

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XVI contains Nos. 11 to 17)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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**Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)**

...

Thursday, August 7, 1997/Shravana 16, 1919 (Saka)

...

Col./line	For	Read
45,46/2	Not Sandy Arid Areas	Hot Sandy Arid Areas
100/15	SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR	SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR
129/7	SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV	SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV
138/30,31	(SHIR RAM VILAS PASWAN)	(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)
218/35	DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY	DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY
301/21, 32 302/39 303/9	SHRI ILLIYAS AZMI	SHRI ILIYAS AZMI
318/24	DR. RAM VILAS VEDNATI	DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI
318/37	(Khargon)	(Khargone)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 7, 1997/Shravana 16, 1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Qualcomm System of Wireless

*221. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :
SHRI A. SAMPATH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) refused to certify Qualcomm system of wireless-based telephone technology suitable for the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have entered into an agreement with the company without even going through the normal process of inviting tenders etc.; and

(d) if so, the compulsions for signing the said agreement?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Telecom Engineering Centre has tested the system and found the equipment suitable for loading with commercial subscribers. A 1000 line capacity system has been installed in MTNL Delhi at Bhikaji Cama Place Telephone Exchange. The system supports 500 fixed wireless telephones and 500 handportable telephones. The system's performance is being evaluated.

After due consideration of various technological options the Department decided for the introduction of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) in India. A number of companies were addressed to offer equipment for field trial. Based on the response received, a price negotiation committee was constituted and based on its recommendations this system was procured for field trial.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir we are all aware of the large scale corruption involved in the telecom tenders during the tenure of the former Minister of Telecommunications. Now, while selecting the appropriate technology for any nation, the nation's capacity to absorb that technology, its competitiveness and many other allied factors are taken into consideration. But in respect of this particular Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology, Qualcomm was given a unilateral trial order even without caring for the clearance of the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC).

The Telecommunication Engineering Centre had raised very serious objections about the limitations of the system even during the trial period. They had stated that Qualcomm system did not offer services like line and junction tests from the subscribers' premises, tone and announcement validation, abbreviated dialling, temporary transfer call forward, three-way calling call waiting, subscriber unit line test, alarm call, hot line, system load and overload reliability, calendar management, monitoring of cells, access to public utility services like fax, data, pay phone and such other things. In spite of these reservations and objections raised by the Telecommunications Engineering Centre, Qualcomm had been given this offer, although there are several technologies available in the world. The Wireless in Local Loop technology is available in European countries and they have also raised their eyebrows about this offer to the US telecom company.

May I know from the hon. Minister the reasons for this unilateral trial order? Then, why were the TEC's reservations and objections ignored by the Department of Telecommunications.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir the Telecom Communication has taken a decision in March, 1994 to instal this new technique of the wireless in local loop in the non-feasible areas for providing telephone connections at the earliest for commercial use. A decision was taken to conduct field trial of the C.D.M.A. and CD-11 technology. 12 companies had offered their technology in this regard. Price Negotiation Committee had negotiated it in November, 1994. M/s Qualcomm was given order for providing this technology for installing one thousand lines in Delhi on system trial basis. 12 companies were there at that time. As per our information, this offer was also given to them.

10 out of them did not respond to the offer. M/s Motorola and the Qualcomm responded to it but Motorola did not respond later on. Only the Qualcomm was accorded permission for field trial and this field trial is being undertaken and the final report thereon is awaited. After completion of field trial bulk order would be given. All the officers have been sounded in this regard and none of them would be given priority. Whatever technology is available for providing this service, permission would be given including all bulk tenders in it.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, both in software and telecom sectors, the Indian talents are providing excellent services the world over, and there is no dearth of Indian talent who can provide the goods. In IIT, Chennai, a team had developed one excellent Wireless in Local Loop technology, but the unfortunate part of it is that they were debarred from participating in the commercial process.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether due consideration to the indigenous technology and indigenous talent, particularly the products coming out of the IITs in respect of software and telecom equipments, would be given preference over the offer of the U.S. telecom company, since this particular technology of theirs did not make any dent even in the U.S. market?

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the I.I.T., Madras has developed this system but as I am informed that its range is limited as yet, nonetheless the officers have been told to give permission for its field trial. It would be our efforts that if our companies start manufacturing it indigenously by transferring technology, that would be better.

[English]

SHRI. A. SAMPATH : Messrs. Qualicomm, USA, Messrs. Motorola, USA, Messrs. Motorola, Singapore, Messrs. Dassault Automatismes and Messrs. ET Telecom, France are the five companies which were interested in the WLL services in India. This was the answer that was given to this hon. House on 8.8.1994. A number of other companies were also interested in the cellular service. I understand that these companies are willing to operate in India only by utilising the infrastructure provided by the Department of Telecommunications. They are making exorbitant profit also. The cost of air time is so much that only the rich and the affluent can afford these types of telephones.

During the strike by the employees of the Department of Telecommunications some years back, there was an understanding between the Department of Telecommunications and the employees that in future the Department of Telecommunications would enter into the fields of WLL and the cellular service, which the Department itself would operate. But I understand this thing is being dragged on. Therefore, my question is, will the Department of Telecommunications enter into the WLL service and the cellular service? If so, when?

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have this option that in each circle one private company and DOT should operate but the DOT system is

also operating in cellular and basic services. In Delhi, the trial of C.D.A. technology is being undertaken. Its range is 20 Kms. We have the option that cellular service should be commenced in a circle or a metro city. But we will have to think over it as to when and how the DOT service should be started, at present I do not have any answer in this regard. But this option is with us that the DOT could also start its service along with a private operator.

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, the Department of Telecommunications has failed in giving the basic services to the rural parts of the country. At the same time it is not that the D.O.T. is entailing losses all the time. I would give an example of the district from where I come, that is the Dakshina Kannada Telecom District where huge profits are earned by the D.O.T. But a large number of consumers are waiting since long in the rural areas and Department is not able to cater to their needs. If this Wireless Local Loop Service could be employed in the rural areas then the waiting consumers can be provided with new telephone connections.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Department is thinking of undertaking such kind of trials, which are undertaken in the metro cities like Delhi, in the rural areas also where the D.O.T. is really earning profit so that the long-waiting consumers can get the services of this kind of a system. Actually in some of terrains it is very difficult to have lines and the cutting of trees is not permitted and the open wire system has failed. In such cases this wireless local loop would be more beneficial. I would like to know specifically from the hon. Minister whether the Department is thinking that such a system would be given a trial in the rural areas.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, the hon. member has given a good suggestion. We will certainly consider in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a good suggestion but the wireless system which is installed at my residence is not functioning properly.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : This service has not yet been started. We will do consider over this aspect.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I submit to the hon. minister that rural people are waiting for this service in their areas for the last ten years.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : We will pay attention to it.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : It will take another ten years after you consider over it. When will this service be provided to them? (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Shortage of Power

*222. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of power in many parts of the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the actual demand and supply of power at present, State-wise;

(c) the details of the power projects being run with World Bank assistance;

(d) whether the World Bank has asked the State Governments to withdraw the subsidy on power in agriculture sector;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the supply of power is likely to improve in the States particularly in Maharashtra?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Power shortage continues to persist in many parts of the country including Maharashtra on account of the fact that power generation has not kept pace with increase in demand. However, during the last two months, there has been a marked improvement in power generation. Energy generation in June and July, 1997 recorded a significant increase of 8.2% and 8.4% over the generation level during the corresponding months of the previous year, which has taken place after 21 months.

The energy shortage and peak deficit during June, 1997 was 9.6% and 19% respectively. The corresponding figures for Maharashtra was 4.5% and 13.2%.

(b) The State-wise details of energy shortage and peak deficit during June, 1997 is given at Annexure-I.

(c) The details of the World Bank assisted power projects is given at Annexure-II.

(d) & (e) The World Bank as expressed concern about the financial viability of investments in the power sector. The World Bank has also stressed the need to improve the financial health of State Electricity Boards by ensuring that the tariffs are fixed in a rational manner to generate surplus and to provide an adequate return on the capital employed. In the case of Maharashtra (IInd Maharashtra Power

Project Loan No. 3498-IN, which is intended for Chandrapur Unit No. VII (500 MW) and construction of HVDC Chandrapur and Padghe Line), the loan was suspended due to the inability of the Government of Maharashtra to comply with a number of the provisions of the Project Agreement. The World Bank had suggested that a tariff increase should be implemented in order to achieve an annual rate of return of 4.5 per cent of the average net value of fixed assets in operation.

(f) Power supply position in the country is likely to improve as a result of long term measures and short term measures proposed to be implemented during the 9th Five Plan period (1997-2002).

The Government of Maharashtra has identified several projects for capacity addition during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002). The details of the projects and their present status of implementation/clearance is as under :

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Installed Capacity	Remarks
1.	Chandrapur Unit-VII	500 MW	Under execution
2.	Khaparkheda Unit II & IV	420 MW	Funding modalities are being tied up
3.	Koyna Project	1000 MW	On going.
4.	Small Hydro	341 MW	Being promoted by Government of Maharashtra.
5.	Bhirra	150 MW	Being promoted by Government of Maharashtra/Tata.
6.	Bhirpuri	90 MW	Being promoted by Government of Maharashtra/Tata.
7.	Dhabol	2184 MW	Phase-I (740 MW) under execution. Phase-II (1275 MW) to be taken up.
8.	Patalganga	410 MW	In principle clearance has been accorded by DEA.
9.	Bhadrawati	1082 MW	The project has obtained the techno-economic clearance from DEA. The Government of India has approved issue of counter guarantee to the project on March 22, 1977. The GOM/ MSEB are finalising the coal supply and price agreements.
10.	Sardar Sarovar Vindhyachal	555 MW	Maharashtra's share.
		6732 MW	

The Government has also constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Chairman, CEA in June, 1977 to identify the additional projects which would augment capacity by 10,000 MW over and above the projects already identified for benefits in the Ninth Plan.

