget has been earmarked for this state. Now it has gone down to 6 percent. I would like to say that people live in this state too and they should be given their dueshare. No arrangement has been made in the budget so as to remove inbalances. Even after 50 years of independence there are thousands of villages in the Sultanpur district where electric poles have been erected for the last 5-10 year but there is no wire. I am a member of Parliament. I am afraid while going there even by moter cycle. The budget presented in February is the indication of this development of this area.

It is said that this budget is pro-poor but you will know the facts only when you go to villages and inquire about the reactions of local people on the budget. Earlier, during my school days in February people used to listen to radio on tea shops or 'Pan' shops. They used to be curious to know about the budget as to whether funds were allocated for poor people and cottage industriës or to big factories of Bhilai and Durgapur. Concession given to foreigners or foreign companies was not an issue of discussion but they

used to discuss as to whether more attention and funds were provided to Nehruvian policies or Gandhian policies.

At present situation has changed altogether. Now people do not discuss budget even on the day it is presented concessions have been given on luxury goods like A.C., T.V. and refrigerators where as price of postcards has been increased. The poor man's only means of communication the postcard where by a poor woman can write to her husband about her problems has been texed whereas no tax has been levied on Fax.

This budget is not for poor people but just pro-poor. Taxes are being levied on all items used by the poor. The hon. Members have said a lot about levying of tax on umbrellas. Several provisions have been made for cities drinking water has been provided to cities. Mineral water is used in cities in parties and marriage function etc. Mineral water is used by Ministers and no tax has been imposed on it. But in villages people have to get drinking water from the same place from where animals drinking water. During the summer season animals do not get water from ponds, where from will the people get it. I have been elected for the first time and during the election compaign, when I went to a village where an old lady said that she could give me her vote but not the drinking water. When I asked the reason for that she told me that she had to fetch drinking water from a distance of 3 km. twice a day. She said I am widow and have there children, it is not sufficient for us then how could I provide it to 20 people. It is not the condition of one village in my constituency but villages of almost all the states are facing the same problem. You are drinking mineral water and claims that this Budget is a pro-poor. You are allotting Y2, 1 and 2 acres of land for SCs and STs. Do you know what is the estimated production of that much land possessed by other farmers. During the seasons of wheat their fields produce two sacks of wheat and during the season of paddy they produce three sacks of rice and spend their whole life in this way. They have to work on daily wages of Rs. 10-20 but at present they are not getting even that.

Madam, I would like to know as to what has been given for agriculture in this Budget. Tax on A.C. has been reduced but on urea it has increased. Tractors have not been made cheaper. Last year the price of tractors were reduced and every district was allotted 5 tractors to be sold at cheaper rates which were purchased by five rich farmers of that district and remaining tractors were sold at high rates and thus people were cheated. This year also rebate on tractors is mere eye-wash. A few people are minting money by such schemes. Prices of urea have been increased. Farmers do not have LPG facility and ban is imposed of felling of trees. In view of this farmers need cowdung as fuel. Your policies have also increased the

[Shri Devendra Bahadur Roy]

slaughtering of cow, and cow progeny, and buffaloes for export of beef. How farmers would get cowdung cakes when there is shortage of animals. Farmers are not getting cowdung which is used as fertilizer. How will the agricultural production increase and how will the economic condition of the farmer improve? Do the children of farmers have no right to go to cinema even once in a whole year or right to study? This government proclaims to work for poor but most of the villages lack junior high schools in a radius of 5 and 10 km. whereas in cities/private nursery schools have been set up in almost every street. Is it the budget for poor, where farmers are not getting cowdung fertilizer or fuel . . . (Interruptions). Madam, I am speaking for the first time. Villager do not want to listen about budget. They know that price will rise after it. People of urban areas are not worried because they know that rebate will be given on imported goods. Earlier an atmosphere like curfew was created and upto the last moment people used to be unaware about it but now everyone knows which goods will not be taken and where rebate will be offered?

Everything under the sun from education to coffin are covered in the budgets. But are you aware of the facts whether this money allocated in February is actually spent. 30 percent of the general budget was spent in 1996 at the time of presentation of the budget and remaining 70 percent will be spent in March, 1997 between 25 and 31st. You will be surprised to know that on 22nd of the last month I was called to give my views on expenditure to be made from the allocations of the last year's budget. Between 31st March and 7th April officers and concerned engineers sign after taking their share out of it. Whom are you fooling here? The fund received from people as tax should be spent on development and progress of the country. Does the hon. Minister of Finance know or wants to know as to here this money is being spent? Sir, through newspapers, T.V. and radio, the educated people of this country have come to know that hon. Finance Minister has cleverly presented this populist budget. The Finance Minister should not be an acrobat, magician or artist to perform such arts but he should be an inspiration for development of the country who could exploit and provide all the existing resources for development. Sir, through you I would like to say that a committee of MPs should be set up. This is my first term and I have experienced that on most of the issues, the members are unanimous to know about the facts and reality and usually there is no controversy.

Madam, I would like to say that budget allocation should be spent on monthly basis in accordance of the total funds earmarked and it should be assured that funds should be spent on the same item for which it

was allocated. I think that no member of any party will oppose it. It has been observed that all the members when they visit some State as a Committee arrived at a consensus on an issue if required. There is no doubt about it.

The hon. Finance Minister should think whether the funds being provided for a specific purpose are being spent on it actually. Yesterday in the train I met a big official of a department in my state. When I inquired as to what is being done about drinking water problem. He said that 5-7 days are still left. Let the report be presented. I do not know that how that fund can be utilized in just for seven days. He has gone to Mumbai. The development work will start after 25th. How can you expect development in such a short time. When I start from my area on motorcycle on "Kulcha road" I feel that I am entering the death trap of a circus. I would like to express my concern over this budget. It is not for the benefit of the poor. You are not providing area to farmers, funds for animal husbandry and special allocation for education of girls. I fully agree with the view of my friend from the ruling party who said that like the railway budget, a separate budget should be prepared for agriculture sector especially because agriculture is the backbone of the economy. This budget is neither making us self-reliant nor promising employment opportunities for our unemployed youth. It is not providing adequate funds for education, boosting our image; providing resources for drinking water facility or fertilizer or seeds to the farmers.

Madam Chairman, a few days back the issue regarding shortage of wheat was discussed in this House. We are sons of farmers and you can know our feelings very well that we did not get wheat seedlings timely and thus thousands of acres of land kept lying idle. What can be more unfortunate than this that when the country is facing shortage of wheat we are unable to provide seedlings to our farmers.

[Translation]

Mr Chairman, Sir, that's why I strongly oppose this budget. This budget is anti-poor and contains nothing positive. If it is at all positive, then it's positive for the affluent class and whatever is bad in it that is for the poor and the entire nation. As this Bill moved in this House is against both the poor and the nation itself, strongly oppose it.

[English]

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL (Culcutta North-East) :
Madam, Chairperson, I rise to support the present Budget, not because I fully support it but, because of the understanding that my political party has with the U.F. in

power. I am here to support the present Budget, but with great reservations.

I must congratulate the Finance Minister for being emphatic on the continuation of the policy on economic reforms. The present Budget accepts the policy of economic reforms which was introduced by the earlier Congress Government when we took over power in June, 1991. That was a period of unprecedented economic crisis which was tided over by the earlier Congress Government. During these five years, new economic reforms were introduced by making macroeconomic adjustments and correcting various fiscal distortions which had crept into the economy. The result is that there has been a spurt in industrial growth, revival of agricultural growth and also there has been an all-round increase in our economic growth.

The Finance Minister has frankly admitted, that there is no reversal of the policy of liberalisation which had been introduced by the earlier Congress Government, even though some of his colleagues did not share the same view. When I look at the present Budget, on the face of it, it looks like a populist one. It had satisfied various sections of the people. But when you look at it a little deeply, it is fraught with various consequences which might completely disturb our economy. The Finance Minister himself has admitted that even though there have been certain development and also successes, there are drawbacks also.

The Finance Minister has been very much perturbed by the sluggish production in petroleum, power projects and also by the deceleration of exports. The sluggishness in the capital market and, above all, the rise in the rate of inflation are some of the problems which he himself has admitted. But he wanted to get over those problems by the policy of Plan Outlay and tax reforms.

When I come to the Plan Outlay, in 1996-97 the budget estimate was Rs. 87,000 crore and the revised estimate was Rs. 77,000 crore, that is, Rs. 10,000 crore less. This year the budget estimate is nearly Rs. 91,000 crore. What it will come to at the revised estimates stage, we are yet to see. According to the present Plan Outlay, 18.5 per cent is to be spent, but in the major fields of agriculture, infrastructure and in the sphere of social services sector he has claimed that sufficient resources have been earmarked. But when we look at agriculture, there has been an unprecedented for per cent increase of 40% in agricultural production this year. Even earlier, in the days of Congress Government, the average agricultural production during the last three years was five per cent.

He has given only 13.35 per cent for agricultural development. That is too low a figure. His own colleague,

even the Minister of Agriculture has observed that with this meagre fund, it is not possible to meet the target of 4.5 per cent. It has been said that he has to give greater emphasis on agriculture and that is the observation of his own colleague. There has been no incentive for promoting agricultural exports.

In the field of rural development, the hon. Finance Minister has said that he has given 40 promises in the last year's Budget and he had fulfilled all those 40 promises. As he himself said, his entire Budget is based upon the Common Minimum Programme following the Common Minimum Programme for this year has earmarked Rs. 2666 crore for the seven services in the social sector. I wonder how with this meagre sum of Rs. 2666 crore, seven services in the social sector can be maintained. He says, 'Seven Minimum Services'. These are only the change in the phraseology. During the earlier Congress Government, we had provided for certain minimum services for the rural people. For example, our former Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh had made a provision for employment in the rural sector for at least 100 days for two members each of 3175 families who are below the poverty line. His Budget for 1995-96 had provided that at least in every family, there will be three types of social assistance. The elderly people in the rural sector who are below the poverty line will be given pension. If there is any accident in his family, then he will be given Rs. 10,000 without any insurance; and if there is a natural death, he will be given Rs. 5,000.

Various other social welfare schemes were provided for by the earlier Congress Government's Budget but we do not find any reference to that, although seven services have to be met by spending Rs. 2666 crore in the rural development scheme.

20.29 Hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

It is disheartening to note that under the *Indira Awas Yojana*, only seven lakh houses are to be provided for. Even in 1995-96, the earlier Congress Government had provided for ten lakh houses for the poor people in the rural sector. But we find in the present year's Budget that instead of increasing that figure, only seven lakh houses are going to be provided.

In the social sector, although you have earmarked certain amount but the main difficulty is that there is no provision for monitoring of the scheme. According to the Finance Minister's own speech, social sector services includes general education, medical relief, sanitation – and also the unemployment problem, There is no reference as to how these schemes are to be implemented.

How will there be a monitoring ? It has often been

[Dr. Debi Prosad Pal]

found on experience that the money or the sums earmarked for these services are not spent properly. Unless there is a monitoring and proper implementation of the scheme, the sums which have been earmarked for social services find their way into different channels. But ultimately, these scheme are to be implemented by the States and the Central Government has to keep a vigil eye upon how the money is to be spent.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude now.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL (Culcutta North-West) : I will conclude within a short time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have a number of speakers and I am directed by the hon. Speaker that we will have to finish the entire debate tonight.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : The hon. Finance Minister has introduced reduction in taxes. I certainly congratulate him for taking this step. The rates are 10 per cent, 20 per cent and the maximum slab above Rs. 1,50,000 is 30 per cent. But in a developing country, normally the tax rate at least in the higher slab should be say the higher slab than 40 per cent.

The Minister has introduced a scheme for disclosure of Income. This is not something new. Disclosure schemes have been introduced from time to time. But the response, which the Government has got, is not very satisfactory. Even Dr. Manmohan Singh, as the Finance Minister, had introduced a short of disclosure, in the sense that if anybody's house is searched an unaccounted money is obtained then he has to pay only 60 per cent and the rest 40 per cent he can retain. So that 60 per cent had to be paid on this unaccounted money.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will have to conclude now. Please cooperate with the Chair.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : He introduced that 300 per cent penalty had to be levied even in such type of cases. If that is so, how the disclosures scheme which was introduced by the earlier Congress Government would succeed. But now the Finance Minister had introduced that only 30 per cent has to be paid.

Now, there has been a lot of criticism. The honest tax payers who are to pay at the maximum slab at the rate of 30 per cent and those tax dodgers and evaders who are coming with disclosure, cannot be on the same footing as the honest tax payers. There should be some difference and at least, not less than 40 per cent or 50 per cent they have to pay, if they are to come out with disclosure scheme.

Otherwise as it was found, a point arose before the Supreme Court when the Bearer Bonds Scheme was challenged as offending Article 14 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court accepted that there was a discrimination but the money can be had on the larger interest. Ultimately, the Supreme Court upheld that scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will have to call the next speaker now. Please conclude.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : When the capital market is sluggish, the Finance Minister has deleted tax on dividends. It is a very welcome measure. I hope that it will give some encouragement to the revival of the capital market. But he has also introduced one tax, namely, the companies which distribute profit by way of dividend, they are to pay tax at 10 per cent now. This will be creating a sort of problem. 'A' company distributes dividend by way of profit, it pays 10 per cent. 'B' Company, out of that, if it distributes the profit by way of dividend again it has to pay 10 per cent. So it goes on in a circular manner. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly consider this problem.

Now the dividend has been made tax free. But what about those persons who are purchasing shares with borrowed funds ?

They will have no deduction. Very often the share capital is contributed by borrowed funds. Again, one important thing on which I spoke on the last occasion also was the Minimum Alternative Tax. I had pointed out on the last occasion that the Minimum Alternative Tax would be a great dampner. The industrial development has been successful because there was 26 per cent growth in the exports industry when the earlier Congress Government was there. As a result of the . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I will call the next speaker. You just conclude your speech by saying one last sentence.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : As a result of the MAT, exports have dwindled to only nine to ten per cent. The Finance Minister has now given exemption regarding the export industry. This is only from the view of the Minimum Alternative Tax, That he has introduced what he was said, is namely to set off the MAT in the succeeding five years. That is an arithmetical acrobatics that may lead to certain. . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude now. Otherwise, may have to tell the Reporters not to record your speech. For Heaven's sake, please conclude your speech.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : I submit that this Budget is fraught with very grave possibilities of an inflationary

pressure. Coupled with that, the public distribution system, the food management and the food policy are not properly managed. The administered prices are rising. There is a rise in the oil price as well. Coupled with that, there is an increase in the railway freight. All these are fraught with very grave possibilities of an inflation. Today the rate of inflation is eight per cent and it will increase further.

I can only say that the present Government has inherited a legacy where the economy was vibrant of the introduction of the New Economic Reforms. For nine months, there was no momentum but now the New Economic Reforms have been accepted. But as a result of the difference in the views of the different political parties, there is a state of uncertainty because the Finance Minister himself has said that there is no reversal of the policy of liberalisation. Prof. Madhu Dandavate says
(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will have to tell them not to record your speech now. Kindly conclude by saying one last sentence.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : Sir there are many other speakers who had taken much more time. I am only appealing to you that I will be finishing my speech within one or two minutes.

As a result of the divergent views of the different political parties, there is a state of uncertainty. In the welter of confusions, this political uncertainty is mainly responsible to the sluggishness in the capital market.

With these words, I support the General Budget with many reservations.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Cooch Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, I lend my support to this General Budget with some reservations . . . *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, there are many speakers and everyone will be given five minutes only.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Sir, I am the lone speaker from my Party. Kindly give more time . . . *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please start your speech. Please do not quarrel now.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the 28th February, when the hon. Finance Minister had placed the General Budget and when I was going out from the House, so many friends from the Rightist parties said that this is a Budget just on the lines of Dr. Manmohan Singh. Somebody says that it is a shadow of Dr. Manmohan Singh's Budget. I said that there is some

difference because of the fact that Dr. Manmohan Singh's Budget is clearly finance and bureaucracy and Shri Chidambaram's Budget is finance and politics.

Sir, you know that Shri Chidambaram is a learned lawyer. Not only that, he is a Harvard University product also. And being a *Pandit* of economics, he made a very good exercise on the Budget.

For that reason, he made his Budget which has been balanced in between. It is balanced not between the poor and the rich but in between the economic students and the political expediency. I must say that it is a managerial Budget. It is because Shri Chidambaram is a big expert and he has a managerial degree.

Sir, Shri Chidambaram, in his Budget speech, mentioned that CMP is in his heart. CMP is his God; CMP is his Allah; and CMP is everything. I would like to ask whether he has gone through that part of God, Allah and Bhagwan. It is Swami Vivekananda who said;

"Jiver Daya Jekore Seijan Ishwar"

It means, he who serves people is the best sincere to God. I think, Shri Chidambaram did not have that learning.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : What 'learning' ?

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Yes, Certainly.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Why ?

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : If we go through this . . . *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly do not enter into an argument.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : It is not correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are losing your time.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether it is a taboo or a log-book. It may be taboo for the upper middle-class and the rich people, but it is a log-book for the poorer people of this country. What is their position ? I do not know who has said it, but somebody has said that there will not be any inflation. I say that it must be because of the fact that he did not mention about what would happen when he will have to accept the Fifth Pay Commission's Report. I do not know what will happen then when the Oil Pool Deficit will come up ? It is about Rs. 17,500,000 crore. I do not know what will happen ? It is very much in the newspaper every day that price of steel could be hiked. If it is so, then there must be inflation. You cannot check it. If we go through the report, it is not a poor man's Budget. Where is the report ? According to

[Shri Amar Roy Pradhan]

the census data of the National Commission for Rural Labour, the percentage of agricultural labour has increased from 15.3 million in 1964-65 to 33.5 million in 1987-88. It means about 35 per cent of the rural population are agricultural labourers. Accordingly to the data, in 1981, out of 68.38 million people, 33 per cent were Scheduled Castes and 13 per cent were Scheduled Tribes. That means, of the total agricultural labourers, the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes comes to 46 per cent. What is their condition? What is going on in our country? They do not get work every day. After having done so much of work, from sunrise to sunset, they get Rs. 4 or Rs. 5. This is according to Das Gupta Committee Report. You know that. That was placed before the House when our hon. Speaker was the Labour Minister. He formed a Committee. That Committee's report is there.

What is the condition of the youth, particularly in the rural areas? They are selling their blood for their livelihood. We should have some love for their parents. They are living a hand-to-mouth existence. But we have done nothing for them. You are spending so much of money here and there.

There is a Teesta Barrage Project. It started in the year 1976 and now it is 1997. For the last 20 years, the people have not been able to get water for irrigation. Even five per cent of the project has not been completed. It is the biggest project of our country. Had it been completed, 14.65 lakh hectares of land would have been irrigated.

About 10,006 Megawatt of hydel power will be produced and according to an expert in economics, 60 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains would have been produced, more than 65 lakh mandays could have been produced by this project. But what is going to happen? The Central Government is not giving money. We have been demanding that it should be declared a National Project. We cannot call it a National Project. You will be astonished to know that the Government of West Bengal from its own limited funds spent Rs. 500 crore and the Central Government has spent only Rs. 100 crore so far on the project. Now, after this Indo-Bangladesh Treaty we hope to have good friendship with Bangladesh.