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has identified 18 Pumped Storage Schemes in Maharashtra which could

add 27.070 MW to the installed capacity. Several Mini/ Micro Hydel Schemes in Maharashtra have also been identified by CEA. The Government of India would be requesting the State Government to quickly formulate Projects, tie up funding modalities and undertake execution of these projects on a priority basis. Financial assistance to these projects will be organised through the Power Finance Corporation (PEC).

Annexure-I

State-wise actual power supply position in the country during the Month of June 1997

Region/State/ System	Energy (MU Net)				Peak (MW)			
	Requi- rement	Availa- bility	Shor- tage	%	Peak demand	Peak met	Shor- tage	%
NORTHERN REGION								
Chandigarh	84	84	0	0.0	166	166	0	0.0
Delhi	1330	1313	17	1.3	2240	2150	90	4.0
Haryana	1080	1039	41	3.8	1970	1926	44	2.2
Himachal Pradesh	276	276	0	0.0	661	661	0	0.0
Jammu & Kashmir	395	371	24	6.1	900	805	95	10.6
Punjab	2300	2289	11	0.5	3951	3951	0	0.0
Rajasthan	1565	1552	13	0.8	2700	2640	60	2.2
Uttar Pradesh	3350	2989	361	10.8	6500	4903	1597	24.6
N.R.	10380	9913	467	4.5	17900	16064	1836	10.3
WESTERN REGION								
Gujarat	2825	2602	223	7.9	6200	5148	1052	17.0
Madhya Pradesh	2375	2172	203	8.5	5000	3641	1359	27.2
Maharashtra	5000	4776	224	4.5	9350	8117	1233	13.2
Goa	102	102	0	0.0	179	179	0	0.0
W.R.	10302	9652	650	6.3	20125	15966	4159	20.7
SOUTHERN REGION								
Andhra Pradesh	3150	2614	536	17.0	5407	4455	952	17.6
Karnataka	2120	1422	698	32.9	4102	2798	1304	31.8
Kerala	830	615	215	25.9	1874	1434	440	23.5
Tamil Nadu	3225	2765	460	14.3	5754	4622	1132	19.7
S.R.	9325	7416	1909	20.5	16321	12675	3646	22.3
EASTERN REGION								
Bihar	705	566	139	19.7	1690	996	694	41.1
D.V.C.	660	649	11	1.7	1475	1156	319	21.6
Orissa	870	855	15	1.7	1800	1561	239	13.3
West Bengal	1330	1319	11	0.8	2775	2535	240	8.6
E.R.	3565	3389	176	4.9	7485	5280	2205	29.5
NORTH-EASTERN REGION								
Arunachal Pradesh	13.0	6.7	6.3	48.5	47	38	9	19.1
Assam	240.8	228.8	12.0	5.0	541	513	28	5.2
Manipur	42.7	30.7	12.0	28.1	90	70	20	22.2
Meghalaya	33.3	33.3	0.0	0.0	85	85	0	0.0
Mizoram	14.8	10.6	4.2	28.4	52	43	9	17.3
Nagaland	18.8	13.0	5.8	30.9	37	37	0	0.0
Tripura	44.6	33.9	10.7	24.0	96	68	28	29.2
N.E.R.	406.0	357.0	51.0	12.5	935	848	87	9.3
ALL INDIA	33980	30727	3253	9.6	62766	50833	11933	19.0

Annexure-II**Ongoing World Bank Funded Power Project as on 31.05.1997**

Sl. No.	Loan No.	Name of Project	Project Cost (Rs. in crores)	Loan Amount Million US(\$)	Terminal Date	Cumulative Disbursement upto May'97 US(\$ Million)	Capacity (State)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
NTPC							
1.	3632-IN	Time Slice loan for Power Generation Projects (a) VINDHYACHAL-II (b) KAYAMKULAM	4063.960	400.00	30/9/97	138.349	2X500MW Thermal Units (MP) 400 MW 2x119.6 MW Gas Units 1 x115 MW Thermal Units (Kerala)
POWERGRID							
2.	3577-IN	Powergrid System Development Project	2368.577	350.00	30/6/2000	158.208	400 KV (MP, Maharashtra, AP, Karnataka)
3.	3237-IN	Northern Region Transmission Project	1882.330	495.0000	30/9/98	210.273	400/800KV (Punjab, Haryana, Raj. J&K, UP, HP)
POWER FINANCE CORPORATION							
4.	3436-IN	Power Utilities Eff. Improvement Project.	1963.640	265.000	31/12/97	166.703	Not Applicable Multistate Project (AP, MP, Gujarat, Haryana, Raj. & Durgapur Pro. Ltd.)
5.	3630-IN	Technical Assistance for Pvt. Power Development	71.260	20.000	31/12/96	1.251	Not Applicable Multistate Project (AP, Guj., T.N.)
MAHARASHTRA							
6.	3096-IN	Maharashtra Power (Koyna Hydro Elect. Power Project)	1118.000	373.330	31/12/97	246.585	4x250MW

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	3498-IN	Second Maharashtra Power Project HVDC line, Consultancy & Resettlement of Earthquake affected villages Chandrapur Units.	1887.410	350.000	30/6/98	112.254	Not Applicable
NAPTHA JHAKRI POWER CORPORATION							
8.	3024-IN	Naptha Jhakri Hydro Electric Projects	4337.950	485.000	31/12/97	257.030 6x250MW (HP)	
ORISSA							
9.	4014-IN	Orissa Power Sector Restructuring Project	Not applicable	350.000	31/12/02	15,416	Not Applicable
MINISTRY OF POWER							
10.	2310-IN	PHRD Pvt. Power Development	—	214.000	31/12/97	76.410	—

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the supply of power in our country is very less than its demand. The maximum number of industries in our country is in Maharashtra State. Its power demand is 9350 megawatts but the supply of power is 8117 megawatts. There is a shortage of 1233 megawatts of power. Whatever projects are within Maharashtra - the Chandrapur project, the Khaparkera project, the Koyana, the Dhabhol, the Bhadravati etc. all the big projects, the work on all these projects is going at a very slow pace. The work is also being undertaken in the private sector like the Enron and the work on 740 megawatt project has commenced but what is the position of work there? Whether the work thereon is going on satisfactorily? What ever plans have been formulated in this sector? The work had not been commenced on them. What the hon. Minister is going to do in this regard? What are the Government's scheme to start work early on these projects in Maharashtra? Why is the work not being undertaken on all these projects, are you going to do something in this regard by constituting a Committee of MPs representing all the parties?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been some improvement in the power generation during the last two months. After a period of 21 months the power generation has increased at the rate of 8.2 per cent in June. I have the figures for the month of July in which it has increased by 8.4 per cent. The deficit of power supply in Maharashtra has been lower in comparison to months prior to June. But the hon. Member is right in saying that picking deficit is still very high and that causes a great deal of loss to a progressive State like Maharashtra. We have been trying that those M.O.U. projects or Counter Guarantee Projects like Bhadravati should be accorded

approval in some weeks or months so that the entrepreneurs there could complete their work relating to closing of accounts and undertake work soon on them as per schedule. As the hon. members know that many entrepreneurs now say that they could complete the work on such projects in three years or in forty months. Secondly, we have requested the State Government that the funds they need for renovation and modernisation, for that purpose we are making efforts this time to make available funds to the State from the Power Finance Corporation at subsidised interest rate. Thirdly, the Maharashtra Government has undertaken some small hydel projects.

But C.E.A. has also conducted study in respect of such projects so that these could be implemented in next one to two years. I am happy to know that plant load factor has increased from 70 percent to 72 percent in Maharashtra. But for that also if the State Government requires some assistance, we have made provision for that also. One Hon'ble member has suggested that some hon'ble members of the state or all the members may discuss it with me. If they do it, it would be good. Some hon'ble member of Bihar discussed it with me on Monday. It's being a complex issue if some members of the state like to discuss it with me or my Ministry we would be even more happy. We would also call CEA and place all the information before you. I hope all the hon'ble members of the House would help us in finding a solution of this precarious situation.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my second question is that I had sought details of the State Power Project which is being executed with the assistance of the World Bank. You have not given that details in your reply. But it is a fact that all the work which was being executed with the assistance of World Bank in Maharashtra for example at Chandrapur and Koradi was sanctioned.

The work was to be undertaken. But the World Bank imposed conditions with a view to increase tariff. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Manohar Joshi, has been doing very good work, leave aside the issue of law and order(Interruptions) But he should take every body in Power sector into confidence because it is the developmental work. We would also have helped in it, He is also helping in it. But so far as the issue of tariff is concerned, the Union Government should formulate some scheme for increasing tariff in the entire country. The loan had been received, both of those projects were being started, but now they are not being implemented. What the Union Government has been doing to assist in that project from that point of view. The number of schemes which have been completed, its use in agricultural sector by the States is very low. I want to know whether the Government of India has been making any such policy so that power may be supplied to poor farmers on subsidised rates or free of cost, as is being done in Haryana and Punjab. I would like to request the Minister that power should be supplied at minimum rates to the poor farmers of the country and along with it the tariff on industrial and domestic consumption may be increased further. If it is not increased, the loss would not be covered up. By when the Government is likely to implement such a policy in Maharashtra? Secondly, I would like to know whether the review committee of M.P.'s of all parties would be constituted for which I had given a suggestion?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The loan conditionalities imposed on the Government of Maharashtra are in regard to achieve rate of returns on net asset value and some conditions have been imposed on their receivables. Our Ministry has told the World Bank that the Government of Maharashtra is trying to achieve those conditions. I hope that World Bank would discuss it again with the Government of Maharashtra and would remove these conditionalities associated with this loan. Secondly, Power Finance Corporation also gives funds to the Government of Maharashtra and there are some conditionalities in that case also, but that is only this that a tariff review is required once a year. There are such conditionalities also in which the Agencies of the Government of India are trying to do feasible programme of reforms.