At the same time, in the same region, another project, the Sankoch River and Hydel Project is coming up in collaboration with the Bhutanese Government and the hon. Finance Minister is ready to spend — as it has been published in the electronic media and also in the newspapers — Rs. 7,500 crore for that purpose. But, what is the condition of the Teesta Project? It is also in the same coastal region. The Central Government will be doing a great disservice to the environment. A tunnel of 200 km. has to be dug for the Sankoch Project and ultimately it will come up much later.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. That is why I had suggested that all hon. Members should go directly to their constituencies and the States.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : In reply to a question on the 3rd March the hon. Minister of Irrigation said here in this House :-

"We need not require the Tiesta or Sankoch River water for the augmentation of the flow of the Ganges. The Calcutta Port will be all right. The Farakka-Bakra canal will get at least 75,000 of cusecs of water in the lean months. So, 35,000 will go to Bangladesh and the rest will come up in this flow"

But here in yesterday's reply about Tiesta the hon. Minister said :

"The detailed Project Report has been prepared by the Central Water Commission which has invited the construction of a dam across the river Sankoch for the generation of power of 4,000 Megawatt. A regulated discharge is also proposed for irrigation and other purposes in Bihar and West Bengal territories through the carving of a canal up to Tiesta Barrage."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude at least now.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : I am concluding.

I do not know, but I would like to know very clearly from the hon. Minister why we could not complete the Tiesta Barrage Project which had been started long back in 1976. Twenty-one years passed away. It is in a backward area. The population of the three districts surrounding it consists of mainly Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. The hon. Minister of Finance knows that area. He had been there when he was the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. And does he know the condition of the people there? As I said, mainly the population is of Scheduled Castes and Tribes and all the districts are backward districts. In this particular area one project could not be completed one another project is being started with more money. If the Tiesta Hydel Project is completed many opportunities will be there. It will generate more than 10,000 Megawatt of electricity. But in the Sankoch project for 4,000 Megawatt of power the Government is spending Rs. 75,000 crore. But for Teesta project you are not ready to spend more money to complete the project.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude Shri Amar Roy Pradhan.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Our country is still a poor country. The hon. Minister is not alone responsible for it. Some other people who are in power are responsible. The hon. Minister may please consider all these aspects

and do something for the betterment of the poor people in this country.

[Translation]

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have risen to criticise the Budget brought by the Government in the house.

While some of my colleagues called it a very good budget whereas some others termed it as a bad budget, I am of the view that it is an anti-poor and pro-affluent budget. It is a piquant budget for the creamy layer of the society. Well, one can say that it is for (English) Creamy and tasty budget for the creamy layer people and not for the poor simply because it provides for higher prices of wheat, sugar, bidi and all other items of poor people's consumption but lower prices of all the items meant for creamy layer of the society. Mr. Minister, you should take into consideration the review and criticism made by us.

So far we have seen that during these fifty years of independence similar budget have had been brought with a view to see development of villages and all the times a jugglery of figures is made but the plans are not given a practical shape. It would be seen whether while implementing these schemes the funds drawn from the exchequer or the money received by way of foreign loans is being utilised properly or not. Though we have completed fifty years since independence yet there are lot of problems. Instead of speaking in detail on the schemes, better I should draw your attention to my area.

There are one or two such things in the budget which suggest that doors have been opened for the foreigners. It appears as if the budget has been prepared under the influence of GATT, Dunkel's Proposal and IMF and the World Bank. Due to this liberalisation and Globalisation the entire world and G-7 countries have made their market is India. The foreign goods have become cheap here where as our country made goods have no customers as there have become costlier. Therefore this budget is merely a means of letting in the foreign nationals and clearing ways for multinational companies to buy our companies. If the budget is based on such a policy then all industries of the country including the cottage industry will be gradually liquidated. That is why a thorough review of this tendency is all the way necessary.

Today paper in the country . . . (Interruptions) not even two minutes have passed since I started speaking.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That's all, five minutes have passed. I allow you for one minute more, please conclude soon.

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : This is how we are seeing

satellite invasion of our culture. Today the foreign channels have been given so many relaxations that though Rs. 50 thousand crores of this country is going to foreign countries, these channels are showing obscenely acting horses. This is how they are sabotaging our culture. This needs to be taken care of.

The custom duty has been reduced so much that foreign goods have become very cheap here. All the doors have been opened to facilitate in ports whereas our own exports items have become so cheap that our country made goods can not compete with them in the market and this way one day our exports items will not find market for them.

Secondly, the Government has not contemplated formation of a separate Jharkhand state, neither they have formulated any scheme in this regard. The funds worth Rs. 444 crore released by the world bank under BPBP scheme will exhaust in their six months but so far this amount has not been utilised, rather bungling of these funds have been made. Fodder scam, land scam and bitumen scam has taken place in Bihar. The leaders of Jharkhand movement have sold themselves for money and have given up the issue of development of the region.

I want to say something about irrigation. Irrigation schemes are being implemented in our area. In 1973-74 seven important irrigation schemes were launched there but since then twenty years period has elapsed. Against the original estimate of Rs. 664 crores, the cost escalations have increased the estimate upto Rs. 1100 crores but even then these schemes have not been yet completed because still there is a shortage of Rs. 3200 crores. Not to talk of the Ninth Five Year Plan period, I don't think that these schemes would be completed up to 13th Five Year Plan period. These schemes can be completed if 75 per cent of this additional financial requirement is deposited with the banks as part of the estimated cost, otherwise these will await their completion even after fifty years. This state of affairs have dashed all the bright-hopes of the farmers.

So far Rs. 88 crores have been spent on the Konar Canal Project which had an original cost estimate to the tune of Rs. 1100 crores only and still less than fifty percent work has been completed on this project. The Government should make a lumpsum release of funds for this project. The people are storing Dharnas their and resorting to road jams. Similarly Son canal project which was banded 122 years back during the British regime have not been renovated till date due to which ten districts including Rohtas, Aurangabad, Palamu etc. are facing misfortune in want of irrigation facility. The entire area will be reviewed if the canal is not renovated in time. Similarly if Kaduan Reservoir Project, Durgavati scheme and Kanhar, scheme is not completed in time, the ten districts will suffer lot during floods. Urgent Attention should be paid to these facts.

[English]

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say a few words about the Budget.

The Budget, 1997 is being discussed now. But this year it is not a mere formality. It is more than a Statement of Revenue and Expenditure. It is not just accounts and taxes. It has a vision and the promise for the future. The hon. Finance Minister, our leader, has presented more than a Budget. Rather he has done a magic. The magical changes towards prosperity are bright. The magical changes in the hearts of people have come. Even the critical critics of economic reforms welcome it. All the more surprising is that it is considered as the 'Budget of the decade'.

The economic liberalisation process began to unfold in 1986-87 and it is nearly fulfilled in 1997-98. That is why our Finance Minister is praised by all. The poor, the farmer, the office-goer, the corporate man, the rich, the exporter, the importer, all are happy now. After seeing this wonderful Budget, the Opposition had become speechless. Even the hon. Leader of the Opposition, Atalji cannot find the right words. He says that this year's Budget is like a rose and it may have thorns also. We all know that great things come with pain only. Thorns in rose plants are known but people also know how to avoid thorns. People will always enjoy rose. So, Atalji cannot compare this Budget with anything else.

A rose is a rose, by whatever name it may be called.

21.00 Hrs.

Sir, this is a great floral tribute to the growing great Indian economy. Our hon. Finance Minister has done it. This is the first full-fledged Budget of the United Front Government by my elder brother.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Elder brother ?

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : Yes, he is my elder brother.

The people of India wondered and the whole world wondered. They were wondering as to how a Government of 13 or 14 Parties can function and they wondered as to how can they give a good Budget. Through our hon. Finance Minister we have got what was considered impossible. I may mention that not only the people are happy but all the parties of the Government are also happy. The D.M.K. has achieved its ideal goal. The goal it wanted to achieve was 'State autonomy and more power to the States' and it becomes a reality now. Whenever the D.M.K. played a role in the formation of a Government at the

Centre, the D.M.K. has always fulfilled its duty. In the Seventies Shrimati Indira Gandhi formed the Government supported by the D.M.K. . . . (Interruptions) The banks were than nationalised and the people got access to money power. In the Eighties when Shri V.P. Singh formed the Government supported by the D.M.K., the report of the Mandal Commission was implemented and the people got access to political power. Now, in the Nineties we formed the Government and our Shri P. Chidambaram became the Finance Minister and our leader Shri Murasoli Maran became the Industries Minister. The people got the status of economic power . . . (Interruptions).

Sir, February 28, 1997 will become a gold-lettered day in the history of the modern Indian development. It is like a magic. How could he do that magic ? The world wonders. The people of India are now praising the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister. This is the time of the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Ramalingam, please conclude now.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : At a time when hope was needed the Budget for this year gave it. The inflation was feared to be doubling and the G.D.P. was said to be declining and the deficit was pointed to be widening. At one stroke the trend has been arrested and our economy has been restored. The poor people are happy. The prices of essential goods are not shooting up. The middle classes are happy. The consumer goods are priced less. It is unusual. The corporate sector and the Income-tax payers are relieved because the direct tax structure is widened and the tax rates are reduced. The joy is seen not only in India but in the whole world. Suddenly the Indian economy, one of the ten growing economies of the world, has become attractive. The investors are happy and India becomes now competitive. Economy has been stimulated. Hope has been restored.

More financial powers to the States is a long-pending demand of the D.M.K. What the D.M.K. wanted all along is now here. Our beloved Finance Minister has given a shape to the dreams of the D.M.K. He has indicated that all the financial revenues and all the Union revenues will be rationally shared by both the Centre and the States.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will have to conclude now.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : All the Parties in the Union Government appreciated the Budget presented by the Finance Minister. He also understands the sentiments of the market forces. That is why the stock index is rising up. The corporate sector is happy. That the promises unfajling tax revenue.

The cut in excise and customs duty makes the

business community hopeful. The consumer goods are reaching the masses at a lesser price. The social sector gets due attention. The reform measures coming slowly are now pouring down; but still it makes people happy.

The West watches "the rising Sun" from the East. This year's Budget is something to everybody. It gives everything to every sector of the economy. The liberalised economy regime promotes exports and removes the restrictions on the imports.

The agricultural sector will also get a boost now. The competitive edge given to the Indian Industry will result in the growth of exports. While taking care to boost exports, the hon. Finance Minister may kindly look into the needs of the agro-products sector.

The International Monetary Fund has stated that India has opened up its agro-economy . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Ramalingam, this may be the last point. Please conclude.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Sir, I am now coming to the problems faced by the people. So far I have been praising the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude in one minute.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Yes Sir.

Cotton and jute are getting a boost. The foodgrains are already promoted. It should be extended to some of the so-far banned items also.

Spices, herbals and wild fruits from our forests must earn foreign exchange. Other forest wealth like Sandalwood need not be banned from being exported. I would like to point out that the ban on Sandalwood exports cause huge loss to our country. I would like to give some suggestions for improving the economy. The Finance Minister may consider imposing additional tax on mineral water. They are exploiting the country. The industry is flourishing. So, he can impose additional tax on mineral water.

Even the prophets of doom agree that the Budget proposals will have better results. They only seek shelter under the 'its' and 'buts'. Our Finance Minister will only prove them wrong. They say that he has taken a risk. But it is a calculated risk. We call it a bold decision. Boldness and correctness are there in the Budget. We welcome and support the Budget. It is a feather in his cap. It is a crown to our country. Our famous Tamil Saint Thiruvalluvar said :

*"Idhanai Idhanai Ivanmudippan Endraindhu
Adhanai Avankan Vidal".*

It means : "Find him, who can do a thing in the best way, and give unto him the power to do that thing".

The people have given the power to our Finance Minister. He did it very well. We take our hats off. We all welcome it.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Budget, however with some reservation. I however start with kudos.

At the outset, the Finance Minister referred to a situation in which regional parties and certain parties with national presence coalesce. Without going into the merits and demerits of the regional parties, what I would emphasise and appreciate is, a due recognition of the regional aspirations, for a place in the sun and in the map of national development this is the essence of federal polity. Involvement of Chief Ministers through the Inter-State Council and National Development Council for a consensus while evolving the broad trends of the Budget should be an abiding feature of governance.

When I come to the question of agricultural development, my appreciation is rather mixed. The Finance Minister rightly emphasised the concern for the cause of agriculturists. He does not support his concern with adequate funds. For instance, the Central assistance for completion of irrigation projects has been only marginally enhanced. In irrigation and flood control, there has been a sharp reduction from Rs. 1,248 crore to Rs. 323 crore. So, how can the farmers increase their production ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : It means that you are not reading it correctly. I have myself explained or Shri Janeshwar Mishra has already explained that last year AIBP funds were put into Central Plan. This year, that money is being put into State Plan. Therefore, this money will not be shown in the Central Plan. It may appear to be a reduction, but look at the State Plan, there is an addition of Rs. 1,300 crore.

MR. CHAIRMAN : May I request the hon. Minister to respond to such matters at the time of reply ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Normally, I will not interrupt. But this should not appear in the Press tomorrow that there is a sharp reduction . . . (Interruptions) I am not interrupting.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I did not say that you were interrupting.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : There are hundreds and hundreds of breaches in the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries exposing the life and property to danger and even turning large, green fields into deserts because the flood water carries heavy and deposits and we do not see

[Shri Bijoy Handique]

any hope. I do not know what the hon. Finance Minister has explained, but he has just interrupted. If he has really provided money in the State Plan, then we think that there should be an end to these problems.

If it is so, I do appreciate that. If it is not, our demand persists.

As a matter of fact, the increase in the Central Plan is rather small and there lies the cause of this deficiency. The Central Plan outlay for the year 1997-98 amounts to Rs. 91,839 crore, as against Rs. 87,088 crore in the year 1996-97. What is most glaringly strange is, the step up in the outlay for rural development is only Rs. 171 crore.

Sir, now I will tell you why I have some reservations. The present Budget has been called by some critics as anti-poor or pro-rich. Well, I do not call it anti-poor but pro-rich yes, it is. If we consider the massive rash of giveaways, it is nothing but an essay to keep the articulate section of society in good humour. There is not a single segment of vocal upper class that has not benefited and the benefited and the benefit goes substantially to the non-salaried rich. These concessions would cost not less than Rs. 5,000 crore. If one section is really happy it is the corporate sector. With a reduction of corporate tax by 5 per cent and the abolition of surcharge by 7.5 per cent, viz. a relief of 12.5 per cent. The minimum that the Finance Minister could have done is to bring down the corporate tax in phases. But he wants the corporate sector to benefit at one go.

Sir, no wonder, that there is a shortfall of nearly Rs. 10,000 crore, mainly in the sectors of rural development, social service, education, agriculture, irrigation, flood control, energy and transport. All these sectors directly affect the livelihood of the vast majority of our people.

And, as if the bonanza for the rich is not enough, an amnesty for tax-evaders has been announced. Amnesty schemes have, invariably, failed in the past. Money collected from such schemes have been paltry. Besides, such schemes have sent wrong signals to the offenders of law, leaving the honest and law-abiding citizens disgruntled. Such schemes have put a premium on dishonesty. We should bear in mind that black money is a state of mind that simply defies the authority of the State. After all, taxation is an intensely moral proposition. The right of the State to impose and collect taxes is most basic to its legitimacy and is carried with a sanction to punish those who refuse to submit to the legitimate authority.

Sir, before I conclude, what I would like to say that we need to address a basic question. Where would the Finance Minister get the funds needed to finance the

reliefs? The reduction of nearly 20 per cent in corporate tax may prove to be a gamble, unless the corporate sector, as a whole, registers higher profits. Experts have estimated that the tax proposals, as a whole, may result in a loss of revenue of about Rs. 10,000 crore after adjusting 10 per cent tax on distributed profits.

The implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission will mean an expenditure of Rs. 11,320 crore. The interest payment in 1997-98 will go up to Rs. 68,000 crore. Will such a volume of Non-Plan expenditure allow the Finance Minister to maintain the fiscal deficit – GDP ratio at 4.5 per cent in 1997-98? Thus, the assumed high growth, too, cannot be taken for granted. There are several factors that could cause growth to stumble, thereby upsetting the Finance Minister's revenue-gathering ambitions.

The most obvious of these is the deficit in the oil pool account which may be outside the budget but not outside the economy. The current situation of mounting outstandings from the oil pool account has forced the oil companies to increase their borrowing substantially and is not sustainable for very much longer. If this results in higher prices of petroleum products, it will eat into the resources which the companies could have generated from the tax concessions thereby affecting investments.

A spurt in the prices of petroleum products could also have an impact on the capital market. So, a closer look at the estimates show that there is a great deal of wishful thinking. It depends upon so many 'ifs' and if all the 'ifs' fall in place and work out harmoniously, we do not know what mystery the hon. Minister has for us. I wish the Finance Minister the best of luck. He appears to have been pipe dreaming. Thanks to the ban of Delhi Government on smoking.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri P. Theertharaman.

SHRI P. THEERTHARAMAN (Dharmapuri) : Sir, . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you given notice to the Secretariat that you will speak in Tamil?

SHRI P. THEERTHARAMAN : Yes, Sir . . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the translator is not there. We will arrange the translator. You please speak later on.

Shri Alagiri Samy.

SHRI SAMY U. ALAGI speak in Tamil.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But is going to be called. When be available if he has been

Lt. General Prakash Mani Tripathi.

[Translation]

LT. GEN. (Retd.) PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : Right since yesterday I waiting to get a hearing from you. I will speak on three points. In para 92 there is a mention of voluntary Disclosure Scheme. You have got two things from the leftists. The first, this very thing and the second thing in P.D.S. but in this matter their contribution has been very negative. [Translation] This is not an ethical question but it is bad economics. I think this will not put an end to black money. rather it will encourage generation of black money. This will not help in settlement of economy. We are strongly opposed to it.

Secondly, the increasing imbalance in various fields and in economic development needs to be taken care of. Adequate provision have not been made for the farmers in the budget. Majority of our people are engaged in the fields as farmers, therefore with their development the backward agricultural areas will also flourish. I want to make you aware of the fact that we depend on the monsoon. We had good monsoon during the last seven years. If in any year monsoon fails to turn up, then the entire economy will go to dogs despite all the money and all the resources being in our disposal. Please consider this fact because as I have seen, very meagre amount has been allocated for the advancement of farmers.

I want to invite your attention towards eastern UP and the areas of Bihar where, every second day we hear that sritenings or some other odd things are talking place. You have not evolved any such economic regime as may improve the condition there which is worse than the conditions prevailing any where else in the country. You should sense caution from this state of affairs. Accounting which was once producing abundant food grains and contemplating exports there of is now resorting to imports because there has not been any growth in the agricultural yield which is a matter of grave concern. You should pay a special attention to this fact.

I would like to mention one more point that Rs. 1796 crore were allocated for agriculture in 1980-81 and Rs. 1995 crore during 1994-95 even then the agriculture production declined by 60 lakh ton. It is quite harmful and it seems that we are returning to the age when PL-480 was imported. We will not be able to improve our trade position or develop industries even in spite of making huge investment, if such a situation arises in the country. You have not suggested any measures for removal of imbalances created in coastal areas and Beaches.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I would like to speak for five minutes on the subject of Defence budget which has not

been taken up by anyone.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only 5 minutes were allotted to you then how you have allotted five minutes for yourself now.

LT. GENERAL (Retd.) PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : The MPs who were allotted 26 minutes have spoken for 47 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please say your point in brief.

LT. GENERAL (Retd.) PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : I am saying my point in brief.

Hon. Minister of Finance is not briefed correctly on matters pertaining to Defence. You are getting information by the Ministry of Defence and not the defence forces. Since 1988 defence budget has declined by 21 percent. I thank you for providing funds for defence budget but at the same time I would like to tell about this decline which cannot be improved in one or two budgets. You should keep in mind the position of defence forces in 1962 which improved a little bit upto 1965 and improved further in 1971. We are proving 2.4 percent of G.D.P. for defence whereas in Pakistan this ratio is 7 percent and in China it is 8 percent. I do not demand to raise it upto 6 or 7 percent but please try to provide 3 percent of G.D.P. in two or three budgets because the defence forces have a huge amount due on themselves and special measures should be taken for improving it. In the end I would like to say that report of the Fifth Pay Commission is yet to come and it has already mentioned that it has lowered the morale of defence forces. I am saying it for your information because the very bueaucrates who were members of the earlier committee are also the members of the new committee formed for implementation of recommendations of its report. I feel that justice will not be done for Indian defence forces. Therefore, I request you to pay attention towards it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I oppose this budget as it is anti-farmers and anti-poor.

[English]

SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV (Parvatipuram) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that a good look at the Budget 1997-98 brings me to a position from where I can say that though the hon. Finance Minister kept in mind that the world was waiting for India's Budget, he forget that there were teeming millions and starving thousands also waiting for the Budget, and they, Mr. Chairman, are all Indians.

I shall base my observations on the Budget under five broad categories only :-

First, I come to benefits from tax cuts. This area

[Shri V. Pradeep Dev]

appears to be, for all practical reasons, the chief characteristics of the Budget. There has been a reduction in tax for all income groups. Yet one cannot overlook the fact that the higher income slab benefits most from this provision where a person earning Rs. 5,010 per month will pay a tax of approximately Rs. 8.30 per month as compared to Rs. 12.50 per month previously which is a pathetic increase of Rs. 4/- p.m. in saving. On the other hand, a persons with an income of Rs. 25,000 per month shall save about Rs. 2,300 approximately per month according to new provisions of tax cuts. This amount is 575 times more than a person in the lower income slab. The yawning gap between a person in the lower income slab and the person in the higher income slab undoubtedly shall stretch larger than the face. Is this what progressive taxation envisages ? Well, the hon. Finance Minister seems to believe that it does. Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly note that I have not considered the statistics in case of people earning much more than Rs. 25,000 per month.

Secondly, I come to the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme. This scheme envisages the same rate of conversion of black money irrespective of the amount which means that if a person misappropriate thousands is paying at the same rate as compared to someone who has millions stacked away. As if inequality resulting from tax cuts was not enough that such discrepancies too have to be accepted by the people. This scheme further cheats the honest taxpayer who realises that if he had not paid tax earlier at 60, 50 or 40 per cent, he could hoard and now pay at a more 30 per cent. This does need a strong digestive system to digest.

Thirdly, I come to social spending. These tax measures, as discussed already, affect not even five per cent of the population. For the 95 per cent, the fact which glares before us is that the United Front Government has spent Rs. 10,000 crore, less than the amount provided by the Finance Minister, on development in the Budget of 1996-97. In fact, the areas of social expenditure have not received any major filling, I mean, the targeted area under social spending as reflected in the Budget is rural affairs and employment. However, the amount allocated shows an increase of Rs. 1,200 crore compared to the revised estimates of the previous Budget. In fact, the increase is just Rs. 700 crore when compared to the budgetary estimates of 1996-97.

This is one-fifth and one-seventh of the amount saved by the rich in terms of tax concessions.

About inflation and related aspects, the deficit in the Oil Pool Account which was around Rs. 5000 crore when

the UF Government came to power has now increased to Rs. 15,000 crore. The possibility of the Government resources filling the gap appears a rarity. Therefore, an increase in oil prices is on the cards which would translate into increase in rate of inflation. This will also affect the cost of industrial production and many other areas. If such a trend sets in, then the apple cart of the present budget will be hampered and hindered seriously.

About exports and imports, the export growth rate has come down from about 20 per cent to about six per cent now. The import rate has sunk from 25 per cent to about four per cent, if oil imports which make 41 per cent of the imports are excluded. The budget does not provide any such confidence boosters which can lead to high growth rates in export and import.

Apart from these, there are many areas in the Budget which will experience implementational difficulties like the Revamped Public Distribution Scheme where in procurement could become difficult and rise in prices could just be what the doctor ordered for.

Another aspect to be highlighted is the desire to match up our tax rates with ASEAN countries. How about first matching up our literacy rates, health and medicare facilities with them. It appears that the UF Government is placing the cart before the horse. Our policies have to be compatible with our realities and our development has to be truly ndian. Running behind mirages has not helped anyone. It is time we grew inwardly outward rather than outwardly outward. There is no point in wearing the garb of globalisation to hide nakedness. We have to cut our own cloth first.

Conclusively, I feel the hon. Finance Minister has taken an escalator to go upwards without realising the cost of it, or may be he wants it at all costs.

SHRI P. THEERTHARAMAN (Dharmapuri) : Hon'ble Chairman, I thank you for providing me with an opportunity to take part in the discussion on the Union Budget 1997-98 that has been taken up in this August House. We are now celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our independence. So many Finance Ministers have presented Budget in this House. But our Finance Minister is different from them and hence he has presented significantly praiseworthy a Budget. All those Finance Ministers were from parties that have had either absolute majority or the status of a single largest party. They were able to present their Budget in consultation with economists in their respective parties. But the Government of the day is a different one of its kind. Thirteen different parties which have their own policies and Ideals have unitedly formed a Government at the Centre.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

As this is the need of the hour, in the interest of the nation they have come together and have formed a Government with the support of Congress from outside. Every party has spelt out its permissible ambit. Within that framework the Budget has been prepared. In his own way, as an able administrator with his capability and mental skills, our Hon'ble Finance Minister has prepared the Budget himself. He is an honest person with integrity and he has put in his efforts to prepare a unique budget which is significant in so many ways. He has created a history and carved out a niche for himself.

IthanaI IthanaI Ivan Mudikkum Yendraainthu

AthanaI Avankan Vidal

That was the saying of the great Tamil poet saint Thiruvalluvar. He said that a thing that has to be done has to be weighed, then the capabilities of the person who can do it should be weighed and then alone that thing should be entrusted with that persons to be completed as desired. Now we find a dynamic person like our Finance Minister has been entrusted with that responsibility to prepare and present a Budget that will decide the destiny of about 90 crores of people living in our India.

The credit for this choice of a Finance Minister should rightly go to our able leader Thiru. Moopanar who is an avowed disciple of our great leader Late Kamaraj who stood for simplicity and integrity in public life. Now I would like to thank Moopanar in whom we find our great leader Kamaraj. It is my duty to place my deep felt gratitude on record now at this hour.

I am neither an economist nor a financial expert to analyse and to pass on comments about the positive and other aspects of this budget. We find our Union Finance Minister being praised and congratulated by almost all the Indian economists. Western scholars and economists are also appreciating the budget. Financial experts from all over the world praise the budget.

That is why this budget could give a new direction to our economy. It is lauded as a budget conceived with a vision. These words of praise come from the deep of my heart. I welcome and support the budget wholeheartedly.

Even the opposition could not find fault with this budget and they said that this budget has been prepared with the elections in mind. That way, they have accepted that it is a people's budget. I am proud and happy to point out this. With a budget for Rs. 2,32,171 crores, it has been sought to develop the infrastructure. This aims at providing safe drinking water to villages. The Ganga Kalyan Yojana is intended to tap the ground water and surface water potential. Prominence given to girl child education is

evident from the Kasturba Gandhi Shiksha Yojana. Social sector gets an increased allocation to the tune of about Rs. 4000 crores. Urban Development schemes are to get Rs. 775 crores more than last year. Rs. 1189 crores more than the last year's allocation has been made for education. Vocational training and education gets Rs. 132 crores more. Drinking water and sanitation has been allocated Rs. 312 crores more than last year's. In order to implement the Fifth Pay Commission recommendations Rs. 4705 crores have been kept apart. Government employees are welcoming the budget for this. The industry and the business world welcome the encouraging aspects of the budget. Labour class also welcome the budget that aims at improving their lot. The monthly salary earners are happy about the reduction of income tax rates. They breath a sigh of relief.

Balance of payment position is satisfactory. The foreign exchange reserves with us are adequate. In order to bring in modern technology imports get reduction in customs duty. India's economy gets a proud place in the Asian region. The world is watching us with amazement. In his budget speech Hon'ble Finance Minister has spelt out the scheme of things to come as regards to the sharing of Central revenue with the State Governments. The proposed increase in allocation for the States make us feel happy.

The educated, the commoner, the journalists, entrepreneurs, labourers and trade unions, all of them appreciate this year's budget. Foreign investors are also pleased. Socialists and even communists praise the salient features of this budget.

We would be failing in our duty, if we do not appreciate a budget fully qualified to all praise. I have certain requests to make on behalf of the people of my home state Tamil Nadu. Our Finance Minister who performs excellently well in the national interest may kindly note that the Central investment in Tamil Nadu had drastically come down. Most of those PSUs that are there in Tamil Nadu came when Pandit Jawaharlal Nahru was our Prime Minister. Budgetary support for various ministries to carry out their functions in Tamil Nadu have also come down heavily. It is either negligible or nil now. Tamil Nadu is now receding and it is regression now. I humbly request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to look into this disparity and the widening gap, and do the needful to invest more in Tamil Nadu.

Sethu Samudram project is pending for a long time now. Even before independence, our national poet Mahakavi Subramania Bharathi referred to it as his dream project that must come true.

As far as Railways are concerned, when we compare other States with Tamil Nadu much of changes have not

[Shri P. Theertharaman]

come about. Funds allocation for Railway projects in Tamil Nadu are meagre. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned road development is a crying need. The highways have been ignored and are in poor shape. Even the National Highways are not good and it becomes tedious to travel more than 30 kms. at a time. Traffic on the highways is on the increase due to multifold cargo movement.

Madras-Bangalore, Madras-Kanyakumari, Madurai-Krishnagiri, Salem-Coimbatore Highway should be converted to have a facelift with 4-lane roads.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI P. THEERTHARAMAN : Sir, this is my maiden speech.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, he may be given some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is his maiden speech.

SHRI P. THEERTHARAMAN : At the time when I congratulate the Finance Minister for the good budget he has presented I have certain submission to make as the grievances of the people of my constituency. I am expected to represent the case of the people who have elected me. I know that you will appreciate my sense of duty to take up the cause of my constituency.

Of course we have had enormous growth ever after our achieving independence. Let us also look back. The economic disparity and inequality is prevalent. The poor become poorer and the rich become richer though they are few. Lakhs of people suffer the pangs of poverty. They have to fend for themselves even without a livelihood. They are in continuous search of it. They do not have roof. Without shelter and clothing and food and they have problems. They are not able to get health and sanitation facilities. They do not get education.

The village folks look forward to the 20 kgs. of rice provided to them through the PDS every month. The foodgrain that cost about Rs. 100 is their monthly food supply. At the same time the well to do spend about Rs. 100 for a cup of coffee. This is also there in the society. The money spent by the rich to stay in a class hotel would suffice the need of a poor family to construct a house to live for generations together. Thus our economy enables a certain section of the society to accumulate wealth. This inequality must go and economic equality and parity must come.

Our great leader Kamaraj said that Gandhiji's dream could come true even if poor could have a roof enough to provide shelter, cloth that is not torn and rice water that

is not cold. Even if these could be provided it could be a great social change now. I would like to point out that certain sections of the society live without these minimum things even.

My district Dharmapuri is the native place of the great scholar Rajaji. The great freedom fighter Subramaniam Siva who spread the flame of freedom passion died here. Despite the fact that we have got historical associations, our district is still a backward one. I request the Finance Minister to go in for setting up industries either from the public sector or from the private sector.

Black stones that earn considerable foreign exchange are exported from our district. They are sent to destinations both within and out of the country. The district that benefit the country's exchequer through the export of these granites has been left high and dry. You must improve our district so that it may be like other districts if not equally well off. So I request you to give us at least a small percent of royalty from the export earnings from our district. Sandalwood trees that could earn more of foreign exchange grow in our district too. Smuggling and illegal felling should be controlled. Effective steps in this direction should be taken.

People in desperation look forward to the doles like concessions, grants, free meals, free dhoties and sarees. Such a situation can go only when we create an atmosphere to enable them to earn their own livelihood and stand on their own legs. Your clear and dynamic thought could usher in a better era where people would gain enough of self confidence to support themselves and meet their needs.

National poet Subramania Bharathi said,

Ulagam Samanilai Pera Vendum

Uyaruu Thalvila Nilai Vendum.

It means :

The world should ensure equality to all in toto.

And disparity should not have any further scope.

I wish the economic policies of our Finance Minister ensure the levelling of ups and downs in life. I hope he could bring in equality. I believe in his skill and intellect to do this. With this, I conclude my speech once again expressing my support to the budget.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tezpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at 9.45 p.m., this is peak TV viewing time. So, I am tempted to use T.V. language to beg-in my speech
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is 9.43 p.m. now.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Sir, In TV soap opera terms, this Budget is 'bold and beautiful'. But 'beautiful' only for the vocal opulent minority. This Budget has been prepared for the 'rich' by one who became 'famous' after the Budget was presented. The cup of eulogies is full to the brim, especially after our hon. friend from the DMK Sang Parans to the hon. Minister of Finance, leaving no scope for me to add to the accolades.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

21.44 Hrs.

This Budget has many heartening features but due to limitation of time I will not be able to refer to many of them. But one aspect of the Budget is, as stated by many of the critics, the high risk taken by the hon. Minister of Finance by effecting drastic cuts in taxes and duties. At the same time, expecting that revenue collection would go up by as much as 17 per cent, this so-called 'Laffer Curve', may not work in the complex Indian situation beyond a point and the high revenue expectations may not be achieved.

Therefore, this is the risk which has been taken. Dr. Raja Chelliah says that risks should be taken at times. But, he thinks that, this risk taken by the Minister of Finance in this Budget is not justified as it concerns the fortune of the nation. The Minister of Finance has sworn by the Common Minimum Programme which, he said, has inspired his Budget. Therefore, I would like to draw his attention to some of the items in the Common Minimum Programme which have not been addressed in the Budget as adequately as was expected.

The Common Minimum Programme refers to 'Special plan to develop infrastructure in 100 backward districts'. Nothing has been done on this score. Then, it was said that they would channel money collected out of disinvestment of PSUs to health and education. This has also not been adequately addressed. Now, it also talks about increasing the investment in the infrastructure sector from four per cent to six per cent of GDP. The amount provided this year does not give us the confidence that he would ever be able to achieve this because he is leaving the Infrastructure entirely in the hands of the private sector and the Government has almost washes its hands off.

With regard to education, the Common Minimum Programme says that by the year 2000 A.D., six per cent of GDP will be devoted to the education sector. But this year only Rs. 1182 crore has been provided which does not give us any hope that Rs. 70,000 and odd crore that would be needed by the year 2000 A.D. would ever be provided.

Then, it is said that fiscal and other measures would

be taken to discourage MNCs from low priority areas. But what we find in this Budget is that even ice cream and biscuit making has been opened to the large sector, including the MNCs.

Sir, every Budget must make expenditure control as one of the paramount objectives. Due to paucity of time, I will not go into many aspects. In the last Budget Finance Minister made a promise, he made a commitment that he would form an Expenditure Management and Reforms Commission. In the present Budget speech, he said that he could keep all his commitments in the Budget. But he further says : "One commitment that I have been unable to keep is to set up an Expenditure Management and Reforms Commission. I failed because I wanted a 'A' team and I was not content with the 'B' team. Key Members of the 'A' team are in this House and in the Rajya Sabha and they still elude me". Now, Sir, we do not know how many Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha the hon. Minister of Finance has sounded. I have asked a very large number of Members of Parliament from both the Houses whether they were approached to participate in the Commission. Many of these people of very great talent and ability. But from the statement it appears that the hon. Minister of Finance has regarded them as 'B' class or even inferior. This is an affront to the talent and capability of these members of the two Houses of Parliament. To brand such a large majority as not fit for the 'A' team means that they are good enough only for 'B' or 'C' or 'D' teams. This tantamounts to denigration of both the houses.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am sorry for two reasons. The first reason is more important. I am sorry that my learned friend does not have a sense of humour. The second reason is, the promise was that distinguished political leaders, administrators and economists will be part of the Expenditure Management Commission. When I said that I could not find Members for 'A' team, I did not mean that nobody was available. But I said that distinguished political leaders who ought to be on the Commission still elude me and I am trying. There are economists, there are administrators and there are many eminent Members. I am deeply distressed that a Member of his eminence should not have a sense of humour and should not have a sense of proportion about what I have said.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Well, in the Budget speech, he has said that the key members of the 'A' team are in this House and in the Rajya Sabha and they elude him which means that those people whom he has adjudged as 'A' grade, are people who are eluding. This can only have one connotation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please leave this controversy.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : He has failed to do anything in terms of control of expenditure of economy of expenditure. Today, the interest payment amount to Rs. 68,000 crore as against the fiscal deficit of Rs. 64,000 and odd crore, which means that we will be borrowing to pay interest. This is a very precarious situation. Therefore, control of expenditure is an essential requirement. Today, in the Government, there is a lot of wasteful unproductive expenditure and it is very important and this would be a very excellent idea to form or constitute this Commission. There is no dearth of talented people, not in these two Houses, as also outside the country; and there cannot be any plausible possible excuse for not constituting the Commission.

I would now like to say something about the oil pool account. This Budget is not complete because it makes no reference to the oil pool account deficit. The deficit has crossed Rs. 16,000 crore. May be, by the end of the current fiscal year, it may be Rs. 17,000 crore or Rs. 18,000 crore or Rs. 19,000 crore. So, there may be a hike of petrol later on. But would it be so massive that it would take care of the future differentials anticipated as also the outstanding amount? If this is so, then that would be disastrous for the country, mainly for the poor; and if the hike is not to be so massive then what is if that we are going to do? Are we going to reduce the import duties on petroleum or are we going to change the retention price formula for the refineries or some other measures? What is it that we are going to do? Some reference has got to be made in the budget. Otherwise, eventually, if this is to be met by — Wholly or partly — by Budgetary support, this is going to increase the deficit; and we would be faced with an unbearable inflationary situation.

Again coming to inflation, the hon. Finance Minister did make a reference to inflation. But we do not find any measures being discussed adequately to deal with it in this Budget speech. Now, we are having this 12 per cent hike in freight rates and he has also imposed a five per cent transportation tax. There is going to be an adjustment of prices to balance the oil pool account. All this is going to add to the prices and we may not be able to hold the price line. Again, we have the monetised deficit of Rs. 16,000 crore and we are going to bring currency notes worth Rs. 16,000 crore, which would add fuel to inflation. On top of this, we have the Treasury Bills which may not sell in the market, in which case, we will have to print more notes.

Therefore, the inflationary situation is definitely there with us today. In this context, I would like to make a reference to the comments of the IMF Chief, Mr. Michael Camdessus. He has said that there is a risk of shortfall in revenue because of lower tax and expressed concern

about the inflationary rate moving upwards. He has stated and I quote :

“In a country where poverty is pervasive the first measure has to be to curb inflation. Reduction in deficit of both Central and State Governments as well as the oil pool account was necessary to check inflation and prepare the ground for capital convertibility”.

This is a very sound advice. But will we, who have been wooing the IMF and the IMF Chief — chasing him up all the way to Goa during his holidays — would be heeding to his advice ?

And I feel that we should pay heed to his advice and do the needful even at this late stage.