I am glad to tell the hon'ble member that the draft Bill regarding Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commission has been prepared by the Government of India, and I hope that as soon as I get the opportunity I would present it to the House. It has been decided after the conference of Chief Ministers that an independent commission to determine tariff rates would be set up. I remember, because I was the Planning Minister at that point of time. The Chief Ministers of many states also agree that we should pass such a Bill at national level so that people may get power supply. As the hon'ble member said, that if there is a reliable and good power supply, the power should be supplied at the rate of 50 paise per unit or at some what higher rate than that to the rural areas.(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Minister, you should give specific reply, it is a long answer. We have to ask question (Interruptions)

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I am giving a specific reply to a specific question. The question is regarding tariff policy(Interruptions)

[English]

He asked a specific question and I am giving him a specific reply (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him reply.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that we should pass this Bill at the earliest because it would be the policy of the Government of India and the State Government would also be to make some improvement.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr Minister, should also tell something about the committee of M.P.s involving members of all parties in that.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I suggest that we should fix the time after talking to a senior M.P., and the members of Parliament of all the States should participate in that. I am happy to arrange it.

[English]

For all the States, we discuss it in the Consultative Committee of my Ministry. But for each State or for those States whose hon. Members are interested, I will be very happy to organise a separate meeting in my university, rather in my Ministry. For example, on Monday, the hon. Members from Bihar are meeting me in my Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, it seems to me that the hon'ble Minister is likely to go back to the University shortly from the Ministry.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : No, Sir, I would like to tell the hon'ble member that I am still a professor of Sardar Patel Institute of Gujarat University and I am not ashamed of that. I am proud of being a Professor.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please avoid these things.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Are you ashamed that you have come here?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : No, Sir.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I am neither ashamed of it nor that I am proud of both.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am sorry, please avoid these things.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I am also proud of being so.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now I will be allowed to ask question with your permission.

Sir, when I come to the matter of shortage, I find that there is a 4.5 per cent shortage in Maharashtra, 32 per cent in Karnataka, 25 per cent in Kerala, 14 per cent in Tamil Nadu and even in Bihar where plenty of coal is available, the shortage is 17 per cent. It will be better to make an effort to make up deficit of 4.5 per cent at the earliest. You have not stated in your reply anything about one thousand megawatt Atomic Energy project in Tarapur in Maharashtra. Your reply does not indicate whether you keep account of how much energy is generated. Therefore, I would like to ask hon. Minister if he intends to increase the pace work of the project, which has been undertaken by the Central Government for over seven years and which is still undercompletion so that the Maharashtra may get one thousand megawatt energy generated by this project at the earliest, whether he would take some step in this regard soon.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it also included the figures for nuclear energy. Even though other Minister is holding charge of this Ministry, I will furnish information about the same only as a Member of Planning Commission. I would like to inform that the provision for required amount has been made in the budget for expansion project in Tarapur, it will be implemented this year. It will be better for hon. Member if he asks for the concerned Minister for detailed information.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from hon. Minister through you whether the information of peak hours regarding Jammu and Kashmir stating that there is a demand of 900 megawatt and the supply is 805 megawatt and there will be shortfall of 95 megawatt. These figures do not seem to me correct, because this shortage was stated 10 per cent in the reply to one of the questions asked last year. According to that reply, there was 48 per cent leakage including transmission loss. That means that the figures given in the reply are not correct. The figures of peak hours of June have been given in the reply. That is why I would like to ask hon. Minister in part 'A' of my question, how much power is generated and supplied in the peak hours when there is cold in Jammu and Kashmir. Secondly, I would like to have information in

regard to part 'B' which is related to our Laddakh region. We have been demanding that Niyemo Hydel Project should be got constructed only through NHPC but you are not ready to handover the same to NHPC because of some reasons. Would you assure us that the scheme of Niyemo Hydel Project would be constructed by NHPC only.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the figures may change every month. These figures relate to the month of June. Central Electricity Authority prepare the figures and they prepare in detail. They have got the figures relating to the availability of power and generation and since they are handling the demand of each day, their figures of last month will be reliable. Regarding further projection it can be said that there can be controversy.

Particularly, there is problem regard a Hydel project Commissioned recently in Jammu and Kashmir. The capacity of one of the projects is 380 megawatt. There are other transmission bottlenecks. But we are hopeful that we would be able to clear the transmission bottlenecks upto September, October and make electricity available in the Valley before the winter season.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : What about Laddakh.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I shall examine it.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out that while we should have been in a position to export foodgrains but we have been importing the same for many years due to shortage of foodgrains. I would like to know whether Government propose to formulate a scheme for supply of power to the farmers throughout the country as it provides to the industry and the cities so that our country could achieve the first place in field of agriculture, fruit and vegetables in the world. The Government should provide electricity to the farmers of the country. Unless the Government of India makes special plans to supply electricity for agriculture the State Governments are unable to do so.

The second part relates to Bihar. I do not know whether all except Mr. Laloo are using electricity in Bihar. I would like to refer the point raised by Mr. Naik that only Coal is not available in Bihar.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please be brief.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : The electricity can be generated through circuit by coal dust. But so far any plan for generating electricity through coal dust has not been materialised. Will the Government increase the electricity generation by using dust?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Although the Rural Electrification Corporation has funds for rural areas, but many state Governments have not returned old loans so we want to make special provisions for its restructuring. We have a plan to strengthen the existing system. Now I will cite under which they are privatising the distribution system in nine districts below 32 KW. Secondly the Government has started a "Tatkal" scheme under which the assured supply of electricity is made to those who could pay tariff etc. We will have to make such reforms (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The whole House is interested in this subject.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : In peak period the deficit is as high as 21.6 per cent. Tailpool Dam Project of Panchet Dam under Damodar Valley Corporation was sanctioned in 1978 to generate electricity during peak period to the extent of 60 MW. The construction work was started in 1990. Subsequently it was abandoned after spending Rs. 12 crore. An expert committee was appointed; that expert committee has also submitted its report. Two participating governments- the Government of Bihar and the Government of West Bengal - also want that the project should not be abandoned, though Damodar Valley Corporation wants that the project should be abandoned. May I know from the hon. Minister, when both the participating State Governments of Bihar and West Bengal want that project should not be abandoned and the construction work should be started, whether the construction of Tailpool Project of Panchet Dam under Damodar Valley Corporation would be restarted after monsoon, so that within one year the project can be completed and electricity can be generated to the extent of 60 MW during peak period.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : There were some operational problems of mobilising the labour force on account of some local law and order reasons. We have written to the Chief Ministers of the two States. We have received one reply. As soon as the conditions are favourable, we will start work on the project again (Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : We are in a precarious position in Kerala. Where shall we go? We must be allowed. Sir, he did not mention about Kerala. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow, please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are no two opinions that the pace of generation of electricity should be increased. Private Electricity producing companies generate electricity and sell it to State

Electricity Corporations. State Electricity Corporations purchase it and supply it to the consumers. The Central Government have a insignificant role to play in this regard. If in regard to a project a project counter-guarantee or national counter guarantee is to be given then the Central Government has some role to play. If foreign exchange is involved the Central Government has also a role to play otherwise the Central Government has no role. But unfortunately due to the presence of the Central Electricity Authority.

[English]

The entire process is repeated and duplicated. Everything is cleared at the State Electricity Board level who are real people who pay the money and get the electricity. They have to go to the Central Electricity Authority and then the Central Electricity Authority goes into all techno-economic clearance of it, spends six months more on it and again sends it back.

[Translation]

They have nothing to do. They are not paying any money. They are generating, purchasing and selling the electricity. All this is being done at State level. I would like to ask whether the Government would disband the Central Electricity Authority and the States will be empowered to take decision at their own level to speak of power generation. When you are not giving us anything, why are you calling us in Delhi, time and again. You please empower us to take decisions. Disband the Central Electricity Authority. What is the reaction of the Government thereto?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some issues were to be negotiated in regard to the old projects such as counter-guarantee projects or negotiated projects and for these projects the way of approval was different. But the provision of International competitive bidding made this year adjust the PPA appropriately and bidding is arranged accordingly. There is no need to take approval of capital cost from the Central Electricity Authority. The type of detailed approval which used to be sought earlier through the Central Electricity Authority involved huge amount of foreign exchange, now has been discontinued. As the hon. Member are aware that in the case of small projects we have decentralised them.

Secondly, there will be a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission for fixing tariff and in the same way Electricity Regulatory Commission will be set up at the State level also and most of the regulatory functions of State Government will be done by them. I would like to request the hon. Member who want to disband the Central Electricity Authority to think over it again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is a policy matter. It is difficult to give a reply forthrightly during Question Hour. This is the Question Hour. The policy matters cannot be resolved during this period.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you. The State of Kerala is suffering from acute power shortage. Even the figures which were given by the hon. Minister would go to show that the power shortage is 25.9 per cent. The original proposal for the Kayamkulam thermal power project was 1200 MW; now it has come down to 400 MW. Considering the acute power shortage there was a hundred per cent high tension power cut there - the situation is worse. The monsoon has also failed. Considering the present situation of the State, I would like to know whether there is any proposal to increase or enhance the capacity of the present power project and whether any new project is going to be commissioned?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : We should like to expedite the completion of the existing Kayamkulam project for which full funds are being made available and the entire power will be made available to the State of Kerala. In fact, it is the first (Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : When is it going to be completed?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : It is expected to be completed, if I remember correctly, in another twelve to eighteen months.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Till then, we will have to live in darkness!

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : You do not have to live in darkness because (Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Yes. We are in darkness. The Government of India has no time to apply its mind to the difficulties that we are facing. That is our complaint. The Government has no time (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have not allowed you as yet.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)..... (not recorded)

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would like to submit to the hon. Member that we have provided..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not allowed his question. Why are you replying to him when nothing is on record?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I was answering the other hon. Member from Kerala.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes reply him.