Another thing which I would like to refer to is the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme. I do not want to make any comment on the merits or demerits of the Scheme but there are reports in the press that the Finance Minister has taken certain business men into confidence who had indicated that if a liberal amnesty scheme is introduced, then they would bring back all the moolas from wherever they have hidden it and disclose it under the Voluntary disclosure Scheme. Now if this has happened — I hope this has not happened — then it must be called unethical and ethics must remain as inviolate and inviolable principle or basis in the formulation of public policy. If this is not true, I hope the Finance Minister would contradict these reports at the earliest opportunity. Sir, in the football matches there is injury time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I was told that every Member will speak for five minutes. But you have spoken for ten minutes.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : We are as good as injured waiting so late. So, some more time should be given as in foot ball matches.

Coming to my last point, I would like to speak about the North-East as I come from the Region. The hon. Finance Minister has made references to the regional parties and constituents of the United Front and therefore, it is for him to usher in an era of economic federalism and consistent with that kind of an objective, more attention should have been given to the North-East. He did make a reference to the Prime Minister's package and that he is providing Rs. 100 crore for the Numaligarh Refinery. I appreciate this gesture. But I want to know whether the package that was announced in October by the Prime Minister would form part of the Ninth Plan over and above the normal size of the Plan for the North-East. If it is a part of the normal Plan size, then there is nothing extra that the North-East would be getting from the package. Therefore, as far as the North-Eastern States are

concerned, I would like to have an assurance that the package that was announced by the Prime Minister in October, 1996 would be over and above the normal Plan size that would be approved for the North-Eastern States.

Then, the Prime Minister has appointed a Committee called the Shukla Committee to give a report on the development of infrastructure and basic services in the North-East. I understand that the Report has already been submitted to the Prime Minister. My request here in this House is that the report should be laid on the Table of the House so that the Members can get the benefit of studying and discussing it.

I would conclude by saying that by presenting this Budget, the Finance Minister has taken great risks it is called 'double or quit' Budget. A lot of risks were taken and a lot of sops have been given to the opulent and the capital markets. It seems that the Finance Minister was too much in a hurry and his haste is not understood by most people. Therefore, I am wondering whether he had taken these risks and effected drastic cuts in corporate and other taxes thinking that he may not be around to present the next Budget.

With these reservations I support the Budget.

22.00 Hrs.

*SHRI SAMY V. ALAGIRI (Sivakasi) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the budget. I also gratefully acknowledge and thank wholeheartedly my party, i.e., Communist Party of India, and the people of my constituency. Sivakasi who have made it possible for me to be here in this House now to take part in the discussion on this year's budget.

This budget is winning accolades and is being widely acclaimed. For the past one or two weeks almost everyone is talking about this budget. There are several welcome features and proposed measures in the budget.

Basic minimum services get due attention. Drinking water, education and irrigation get adequate allocation. Certainly these aspects are quite welcome.

Though it is a welcome budget, I would like to point out certain things as it had occurred to me. For instance, the cut in customs duty is to be reconsidered. I feel that the cut in customs duty would increase imports which would affect the boost in sales of locally manufactured goods. Lesser market and reduced production of our goods would ultimately increase our production cost. This would come in the way of promoting our exporting goods. We may not get the competitive edge just because of our giving a kind

of incentive to imports by way of reduction in customs duty rates.

In the global competition we must always aim at making our goods competitive. So I request our Finance Minister to reconsider the cuts you have made in the customs duty, because this needs to be attended to. We must think of widening the market for our goods. Hence it calls for a thorough reconsideration. I hope our Finance Minister will look into it.

Likewise, the increase in postal rates and postal stationery like post cards would only affect the people from the poorer sections of the society. So I request you to reconsider this hike also.

I have certain claims to make as I feel I have got the privilege to demand and get it from our Finance Minister. Because both of us are from the erstwhile undivided Ramanathapuram District. So I feel free to express my reservations about the budget.

Let me draw your attention to the announcement made about the bad debt. Rs. 61,000 crores have been locked as bad debt. More than one third of this money is with the big industrial houses and big industrialists. I fervently hope that our Finance Minister would take corrective steps to bring out the money that belong to our people. I hope he will get the black money that get locked so. I have great faith reposed in our Finance Minister.

My constituency is famous for match industries and fire works industries. Most of them are in the small scale sector and are carried out as cottage industries by several small match factory units. When I approached him with a request to save these industries from closure, he took suitable measures to save those small units.

Even than a great threat has come to that industry now. A mechanised modern match factory in the pattern of WIMCO has been set up in Virudhunagar in my constituency. I take strong exception to its inception there. I am opposed to setting up a giantlike unit of its kind. As this would take away the job opportunities the rural poor in my area get now. I have grave concern about their future. I would like to state here categorically that I would be forced to lead an agitation against the functioning of the modern mechanised match factory that is being set up at Virudhunagar. I would like to caution this Government that people of that area feel agitated and hence I would like you to take steps to cancel the permission accorded to open that modern match factory that could render people there jobless. Sivakasi Lok Sabha constituency has got several match factory units and fire crackers units which are taken to places world over. Most of them are man-made and hence labour intensive thereby providing job

[Shri Samy V. Alagiri]

opportunities and livelihood to thousands of people there. Only through this industrial activity people of my constituency stay back in their villages. If they are rendered jobless and if their small units and small business interests are affected then the exodus of people from our district would become inevitable. So a fully mechanised automatic match factory should not be allowed to carry on in this region. I seriously apprehend the bleak future that would befall on the people of my constituency. Hence I strongly appeal to the Government not to allow this modern match factory unit to commence its operation in my constituency.

I would like to highlight the agriculture scene. India as a tropical country is best suited for cultivation of alternate crops. It has distinct seasons. Winter is there for clean three months. Summer and monsoon follow distinctly one another. That way, this agro-climatic conditions best suited for cultivation cannot be found elsewhere in the world. Best climate is there. But an appropriate atmosphere for the agriculturists are yet to be created by the Finance Minister through his budgetary efforts. The Finance Minister has not proposed anything substantive to improve the lot of the farmers in the country.

The Ninth Plan draft document highlight the importance that is to be accorded to agriculture and rural development. But this year's budget is somewhat silent on any measure that will benefit the agriculturists. Small farmers and marginal farmers are not getting anything from this budget. I would like to say that this is rather unfortunate.

Coming to irrigation schemes that would benefit the agriculturists, I must make a mention about Azhagar Dam Project. Our Finance Minister's constituency is also a beneficiary of that project. It is a long pending project. I request the Government to take steps to retrieve the project from the cold storage. It must be completed soon. Because it would benefit about six or seven districts in irrigating land for cultivation.

PMRY scheme aims at providing loans to unemployed youth hailing from rural areas. But the hopeful and prospective entrepreneurs are made to run from pillar to post to get that money. They are required to get institutional certificates and banks make it difficult to get one easily. This is an unwritten conditionality. This kind of needless formalities discourage the prospective entrepreneurs and make them lose heart. They may even give up the venture. I request the Finance Minister to look into it and streamline the procedure. You must give suitable instructions to distribute those loans to those unemployed graduates without hassle.

Several units in the public sector undertakings like IDPL and NTC are facing closure now. Most of them are on the verge of closure. Allocations have not been made to revive those industrial units. The budget do not provide for that. I request the Finance Minister to look into this too. He may kindly allocate funds to revitalise these units before they could become completely unviable.

We are also faced with a situation to go in for deinvestment and privatises certain public sector undertakings. This will greatly affect the people. These changes may not yield desired results. Bearing this in mind, you may reconsider the privatisation proposal.

Highways and road development in the infrastructure development is attended to. At a time like this, a service tax enhanced by about 5% is levied on goods movement by trucks. Already Railways have increased the freight charges by 15%. I would like to point out that this tax proposal on commodity movement would only affect the common man as it would be passed on to the consumers and the commoners. This may be reconsidered by the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

You have also announced the voluntary disclosure scheme to bring out black money. You have given concessions to the black money holders. I have my own doubts whether this would yield desired results. In that case you can also take effective steps through the law of the land. The rules and regulations are there. You can wield your authority and you can bring them to book. However well placed they are, none should be spared. Law must extend its arms and they must be exposed. It must be made public. Such people should be exposed with their ill gotten wealth earned and kept with them through illegal means. Strict and stringent action against such people would instill moral fear. Proper punishment should be meted out to them. Only then they will realise that they may be looked down upon by the society. They may correct themselves only out of fear. Such strict actions may create an atmosphere wherein people may be desisted from resorting to illegal means.

I also request you to enhance the allocations for Tamil Nadu to ensure industrial and all round growth there.

The Northern districts of Tamil Nadu were devastated by floods. While flood relief operations go on in one part of Tamil Nadu, 6 districts in another part of Tamila Nadu which include the district that comes under your constituency reel under drought. Government of Tamil Nadu has taken steps to carry out relief work on both the fronts in full swing. I am to request the Union Finance Minister to allocate more funds for these relief measures.

The six worst drought hit districts are now facing acute drinking water supply problem. People of those districts are a disturbed lot now. Particularly the three districts Pasumpon Muthu Ramalinga Thevar, Kamarajar and Ramanathapuram are affected very much by the drought. You may consider this. You may also initiate steps to allocate funds and send them directly to these districts. Drinking water and other basic services are to be provided at the earliest as the problems have started mounting up.

Before concluding my speech let me thank again my party, the Communist Party of India and the people of my constituency.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I oppose this budget. The ruling party members have said many thing about this budget. They said it is a commonman's, poor man's budget. If we study the budget deeply, we shall find no relief has been given to commonman in the budget.

Postal charges have been increased. The rates of Post Cards, inland letter etc. have also been increased. Rich people do not use post cards. Only common people uses it. If the rates of cellure phone is also increased, it makes no difference to common people, as these are used by rich people, common people feel great difficulties because of increase of postal rates.

The rates of bidies have also been increased. Rich people do not smoke bidies. It is smoked by workers, Rikshapoller etc. As Atalji has just said that the rates of Petroleum product's are also likely being revised will affect the common people. The relaxation provided in excise duty would also benefit the rich people only. It is a budget, which is providing benefit facilities to rich people.

The Finance Minister has tried to bring these people under tax not who fulfil any two conditions out of the form. It would aggravate the suffering of one common people and corruption would also increase. The clerical staff will issue notices to any person. They will accept money and corruption will be increased. The common people will suffer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am elected from union territory, Chandigarh, and its budget is a party Home Minister's budget. I want to say 2-3 points in respect of Chandigarh. Last year 102 crore rupees was allocated to Chandigarh and the previous year to it about 104 crore rupees was allocated. But seven crore rupees has been reduced this year. The budget of all the other Union Territories has been increased. But seven crore rupees has been reduced in the allocation for Chandigarh. A new Municipal Corporation has been constituted there recently

and it has no resources of its own. Its financing has been allocated by the Union Govt. Union Govt. has sanctioned administrative work to the municipal corporation, but no allocation has been made in lien thereof, as a result the corporation is facing lots of problems and difficulties in its functioning. I would demand from the Finance Minister to withdraw the cut made in the budget for Chandigarh. Prime Minister has said many thing like cheaper ration will be provided to person living below poverty line. In Chandigarh the list of such poor person has not be prepared so far. No survey was conducted in this regard. I have already written about it, to prepare list in this regard. No survey has been conducted so far and no steps have been taken. How poor persons will be benefited ? No new ration card is being made in Chandigarh. No ration card is being issued to any person in Chandigarh. Even there our Finance Minister is saying that it is a budget far poor persons. About one lakh people live in slums there. Many schemes have been formulated by Central Government and Chandigarh Administration for the settlement those people, but the Central Government has not provided any fund.

Many things have been said about electricity and water. Chandigarh is the most beautiful city of the world and even there water and electricity are not available to one & half lakh people out of seven lakh people. There is one tap for 500 people and no provision has been made in this regard for Chandigarh. At least electricity and water connections should be provided to each persons. Arrangement should be made in the budget in this regard.

Three thousand rupees were allocated from each of howkers there for providing booths to then, but due to lack of funds, thousands of people have not been provided booths. I request you to take action in this regard.

Sir, Housing problem has been emerging as the biggest problem in Chandigarh. Central Govt. should take attention in this regard and allocate more funds to solve this problem, even if multistorage flats are to be constructed. Nothing has been said about this problem, in the budget. Villages are also have to be developed. This is housing problem and on the other hand administration, which is under Central Govt. demolished the pucca houses, which the people had constructed on their own land. Chandigarh Administration does not want to extend Lal dora an a. Even Central Govt. has not taken any decision in this regard. That is why about 20 thousand houses are on the verge of demolation. Notices have been sent to them. I want clear policy should be formulated by the Central Government in this regard and Lal Dora area should be extended.

The Private school teachers are demanding payment of pension as is admissible to private school teacher in Punjab. 1979 Act should be implemented in Chandigarh

[Shri Satya Pal Jain]

also. 1969 Act has already been replaced, but it is still in force in our State. I demand that Govt. should take immediate step in this regard because this Act has already been replaced in Punjab then there is no reason for its implementation in Chandigarh. I want that this Act should be withdrawn and 1979 Act should be enforced and pension should be granted to employers.

Many Central Govt. employees are also working in Chandigarh. CGHS facility is not available to them. In spite of court's verdict, no arrangement has been made in this regard so far, and no provision has also been made in the budget. Until CGHS dispensary is not opened, the employees cannot avail their facilities.

I will wind up my speech within two-three minutes. In every union territory area the executive powers are enjoyed by officials, not my elected representatives. Advisory committees on Home Affairs should be constituted for U.T. area. As a result the elected representatives could not participate in the decision making, so that they can be accountable to the people. I demand that the union territories where there is no elected State Assembly, the elected persons should also have a say in decision making.

You have given many concessions to senior citizens. It is a welcome decision.

Our schemes have been forwarded to Union Govt. for sanction. Until these are sanctioned no budgetary provision can be made and development work undertaken. 200 crore rupees package should be announced for the development of Chandigarh, which is capital of Punjab, Haryana and Union territory, so that its problems can be solved.

With these words. I thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If Hon. Members want to sit late, they can do so. There are 15 members more who want to speak. At last one hour 15 minutes will be needed for them. If they speak for 10 minutes each, three hours will be required. Please decide, I can wait with you. . .

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are not many Members present here . . . *(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may decide. Only five minutes will be allowed for each member. I do know, now, how many are absent.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : We will stick to five minutes limit, but it can be 2-3 minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, we have to stick to five minutes limit otherwise there will be no end to it.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Sir, we are sitting since morning.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may decide. I have no objection if you want to sit up to 1 or 2 O'clocks.

[English]

SHRI K. KODANDA RAMAIAH (Chitradurga) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we can go ahead. Otherwise, we will be wasting the time . . . *(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will not allow after five minutes.

[English]

Now, the next speaker will be Shri A.C. Jos.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Sir, I am thankful to you for having invited me to speak but I am sorry to say that there is no meaning in speaking because you are giving me only five minutes to speak. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am giving five minutes to all. You are a very senior Member and you can finish it in three minutes, time.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, if I lend the words of the hon. Finance Minister, we happen to be the children of lesser Gods because we get only five minutes, time whereas the earlier speakers have spoken for a lot of time. . . *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have already taken half a minute.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Please come to the point.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I am not going into any of these things. I am confining myself to one or two points.

I am very sorry to say that the hon. Finance Minister, who always says that the Common Minimum Programme is his Bible, Quran and Commandment of the United Front Government, has forgotten his brief as a good lawyer. I am quoting one sentence from his Budget speech :

"Hon. Members will find that there is a strong continuity between my first Budget and the present one. The foundation of the Budget remains the Common Minimum Programme. The experience of the last eight months has demonstrated the enormous strengths of

the Programme. Drawing on the CMP, my first Budget articulated seven broad objectives. These objectives embraced vital elements such as growth, basic minimum services employment, macroeconomic stability, investment (particularly in infrastructure), human development and viable balance of payments".

Sir, in these matters, about employment, not even a single mention has been made in this Budget. Had the time permitted me, I would have complimented the hon. Finance Minister for many things which he has included in his Budget. But I am sorry to say that even with fear of repetition, this Budget makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. A person drawing Rs. 25,000 a month gets Rs.300 more by way of income tax rebate; at the same time, a farm-worker, as the *Economic Survey* says, gets a lesser salary. Even if his salary is stable, his wages are stable, he is not getting more. And the money that is coming to the consumer market by way of reduction in income-tax and abolition of tax on dividend results in inflation, with the result that the poorer people will be suffering more.

Sir, I am mentioning about employment. Not even a mention has been made in this Budget regarding creation of employment. After the New Economic Policy you have invested about Rs. 35,000 crore. Even then, the employment market is more or less standstill. The unemployment figure is now 393 lakhs.

Not even a mention is made in this Budget. Especially the educated unemployed youths throughout the country are looking forward to the Budget for any investment. It is because of the lack of investment from the Government side, the employment potentiality is not going up. With the result, unemployment is on the increase. I recall the theory of trickling down. Nothing trickled down for the past five years. It is more or less on the standstill. So my submission is that immediately some steps ought to be taken for the creation of employment which is one of the methods of eradication of poverty. If I may say so, this is a public relation Budget. A very interesting thing happened. Immediately before the Budget, the mood of the country was sharply divided. The prophets of doom were saying that the United Front Government was going to fall down. Like that it went on. Others even cursed but the 90 minutes speech of the hon. Finance Minister has suddenly turned the whole thing. Why ? I do not believe that it is because of the beauty or the boldness of the Budget but one thing is sure that the newspapers, newspaper owners, reporters, majority of the newspaper readers and the corporate bodies are income tax payers. The moment, they got the concession, the mood of the country has changed. Everybody started paying encomium to the hon. Finance Minister.

What about the man on the street ? What about

the headload workers ? What about the construction workers ? Have they got anything ? That is what I say and I would have asked that. It is said about Shri C.M. Ibrahim that he is a very good PRO of the Prime Minister. I would say that the hon. Finance Minister is a very good PRO of the United Front. This is a public relation Budget. I am only saying this. I would have elaborately dealt with that. There is not even a mention of the National Renewal Fund which has been established by the first Budget of Dr. Manmohan Singh. The Finance Minister, in a way, is exceptionally lucky. He inherited, unlike Dr. Manmohan Singh in 1991, an economy with vitality, an economy which has shown seven per cent growth, 30.6 percent industrial growth and export market at the rate of 20 per cent. Dr. Manmohan Singh at that time rather envisaged that there would be some retrenchment because of the new economic policy and the competition that may come up in the industrial sector. For that matter, he has introduced a National Renewal Fund for the workers. No mention has been made in this Budget about the future of the National Renewal Fund and what is he going to do with it.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister is quite aware that many workers are being retrenched from factories because of the efficient news of the mystery. My suggestion and my request to the hon. Finance Minister is that it is high time we have to think about unemployment insurance because many people in the small scale industries are being retrenched and they become unemployed. So I request you that an employment insurance scheme is to be worked out and it is high time for that. At the same time, equally, another important thing is that factories are coming. Investments are made but when we look at India, a populous country, a country with 960 million people, the encouragement is on the modern trend, that is, lesser people and more wisdom. I would suggest that in the Budget, the Government should think about a policy wherein incentives should be given to the people with more employment potentialities. The factories should have more employment potentialities.