[English]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would also like to inform the hon. Member from Kerala that we are making a provision for renovation and modernisation programmes of the existing hydel units in Kerala which will increase their capacity considerably. We have also arranged for Canadian assistance to the Kerala State Electricity Board. If there are any problem in raising the plant load factor right now, in raising the utilisation right now, we are making a provision for that. Also, when Kerala was short of power in June, we rushed supplies from the Central pool to them to alleviate the temporary shortage.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the generation of power in Maharashtra is less than of its demand in the State. Thus construction work of various power projects of 6732 MW is going at different levels. In one of the replies given here, it has been stated that hurdles are being created at different levels. Efforts are being made to create problems in these projects only because of political interests therein.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether they want to create problem because of political interests or to gain political mileage. If so, what action the Government would like to take in this regard?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : My Ministry would try to complete these power projects as earlier as possible technically and these are also provided resources.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I am very glad that the hon. Minister has given this much of information about Kerala (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him put the question.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak. What I wanted to say is that the State of Kerala has been suffering from the shortage of electricity. Ordinary people are not able to view even television there. As far as industries are concerned, there is 100 per cent power cut; for ordinary people the power cut is 75 per cent and for the agriculture sector it is 50 per cent. Under these circumstances, unless the Government of India takes some expeditious steps, the State of Kerala will not be able to recover from the present acute shortage of power.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government have any short-term scheme so as to enable the State of Kerala to have more electricity from the neighbouring States. With the help of the State of Tamil Nadu only, we have been able to get relief from the acute

shortage of power. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government of India have any short-term plan to help the State of Kerala to get rid of the present predicament.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have a set of projects which are mainly hydel and small projects. I can give the names of the projects to the hon. Member separately for which we are making financial provisions in this year for modernisation and completion. On the transmission side, I will be very happy to look into those projects which need expeditious completion. We will be very happy to look into it. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Member may please listen to my one point. 12 supplementaries have already been asked. There are so many States, which had not been referred.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please keep quiet and listen to me. I am expressing your feeling. Nothing has been said about Rajasthan. The Members from Goa are also raising their hands.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am sorry, you are not listening to me. Please listen, what I say. It would be better to start half an hour discussion on this matter so that all Members may take part in the discussion. Those who are interested may give notices

[*English*]

Restructuring of DOT

+
*223. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some committees were set up on the question of restructuring the Department of Telecommunication;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether one of the recommendations of these committees was to declare the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited a full-fledged public sector enterprise with full autonomy; and

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

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

In December, 1990 a Committee headed by Dr. M.B. Athreya was set up to recommend the most appropriate organizational structure for management of telecom services in the country. In its report, the Committee recognised the need for separating the "policy and regulation" tier from the "operations" tier. While there was unanimity on ending the duality of structure of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL), the committee was devided on the form of future organisation of the Department of Telecommunications (DOT). The recommendations (reflecting the majority opinion) in respect of corporatisation were not pursued, at that stage, in view, *inter-alia*, of the financial implications involved and reservations expressed by telecom staff.

2. Subsequently, during 1995, a Committee chaired by a retired Member of the Telecom Commission went into the question of restructuring of DOT headquarters and recommended separation of the functions of operations (which were suggested for being undertaken by a new entity to be called "India Telecom") from those of policy and planning as also an independent corporate status for the MTNL. In the same year, a Committee headed by the then Chief General Manager, Calcutta Telephones reported, *inter-alia*, on ways and means designed to enable DOT to compete effectively in the emerging scenario of privatisation of basic services.

3. It may be mentioned that the MTNL is already a Corporation registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956.

4. In the light of implementation of the National Telecom Policy, 1994, the future requirements of telecommunications growth and other relevant factors, the various issues involved in DOT's restructuring and reorganisation require to be examined and assessed in detail for a further view to be taken in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been raising this question for the last five years. In the reply given to unstarred question No. 7929 on April 27, 1992, the Minister of Communications had told me that the MTNL had been declared a full fledged public sector company on 1.4.1986. Today when we are celebrating the golden jubilee of Independence, 65,000 employees of the MTNL have not been paid deputation allowance for the last 11 years and the MTNL do not consider them as its employees. Not only that out of the 34 percent shares which were disinvested without taking employees into

confidence, not even a single share was sold to its employees. Whether the MTNL will provide shares to those 65,000 employees by absorbing them into the organisation applying all conditions? If so, by what time because you have already said that this is wholly a public sector undertaking.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : After restructuring the DOT and the MTNL, these have to be given the status of corporation. Both these cases are very important. Earlier the Department constituted many committees to examine the issue. First of all the Attare Committee was constituted which submitted its report and later on the D.K. Gupta Committee was constituted, who had also submitted its report. The Khan Committee had also submitted its report. Meanwhile the Government of India adopted the policy of liberalisation in the telecommunication sector. To make it more competitive and to provide better services, the restructuring of the department has become necessary. The nature of work of the employees of the MTNL and DOT is same. Therefore it has to be carried out cautiously. Its one phase has been completed. It was mentioned in the report that regulation and operation should be done separately and only the policy making work should be with the Ministry. We are agreed to it in principle. A regulatory authority has been set up and it has started functioning also. Now there is the question of operation. Restructuring of the DOT and granting full fledged status of corporation to the MTNL, we think that both these things should be done very cautiously and simultaneously. We have told the Telegram Commission today. And employees have been told today morning that this matter should be taken up as expeditiously as possible. Now, when the work of restructuring has been completed all over the world, it is high time that the service part should not be with the Government for which restructuring of our department should be done and simultaneously the MTNL should be given the status of a corporation. Recently on July 15, all financial powers have been given to the MTNL. These powers were not with it earlier. It could not do purchasing. The DOT used to do purchasing and thereafter supply used to be made. We have given full financial powers to it from July 15. We are doing it in a phased manner and it should be granted full fledged status of a corporation, we agree to this point in principle. Both these decisions should be taken simultaneously so as to avoid resentment among the employees. And thereafter the action should be taken expeditiously. We have issued such directions to the officers.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, the chairman of the disinvestment commission has said about separating the MTNL and the DOT to raise a handsome amount through shares and granting autonomy to the MTNL by providing full assistance to it and absorbing the employees in the MTNL. He has agreed to it. You have said about discontentment among employees. The employees of MTNL in Mumbai have already started their agitation, they will go on strike in August. I would like to ask whether the

Government will accept the recommendations and grant autonomy to it before August 15 this year. When we are going to celebrate golden jubilee of Independence and before the employees bring this service to a standstill and whether those 65 thousand employees would be absorbed in the MTNL?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, as I have said earlier, we are agreed in principle to grant a full-fledged status of corporation to MTNL but simultaneously the work of restructuring the DOT....

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Eleven years have elapsed.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : We have completed only one year in power.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : You have completed one year but they have completed 11 years. If your Government goes today and any other Government comes to power then they would say that they have come today only. How this would do?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : The policy of liberalisation has also come in these 11 years.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : We have respects for you but you should do it before 15 August.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : We admit that after the advent of liberalisation the MTNL should get the status of a full fledged corporation and the operation part of the DOT should have a separate identity and it should also get full autonomy. And both these things should be done simultaneously and expeditiously.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Expeditiously, but by what time?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : The Telecom will submit its report as soon as possible after examining all the aspects in this regard and then it would be referred to the cabinet for approval.

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : May I know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government has decided to disinvest and issue fresh equity in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited to the extent of 107 million shares? If so, how would the major part of the proceeds of the proposed equity sale be utilised?

The second part of my question is this. How do the MTNL propose to speed up the major work of network consolidation and introducing new services?

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, the decision of disinvestment has been taken and the proceeds from disinvestment will be utilized by the MTNL in the projects already drawn up by it.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, what the Minister has just said would be a very good thing. The work of restructuring should be carried out keeping in view the interests of the employees. The number of employees working under the MTNL as my colleague has told, is more than 78 thousand and these employees have been working therein for the last 11 years and have been demanding the status of a corporation for it. The Government should keep in mind the feelings of the employees at the time of restructuring. I do not know why the Government are not taking action as soon as possible you have replied to the question of my colleague. Keeping that in view, will you formulate a time bound policy within which that action will be completed?

You would remember that MTNL is going to introduce the DGR issue. The prospectus of the issue has been brought out. It has been said that we have trained manpower but this trained manpower is not working therein so far and they are the employees of the DOT and what is mentioned in the prospectus, that is far from reality.

It is in the interest of the Government to include these employees in MTNL, at the earliest. I want to know, whether the action would be taken within 15-20 days, so that they may also get freedom. You will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Independence on 15th August. Whether these employees will also get the freedom on that day.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : On the occasion of Golden Jubilee of freedom, we can say only this much that in principle we have already agreed to give a full-fledged status to the MTNL and to expedite the actions. We will give instructions to the Telecom that if their employees seek deputation in DOT, they may be permitted to do so. If they liked to become the full time employees, they may be deputed on the same. But it would be better if the Corporation is accorded the status of a corporation in the process of restructuring. We have decided it in our discussion we do not have any objection if the quick action is taken. There would not be more delay in it. More delays will definitely be harmful.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, branches of MTNL have been declared to be established in metropolitans only. Through you, I raise a direct question to the Government as to which are the cities, where MTNL are to be established. What criterion is adopted for the same. There are many metropolitan cities in the country, where DOT has been working, but MTNL has not got the autonomy there. Through you, I would like to ask as to what is the criterion behind opening branches of MTNL and whether big cities like Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore will also be covered by it?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : At present, MTNL is working in Delhi and Mumbai only and its extension is under consideration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has asked about the criterion.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : We have no information regarding the criterion, when it was established, there were many consumers. Keeping in view the convenience of the consumers, branches of this corporation had been established in these two cities. We are considering to increase the no. of corporations to two more cities i.e. Calcutta and Chennai.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, these questions mainly concern Mumbai and Delhi. It is true that you are discussing restructuring of the organisations with their respective employees whatever you decide, you get the consent of the employees for the same, which would remove the dissentment among the employees and they would feel easy. Before taking the final decision, would you elicit the opinion of the Members of Parliament from Mumbai by arranging a discussion?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, it is good suggestion but besides the Member from Mumbai, the opinion of the Members of Parliament from Delhi should also be consulted, I will give the instructions to our officers and would also like to attend that meeting.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Sir, the Government is thinking of re-structuring the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited. It is good. But there are so many hurdles regarding the rural telecommunication facilities. Presently, the District Telecom Circles are facing so many problems in implementing the rural telecommunication services.

My pointed question to the hon. Minister is that whether the Government is thinking of revamping or re-structuring the District Telecom Circles for expediting the work of expanding the rural telecommunication network in this country or not.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, restructuring is needed because it had already been done in all the countries of the world. Ministry has only policy making power, there is a separate wing to deal with the operational power. Ours is a big country, therefore having a holding company with wings in rest of the circles can be considered, so that after this decentralization they may improve their services.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Diversion of Rural Development Funds

*224. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

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

(a) the quantum of funds allocated during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 to the States and the funds which remained unspent with them as on April 1, 1996 and April 1, 1997 under various Central and Centrally-sponsored Schemes for Rural Development State-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) the reasons for keeping the funds unspent;

(c) whether there is any complaint of diversion of these funds for other purposes;

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

(e) the efforts being made to ensure that such funds

are not misused by the States in future?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :
(a) and (b) The details of State-wise quantum of funds allocated during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 to the States and the funds that remained unspent with them as on 1.4.1996 and 1.4.1997 under major schemes implemented by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment are enclosed as Statement I to X.

The funds under various centrally sponsored schemes of this Ministry are released to the States/DRDAs/ZPs in two equal instalments in a year. The first instalment is released in the beginning of the year on ad-hoc basis. However, the second instalment is released only on the State/DRDA/ZPs, *inter-alia* utilising 50% of the available funds. Generally, many States/DRDAs/ZPs report for the second instalment with utilisation certificates only in the last quarter of the financial year. Correspondingly the release of the second instalment by the Central Government is also made in the last quarter of the financial year. This results in accumulation of unspent balances as on 1st April of the following year.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise

Statement I

Quantum of Total funds allocated (Central+State) under JRY during 1995-96, 1996-97 & 1997-98 and Unspent funds as on 1.4.96 + 1.4. 97.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	1995-96 Total allocation	1996-97		1997-98	
			Unspent funds as on 1.4.96	Total Allocation	Unspent funds as on 1.4.97	Total allocation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37232.60	1547.44	17372.39	2302.67	19410.49
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	329.58	127.23	178.30	58.75	199.21
3.	Assam	10820.18	2230.47	5718.18	1670.92	6329.03
4.	Bihar	78598.18	12350.34	34075.58	10356.90	38073.25
5.	Goa	356.09	14.73	192.65	75.43	215.25
6.	Gujarat	14754.11	1201.38	6376.25	445.05	7124.30
7.	Haryana	3398.28	207.33	1531.81	329.76	1711.53
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1149.09	304.40	612.16	43.61	683.98
9.	J & K	3381.00	230.69	1243.93	1021.92	1389.86
10.	Karnataka	24422.41	2854.68	11665.34	1930.84	13933.90
11.	Kerala	8029.34	812.95	4244.16	463.05	4742.08
12.	Madhya Pradesh	51119.46	5017.19	22014.51	4609.58	24597.23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Maharashtra	41658.79	2510.88	18937.55	1769.88	21169.28
14.	Manipur	425.45	66.16	228.53	42.20	255.34
15.	Meghalaya	496.31	143.78	267.40	88.43	298.78
16.	Mizoram	208.04	4.36	112.65	28.03	125.86
17.	Nagaland	526.28	32.04	286.64	130.95	320.26
18.	Orissa	30642.94	2068.47	14093.11	1029.25	15746.60
19.	Punjab	1969.93	145.85	1089.39	451.79	1217.19
20.	Rajasthan	20825.10	1111.79	9146.40	838.73	10219.44
21.	Sikkim	341.93	39.13	104.36	26.42	116.40
22.	Tamil Nadu	32634.06	2987.15	15704.96	57.75	17547.45
23.	Tripura	558.65	273.27	296.83	3.17	331.65
24.	Uttar Pradesh	87188.55	12050.23	42334.91	10480.10	47301.56
25.	West Bengal	33287.71	5071.91	15569.34	4193.94	17399.93
26.	A & N Islands	154.18	24.47	84.41	14.29	94.31
27.	D & N Haveli	83.92	9.41	45.81	4.23	51.18
28.	Daman & Diu	49.28	3.70	26.99	7.45	30.16
29.	Lakshadweep	76.70	66.49	42.32	38.43	47.28
30.	Pondicherry	151.86	2.38	82.64	54.90	92.34
Total		484869.77	51287.32	223679.48	40344.52	249921.18

Statement - II

Quantum of total funds released (Central + State) under EAS during 1995-96 to 1997-98 & Unspent funds as on 1.4. 96 & 1.4.97.*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	1995-96 Total Release	1996-97		1997-98	
			Unspent funds as on 1.4.96	Total Release	Unspent funds as on 1.4.97	Total Release
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18187.50	7072.26	25137.50	6599.90	7250.00
2.	Arunchal Pradesh	2323.75	868.22	2126.25	939.53	125.00
3.	Assam	10025.00	3501.12	13525.00	8236.06	0.00
4.	Bihar	20287.50	15013.48	26556.25	20701.55	5675.00
5.	Goa	-	0.00	100.00	100.00	175.00
6.	Gujarat	8712.50	6085.92	7312.50	5827.56	1500.00
7.	Haryana	4150.00	1689.90	3350.00	2592.34	1025.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	562.50	658.21	1987.50	1584.57	887.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	J & K	8425.00	3968.46	4825.00	3474.78	200.00
10.	Karnataka	13712.50	4577.45	14450.00	4720.23	1050.00
11.	Kerala	2312.50	423.02	3562.50	1922.08	2475.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	28675.00	10549.59	28337.71	14657.35	5903.04
13.	Maharashtra	14325.00	8316.15	8412.50	4852.38	2725.00
14.	Manipur	1125.00	405.98	1350.00	624.11	225.00
15.	Meghalaya	312.50	746.82	612.50	990.92	75.00
16.	Mizoram	1500.00	0.00	1500.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Nagaland	2600.00	1149.28	3482.50	1488.60	0.00
18.	Orissa	14325.00	3482.50	20534.44	4201.01	4090.23
19.	Punjab	-	NR	1225.00	1225.00	2175.00
20.	Rajasthan	17537.50	7914.13	12987.50	8292.32	1712.50
21.	Sikkim	412.50	0.00	275.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	10512.50	4448.70	18406.25	5840.76	11150.00
23.	Tripura	1950.00	0.00	2700.00	794.92	900.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	19450.00	10407.37	26630.94	17205.28	8915.38
25.	West Bengal	11550.00	4470.35	12712.50	5239.01	1775.00
26.	A & N Islands	40.00	35.20	0.00	9.97	80.00
27.	D & N Haveli	30.00	30.16	60.00	39.11	0.00
28.	Daman & Diu	20.00	8.49	40.00	47.51	0.00
29.	Lakshadweep	100.00	169.73	140.00	209.37	0.00
30.	Pondicherry	-	NR	60.00	60.00	60.00
Total		213163.75	95954.90	242399.34	24576.22	54151.64

NR - Not Reported.

* EAS is a demand driven scheme & have no allocation fixed.

Statement-III

*Quantum of Total funds allocated (Central+State) under IAY during 1995-96 to 1997-98
& Unspent funds as on 1.4.96 and 1.4.97*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	1995-96 Total allocation	1996-97		1997-98	
			Unspent funds as on 1.4.96	Total Allocation	Unspent* funds as on 1.4.97	Total allocation (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10955.26	560.98	11087.88	380.12	10068.44
2.	Arunchal Pradesh	99.64	74.51	99.64	49.18	00.00
3.	Assam	3194.94	99.91	3619.60	1324.63	00.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Bihar	21349.01	3277.42	21748.65	905.62	19749.04
5.	Goa	107.65	76.14	107.65	NR	97.75
6.	Gujarat	4312.61	212.25	4069.63	0.00	3695.45
7.	Haryana	1355.79	136.91	977.68	200.27	887.79
8.	Himachal Pradesh	342.06	111.41	342.06	50.57	310.61
9.	J & K	1320.09	582.96	695.09	590.72	631.18
10.	Karnataka	6516.66	1952.91	7445.36	3145.25	6760.83
11.	Kerala	2370.85	201.46	2708.83	0.00	2459.70
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14172.99	2644.71	14050.70	6428.68	12758.85
13.	Maharashtra	11330.08	1501.13	12086.84	2300.99	10975.55
14.	Manipur	127.70	10.73	127.70	13.08	00.00
15.	Meghalaya	149.43	38.07	149.43	51.34	00.00
16.	Mizoram	62.95	0.00	62.95	1.28	00.00
17.	Nagaland	160.16	0.00	160.16	NR	00.00
18.	Orissa	7873.25	1420.35	8994.89	584.99	8167.88
19.	Punjab	608.56	0.00	695.30	NR	631.37
20.	Rajasthan	6359.36	3416.53	5837.66	2114.54	5300.94
21.	Sikkim	208.31	11.64	58.31	19.21	52.95
22.	Tamil Nadu	9335.91	788.38	10023.65	0.00	9102.06
23.	Tripura	165.86	0.00	166.03	0.00	00.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	25500.18	1220.17	27020.14	816.19	24535.85
25.	West Bengal	8697.34	1450.95	9937.09	4504.47	9023.45
26.	A & N Islands	47.17	8.11	47.17	NR	53.54
27.	D & N Haveli	25.61	2.61	25.61	4.49	29.08
28.	Daman & Diu	15.08	15.83	15.08	0.91	17.11
29.	Lakshadweep	23.65	28.16	23.65	28.05	26.86
30.	Pondicherry	46.18	0.00	46.18	19.24	62.41
Total		136834.33	19844.23	142460.58	23533.82	125388.77

NR - Not reported.

*- Reported by State Govts.