Kerala is the worst hit by the Budget. We have got very little public sector industries. It is because of the rise in the excise and cut in the import duty, two or three major industries that are there are on the verge of closure. In Thiruvananthapuram, the oldest Titanium Dioxide factory will be closed. Near Quilon, the Kerala Petrol and Minerals is also on the verge of closure because of the excise duty and import duty policy. The FACT which is considered to be the mother of industries of Kerala, is also finding it very difficult to pull on. It is producing caprolactum. The Hindustan Paper Corporation is another factory which was doing very well and making a profit. But because of the import policy of the newsprint, stocks are accumulating. So that factory is also finding it difficult to pull on.

[Shri A.C. Jos]

The modern food industry has got 14 or 15 units throughout the country and one of the units is in Cochin which makes a profit. On the advice of the Disinvestment Commission the Government has decided to sell it. There is no necessity to sell it. I am at a loss to understand why the Government is selling good factories and food companies to others. The public sector served a lot. I am not going into those details. But my suggestion is at least these factories are to be examined and something will have to be done.

Also, we have got a few latex units which are closing because we imported polyurethane which makes foam rubber and foam beds and because of that three hundred and odd small small factories are closing. My suggestion is that these things should be looked into by the Minister of Finance and with these words I close my speech.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Thank you for calling me out to speak on the General Budget.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Fifteen people are present here.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : There is a painting *Mona Lisa* in the Louvre in Paris. It was painted by Leonardo da Vinci and if we look at that painting from any angle we get the impression that she is smiling at us. But today I am sure that the lady in that painting would be squirming in the frame after seeing the popularity of Shri P. Chidambaram in making everybody smile at the Budget.

Taking the concessions first, he has reduced the income-tax levels, corporate taxes by five per cent, dividend tax has been abolished, customs and excise duties have been rationalised and corporate surcharge of 7.5 per cent has also been abolished. Similarly, he has given a fillip for foreign investment in a marginal way by raising the limit of investment from 24 per cent to 30 per cent.

While appreciating the magnanimity of the Minister of Finance I can only caution him about netting more revenue, to meet the programmes of the Government in the rural sector, in the Rural sector and in the Plan outlay.

I now take the subsidies. The Budget doles out Rs. 9,190 crore in the fertilizer field and Rs. 7,500 crore in food and sugar sectors. In fact, we have said in the Ninth Plan Approach Paper that we will be making an effort to reduce the subsidies. But unfortunately, probably by the compulsion of circumstances, the Minister of Finance has gone in for bigger outlays on subsidies. The subsidies for education and health are all right, but those on fertiliser, food and sugar have to be cautiously dealt with. For example, even while granting the subsidy the Government

has not cared to find out whether the subsidy has to be given to the poor farmers, small farmers and marginal farmers or to everybody alike. In the rural areas nowadays there are many big farmers and who have been getting this subsidy in a big way.

I would urge upon the Ministry of Finance to control the quantum, of subsidy and to go in for differential rates. He can give bigger subsidy to small farmers and smaller subsidy to big farmer, if that is inevitable. Otherwise, I would suggest that no big farmers need any subsidy on the fertilisers, on the tractors and on the tillers.

On the sugar and food fronts also, though there are some differential discriminated type of subsidies it is better that we keep only one subsidy recognise only one carholder and give that subsidy to some extent. For other, there is no need for subsidy and the Government should aim at evolving a system over a period of time whereby they can abolish all subsidies on all commodities.

As far as infrastructural development is concerned, the Government has not done very well in energy, where the outlay is less than the revised estimates and in transport and on irrigation and flood control and industry and minerals. The infrastructure outlays have not been utilised in the 1996-97 Budget but higher outlays have been provided marginally for these sectors.

I would urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to ensure that whatever Budget allocations have been made, especially, in the infrastructure sector are properly utilised.

I would like to say a few words on energy. We have got white elephant called the Electricity Boards in all the States. Even today the Governments have been going in for populist measures of doling out subsidies in a big way. Recently, the new Punjab Government has announced that they are not going to charge anything on irrigation water or on electricity. If these things are allowed, who is going to finally bear the cost of these subsidies. We cannot have doles given out to rich people. For example, an average Punjab farmer is supposed to be richer than any other farmer in the country. I really do not see any reason why irrigation tax and tax on energy are abolished in Punjab.

On the brighter side of the picture is the outlay on Communications, Social services, Agriculture, Science and Technology, Environment and Rural Development. These outlays may be maintained, but it should be ensured that these are properly spent. For example, there is a proposal to increase the rural credit from the present level of Rs. 22,000 crore in the current Budget to Rs. 28,600 crore in the next Budget. The augmentation is welcome and it has to be ensured that the man who wants the credit finally receives it.

On the social services, there was an outlay of Rs. 2,466 crore for basic minimum services. In the current year's Budget it has been raised to Rs. 3,300 crore. The total social sector outlay has been increased from Rs. 11,785 crore to Rs. 15,707 crore. This is an indication of the concern for the poor and the criticism levelled against the Budget that it is pro-rich which is totally unwarranted. If you want development and a sound economic base then you have to give concessions to those who produce. If some rich entrepreneurs are producing something, it is necessary that the production increases so that the distributable product-level is available to the general public.

There are other measures like Ganga Kalyan and Kasturba Shiksha Nilaya for which the Government, in all, has allotted Rs. 450 crore. The current self-employment scheme are going to be reoriented. In this field, I would like to sound a word of caution to the hon. Minister of Finance. It is required that these programme are critically appraised by people who know about these things. There is a lot of money pumped into rural economy under the so-called Jawahar Rojgar Yojana. Of course, there is an individual asset given in the Indira Awas Yojana. Otherwise, most of the money does not seem to be going to the people targeted for the purpose. If the money allotted to the social sector has been properly spent in the last 50 years of Independence, I think, everybody should have been living above the poverty line in this country. It is, therefore, necessary that the hon. Minister of Finance evolves a method of monitoring of these programmes at the district level. The Rural Infra Development Fund Phase III has been given Rs. 2,500 crore. I hope that these funds are properly utilised by the State Governments.

On the oil sector, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Finance to go in for a hike in the prices of oil products. It is high time that he does it. If there is any thinking in the Government that it has to be done after this Session, I would advise the hon. Minister of Finance that it is not necessary to postpone it, rather he should come out with the rise in prices of oil products and the economy can bear it. For example, I take the case of kerosene. What do we lose by raising the price of kerosene by five per cent? What will be the final revenue flowing out of this increase? Five per cent is not a big issue and the so-called poor people who are living in the villages can afford this five per cent increase. What ultimately I would say is that the Government can give better wages and more wages to the people and then allow them to buy things at market prices. All said and done, inflation is a part of the developing economy.

We cannot forget John Maynard Keynes who said that pumping in of money is necessary in developing countries, especially when there is economic recession. It is,

therefore, advisable that we go in for this type of policy.

By reducing the tax burden, the Finance Minister supposed, and rightly so, to extend the net. But this can be done only when the enforcement machinery or the collection machinery is really alert and sincere. He has to take care of the administrative cost. The cost of administering the tax structure has to be kept under control.

Another good scheme he has brought about is the presumed income-tax payers by evolving four criteria. As a matter of fact, I would say that if a person can buy a four-wheeler, that criterion alone is sufficient to tax him under the income-tax law. He need not have to look at two out of the four criteria to tax a person.

Amnesty given to unaccounted money is a good scheme. Once again our objectives may be laudable but the implementation may not be quite good.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity even though I overshot my time.

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Chirayinkil) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Budget proposals with some reservations, of course.

As Shri A.C. Jos has stated in this House, most of the people who know what a Budget is and we are awaiting the Budget proposals, are happy now. But the vast majority of the people in the country who do not know what a Budget is and what effect a Budget will have on their life, know only one thing that whoever rules this country, the prices will go up; whoever rules this country, the rich becomes richer and the poor, poorer. This is the pity.

But at the same time, I also appreciate the task that has been done by our hon. Finance Minister and the pain that he has taken for the preparation and presentation of this Budget. Farmers, especially the large and middle farmers, are happy. More funds have been provided for the development of rural areas. It is a welcoming fact that the States will get more share. Our scientists will be encouraged and they will be getting more and more encouragement in future. There is high tide in the stock market and our large industrial houses are happy. The confederations of industry are happy. But, at the same time there are certain other fields which I would not dare to say have been neglected, but were the Finance Minister has made a tight rope walking between the rich and the poor. I would like to say that this Budget is not anti-poor, but his Budget is not pro-poor also. This is somewhat pro-rich. But, at the same time, I would appreciate certain facts. This Budget is showing a new trend because as our nation has entered into an era of federalism, this Budget also has appreciated and is encouraging some points of economic federalism.

[Shri A. Sampath]

At the same time, I have certain fears because there are quite a lot of advocates for the economic liberalisation of our country. But what happened as a result of the economic liberalisation? The rich became richer and the poor, poorer. The prices of almost all the essential commodities have gone up. Oil production has come down. It has become a scarce commodity. We are importing more and more oil from the Arabian countries and the Gulf countries. Our exports have declined and our earnings from exports are declining still further. The power sector has been neglected. Power shortage has become acute in a large number of States. Almost all the States in India are now facing acute power shortage.

What were the benefits that we reaped from the economic liberalisation? Those who reaped the benefits of economic liberalisation were the rich. The consumer durables were produced more. At the same time, infrastructure and core industries were neglected. This is what has happened in India during the last 4-5 years.

Here I would like to bring forward some matters regarding the report of the Fifth Pay Commission. There have been reports in various newspapers that the poor Jawans who are guarding our great nation's borders in the deserts as well as in the Himalayas will be getting much lesser than what an average clerk, who is working under a roof in a better condition in an office, will be getting. So, our Jawans have been neglected if the newspapers reports are correct. We will be losing the parity. The disparity will be much higher if it is implemented in the same manner.

I would like to invite your attention to some other factors also. There has been a structural shift in the Central plan finance since, around Eighties. This means that the Central plan which is concentrated on rural employment and poverty alleviation programmes and in human resource development sectors have been neglected for the past 5-6 years. If this trend goes, our economy will be growing vertically and it will not be growing horizontally. Sir, I am a newcomer in this august House. Even according to my humble knowledge, economic development means that it must be economic growth vertically as well as horizontally. The resources are now concentrated in the hands of a few.

I am coming from a very poor State, Kerala. My friends have spoken in this House earlier. My State has been termed as a consumer State. By whatever reliefs that have been given to the industries in India, we suffer. Whenever some duties have been imposed, then also we suffer. Whatever happens in this country, whatever better things have been declared, all those things are falling upon us not as a boon but they are bane to us.

I would request our hon. Finance Minister to kindly look more towards the South. What was happening in this country earlier was that our Finance Ministers were always looking towards North.

Sir, in this very august House I have raised an issue some time back. This country is getting more and more foreign exchange from the people who are working outside the nation. From my State more than one million people are working not only outside the State but outside this great nation. They are working in the Arab countries, U.S.A., U.K., Germany and all other countries. They are sending to their homes very precious foreign exchange. But what happens is that in my home State, Kerala, we are getting lesser and lesser economic help and funds even from the nationalised banks. The banks are hesitant to provide even self-employment loans even to the young people who seek loans under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

The credit deposit ratio in my State is much lesser than the national average. There may be some people, some economic experts who will say that there are other reasons also because 'you lack economic infrastructure and things like that. But I would like to ask whether we have invested in this country on the basis of economic infrastructure alone. No. There are political reasons and there is political will behind that. But, for the first time, as we have entered into an era of economic federalism, the North-Eastern States, the Southern States, the Western States as well as even Jammu and Kashmir are demanding more and more. We have to get what we must get.

I have one reservation which I would like to express here. My learned friend who spoke just before me requested for a slight increase in the prices of petroleum products. I strongly oppose that request. That will create inflation. That inflation will lead this country to galloping inflation. Nobody can control such a situation. So, my humble request is that we must give more importance to the core sector, the power sector, the coal sector, the steel sector and the infrastructural facilities should be developed. The oil exploration also should be encouraged. These must be encouraged and must be strengthened.

We must stand on our own feet. We must be self-sufficient. In the appraisal to the Union Budget, it has been stated that our food production has come down. Now, we are importing foodgrains from other countries. We had declared before the world that we have become self-sufficient in the case of foodgrains. But what happened? Now, we have shamelessly imported foodgrains from other countries. Now, we will import more and more material. This is not a fair path. This does not show a good picture of the future.

Before concluding, I would appeal to the Finance Minister, through you, that we have to strengthen the BIFR as well as NRF for the procurement of more funds, to help the sick industries and for the industrial development of the country.

We have to expand our tax base. Even some other developing countries are having wider tax base. They are taxing about 20 per cent to 22 per cent of the people. As Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee stated yesterday, I am not mentioning about the developing nations. Even the developing nations have more wider tax base. Our tax base is very much limited. It is limited to 12 million people whereas there are more than 900 million living in the country. So we must try to find out some scope for expansion of the base also.

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to you. I would also like to convey my appreciation and congratulations to our Finance Minister. I hope that he will look into the matters raised by the poor and lesser developed States, especially Tamil Nadu and Kerala. I have stated in this House that Tamil Nadu and Kerala are neighbours. We are using the only highway that is connecting the Capitals of two States, Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram which is to the South of Thiruvananthapuram and going to Chennai via Nagarcoil, Trichy and Ambasamudram.

There is another proposal also which has been put into the cold storage for so many years, that is, the construction of new national highway. If that is constructed, the distance will be shorter by more than 200 Km. by road. That will save millions of rupees per year. That highway would go from Thiruvananthapuram to Chennai via Nedumannad via Ariyanad, Kottur cutting across "Sahyadris" and Ambasamudram. That will be helpful for both the economies. I hope that our Finance Minister will consider this proposal also and try his best to give funds for this project.

SHRI V. GANESH CHIDAMBARAM : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on behalf on the DMK under the sagacious leadership of Dr. Kalaignar who is the champion for the cause of the poor, the down-trodden and the neglected and under whose astute leadership, the State of Tamil Nadu is on the road to social and economic prosperity.

I rise to speak on the General Budget of the Union Government for 1997-98. I would be miserably failing as a Member of this House, if, on this occasion, I do not express my deep gratitude to Annam Murasoli Maran, the Leader of my Party in Parliament, who is my creator in this House.

This Budget is an epoch making Budget. Even the Congress Government over the past five years could not bring about this kind of Budget. So far, the Budgets have

been like black and white cinema. Today, we have a Budget in Eastman colour. Suddenly, a Budget has been presented which satisfies all the sections of the people. The industry is satisfied. The agriculturists are satisfied. The artisans are satisfied. The traders are satisfied. Foreign and domestic investors are satisfied. Fiscal deficit has been controlled. Growth rate has been increased and stabilised. The economy is looking for a big boom. The entire economy has been tuned to the major objective of getting adjusted to global economic demands.

Sir, I am proud of the Finance Minister, Shri Chidambaram for two reasons. One if, it is the DMK's constituency in Tamil Nadu which I represent. Another is, it is the name of our Finance Minister who has given this wonderful Budget.

Sir, this Budget is a very bold step towards bridging the gap between the poor and rich. Everybody has been given an equal opportunity to develop. There is potential for employment generation, investment in infrastructure and human development. Radical tax reforms have been proposed. The Finance Minister has brought in a modern tax system in which national character-building is encouraged where individuals and corporates voluntarily pay tax. The taxation is not going to be vertical with unaffordable rates, but horizontal with affordable rates. Modern economies are based on such taxation structures.

In social sectors, the Budget aims at poverty alleviation programmes. The new literacy programmes for girls needs to be encouraged. There is a proposal to provide greater autonomy to the public sector undertakings which is also welcome.

Sir, without going into the figures of allocation to various sectors which are already on the Budget document, I would like to press certain points relating to the policies for the nation, as a whole.

Sir, I have some demands to make. I would request the Government to take up immediately the Villupuram to Thanjavur railway line conversion project via Cuddalore and Chidambaram. In my constituency, near Annamalai University, there should be a railway overbridge. For want of an overbridge, the people of the area suffer a lot. I would also request the Government to declare the Cuddalore-Aththur via Neyveli and Viruthasalam, a National Highway. I would further request the Government to study the feasibility of laying a railway line from Kattumannar Kovil to Cuddalore via Chidambaram.

Now, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the serious irregularities in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation. Many houses have been acquired by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation and lands also have been acquired by the NLC on the promise that alternate housing

[Shri V. Ganesh Chidambaram]

sites and employment to one member in a family would be given. More than 15 to 20 years have passed, but the NLC management is least concerned about the welfare of the poor people. No compensation has been given to them and also no alternative shelter has been given. The ward of the families who gave the lands and houses are yet to be given employment despite promises by the NLC. Even the wards of those who have taken voluntary retirement are yet to be given employment. There is no scheme for providing employment to wards of those who become medically unfit in the course of employment in the NLC. A task force must be constituted to look into all these things for providing speedy justice. The NLC authorities should be made accountable for all these lapses.

Sir, the country should attain self-sufficiency in water supply by the year 2000. Drinking water is still very dear in many remote parts of the country. I would request the Government to concentrate on this. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the plight of villagers for drinking water in and around 30 kilometres to 40 kilometres of the NLC mining area. When mining takes place, the ground water from 30 to 40 kilometres around the mining area is automatically sucked in and those areas are rendered dry. This has affected a large number of villages around the mining area. I would urge upon the Government to immediately chalk out a plan for providing drinking water from eastern to western direction to the villages affected around the mining area of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation.

I would congratulate the Government for taking effective steps for promoting private industries by restructuring taxation. The Government should take special efforts to encourage and make self-employment a successful venture in India. Only self-employment combined with encouragement to private industries, particularly small scale industries, will solve the unemployment problem.

Sir, recruitment in Government should be strictly on seniority basis and the Government should mount an assault on corruption in Employment Exchanges. With great pride, I wish to inform this august House that it is Dr. Kalaignar in Tamil Nadu who has totally removed all malpractices in the Employment Exchanges by giving jobs in Government to the unemployed purely on seniority and merit basis.

Industrial development in the country has reached new heights under the stewardship of Annan Murasoli Maran. The Ford Car factory has come up in Tamil Nadu for generating further employment in the State.

23.00 Hrs.

I would also urge upon the Government to pay its attention to the present judicial system in the country. While various courts deplore the delay in taking steps by Central and State Governments, they conveniently forget their own delay in delivering justice. There is not a single litigant or an affected party who can say with happiness that he got justice in time from courts. There is, however, little speed in justice delivered by Administrative Tribunals and Consumer Courts. I would request the Government to simplify Court procedures as well as to set up subject-related District level courts for ensuring speedy and faultless justice to litigant public. If judicial and Court reforms are not carried out along with economic reforms, whatever economic reforms and its fruits are available, can be robbed by the deficiencies of the present judicial system in India, thus spoiling the entire thing.

With these words, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for his wonderful Budget. I also thank Dr. Kalaignar, Annan Murasoli Maran and the people of my constituency for making me a Member of this House and providing this golden opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak. Hon'ble Finance Minister had prepared this budget with cleverness. He has proved that he is not only a politician but a showed politician. It is a politically motivated budget and I oppose it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may appropriate his cleverness.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a new member India is the biggest democratic country of the world and we are sitting in the biggest Panchayat. I am surprised that while speaking on the budget, through the ruling party members opposed the budget in strong words initially, in the end they say that they support it. What message this contradictory statement will convey to the country and world. The supporting party, congress, and its members had opened the budget in strong words but in the end they said that they were supporting it. It is a good budget. Is it the character of elected members of this House ? I am sad on this state of affairs. This real character will not be visible.

I will say few words. This is an anti small industries budget. This budget will not only increase the employment, but it is anti-poor and anti-farmer also. 25 per cent amount of the budget has to be paid as interest. Our leaders has taken such a huge amount of loan that 25% amount of the budget has to be paid as interest. B.J.P. opposit to the additional concession provided to the foreign in vests/

institutions like F.I.I. in the budget. Small scale industries will be badly affected by the budget Finance Minister have invited foreigners, by reducing the custom duty. I submit that when we prepare budget for a family. We take in to account its requirement for the next 10-20 years and when we prepare budget of a country we take into its requirements for the next 50-100 years. Our freedom fighters had also considered the economic schemes of the country. India is a agricultural based country. 80 percent people earn this livelihood from agriculture. We have to pay attention towards cottage and small scale industries. All the leaders, from Mahatma Gandhi onwards had talked on this line. China has only one third part of land has irrigation facility. China has 1/3rd land as compared to India which is and for agriculture. But Chinese production is double than our's production. We should think in this regard. We should prepare agriculture oriented budget. Even Uttar Pradesh has a capacity to find the active country. One of our members has been mentioning that Uttar Pradesh has produced so many Prime Ministers and Finance Ministers. so Prime Minister had belonged to this state, its population is 16 percent where as only 7 percent allocation has been made in this budget. Uttar Pradesh is becoming backward day by day. It is going below the poverty time. If 25-30 per cent allocation will not be made in the budget for the state, the state will not be able to come at par with other states. Uttar Pradesh is starving and unemployment has risen there. The people of Delhi, Haryana, Calcutta, Mumbai or Uttar Pradesh has to do labour work. It is rich in coal, iron, copper or and its land is also fertile. But due to indifferent attitude of the Central Govt. this state is becoming backward day-by-day. Due to indifferent attitude of Congress regime, people of the state are forced to accept B.J.P. If it goes on like this, all the people in the country will accept B.J.P.

Through, I want to submit that importance should be given to livestock in the state. Livestock is very important wealth. The country has imported powder milk and butter worth 17.4 crore rupees during 1993-94 from abroad.

In ther year 1994-95, ig was purchased for nearly double the amount i.e. 32.7 crore rupees, in 1995-96 also import was double i.e. 61.6 crore. By developing live-stock we can meet our requirements.

I would like to draw your attention to the condition of weavers of Uttar Pradesh. They are in distress now-a-days. Customs duty on the silk imported from China has reduced their income. Chinese silk is a raw material to provide relief to the weavers. Export of sugar and silk should be exempted from customs duty.

I hail from Varanasi. You know that Varanasi is a tourist place not only of India but the world as a whole. The ghats (batting ghats – bank) of Varanasi are matchless

in the world, but I would like to tell the hon. Finance Minister that there is no provision for the security and beautification of the ghats in this Budget. I would like to tell you that the Ganges are polluted. The Ganga Action Plan for 49 crore rupees has proved a failure. Therefore, Ganga Action Plan is to be re-considered. There is a need to know our opinion also alongwith the opinion of the members. I would urge upon you to make a provision of at least 200 crore rupees in this budget for the removal of pollution of the Ganges, repair of the Ghats of the Ganges and beautification of Kashi.

I would like to draw your attention to a letter presented to you by me on behalf of Poorvanchal Zarda Pan Masala Products Association on 20.11.1996. I would like to draw you attention to a solitary point in that letter, and that is, since 1.4.1994, an additional excise duty of 10 per cent has been imposed on unbranded viewing tobacco. It is a business of just 2-3 crores of rupees and it is a small cottage industry who is run by poor people. This will fetch you only 20 to 30 lakh rupees. Major portion of the work is accomplished but what remains to be done is just a fragment which would make the work complete. It is unbranded by not B.E.D. But, because of 10 per cent AEO poor people have been engulfed. I would request you that these poor people may be exempted.

I would like to tell you one thing about the C.G.H.S. facility provided to the Central Government employees. The people who are provided with this facility have a monthly deduction from their salaries which contributes to CGHS, and the people who do not have this facility are provided with an amount of money. Licence fee is deducted from their salaries every month. It is urged upon you that the deduction made throughout the year should be exempted from Income Tax.

I would like to tell you that more funds may be provided to our Defence Budget. So far as I know, the Defence Minister had urged upon the Government and his request had been granted because it is necessary to grant his request, because if our Defence line is not in order, it will create problems. I would like to tell you that the experts are of the opinion that India spent only 2.39 per cent of its G.D.P. on Defence. Pakistan has spent 6.88 per cent of its GDP on Defence whereas China has spent 5.63 on it. So there is a need to increase the Defence expenditure.

Relaxation has been provided by the Government to the share market which has sent a wave of happiness among the people of Share Market. Meanwhile, a service tax has been imposed on the movement of goods by road, it should be removed. Last year, some relaxation was given on jams, fellies, saucces, and juices (soups) in the previous budget, may I know the reason why the relaxation on these

[Shri S.P. Jaiswal]

items is withdrawn. I would also request you regarding the tax imposed on beedi which is consumed by labourers and the post card. Tax on these two items may be removed.

The Government has reduced the capital Gain Tax of foreign Financial institutions which will result in a loss to the country. The Budget may be presented keeping in view the next 50-100 years. With this request, I take my seat and oppose the Budget.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a matter to pleasure that the people whose names are being called are present here.

SHRI SHARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today you have given me an opportunity to speak on the budget, so I am grateful to you.

Finance Minister spoke about poor people, and most of the programmes have been suggested by him. There are so many backward districts and drought prone areas for which no programme has been suggested in this Budget, e.g., Vidarbha in Maharashtra, Kalahandi Kutchh in Saurashtra – Gujarat, Bolangir, in Orissa, Korapur etc. There are 50 such backward districts which have been recognised. A Special package may be announced for all these districts.

[English]

We are going to celebrate fifty years of our Independence this year. I hope, the hon. Finance Minister will announce a package for the fifty backward districts and drought-prone areas of Orissa.

[Translation]

I am requesting for setting up of National Drought Fund. If it is set up, the people who leave their home and hearth because of drought will be provided with some help.

[English]

Regarding recommendations of the Pay Commission, there is a mention that in foreign countries, they are reducing the top-level posts. Similarly, there should be a cut in the posts of Joint Secretaries and above in India. The best brain available in the country should be hired by the Government for implementing the programmes of the Government. Those who are going abroad and earning name, should be encouraged to come back to India.

[Translation]

There has been criticism from every corner. So many bureaucrats are not required under Liberalisation.

Crop Insurance Scheme was introduced by the Congress Government also in the last Budget, but in has not reached the drought affected area. It would be better if you will pursue G.I.C. and L.I.C. so the programmes reach there.

The programme of Natural Calamity Fund for the areas which are flood-prone, marginal farmers are provided funds out of Natural Calamity Fund when there are floods and crops are damaged. Likewise if the whole crop is damaged, it would be better to provide them with some financial assistance.

Girls Education Scheme has been introduced for women. It is a welcome step. But side by side women are in the Government Service. Last time in the budget, a scheme to give a relaxation of Rs. 5 thousand to them was framed. In the present budget that has been abolished. If this concession continues, it will send good signals among the womenfolk.

Voluntary Disclosure scheme was introduced by the earlier Government also, but it was not implemented completely and the result was that it did not prove successful. Hon. Finance Minister has presented it in a nice manner. If in this scheme it is earmarked that money will be spent for potable (drinking) water in the rural areas where it is not available, those people will also contribute money to it, who are not required to contribute money to it. In our ethos we have a saying charity in the form of water is the Supreme Charity. So this amount may be earmarked for drinking water. This way this scheme will prove the best scheme.

If I am right, a report is published in the Economic Survey that there is an amount of Rs. 14 lakh crore as black money in India. If only 30 per cent is diverted to this, the poor people would get drinking water, and the infrastructure will be changed.

In rural development allocation was the same as it was earlier, but till now its infrastructure has not been established properly. I hail from Bolangir district of Orissa wherefrom 2 lakh people have migrated to other places. It is reported in the print media almost daily that there is no drinking water, food is scarce, no house to live in. All these schemes are there since many years, but the infrastructure is not set up yet. Same story is repeated. So I would request that it would be in the fitness of things, to develop the infrastructure properly, and that way the country will also progress.

23.20 Hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

In order to collect tax amount of Rs. 1.80 paise are being spent on administrative level and all this process is

being carried out to save 20 paise. This way, the amount of 80 paise spent thus is not good at all. It is a sensitive point which is to be considered.

[English]

A lot of cases are pending in the tribunals, settlement commissions, etc. A mandatory time limit should be fixed for the disposal of such cases so that revenue could be earned. The taxpayers should not be entertained by the Government; the Ministers and the bureaucrats should discharge their social functions.

I would like to make one request to the hon. Minister of Finance regarding small and marginal farmers. A development bank should be set up in the pattern of NABARD to take care of their interests.

I am concluding by touching upon a very sensitive point. The hon. Prime Minister had visited Bolangir. He had assured the public in a meeting with the Press that this time two irrigation projects, Lower Suktel and Indra would be included in the Ninth Five Year Plan and funds would be provided to the most backward districts of Orissa, which are also the most backward in India, where people are not able to get drinking water, food and shelter. People migrate from this place for their livelihood. It is very pitiable and so I repeat this request. In the Tenth Lok Sabha also, I raised this issue from time to time. Previously, both Koraput and Kalahandi were getting Central Assistance when Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi were visited there. The former Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao also visited Bolangir and included this district for Central Assistance. This time, our hon. Prime Minister — I must congratulate him — has announced Rs. 50 crore for Orissa, which has already been given fifteen days ago. He has also assured two irrigation projects for Orissa. I request the hon. Minister of Finance to intervene in this matter and complete the two irrigation projects in the Ninth Five Year Plan i.e., Lower Suktel and Indra.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETA (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the estimates of income and expenditure are given in the budget. But if only estimates are not given, the budget will be reduced to a mere reflection of the Government. We are trying to find our the farmer, labourer the poor people living below poverty line, and the people of the backward classes. But, all these classes are never located.

There is hardly any mention of employment in the Budget. There are no facilities for small industries, nor is there any scheme which can provide employment. Common man is always in the habit of dreaming after the

budget, and expects that the budget would provide some relief, dareness would go down, employment would be available, but the common man is nowhere reflected in this budget. This budget has brought happiness to the industrialists, capitalists and foreign industrialists. Today our country is under a heavy burden of loan. If we want to ease ourselves from this heavy burden of debits we shall have to lead the people right from marginal farmers to all classes of the poor towards self-reliance. Our country can be self-reliance only when the common man of our country is self-reliant. While framing the budget of the country we should keep in view the common farmers and labourer of the country.

The Government exchequer earn money by means of different taxes. Hon. Finance Minister will agree that 28 per cent, i.e., one-third of the nation's income is from Maharashtra, but out of this earning only 2.8 per cent is given to Maharashtra. That is, Maharashtra does not get even one-third portion. The State which earns money in the form of taxes and duties, is not given even 10 per cent share. Through this Budget speech I would urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to enhance the limit of the funds given to Maharashtra.

Delhi is the political capital of the country, but Mumbai is considered to be the economic capital of the country. Mumbai has got a special position in the economy of the country.

But, no provision seems to have been made in the Budget for Mumbai. Not only this, I am surprised to note that our Finance Minister has not made any reference of Mumbai in his speech. Today the population of Mumbai is more than one crore. Out of this one crore 65 lakh people are settled in Mumbai from all parts of the country. Therefore it is not the responsibility of Maharashtra only but it is the responsibility of the Union Government also because Mumbai has been sharing a lot of responsibilities of the Union Government. Therefore Union Govt. should provide necessary financial assistance to provide and expand amenities, facilities and services in Mumbai city. I, therefore, demand through this budget that no development will take place in Mumbai unless some provision is made in the budget for the same.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Finance Minister has given exemption in income tax as a result of which 20 percent people would be, benefitted but you have increased the prices of post card, pocket parcel and tax on umbrellas, ball pen etc. have also been increased which are very small items. It will affect 80 percent of the people of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country is an agricultural

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geeta]

country. 80 percent population of the country depends on agriculture and there is no provision in the budget which provides suitable prices for agricultural production. Today the whole country is facing the crises of potable water. Whichever state you visit, you will find there the people facing potable water crisis but there is no mention of it in the speech of the Finance Minister. That is why I cannot support the budget which is not favourable for farmers and the poor.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am Thankful to you for giving me time to speak. Now I conclude.

*SHRI M. SELVARASU (Nagapattinam) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, let me thank you at the outset for the opportunity to speak on the budget presented to this House by the Hon'ble Finance Minister on behalf of the United Front Government. I feel honoured to take part in this budget discussion.

United Front Government is a coalition Government. It is a coalition of both National and Regional Parties. It is something unusual that a member of a regional party to hold the reins of Finance portfolio at the Centre. Our Finance Minister has presented his second budget on behalf of the United Front Government. I would like to congratulate him on this occasion.

He had stated in his budget speech that he has prepared this budget as guided by the common minimum programme adopted by the constituent parties. But still I feel that our Finance Minister has slightly deviated from the directions given by the steering committee of this United Front. I think I have a duty to point out this.

Our Finance Minister evidently happy pointed out that 40 proposals made in the budget for the year 1996-97 were implemented. I am happy to note that spirit of implementation and sense of fulfillment.

GDP poised for a growth from 6.8%, growth of agriculture to the tune of 3.7% foodgrains production reaching 191 million tonnes are some of the salient features of the budget. I hope this budget will help improving our economy.

In order to increase the production of foodgrains like wheat and rice, to prevent their price rise, to increase the levy charges, and to streamline their distribution through PDS, our Finance Minister has indicated the steps the Government have to take. This gives great hope and pep up the people of the country.

As far as poverty alleviation programmes are

concerned, they used to be the regular features of all the successive budgets. But our Prime Minister's concern to carry out the Basic Minimum Services gets an increased allocation of Rs. 3300 crores from Rs. 2470 crores. Particularly the slum rehabilitation scheme would get Rs. 330 crores. This scheme is carried out by the State Governments. To construct a hut Rs. 17,000 was provided. Then it was enhanced to Rs. 18,000. Later on it come to about Rs. 28,000. I would like to point out that a hut raised with that money would not be big enough to hold more than two, a husband and a wife. Even one child would be too much for such too small houses. So under this scheme, loan for a dwelling unit should be increased to Rs. 50000. The plot size may also be slightly increased to accommodate a family with children. Irrigation schemes gets an allocation of Rs. 1300 crores increased from Rs. 900 crores. Ganga Kalyan Project announced by the Finance Minister is intended to provide drinking water utilising the ground water potential. Water resources from the surface water sources will also be included. But I would like to point out that the benefits of these schemes should be reaching small farmers and marginal farmers. So far our experiences would say otherwise. They are not benefitting small farmers at all. Instead they benefit the big farmers and farmers who live near urban areas. This is because the small farmers are not aware of these schemes at all. So, I would like this Government to take the information about such schemes to the small farmers in the rural areas. The expenses involved in this should be included in the plan expenditure itself.

PMRY, IRDP, NRY are the schemes meant for generating employment opportunities in the rural areas. The budget proposals indicate this. Imparting skill training and then providing job opportunities are contemplated. The policy and its motto behind these schemes are good. We must find out whether the benefits have really gone to the target group beneficiaries. My experience says that these schemes and their benefits do not really percolate down to the needy beneficiaries. What is the reason for this failure. In my opinion the banks are the culprits. When the youth go to these financial institutions they are harassed in such a way that most of them get vexed and withdrawn. The youth are forced to reconsider whether they should go in for these loans at all. This is the ground reality. It is unfortunate. In order to put an end to this you may take away the role of banks in these schemes. Instead, separate implementation offices could be set up to handle these schemes. Unless and otherwise the implementation mechanism is streamlined we may not be able to achieve much through these schemes. I would like to draw the attention of our Finance Minister to consider setting up implementation mechanism with direct funding from the Centre.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Our Finance Minister has stated that he is allocating Rs. 2000 crores to implement 4530 projects in the infrastructural development programme. This would not suffice. Thousands of villages are there without road link. Lakhs of villages are there without safe drinking water. There are many villages that are yet to see the light of electricity. There are many villages without metal roads. When that be the reality, how can we accept that Rs. 2000 crore would suffice to implement 4530 projects. So I am to request the Finance Minister to increase the allocation for infrastructure development programme.

NABARD gets an allocation of Rs. 500 crores of which Rs. 400 would be provided by the Reserve Bank of India and Rs. 100 would be provided by the Government. NABARD gives away loan to the farmers for agricultural activities towards food production. The loans are distributed through the cooperative banks under the supervision of the State Governments. When the farmers and their crops are affected by natural calamities and disasters, the NABARD do not consider the cases of the farmers from a humanitarian angle. Agricultural farmers are put to trouble and lots of inconvenience while they are put under pressure to pay back the loans. I request the Finance Minister to suitably advise NABARD to evolve schemes to help the farmers during natural calamities.

In the recent floods in Tamil Nadu 2 lakh huts were devastated and in 1978 about 4 lakh hutments were affected due to the cyclone. Under the Indira Housing Scheme, Rs. 10,000 each was provided to those rendered homeless to construct their houses again. Now it has been enhanced. The Finance Minister has proposed that it will now be upto Rs. 2 lakh to be distributed as housing loans through the banks. I welcome this proposal made by our Finance Minister.

There is a proposal to give functional autonomy to the public sector undertakings. I would differ with the Government in this. So many of these PSUs have not filled the reserved vacancies for many years now. When they are given autonomy they may not fulfil their constitutional obligations. PSUs like IOC, ONGC, HPCL, BPCL, IPCL, BHEL, SAIL are there. All of them have not met the requirement to fill the reserved vacancies. For instance ONGC, a Government of India undertaking, is there in my constituency, this PSU has not fulfilled its responsibilities to fill reserve vacancies. So these PSUs should not be made autonomous corporations.

This budget talks about agriculturists, teachers, Government employees, industrialists, small scale entrepreneurs and businessmen. But there is no mention about the agricultural labourers. I wish the Finance Minister to rectify this omission at least in the Supplementary Demands for Grants. With this, I conclude my speech.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : Mr. Chairman. Sir, I stand here in support of the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister. The Budget is a growth oriented one where the hon. Minister has attempted to encourage the rich people to pay tax which, in the past, they generally wanted to evade; and he has also given encouragement for productive utilisation of the black money by the business classes for increasing growth.

Sir, there are criticisms from the Opposition benches saying that this is a Budget for the rich people, not for the poor and Members from the Treasury benches are arguing that it is a Budget for the poor people. Whatever might be the reason, even though this Budget intends to help some of the rich people yet that would indirectly help the poor people in future. The investments to be made out of the resources of the rich people would be utilised for generation of employment and for production of other productive assets which would ultimately help the poor people of this country.

Sir, there are also a lot of criticism that there is nothing new in this Budget but this is just the continuation of the economic changes initiated by Dr. Manmohan Singh. Whoever might be the Finance Minister, keeping in view the economic situation that is prevailing in this country today and also keeping in view our foreign debt and the fact that we are going to complete with the developing nations of the world, I think, this is the best possible Budget that has ever been presented by our hon. Finance Minister by proper utilisation of his intellect.

Sir, this Budget has been hailed by all sections of the society and I must congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for presenting such a Budget which has been hailed by many economists of the country which includes distinguished personalities, like none other than Shri Nani Palkiwala, the eminent jurist and one of the very keen critics of the Union Budget for several decades. He has termed the Union Budget of 1997-98 as one of the best that was presented before the Parliament. He said that it would stimulate growth in the country. He further added that this Budget is the first of its kind that has been presented in the Parliament and for the first time the country looks more like a tiger and less like a tortoise. This is the kind of a statement that we have got from a renowned personality of this country.