Statement - IV

*Quantum of Total funds allocated (Central + State) under MWS during 1995-96 to 1997-98
& Unspent funds as on 1.4.96 & 1.4.97*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	1995-96 Total allocation	1996-97		1997-98	
			Unspent funds as on 1.4.96	Total Allocation	Unspent funds as on 1.4.97	Total allocation (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4342.14	450.53	4342.14	842.13	4342.14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44.58	28.86	44.58	36.06	44.58

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	1429.41	166.81	1429.41	626.5	1429.41
4.	Bihar	8516.94	5178.27	8516.94	4639.12	8516.94
5.	Goa	48.16	NR	48.16	14.96	48.16
6.	Gujarat	1593.91	45.09	1593.91	304.83	1593.91
7.	Haryana	382.88	214.46	382.88	329.83	382.88
8.	Himachal Pradesh	153.04	107.23	153.04	819.23	153.04
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	310.99	81.50	310.99	117.45	310.99
10.	Karnataka	2915.55	420.36	2915.55	305.14	2915.55
11.	Kerala	1060.71*	335.29	1060.71	140.46	1060.71
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5502.11	1382.47	5502.11	1814.04	5502.11
13.	Maharashtra	4733.53	1848.81	4733.53	1373.18	4733.53
14.	Manipur	57.14	5.42	57.14	10.97	57.14
15.	Meghalaya	66.85	14.40	66.85	0	66.85
16.	Mizoram	28.16	1.73	28.16	0	28.16
17.	Nagaland	71.66	21.80	71.66	63.66	71.66
18.	Orissa	3522.49	2676.65	3522.49	873.49	3522.49
19.	Punjab	272.28**	NR	272.28	243.84	272.28
20.	Rajasthan	2285.93	1902.49	2285.93	2283.49	2285.93
21.	Sikkim	26.09	17.43	26.09	14.73	26.09
22.	Tamil Nadu	3925.23	1218.43	3925.23	337.08	3925.23
23.	Tripura	74.21	0.00	74.21	0	74.21
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10581.64	4063.81	10581.64	1057.13	10581.64
25.	West Bengal	3891.19	1954.97	2891.19	1828.88	3891.19
26.	A & N Islands	21.11	8.97	21.11	14.35	21.11
27.	D & N Haveli	11.46	0.00	11.46	6.87	11.46
28.	Daman & Diu	6.76	NR	6.76	3.38	6.76
29.	Lakshadweep	10.58***	NR	10.58	5.29	10.58
30.	Pondicherry	20.66	0.00	20.66	10.32	20.66
Total		55907.36	22145.78	55907.36	17316.41	55907.36

* Includes Rs. 707.14 lakhs (2/3rd of MWS fund) permitted to be utilised for IAY.

** Permitted to be utilised for IAY

*** Permitted to be utilised for Gen. JRY.

NR - Not Reported.

Statement - V

**Quantum of Total funds Allocated (Central+State) under IRDP during 1995-96 to 1997-98
& Unspent funds as on 1.4.96 & 1.4.97**

(Rs. In Lakhs)

State/UTs	1995-96 Total allocation	1996-97		1997-98	
		Unspent funds as on 1.4.96	Total Allocation	Unspent* funds as on 1.4.97	Total allocation
Andhra Pradesh	8336.42	1104.85	8836.42	1580.59	8612.23
Arunachal Pradesh	623.44	246.01	623.44	287.12	644.07
Assam	2743.50	718.40	2743.50	522.69 (Feb.97)	2834.27
Bihar	16218.24	13860.23	16218.24	11665.92	16754.81
Goa	141.88	91.60	141.88	100.00	146.57
Gujarat	3059.22	-12.196	3059.22	175.94	3160.43
Haryana	735.34	230.91	735.34	1.07	759.67
Himachal Pradesh	239.78	NR	239.78	-222.75	247.71
J & K	999.10	404.06	999.10	482.36	1032.15
Karnataka	5594.90	3513.87	5594.90	1509.57	5780.01
Kerala	2036.14	379.05	2036.14	697.26	2103.50
Madhya Pradesh	10565.38	3249.43	10565.38	656.67	10914.93
Maharashtra	9887.74	2261.03	9087.74	1333.81	9388.40
Manipur	449.60	100.28	449.60	192.45	464.47
Meghalaya	477.56	89.24	477.56	167.67	493.36
Mizoram	201.82	11.33	201.82	8.12	208.50
Nagaland	335.70	44.92	335.70	66.56 (Dec. 96)	346.81
Orissa	6763.84	1329.35	6763.84	612.76	6987.62
Punjab	521.52	22.36	521.52	80.68	538.77
Rajasthan	4388.00	1719.80	4388.00	1638.14	4533.18
Sikkim	55.94	19.13	55.94	0.46	57.79
Tamil Nadu	7537.14	4437.29	7537.14	3509.54	7786.50
Tripura	641.52	15.74	641.42	85.15	662.64
Uttar Pradesh	20316.50	6069.56	20316.50	8459.36	20988.66
West Bengal	7472.20	7044.60	7472.20	6089.89	7719.41
A& N Islands	70.94	12.98	70.94	35.82	73.29
D&N Haveli	14.99	1.47	14.99	5.75	15.49
Daman & Diu	27.97	9.83	27.97	14.25 (Dec.96)	28.90
Lakshadweep	6.99	0.18	6.99	3.65	7.22
Pondicherry	57.95	15.29	57.95	11.45	59.87
All India	109721.16	46989.83	109721.16	39771.83	113351.23

N.R. - Not Reported.

* - Unspent balance as on 1.4.97 is total funds available.

- Total utilisation during 1996-97 as most of the States have not reported.

Statement - VI

Quantum of Total funds Allocated (Central+State) under ARWSP during 1995-96, 1996-97 & 1997-98 and Unspent funds as on 1.4.96 & 1.4.97.

S.No.	State	Allocation under ARWSP			Unspent balance under	
		1995-96	1996-97	ARWSP as on 1997-98	1.4.96	1.4.97
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6027.00	6618.00	7964.00	1432.26	70.90
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1092.00	1200.00	1444.00	529.45	58.81
3.	Assam	1845.00	2026.00	2438.00	704.93	1612.63
4.	Bihar	7099.00	7795.00	9380.00	3297.89	6277.03**
5.	Goa	170.00	189.00	227.00	170.00	353.25
6.	Gujarat	3850.00	4197.00	4987.00	1297.76	1228.68
7.	Haryana	2312.00	2441.00	2736.00	653.00	556.72
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1215.00	1331.00	1596.00	120.21	68.45
9.	J & K	3362.00	3658.00	4431.00	533.01	1529.48
10.	Karnataka	5544.00	6087.00	7325.00	1020.67	972.15
11.	Kerala	2819.00	3095.00	3724.00	1247.76	1272.94
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6673.00	7327.00	8817.00	941.35	545.39
13.	Maharashtra	8023.00	8810.00	10602.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Manipur	401.00	440.00	529.00	169.48	10.71
15.	Meghalaya	430.00	472.00	568.00	40.91	292.46
16.	Mizoram	307.00	337.00	406.00	32.71	96.06
17.	Nagaland	422.00	422.00	422.00	664.27	658.75
18.	Orissa	3159.00	3468.00	4173.00	182.57	1043.94
19.	Punjab	1006.00	1105.00	1330.00	259.72	317.84
20.	Rajasthan	9739.00	10387.00	11863.00	313.22	88.14
21.	Sikkim	372.00	372.00	372.00	0.89	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	4779.00	5247.00	6314.00	1713.43	3960.30
23.	Tripura	380.00	418.00	503.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11182.00	12278.00	14775.00	390.27	3684.94**
25.	West Bengal	4317.00	4740.00	5704.00	190.97	1110.55
Total		86525.00	94490.00	112630.00	15814.73	25811.12

* Reported upto 1/97

** Reported upto 2/97

Statement - VII

Quantum of Total funds Allocated (Central + State) under CRSP during 1995-96, 1996-97 & 1997-98 and Unspent funds as on 1.4.96 & 1.4.97.

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Allocation under CRSP			Unspent balance under CRSP as on	
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1.4.96	1.4.97
Andhra Pradesh	331.00	343.00	642.12	564.22	131.00
Arunachal Pradesh	8.00	8.00	14.98	16.50	11.38
Assam	126.00	130.00	243.37	145.14	156.32
Bihar	589.00	603.00	1128.85	424.78	441.17
Goa	5.00	5.00	9.36	22.50	25.00
Gujarat	149.00	155.00	290.17	56.91	3.44
Haryana	54.00	56.00	104.84	0.00	30.06
Himachal Pradesh	52.00	54.00	101.09	49.16	0.00
J & K	73.00	75.00	140.40	9.13	46.63
Karnataka	269.00	278.00	520.35	189.77	0.00
Kerala	207.00	214.00	400.62	61.87	194.75
Madhya Pradesh	388.00	401.00	750.69	44.22	214.73
Maharashtra	424.00	439.00	821.83	67.52	844.00
Manipur	16.00	16.00	29.95	5.48	19.65
Meghalaya	16.00	17.00	31.82	4.06	0.28
Mizoram	5.00	5.00	9.36	1.28	3.78
Nagaland	10.00	10.00	18.72	21.00	21.00
Orissa	233.00	241.00	451.17	224.88	275.47
Punjab	55.00	57.00	106.71	128.78	143.32
Rajasthan	200.00	207.00	387.52	234.08	302.68
Sikkim	5.00	5.00	9.36	8.48	13.48
Tamil Nadu	351.00	363.00	679.56	304.60	342.35
Tripura	25.00	26.00	48.67	27.30	40.30
Uttar Pradesh	824.00	852.00	1594.99	505.94	251.34
West Bengal	319.00	325.00	6068.42	12.57	115.02
Total	4734.00	4885.00	9145.00	3130.17	3627.15

Statement - VIII

*Quantum of Total Allocation (Central + State) under DPAP during 1995-96 to 1997-98
& Unspent funds as on 1.4.96 and 1.4.97.*

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	1995-96 Total allocation	1996-97		1997-98	
		Unspent funds as on 1.4.96	Total Allocation	Unspent funds as on 1.4.97	Total* Allocation
Drought Prone Areas Programme (DRAP) 50 : 50					
Andhra Pradesh	2635.00	934.29	2755.00	3276.80	
Bihar	2245.00	1774.56	2245.00	1138.36	
Gujarat	1345.00	535.76	1545.00	1408.37	
Himachal Pradesh	165.00	78.06	165.00	144.46	
J & K	495.00	133.24	495.00	NR	
Karnataka	2265.00	1254.93	2290.00	1437.76	
Madhya Pradesh	3510.00	2493.84	3752.00	3723.95	
Maharashtra	4295.00	2196.97	4295.00	3500.04	
Orissa	1045.00	663.94	1045.00	941.19	
Rajasthan	865.00	627.41	871.00	526.82	
Tamil Nadu	1485.00	451.58	1485.00	NR	
Uttar Pradesh	1935.00	1191.60	2185.00	2092.83	
West Bengal	640.00	445.68	640.00	N.R	
Haryana (Ong)	0.00	08.87	0.00	0.98	
Total	22975.00	12790.73	23768.00	18191.56	23000.00

NR - Not Reported.

* State-wise allocation is yet to determine.

Statement - IX

*Quantum of Total funds allocated (Central + State) under DDP during 1995-96 to 1997-98
& Unspent funds as on 1.4.96 and 1.4.97.*

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	1995-96 Total allocation	1996-97		1997-98	
		Unspent funds as on 1.4.96	Total allocation	Unspent funds as on 1.4.97	Total* allocation
1	2	3	4	5	6
Desert Development Programme (DDP)					
Hot Non Sandy Arid Areas (75 : 25)					
Andhra Pradesh	540.00	2.71	540.00	195.74	
Gujarat	883.00	304.30	883.00	NR	
Haryana	180.00	56.13	180.00	240.93	
Karnataka	732.00	321.91	732.00	561.96	
Sub- Total	2335.00	685.05	2335.00	998.63	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Not Sandy Arid Areas (110%)					
Gujarat	766.00	282.59	931.00	NR	
Haryana	469.00	214.48	469.00	477.85	
Rajasthan	5258.00	1489.43	5258.00	960.31	
Sub-Total	6493.00	1986.50	6658.00	1438.16	0.00
Cold Arid Areas (100%)					
J & K	600.00	758.20	1000.00	NR	
Himachal Pradesh	500.00	291.00	500.00	215.61	
Sub Total	1100.00	1049.20	1500.00	215.61	0.00
Grand Total	9923.00	3720.75	10493.00	2652.40	7000.00

* State-wise allocation is yet to determine.

NR - Not Reported.

Statement X

*Quantum of Total funds released under NSAP during 1995-96 to 1997-98
& unspent funds as on 1.4.96 and 1.4.97.*

(Rs. in lakh)

State/UT	1995-96 Total Release	1996-97		1997-98	
		Unspent funds as on 1.4.96	Total Release	Unspent funds as on 1.4.97*	Total Release
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	4675.42	1246.45	7758.46		3892.94
Arunachal Pradesh	8.33	08.37	4.11		0.83
Assam	471.83	304.75	697.94	114.44	276.46
Bihar	3772.08	1853.60	5537.78	35.26	2634.25
Gujarat	781.77	519.94	839.57	11.48	48.48
Goa	12.06	10.28	20.21	12.03	8.30
Haryana	291.19	73.10	450.14	25.03	231.29
Himachal Pradesh	89.93	57.61	105.12		84.75
J & K	205.96	78.32	323.98		121.21
Karnataka	1491.93	356.98	3893.78	50.05	1485.02
Kerala	510.00	352.70	1336.94	150.37	303.86
Madhya Pradesh	4018.31	3271.91	6298.17	547.92	3815.80
Maharashtra	2348.91	2332.91	176.45	82.64	560.26
Manipur	17.14	1.60	83.80		2.29
Meghalaya	16.07	6.66	69.05	2.94	21.24
Mizoram	7.14	0.13	32.64		1.72

1	2	3	4	5	6
Nagaland	22.42	9.57	71.51		21.71
Orissa	1534.85	1152.61	3237.99	346.82	1660.92
Punjab	265.09	126.73	491.08		233.74
Rajasthan	1021.63	997.65	1007.76		52.87
Sikkim	6.46	6.46	15.09		3.50
Tamil Nadu	3873.41	1864.75	4502.33		2813.28
Tripura	52.21	31.54	130.01		0.43
Uttar Pradesh	10653.03	3592.75	13657.00	102.05	5090.27
West Bengal	1781.89	1479.22	3900.21		1524.46
A & N Islands	4.07	4.06	0.13		0.00
Chandigarh	6.88	3.59	11.20		0.00
D & N Haveli	2.80	2.10	8.16		3.08
Daman & Diu	2.18	0.40	4.11	1.04	1.91
NCT Delhi	93.10	0.00	160.37		88.92
Lakshadweep	2.14	2.14	3.30		0.47
Pondicherry	7.61	7.62	0.25		8.50
Total	38047.84	19756.50	54828.64	1482.07	25007.76

* Information has been received from only a few districts from the concerned States/UTs.

[Translation]

Passenger Amenity Special Monitoring Cell

*225. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Passenger Amenity Special Monitoring Cells have been set up at divisional or regional railway headquarters;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any plan has been chalked out by the Government for setting up of such cells; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Cells have been set up at nine Zonal Railways and 59 divisional headquarters. Arrangements are also being made for setting up these Cells in newly set up zones/divisions.

Irregularities Prevailing in Railways

*226. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA :
SHRI RAMMURTI SINGH VERMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some players and personnel of railways

have recently sent detailed facts of corruptions and irregularities prevailing in the sports department;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) One complaint each has been received by Northern Railway and Chittaranjan Locomotive Works alleging irregularities in appointment/s against sports quota on the basis of false/forged certificates. The investigation is in progress in both the cases. An anonymous complaint alleging acceptance of illegal gratification in the appointment of one sports person was also received in the Railway Ministry recently and on investigation no irregularity was noticed.

[English]

Opening of More Zones and Divisions

*227. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether three new zonal railways, comprising

relatively small territories, would perform only a part of the functions currently performed by their bigger sisters from May 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their territorial jurisdiction;

(c) whether the railways intend to create another three units from July 15, 1997;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith their territorial jurisdiction;

(e) whether the Government are going ahead with the creation of new zones and divisions;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith their territorial jurisdiction;

(g) the estimated funds required for creating the infrastructure for a new zonal and divisional railways; and

(h) the time by which these railway zones and divisions are likely to start functioning and the extent to which these are helpful?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) For phased setting up of the new Zones with least disruption in working some specific activities of existing Khurda Road Division of South-Eastern Railway, Sonepur & Samastipur Divisions of North-Eastern Railway and Bangalore & Mysore Divisions of Southern Railway, which would form part of the new Zone, have been taken over by East-Coast Zone/Bhubaneswar, East-Central Zone/Hajipur and South-Western Zone/Bangalore respectively from 15.5.97.

(c) and (d) Such specific activities of existing Allahabad Division of Northern Railway, Jaipur Division of Western Railway and Jabalpur Division of Central Railway have been taken over by North-Central Zone/Allahabad, North-Western Zone/Jaipur and West-Central Zone/Jabalpur respectively from 15.7.97.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The detailed territorial jurisdiction of the Zones and Divisions has not been finalised.

(g) The cost of setting up of new six zones had been estimated at Rs. 250 cr. and for the eight new Divisions as Rs. 104 cr. (excluding cost of land).

(h) The reorganisation is expected to be completed in approx sixty months.

The formation of the new Zones is expected to provide relief to the heavily worked zones, improve accessibility and enable the administration to have an effective control over the compact zones leading to better service and customer satisfaction.

Foreign Contracts for Non-conventional Energy Sources

*228. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed any contracts with foreign countries for production, distribution technical know-how in the field of non-conventional energy sources during the last three years;

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

(c) the extent to which the domestic production of power by tapping non-conventional energy sources has been increased during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) The details of the agreements and Memoranda of understanding signed by the Government with foreign countries and multilateral organisations, for the development of non-conventional energy sources in the country during the last three years are given in the attached statement.

(c) A total of 913 MW of power generation capacity has been added by tapping non-conventional energy sources during the last three years (1994-95, 95-96 and 96-97) compared to 269 MW installed till 31.3.1994.

Statement

List of agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) signed during last three years

Title of Agreements/MOU		Date of Signature
1	2	3
A. Bilateral		
1. Philippines	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES), Republic of India and the Department of Energy, Republic of Philippines, for Enhanced Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy.	26.2.1996
2. Russian Federation	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES), Republic of India and the Ministry of Fuel & Energy of Russian Federation for Enhanced Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy.	4.3.1996

1	2	3
3. USA		
(i)	Memorandum of Understanding between the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, US Department of Energy, USA, and the Solar Energy Centre, MNES, India, for close cooperation in the field of testing of Solar Thermal and Photovoltaics products, exchange of non-proprietary scientific information, solar radiation data collection, analysis and dissemination, establishment of links between renewable energy information networks in both India and USA etc.	20.12.1994
(ii)	Agreement between US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) for providing a total assistance of US\$ 19 million with a component of US\$ 12 million for power generation using alternate biomass during off-season, in sugar industry, under Green House Gases Pollution Prevention Project.	10.4.95
4. Denmark		
(i)	Agreement with Danish Export Finance Corporation (DEFC) to provide tied aid credit of US\$ 15 million as co-financing for wind energy component of "India: renewable Resources Development Project".	7.9.1995
(ii)	Exchange of letters between Government of India and Government of Denmark for a technical assistance of DKK 9,77,300/- to IREDA under Danish assistance for Wind Energy Sector.	6.12.1996
(iii)	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and Government of Denmark for technical & financial support for establishment of a Wind Turbine Test Station in Tamil Nadu.	3.6.1997
B. Multilateral		
1. UNESCO		
	An International System for Energy Expertise and Knowledge (ISEEK) implementation agreement between UNESCO and Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for information exchange.	14.2.1996

1	2	3
2.	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	
	Agreement between ADB and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency for providing credit of US\$ million for implementation of Renewable Energy Development Project By IREDA.	24.4.1997

Shortage of Cables

*229. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to acute shortage of cables and other equipments the expansion work of Telephone Exchanges has been stagnated in Kerala and Gujarat;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) No Sir. There is no stagnation of expansion work of Telephone Exchanges. During 1996-97, 172775 new telephone connections were provided in Kerala and 163053 were provided in Gujarat. It is proposed to provide 2.62 lakh new telephone connections in Kerala and 2.08 lakh in Gujarat during 1997-98. Every effort will be made to achieve the targets for the year 1997-98.