He said, the country does not have a powerful economy but has all the raw material to build an India which is like a sleeping giant, which would if awoken, could make a powerful impact on the global economy.

Sir, this is a time when we are going to compete with the big giants through the economic liberalisation. We must prepare ourselves to compete with the developed world.

[Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma]

For that, we must generate our own resources. We must have our own economic weapons to fight the giants with. How can the country run its affairs with the help of foreign assistance? There is a limit. Now is the time for exploring the possibility of generating our own resources. I must draw the attention of the House to a news item published in *The Hindustan Times* of 17th March. It said that the United States is impressing upon the IDA and the Asian Development Bank for discontinuation of soft loans to India. That is why we have to evolve proper measures so that we can stand on our own feet. This had compelled our hon. Finance Minister to critically study the subject. I must congratulate him that he could evolve certain measures which will boost our economy in the coming future.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to conclude now. You have already taken seven minutes.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : I have a few points to make. I will try to conclude as early as possible.

We are going to compete with the developing countries. But what about the underdeveloped States in our own country? The underdeveloped States in our country are not in a position to compete with the developed States in the country. What is our future plan in respect of removing the regional imbalances in the economic development and in infrastructure sector? I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to utilise his talents in this direction. He has very successfully presented this budget but he should see, at the same time, that all underdeveloped areas of the country are allowed to come on par with the developed parts of the country so that we can together compete with the developed nations.

A lot of defective planning was made in the past because of which we have to give special attention to the underdeveloped areas now. It is not only North-Eastern region which I represent, but some other underdeveloped areas of the country like Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, some parts of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and even parts of Uttar Pradesh should be taken special care of. There are underdeveloped areas in all parts of the country. The backward regions should be provided with sufficient funds.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you must conclude. You have taken almost ten minutes.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Sir, I would like to bring another point to the attention of the hon. Finance Minister. Because of the geographical isolation of the North-Eastern region, the industrial development did not take place in that region.

Infrastructure has not developed. By providing only transport subsidy for all times to come, no industrial development can take place. That is why, I would to say that some extra emphasis should be given for the development of infrastructure. Bombay, Madras and Delhi are too far from North-East. There are some traditional trade routes through the North-East to the South Asian countries. Where there is economic viability, there can be development, there can be exports. People's participation will be there, specially in the agricultural front.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Conclude now. You can submit all the valuable points, in writing, to the hon. Finance Minister and convince him. I think, he will heed to you. You will have to conclude now. I have to accommodate some more Members. Now, it is going to be 12 O'clock. I have generously given you more time.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : My last point is that the Government of Assam has proposed to the Ministry of Finance to declare Guwahati as a customs airport so that exports can take place from Guwahati itself. But that was denied. That is why, I want to request the hon. Finance Minister to take note of this so that the people of that area derive some benefits. We have all sorts of resources, namely, tea, oil, coal. We have to come to Calcutta for customs clearance. My request in this regard is genuine.

The State Governments in the North-East, mainly the Assam Government has a lot of financial constraints. They have to pay loan interests to the Government of India. The Plan budget for the current financial year was Rs. 1400 crore but only 50 per cent of this amount would be available for utilization by the State.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call the next speaker, if you are not concluding your speech.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : We will be left with only Rs. 700 crore. Other items will be deducted at source because of payment of interest and the capital. Therefore, I would request that a specific measure for the North-East should be taken up so that it can come at par with other developed States in the country.

SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU (Madurai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the second Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram. By following the footsteps of Indiraji, Rajivji and the *Makkal Thalaivar*, Shri G.K. Moopanar, Shri Chidambaram has done a wonderful job to the nation by presenting the Union Budget for 1997-98. The Budget stabilizes not only our economy but also the United Front Government. After taking over the Ministry of Finance, he could not provide much time to his maiden Budget, but this time, he has spared much time to present a wonderful job. We, from the T.M.C. Party,

are very proud that Shri Chidambaram, as the Minister of Finance has done a great job for the nation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that this Budget has pleased all sectors. The proposal regarding the increase of slabs for taxation purpose has benefitted the common man, especially the salaried group. The proposal to regularise the corporate tax will definitely help the industrial sector, which has become the mainstay of our economy. The hon. Finance Minister has taken much efforts to reduce the burden of excise duty for the common man. He has taken several steps to change the structure of the excise duty slabs from the existing level of 10 to 20 to the three-tier, that is, 8-15-18 slabs. It is a very dynamic step in the revenue sector. I personally feel that this is a bold measure. Various poverty alleviation programmes like Slum Development, Accelerated Aggregated Irrigation Programme, Ganga Kalyan Yojana, Kasturba Gandhi Shiksha Yojana, IRDP, NRY, etc., will definitely help the landless, rural poor, farmers, school children where there is a low female literacy rate. These schemes are job oriented and will give a boost at the grass-root level. The proposal under rural infrastructure has also proved to be popular and successful.

The enhancement in the ceiling of plant and machinery will help the small scale and tiny sector to a great extent. The proposed scheme of providing loans to farmers in rural areas at normal rate of interest to construct houses is a good step. With this, the landless farmers will be able to build houses in the rural areas. Increased allocation on fertilizer subsidy will help the farmers to a great extent.

The enhanced rate of contribution under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme and ceiling on the amount of gratuity are financially more attractive and will induce savings in the minds of the employees.

The new exploration policy on oil and gas will reduce our dependence on imported petroleum products. The enhanced budgetary support for the National Highways Authority of India will help to implement the new policy on roads and highways. It will definitely be a great step in building up the nation.

Moreover, the exemption of excise duty on all jute products is a good step. It will give a thrust to the ailing jute industry. Next to the agricultural sector, the handloom sector is one of the major sectors which is giving a lot of employment opportunities to the poor people. Madurai has the largest number of handloom weavers in the country. I request the hon. Finance Minister that measures like subsidy and rebate should be extended to the handloom weavers so that they are able to survive in the competitive world. The excise duty on polyester filament sewing thread is causing a great hardship to the industry.

In competition with the unorganised sector, they are not able to survive. I request the hon. Finance Minister that excise duty on sewing thread should be reduced considerably so that the organised sector can withstand the market.

Polyethylene laflatube which is exempted from the excise duty for quite a long time has been levied excise duty in this Budget. I request the hon. Finance Minister to reconsider this proposal. The proposal to reduce the duty on non-coking coal from 20 per cent to 10 percent will help the power sector to a great extent.

The abolition of tax on dividend in the hands of the shareholders is a bold measure. It will help the common man. To exempt export profits from MAT is a good step and it will help the corporate sector to a great extent. In the SSI sector the investment limit is extended to Rs. 3 crore. It is a good step. I request the hon. Finance Minister that in the initial stage, at the first level, it can be increased to Rs. 1 crore only. At the same time, the SSI exemption which so far is only Rs. 30 lakh in the beginning and being in the inflationary trend it is continuing, I request the hon. Finance Minister to enhance it to Rs. 50 lakh at the first slab level so that full exemption should be given to SSI units.

Responding to the demands of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the amendment to Section 80 G of the Income Tax is a good measure. It will provide 100 per cent reduction to this scheme which will give a great thrust to the economy.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell something about Tamil Nadu. It is one of the neglected States for quite a long time. The water projects, particularly the West flowing rivers, are causing a great loss to the nation. So the West flowing rivers, which fall into Kerala rivers, should be diverted to Tamil Nadu. Schemes like Pamba-Achankoil-Vaigai River Linking Project is a good scheme. It will give a boom to the Southern parts of Tamil Nadu. So I request the hon. Finance Minister to allocate more funds for the Pamba-Achankoil-Vaigai River Linking Project.

At the same time, the Setusamudram project is one of the projects which is not considered for quite a long time. I request the hon. Minister that funds should be allocated for the Setusamudram project. At the same time, the Madurai-Madra highway which is very congested and where there is a lot of traffic, I request the hon. Minister that it should be extended in the four lane road which will definitely help the industrial sector and all these sectors.

Moreover, the Madurai High Court Bench is not functioning for quite a long time.

[Shri A.G.S. Ram Babu]

24.00 Hrs.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has allocated a sum of Rs. 4.5 crore in its Budget but still the Bench of the High Court at Madurai is not functioning. I request the hon. Finance Minister and the Government of India to take necessary steps in this regard and see that a Bench of the High Court at Madurai is established at the earliest so that it will give a great thrust to the people of that area.

With these words, I once again congratulate our hon. Finance Minister for his wonderful Budget, which will definitely give a great thrust to the economy.

00.01 Hrs. (20-3-97)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMBAHADUR SINGH (Maharugajanj) : Sir, after having gone through this budget speech, anybody will come to know that this budget has been prepared very cleverly, but the hon'ble Minister forgot that the referred language and arguments can not provide the poor with bread. He overlooked this fact too that most of the people in our country are illiterate and they do not know anything about the budget, they do not know anything about GNP and GDP. They take decision after the result, they take decision about the budget, whether if in good or bad, after seeing concrete results. The budget which provides bread to the poor is taken as a good budget by him. If it does not provide bread to the poor it is not treated as a good budget. Whatever law is enacted, whatever measures are receipts adopted and if any opportunity comes to decide its merits or demerits, only one way is left to have such decision and this way is also emphasised by Mahatma Gandhi. The way for such justification is whether the poor are benefitted by that law or whether it is in the interest of the poor. If it is not in the interest of the poor, it is not a good law. If the poor people are benefitted by this law, it is taken as a good law. Sir, It is stated that this budget is prepared for the welfare of all. It is surprising that we balloon our mouth and laugh simultaneously. There both actions cannot be taken together, similarly the content of the budget the welfare of all cannot be taken as correct. In this context Tulshi Das has stated—

"Do hi na ek sang dou bhualu !
Hansai thathai plulai virdalu !!"

On the one hand they say that it will accrue benefit to Mr. Harshad Mehta also and on the other the poor people, who are fighting for their survival, who are living below the poverty line would also be benefitted. These two aspects cannot go together. Shri Harshad Mehta

represents affluent society but crores of the poor people are leading their life in hell. People like Harshad Mehta always think as to how they could have two cars instead of one, how they could have another palace after having one palace to live, on the other hand the poor thinks as to how he will be able to arrange one piece of bread for his survival, how he will arrange medicine if he falls ill, how he will arrange a shelter to live in and clothes to wear. There is world wide difference between these two situations. Therefore both the categories cannot have benefit of the budget simultaneously I can never accept that the budget has been prepared for the welfare of both the categories. If somebody says that this budget is for the welfare of the people like Harshad Mehta it means that it is not in the interest of the poor people.

Sir, the results, as are coming, are not hopeful. The prices of the edible items increased during the last 7-8 months were expected to come down after the budget but there is no such indication, the prices of edible items, wheat, life saving drugs have not come down even after the presentation of the budget. If the prices of these items do not come down, this budget cannot be taken to be in the interest of the poor people. The poor people cannot be benefitted by this budget. A few days back it was under discussion that we have been self reliant in the matter of foodgrains. How we shall not be required to ask for the foodgrains from the foreign countries. Such situation will not arise but now the Government is imparting the foodgrains from the foreign countries. Wheat is being imported. The main reason for this feature is that our agricultural production is not increasing in proportion to the increase in population. Crop production is not increasing. What is the reason behind it ? The reason behind it is that the agriculture sector is being neglected. In economic review it is stated that the pursue capital investment in this agricultural sector has come down. It means that the agricultural sector has been neglected. The agricultural sector can provide ample opportunities of employment. The highest contribution to the Government exchaquar comes from agricultural sector which may strengthen the economic condition of the villages, economic conditions of the country. If this vital sector is neglected in this way, we shall definitely, not only today itself but in future also, have to beg foodgrains from the foreign countries.

Irrigation carries highest priority in the development of the agricultural sector but till now the irrigation potential for about 30 percent cultivable land has been created. It also includes the potential created during the British regime. The farmer of this primarily agricultural country continues to look towards the sky with the expectation of rain at the merey of lord Indra. If rain comes timely and as per requirement, it is good and if not, drought comes up somewhere and

somewhere these is flood. What a irony he has to face. Bihar and Northern Bihar in particular is the most sufferer. The Gandak project has been going on far the last 35 years but it is still under incomplete . . . (Interruptions) It is said that the fund is not available. The fund is available for other works but they are running short of fund as far as completion of Gandok Project is concerned.

You just see the Public Distribution System. Under the new PDS policy it is mentioned that the people living below the poverty line will be provided foodgrains at cheaper rates. But the Government is still unaware of the number of people living below the poverty line. The Government should have the information, at its finger tips, regarding the number of people living below the poverty line, in the country, the number of unemployed, the number of people facing starvation death in the country. But the Government does not have any information regarding any of these suspects.

I am reminded of one incident. Once Vinobaji visited our village. He asked about the Head (Mukhiya) of the village. Instead of calling Mukhiya, MLA was called. When he was asked about the population of his village, he replied 700-800. On his reply Vinobaji said even God can not do any welfare to this village. If a father is asked about the number, of his children and he replied 7-8, how the welfare of his family would be ensured. The Government that does not know about all these things . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please Conclude.

SHRI RAMBAHADUR SINGH : I am concluding. If the Government says that we are presenting the budget for the welfare of the poor people, the person like me cannot believe it. My one more point is that the political interference in education should not be allowed . . . (interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : How you come to your last point and conclude.

SHRI RAMBAHADUR SINGH : If political interference in education is allowed the importance of educations vanishes. I would like to discuss here one incident occurred in my area. Some criteria has been laid down for opening of the Mandays vidyalaya and the Mandays Vidyalaya is opened only after the fulfilment of this criteria. Jawahar Mandays Vidyalaya has been functioning in my constituency for the last four year. At that site, a training school was functioning, which was don't down long ago. Bihar state Govt. had deleted 30 acre land for this school. Sacotion has been granted. The selection committes had said, there times, that building will be constituted at that very site but all of sudden the site had been changed. Hon'ble Education Minister will now going to lay its foundation stone somewhere else. New site is not safe. Main used is also for away from it. The site where

foundation stone is to be laid, is a pound site. 40 to 55 lakh rupees will be spent to fill earth in the pound. But Govt. insists that foundation stone will be laid at that very site. The Government should consider as to why the terms and condition are being neglected and school is being shifted to another site ?

I conclude with these words.

[English]

SHRI V.P. SHANMUGA SUNDARAM (Gobichettipalayam) : Mr. Chairman, I rise to welcome the Budget proposals for the year 1997-98 presented by the Minister of Finance in this House on the 28th February, 1997. As we all know this is the second Budget within a short period of nine months for the United Front Government.

After the Budget was presented in Parliament, I have gone through several newspaper reports, write-ups, remarks by eminent personalities and I have very rarely come across any negative aspects of the Budget. It is my opinion that even these adverse remarks have been made due to political compulsions and they have nothing against the Budget proposals as such. The Central Budget was always considered a monster released by the ruling party every year to devour the people at large.

For the first time after 50 years of freedom in independent India we have a Minister of Finance who has changed the whole concept and general belief that the Budget is a thing to be hated. He has made it a welcome one and we see encomiums bestowed on him from one and all not only from this country bur from international quarters also. If this trend continues the people will look forward eagerly to such budgets every years.

When the United Front Government was formed about nine months back the prophets of doom predicted that the Government would last only for a few days or weeks. However, the United Front Government has come to stay and the people are confident particularly after the Budget that it continues to stay till its term expires. The Minister of Finance had to reckon with many constraints not only economic but also political. He had to tackle conflicting pulls and pressures, the economic realities and conventional solutions suggested by the officials pushing him in one direction and the unconventional ideas of some of the constituents to the other.

We are proud that our Minister of Finance has presented growth oriented budget. It is bold and imaginative. Priority has been given to agriculture which is our main stay and the concern of majority of our people. At the same time, Science and Technology also has been given its due importance keeping the modern trend in view all over the world.

[Shri V.P. Shanmuga Sundaram]

The corporate sector is more than satisfied as it has got more what it expected. He has cut taxes across the board, increased the Plan expenditure, provided for expenses that will follow acceptance of the Fifth Pay Commission's Report and has yet projected a fiscal deficit that would be just 4.5 per cent of the gross domestic product in 1997-98. It is a pro-people Budget. It aims at recognising the claims of all the sections of the people. Indeed, this year's Budget is a splendid effort on the part of the Minister of Finance to make it generally acceptable and contains pragmatic features. Perhaps, it is the first Budget of the Central Government which has provoked practically no protest.

The hon. Minister has also given tax concessions for industrial rejuvenation. The tax on dividend income has been abolished for attracting investments in equities. Exemption of duties and adoption of measures to boost the productivity have been resorted to curb inflationary impulses. Personal tax rates have been lowered to augment voluntary income-tax returns. More powers have been given to the Reserve Bank of India for strengthening the fiscal discipline and ensuring a greater balance in the conduct of the monetary policy. The Budget gives something to the harassed middle class, particularly the salaried persons, to cheer about.

As pointed out by my leader Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the Budget contains a number of welcome features in respect of the States. In particular in response to the demands of the State Chief Minister to implement the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, the hon. Minister of Finance has agreed that a share will be given to the States in the aggregate Central Tax revenues. This is a good beginning and I am sure he will enlarge it in the years to come. The steps proposed to be taken to bring about Capital Account convertibility are not only innovative but courageous. Hundred per cent tax exemption for donations to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund will be welcomed by all the States. With an exercise like this and particularly with a new approach there are bound to be some deficiencies here and there.

The Electronic Component Association has said that no relief has been given to the Electronic industry in the Union Budget. The Electronic industry is a very important one in our country and it is going to be the most important in the next Century. The industry has to be given all encouragement and nothing should stand in the way of its development. The grievance of the Electronic Industry has to be looked into. It is also reported that the small investors will not benefit from the proposal to abolish double taxes on dividend and only financial institutions and

multinational companies holding a sizable status in Indian companies will be major beneficiaries of the proposal.

I want to raise one more issue which relates to my State. The Tamil Nadu Powerloom Terry Towel Manufacturers and Exporters Federation had threatened to suspend production from first of April in protest against the levy of excise duty on terry towels. The announcement of lifting the ceiling for duty, levy on terry towels in the Union Budget have rubbed salt in the wounds of the small manufacturers. This variety had traditionally been enjoying duty exemption but by an order dated September 9, 1996, excise duty was levied for production exceeding Rs. 30 lakh per annum. The ceiling in the current Budget had been lifted subjecting the entire volume of towels manufactured to the levy. They have to be protected as they have no other means of income.

Suggestions have been made from time to time even in this House that the States are better placed to take up the welfare and other development schemes as they are nearer to the people and, therefore, the Central and Centrally sponsored schemes are better left to the States. The hon. Minister has also suggested a few months back, and very rightly, that some of the Ministries at the Centre be closed down. The Ministries where the subjects being handled are in the State List which could be closed down and the savings thus effected could be transferred to the States.

To conclude, I support the Budget presented by our beloved Minister of Finance in this august House.

SHRI R. GNANAGURUSHAMY (Periyakulam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the General Budget. I rise to support the Budget.

The Common Minimum Programme is the *Magna Carta* of the United Front Government. It is also the brain child of the hon. Minister of Finance. That is why, he has given a meaningful interpretation to the Common Minimum Programme by presenting this progressive Budget. This Budget is for both the haves and have nots.

Sir, I will narrate some of the welcome features of the Budget. The income-tax rate on all slabs has been reduced from 15, 30 and 40 per cent to 10, 20 and 30 per cent respectively. The standard deduction has been raised to Rs. 20,000 enabling the tax-free income up to Rs. 75,000. The income-tax exemption up to Rs. one lakh is given to senior citizens. The surcharge on Corporate Tax is abolished. MAT will continue with the carry forward system and export profits are exempted.

The tax on dividend has been abolished. The duty on

telecom equipment has been reduced from 40 per cent to 30 per cent. The duty on medical equipment is slashed to 20 per cent. The oil exploration and industrial perks are included in infrastructure sector. The budgetary support to the National Highways Authority of India is enhanced to Rs. 500 crore. These are some of the few welcome features of the Budget. The Plan outlay for the year 1997-98 is Rs. 91,839 crore. For the previous year, 1996-97, it was Rs. 87,086 crore. There is an increase of Rs. 4,753 crore. This was achieved by the hon. Finance Minister without taxing the poor, without harassing the middle class or without mulcting the sophisticated class. On the other hand you have given all the tax reliefs. They are being given the various relief measures financially.

The food subsidy has been increased to Rs. 7,500 crore. During the year 1996-97 it was Rs. 5,884 crore. There is an increase of Rs. 1,434 crore. The hon. Finance Minister has promised in this House that he will provide more funds if the dual card system of Public Distribution system is there.

Sir, ours is a predominantly agricultural nation. Ninety per cent of the population are being engaged in agriculture, but the Plan outlay for this sector is too meagre. For 1996-97 there was a provision of Rs. 2,831 crore. For the year 1997-98 there is a provision of Rs. 2,969 crore only. The increase is very small. Though the nation is predominantly agricultural nation and most of the people in the nation are employed in agriculture, the Plan outlay for this sector is very meagre. Of course, the outlay for the year 1996-97 has not been fully utilised by the concerned Ministry.

NABARD is being given Rs. 500 crore. For the accelerated irrigation benefit programme an amount of Rs. 1,300 crore is being given, compared to Rs. 900 crore which was allocated last year. Unlike yesteryear, considerable amount has been allocated to Defence. Not only that – the hon. Finance Minister has given a solemn undertaking in this House that he will provide more funds if and when necessary for the Defence purpose.

Of course, it is claimed by most of the Members that the present Budget is a bonanza for the industry. Surcharge of 7.5 per cent has been abolished. The corporate tax is reduced to 35 per cent. The exemption on excise duty is given upto Rs. 30 lakh. These are all the concessions which are bonanza for the industry. It is said in this august House that – according to some Members – all these concessions that are given and the taxes abolished for corporate sector and exemption of excise duty and other concessions granted to the companies will open the floodgates in India for the multinationals. The multinationals, the foreign nations are going to dump their commodities in India.

The global economy has changed. The global economy is marching towards liberalisation. When the global economy is changed, India cannot keep its eyes closed without taking care of what is creeping up under its very nose. When the global economy has changed, India ought of automatically change its stand also. The economy is changed towards liberalisation. India is marching towards liberalisation. The liberalisation is thrust upon India. Of course, we have to sail with the wind. We have to sail with the world. The march towards liberalisation is not an independent act of India. It is going along with other nations.

As a welcome feature the L.I.C. and G.I.C. are allowed to maintain their monopoly in their respective fields.

The worst casualty in this Budget is the small scale industry. The investment ceiling has been increased from Rs. 60 lakh to Rs. 3 crore.

It will tempt the medium and large-scale industries to step into small-scale industries with the intent to avail of the benefits available to small-scale industries. As an insult to injury, 14 items have been deservd and taken away from the small-scale industries. It will be a death knell no small-scale industries. On the other hand, I feel that more consumer goods should have been reserved for small-scale industries.

Section 139 of the Income Tax Act is proposed to be amended. According to the proposed amendment, if any person living in a metropolitan city comes within two of the four categories, that is, owning a phone, owning a car, owning an immovable property or had one foreign trip in the previous year is bound to submit the tax return. As the hon. Finance Minister puts it, he may even submit a non-liability return. But he is bound to submit a return. Owning a car and owning a phone is not a sin. A person cannot be compelled to bear the cross for having a phone or a car. Of course, the hon. Finance Minister would say that it is proposed to be amended to widen the tax base and to bring in more assesseees within the tax net. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to reconsider this proposal.

With regard to Voluntary Disclosure Scheme, I would say that it is a welcome feature. It will bring out the black money. A person disclosing his income under the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme is disclosing only his previous year's income. Had he disclosed his income in the previous year, he would have paid 40 per cent as income tax. Since he violated the law and did not disclose his income, he is blessed with a 10 per cent incentive on disclosing his income under the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme whereas the man who honestly disclosed his income had paid 40 per cent tax. What is the analogy ? Under this Scheme,

[Shri R. Gnanaguruswamy]

at least, the person should be compelled to pay at least 40 per cent tax which he should have paid in the previous year.

Unemployment is a very acute problem in India, but no provision has been made for it. The Government may issue infrastructural bearer bonds to bring out the unaccounted money.

My constituency is situated on the foothills of Western Ghats. Lakhs and lakhs of people are engaged in Cardamom cultivation. Very recently, the cardamom from Guatemala is smuggled into India and sold in the open market. With the result, the price of cardamom product in India is coming down. It is affecting entire cardamom plantation. In spite of my repeated requests to the Finance Ministry and Commerce Ministry, no action has been taken. If this smuggling activity is not stopped, cardamom plantation will come to a standstill. Likewise, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into the plight of coffee growers. They want to wipe off their earlier debts because due to low production and low price, they have been living in a debt-trap for the last 10 years. I support the Budget. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity.

SHRI A. RAJA (Perambalur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Budget for the year 1997-98 presented by the hon. Finance Minister. As one of the youngest Members of this august House, I may be permitted to submit my views on the Budget as my maiden speech.

Before that, it is my duty to express my gratitude to our leader Dr. Kalam, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu by whom I was inducted into the school of thoughts of Thanthal Periyar and Arignar Anna, our political ideologists in my school days and by whom I stand before you today.

Sir, in accordance with the framed political ambit, namely the Common Minimum Programme of this Coalition Government, the Finance Minister has come out with this Budget which pleases all sections of the people of this great country, subject to the exceptions as we cannot refer to them, since single swallow does not make the summer. It is a mark of proudness of this Government, which gave this Budget as a balanced one in its mode of taxation and way of expenditure.

I am well aware that the social contradictions are universal for all times and all countries and they admit no exceptions. But in our country, we should honestly admit that we have not achieved our goal in minimising the contradictions despite the measures taken by the Governments in the past 50 years. Now, the United Front Government which stands for social justice took over the

responsibility to run the Government and as such, the entire country expects more from us.

Whenever a Budget is presented, the people have basic and cardinal norms to determine its content in their own views. The views usually come from the general mass of the common people, the business community and the foreign constituents. Many times, it was not possible for the Government to satisfy all these three sections on Budget issues. But this time, indeed, the Budget satisfies all these three sections.

Sir, as the House is well aware, our hon. Finance Minister has piloted two targets, namely, building of infrastructure and improving social service expenditure for building human resource base. Our Finance Minister is receiving encomiums from all corners for his estimation on the area of infrastructure which covers irrigation energy, transport, communication, science and technology and environment.

Sir, yet another aspect which is to be appreciated is that this Budget keeps the deficit level unbelievably low. The revenue deficit is kept at 2.1 per cent of the GDP and the fiscal deficit is kept at 4.5 per cent. As a matter of fact, this was not even achieved by the former Finance Minister Shri Manmohan Singh. Similarly, the direct tax proposals are being welcomed by nearly every section of the society. The new income tax rates, the corresponding tax slabs and the new corporate tax are unbelievably good. The withdrawal of MAT on export profits and allowing of total exemptions under the Income Tax Act and also the reduction in the import duty on capital goods to 25 per cent are good steps in the Export-Import Policy. On the other hand, the Budget is equally good and generous with individuals. The lowering of personal income tax, widening of the tax net and also proposing a scheme to bring out the black money into the mainstream of the Government sources should certainly pay dividends.

Sir, we started talking about the 21st Century a few years ago. In order to give reality to this talk, the Budget gives full exemptions in the customs duty to computer softwares and reduction in duty on computer parts to help the domestic industrial development.

Sir, when there is a huge welcome by all for raising the tax ceiling and clearance by the SSI sector for reserved items upto Rs. 50 lakh, I heard voices from the small scale industry as they are having apprehensions in their mind that raising the investment limit in plant and machinery from Rs. 60 lakh to Rs. Three crore for SSI units would prove detrimental to their growth since the large and medium scale industries would be tempted to enter this sector to enjoy the benefits which are now extended only to SSI units and as a result, the SSI units would not be able to compete with them.

I request the hon. Finance Minister to consider the apprehension if it is reasonable. Similarly, the Minister of Finance has declared to make rapid changes and replacement of certain laws like FERA and some provisions of Company Act and I hope that these attempts will serve more to the stability of our economy and to eradicate the economic offences.

Sir, I have enumerated some of the distinct credentials of the Budget on taxes and other fields. Besides, I would like to mention some more points. As I mentioned earlier the social contradictions are yet to be solved at any cost but within a time limit. Our Constitution maker Baba Saheb Ambedkar gave a caution when our Constitution came into existence. He said :

"On 26th January, 1950, we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics we have equality and in social and economical life we will have inequality. How long we can deny equality in social and economical life? We must remove this contradiction at the earliest possible moment or else those who suffer from inequality will blow up the structure of democracy .

Sir, if we do not want to put this caution of Baba Saheb Ambedkar into cold storage, we have to pay due attention to this field of social justice and reforms, poverty alleviation and basic needs of the people. Scientific inventions, modernising the defence, achievement in space research are no doubt the parameters to measure our status among the world countries. But for that sake we cannot ignore the life and rights of unlettered gullible masses of this country who were denied education, human rights and basic amenities for years together.

It is needless to submit before this House that these people who are denied their due rights are busy in producing wealth of this country and for elites, they eat, quarrel and sleep. The endless pleasure and perpetual leisure of the elites are merrily going ahead without accounting the expression of dismay for these downtrodden people. Sir, I am happy that this Budget made deliberate attempt to minimise these types of flourishing business of blood-sucking, on the people of "nothing to lost", as the budgeting support to the Central Plan is being concentrated on rural development and agriculture. As the hon. Finance Minister has rightly described, 'agriculture is the life and blood of our economy' and accordingly the announcement made with regard to Regional Rural Banks and NABARD are unique and positive steps.

Coming to social sector, I am having a kind of frustration or depression in my mind as Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munshi said in the House in the morning and I do believe it has some consistency. It is because, when

thousands and thousands of rupees are being pumped for poverty alleviation programmes through Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, IRDP, NRY, TRYSEM, IAY, EAS but the condition of the rural poor still remains unchanged, stinking in the stagnated pool. Hence, I do feel that we have to reconsider our programmes and its mode of implementation. Fresh rules should be framed to avoid exploitation by executives and middlemen while the schemes are launched towards the poor. This is an urgent need today since we are going to spend about Rs. 16 crore as per the outlay for social sector.

One more important feature of this Budget is, literacy programme for women in the name of Kasturba estimated with a tune of Rs. 250 crore. Sir, as we are the followers of Thanthai Periyar EVR who revolted against all sorts of suppression, i.e., caste, creed, religion and sex; We welcome this scheme which would be a 'catalyst' for social reforms. Periyar EVR observed that in India women are enslaved twice. Firstly by the religion as a common factor as it does to all and secondly by the men. He further stated that in India, the women are being used as a show case of jewels and ornaments and machines to produce children. If we want a real emancipation of women from the yoke of this cult and dogmas of male chauvinism, they must be educated and accommodated in job for self earnings. I hope that the present scheme formulated by the hon. Finance Minister will serve that purpose to constitute such an anticipated egalitarian society.

Sir, though many positive features are found in the Budget, I want to finish my speech within the time limit by quoting the saying of saint Thiruvalluvar on management, procedure and execution.

He says :

"porul karuvi kalam vinai idanodu ainthum
irul theera yenni seyal"

It means "men and material, finance, place, time of action and job objectives are to be studied for perfection.

I do feel that this Budget, presented by the Finance Minister, is no doubt a 'studied perfection' as Thiruvalluvar said.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Congratulation for your maiden speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak, although it is too late. It is my presumption that the poor farmer Prime Minister of the country has presented a very attractive budget he will try to make the entire country a Swarg (paradise) the countrymen as Swarg Wasi

[Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar]

(expired) About rupees ten thousand crore was saved by the Finance Minister in the 1996-97 is budget. This money was saved from those sectors, which are vital and important for the country.

I want to know from the Hon. Finance Minister whether there will be cost percent literacy in the country by 2000 A.D. As per the Lokkarwala Report, the percentage of people living below the poverty line has increased more than 30 percent. I think this figure will increase by the end of 2000 A.D. I want that the Hon'ble Finance Minister should declare that by the year 2000 A.D. there will be none in the country below poverty line.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If the people of the States and the Governments of the States summon the will and determination which the people and Government of Kerala have done, then all the States can become truly literate. It is the same policy of the Government of India. How is Kerala one hundred percent literate, and why is it that Rajasthan is only 17 per cent literate ? Therefore, do not blame the policies of the Government of India. Look inward. Ask yourself as to why Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan are backward and Kerala is one hundred percent literate. Very shortly, Tamil Nadu would become one hundred per cent literate.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Even a small place like Lakshadweep is one hundred per cent literate.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Very well said, Sir. Then we should assume that there is no need for Union Government. Instruct all the States to generate resources themselves and progress. Why the Centre Govt. made allocation in budget accordingly to statewise. It rounds good that Kerala has attained 100 percent literacy, everyone knows the reasons behind this achievement. Please take this country as one unit, not statewise you may ignore what is happening in Kalahandi in Orissa. You may leave what is happening in Laddakh and Leh. You may district the major party Rajasthan to other states.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I did not say that. All I said was that the people of these States, the political leaders of these states and the Governments of these States must do much more and much better. What is the point of blaming someone else ? You must ask yourselves, what is the wrong with the governance of these States ?

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : You may hang

all persons who are doing misdeeds.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Leave this aside please.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : You cannot think your responsibility. The side is treated carefully in the family, but unfortunately this is not being done in the country. In our rural areas, this thing is said :

Uttam Kheti, Madhem baan,

Nikhad Chakri, Bheekh Nidan.

country will prosper only, if the farming is undertaken properly. But today we have changed its meaning. We have given preference to Bheekh meaning service. Today service is the best, because one can get job of Rs. one lakh for a month. The poor farmers gets nothing. Untill you changed this trend, the country can not prosper. Two third popula-tion lives in the rural areas. Today what is the identity of our country ? When one foreigner asked Late Smt. Indira Gandhi about that she said in a 'Kumbh Mela' thousand of people visited without proper cloth, footwear. They took the both in the holy river Ganga, it is the true picture of India. If you think it is not so, what can I do for it ? The todays position will be reviewed after fifty year that what the present Govt's had done for the propuity of the country. I do not want to take more time on this subject. I do not know about financial matters. I am a rural person. There is nothing in the budget, which can pleased the rural people. Whether our budget is only for tax payers ? Whether it is for those who have celluler telephone and computer. If we get publicity, what is harm therein. It will be better for the country if every family in the country has computer and cellular telephone. We do visit abroad. You have mentioned about Rajasthan, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh. You should visit any house in a village and see for yourself how poor they are ? They are not able to eat two times a day. They are living in poverty. There may be some good houses and prosperity in Western Uttar Pradesh's rural areas, but in eastern Uttar Pradesh area, you can see poverty only. The remedy is not Khala ? We should give full opportunity to these states also. I urge that Planning should be made in this way. Our country is still living in the cycle age. In the country there are certain people, who can afford to buy a car for Rs. 10-15 lakh, but if the prices of foodgrains go up, he starts worrying. The budget maker should also learn from Chankaya's policy. I do not want to go into details in this regard. Why China & Japan have prograssed ? Our former Prime Minister Sh. P.V. Narsimha Rao had once said that we should fix our target for foodgrains for 2010 AD. Today our foodgrains production has been only 190 million tonne, where our population goes on increasing. I am of the view that we are adopting Family Planning but we lacked Agricultural Planning. What will be our requirement of foodgrains after ten years, who will we meet them ? We

have imported some quantity of wheat & we are deficit of 30 lakh tonne of wheat this year too. How will we be able to meet our demand of wheat ? One of our friend was telling that we are heading toward PL.-480 period. When we start importing wheat all of your plans will be of no use.

Shri Sharad Yadav had said that there are 45 members of Janta Dal & if need be, they will leave the power, You are not bothered about the country. You think that you will do nothing if your Govt. does not remain in the power. I will be brief. We must think about the real problems. Many villages & blocks in the country are becoming dark without power. Water level is going down. Water storage capacity in our rivers is getting low. Cities are facing water shortage. I invited Hon'ble Minister to visit only village of Uttar Pradesh. Farmers will be happy to welcome him. I will draw the attention towards 2-3 points. Previously it was felt that on one will oppose this budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are the last speaker. Pl. conclude your speech early.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : I will not take much time and will conclude in 2-3 minutes. As the time goes on, the criticism also goes on. I belong to Bareilly. Wimco factory is situated in Barielly. The workers of the factory told me that their factory is going to be closed down. Why ? The Hon'ble Finance Minister has given mechanised areas for the match box factories and the excise duty has been increased. Wimco is a indogeneous company and produce 15 percent of total productionly of match boxes in the whole country. The difference of rate is such that there is excise duty of 50 paise on the cottage industry and excise duty of three rupee is charged from this factory. The factory will be closed down and 10,000 employees of this factory will be unemployed. The employees of the factory have submitted many memorandum. Also a number of Members have given such memorandum in this regard and If Finance Minister wanted that this factory should run then the demands of these 1,0000 employees should be given a sympathetical consideration. You have increased the tax on Jem and telly but indirect tax has been levied on piclue. You have said that no tax will be levied on business man having turnover less than Rs. 30 lac. You are earning 100 crores rupees from this industry. There are ample possibilities for setting up of food processing industry in the country. Please consider in this regard. You

may receive memorandum in this regard that you are going to closedown such an industry which has ample opportunity. My submission to consider in this regard, so that the industry can survive

I will talk problem of a agriculture in my areas. There is a IFFCO's fertilizer plant in our area. Its capacity has increased, but it is in carring loss to the tune of one crore rupees daily. Please look in this regard, Gas Authority of India has not been supplying the adequate quantity of gas and as a result thereof, the optimum capacity of the plant in not being utilised. On account of it there has been a continoues loss of one crore rupees per day for the last hundred days. But nobody listen to this problem. The Govt. should pay attention towards it and ensure that fertilizers are being supplied to farmers.

In the end, I want to say something about literacy. It would be beneficial, if the primary schools are set up in each village of the country be diverting the funds allocated for the other purpose. But due same is not being done. New schemes are being formulated Indira Gandhi Open University has been set up. The students of this University alleged that they do not get admission in Roohaikhand University. If Indira Gandhi Open University is not recognosed, then HRD ministry should stop admission of students therein.

In the end, I do not find anything in this budget which is of interest to common people. 25 percent people had praised the budget but majority of people of this country are not praising your budget. It appears to be a pteice of magic show. As in the magic show the thing first appear but later on it disappears.

In the end, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The people of this country will not forgive the Government for presenting this budget.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11.00 a.m.

00.54 hrs. (20.3.97)

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till

Eleven of the clock