Tatkal Phone Service

*230. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the performance progress of "Tatkal" phone scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the new phone connections provided in rural/urban areas under the scheme;

(c) the details of waiting lists for telephone in major towns of Maharashtra as on June 1997;

(d) the action taken/proposed to provide new-connections during the current year;

(e) whether the costly telephone equipments are lying idle/not functioning in various districts of Maharashtra; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to make them functional?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The scheme is popular mostly in urban areas and is useful particularly where maturity of OYT category is not current.

(b) Under Tatkal Scheme, a person who wants telephone connection immediately can avail so under this scheme on deposit of Rs. 30,000/- per connection. The connection is provided within two weeks. Connection is registered on deposit of General Category registration charges and balance amount is collected on only if connection is found feasible to be provided within two weeks.

The details of the connection provided under this scheme are given in Statement-I.

(c) The details of waiting list in major districts of Maharashtra is given in Statement-II.

(d) Sir, the Maharashtra Telecom. Circle and Mumbai MTNL has planned to provide approx. 4.5 lakhs connection during the year 1997-98.

(e) Sir, no costly telephone equipments are lying idle or non-functional. Only Technologically Obsolete Equipments which have been scrapped are under the process of disposal.

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

Statement - I

State/Circle-wise details of the Telephone connections provided under Tatkal scheme upto 30th June, 1997

S.No.	State/Circle	Urban	Rural
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	010	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	418	01
3.	Assam	159	—
4.	Bihar	044	—
5.	Gujarat	042	01
6.	Haryana	039	02
7.	Himachal Pradesh	002	—
8.	Karnataka	5325	242
9.	Maharashtra	2625	—
10.	North East	64	03
11.	Orissa	57	—
12.	Punjab	1306	30
13.	Rajasthan	127	—
		(During 96-97)	

1	2	3	4
14.	MTNL, Mumbai (April, 95 upto June, 97)	907	—
15.	Chennai Telephones	4500	—
16.	MTNL, Delhi (Since May, 98)	10324	—
17.	J & K	81	—

Statement - II

Details of waiting list of Telephone in major towns of Maharashtra as on 30.06.97

Stations	Waiting list as on 30.06.97
Mumbai (MTNL)	30792
Ahmednagar	13232
Akola	886
Amaravati	995
Aurangabad	6999
Beed	511
Bhandara	448
Buldhana	417
Chandrapur	1995
Dhule	10376
Gadchiroli	225
Goa	13988
Jalgaon	10871
Jalna	957
Kalyan	60720
Kolhapur	5304
Latur	891
Nagpur	9875
Nanded	3057
Nasik	21671
Osmanabad	810
Parbhani	955
Pune	38639
Raigad	855
Ratnagiri	502
Sangli	NIL
Satara	430
Sindhudurg	263
Solapur	930
Wardha	891
Yeotmal	890
Total	239375

[Translation]

Power Generation by Naphtha based Project

*231. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a target of 8000 M.W. power generation has been fixed for naphtha based projects;

(b) if so, whether the other developed and developing countries of the world are promoting naphtha based power projects in less number;

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have worked out the cost of power generated through the naphtha based projects; and

(e) if so, the extent to which it is more than the cost of power generated through thermal, hydel and atomic power projects and the average cost estimated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) A limited capacity of 12,000 MW based on liquid fuel including naphtha has been fixed for the country after detailed consultation with Planning Commission, CEA and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Internationally naphtha is not a preferred fuel for power plants; in India naphtha based plants are proposed to be set as a one time measure to meet the deficit in the power generation capacity in the short run.

(d) and (e) The tariff for naphtha based power projects will vary depending upon the location, cost of fuel, mode of operation ambient temperature, among other factors. However, the higher fuel cost is somewhat compensated by the higher plant efficiency compared to coal based plants and the relatively lower capital costs. Naphtha based plants will also have the advantage of a shorter gestation period. It is difficult to compare naphtha based tariffs with the tariffs applicable for hydel and atomic power plants as the tariff schedule would depend on the location, cost of fuel, gestation period of the project among other factors.

Purchase of Power from Pakistan

*232. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is going to purchase 3000 M.W. of power from Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether any agreement to this effect has been signed during the visit of Indian team of experts;

(c) whether any SAARC power grid is being set up; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) A proposal for the sale of power from Pakistan to India was received from Indian Embassy, Washington. The proposal is under preliminary stage of assessment and scrutiny. A team of experts have to identify the points for transfer of power, voltage level mode of interconnection and the quantum of power to be transferred. Thereafter a feasibility study would be commissioned to examine the technical financial and economic viability of the investments required to establish the transmission link.

(b) No Indian team of experts has visited Pakistan.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

[English]

Demand for Wagons

*233. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Railways are facing slack demand for wagons even during the peak months of February-March, 1997;

(b) if so, the name of worst sufferer railway zone;

(c) the extent to which their target of carrying freight fell short between April, 1996 to January, 1997;

(d) the main reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the tonnage target set for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) South Eastern Railway.

(c) On South Eastern Railway freight loading target between April '96 to January '97 was 135.90 million tonnes. Against this actual loading during this period was 133.54 million tonnes resulting in a shortfall of -2.36 million tonnes.

(d) Loading on South Eastern Railway was mainly less because of less offer of raw-materials to and finished products from steel plants and less offer of iron-ore traffic for export.

(e) To achieve the target for 1997-98, close liaison with users and concerned Ministries is being maintained for maximum movement of traffic by rail. Close monitoring is being done right from Field level to Railway Board level for smooth and faster movement of rail traffic.

Harnessing of Wind and Solar Energy

*234. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether wind and solar energy are projected to be harnessed with a view to substantially diversifying and conserving the conventional energy resources;

(b) the extent to which wind and solar-power have been harnessed to generate electricity so far and the target fixed in this regard for the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether Asia's largest solar plant project to be set up at Kalyanpur (near Aligarh) has flopped and if so, in what circumstances and at what stage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

(b) Significant progress has been made towards harnessing of wind and solar energy. A wind power capacity of about 900 MW and solar photovoltaic projects aggregating to 28 MW capacity were installed up to 31.3.97, in different parts of the country. The solar photovoltaic capacity primarily comprises stand-alone systems for lighting, pumping, telecommunication etc. and over 700 MW of grid-connected solar projects.

The following targets for wind and solar energy systems have been proposed for the 9th Five Year Plan :

(i) Wind Power	2000 MW
(ii) Solar Photovoltaic Systems (stand-alone)	100 MW
(iii) Solar Power Projects (grid-connected)	150 MW

(c) No, Sir. The 100 KW Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant is providing domestic lighting to 475 households, electricity for 65 street lights and 15 irrigation pumpsets in Kalyanpur village. Barring a few problems, the 75 KW stand-alone portion of the Plant has by and large been functioning satisfactorily. The 25 KW grid-connected portion is under trials. Very useful experience has been gained from this plant in manufacture. Installation and operation of high voltage solar photovoltaic systems.

Smuggling of Genetic Resources from India

*235. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases of large scale smuggling of India's genetic resources and then patenting them abroad have come to the notice of the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No complaint has been received; genetic resources in the public domain are not patentable.

(b) A national legislation to regulate access to genetic materials is under formulation.

[Translation]

Dak Adalats

*236. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to organise 'Dak Adalats' in the country;

(b) if so, the details of subjects which are proposed to be handled by these adalats; and

(c) the time by which these 'Adalats' are likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Salient Features of 'Dak Adalats' Scheme

In order to have greater interface with the public including postal pensioners and to settle public complaints relating to the postal services efficiently, the Department of Post, *inter-alia* has been taking various steps from time to time to strengthen the grievance machinery at different levels i.e. at Headquarters, Circle, Regional and Divisional levels. One of the important initiatives taken by the Department in this direction was the introduction of 'Dak Adalats' at all the circle Headquarters in December, 1990. The complaints handled by these 'Dak Adalats' relate to Counter services, Savings Banks, Money Orders, Parcels, Value Payable, Postal Life Insurance, Speed Post and

Foreign Mail Articles and Pension/Terminal benefits to postal pensioners.

2. The details/modalities of formation of these 'Dak Adalats' are as under :-

Composition

The Adalat comprises of three members - Head of the Circle (Chairman), Internal Financial Adviser and Director Postal Services. The Regional Postmaster General can also be called to assist the Chief Postmaster General.

Scope

The types of complaints and disputes which are taken up by these Adalats cover all types of problems relating to Postal Services, especially, mails, speed post, parcels, counter service, Savings Bank, Money Orders, embezzlements and also the pension cases of Postal Employees.

Jurisdiction, Venue & Frequency

The Adalats are held once in each quarter at the Head-quarter of the circle with a provision to hold it in any other place also, in the respective Postal Circle. On 29.10.91 the scheme was extended to the Divisional level as well. The Senior Superintendent of Post Offices/Superintendent of Post Offices chairs the Divisional Adalat. A notice of 4 to 6 weeks is given for holding of an Adalat. Wide publicity is also given for holding such Adalat through the press, TV/ AIR so that any concerned person having a grievance can approach the Dak Adalat for redressal.

[English]

Commercialisation of Unutilised Railway Property

*237. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal under consideration of commercial utilization of Railway properties and lands;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have worked out an identified surplus railway land;

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

(e) whether the Government have consulted or propose to consult the State Governments on the subject; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Railways have proposed commercial utilisation of airspace over railway structures/yards for raising resources. One such project is at Mumbai (Bandra). However, a decision on this issue, has been deferred by the Government of India.

(c) No, Sir. Railways do not have surplus land.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. For Pilot project at Bandra concerned State Government i.e. State Government of Maharashtra has been consulted. The surplus funds generated were proposed to be equally utilised for taking up Railway works in city of Mumbai, State of Maharashtra and other parts of the country.

[Translation]

Theft in Gold Mines

*238. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Gold worth crores of rupees is being stolen from Gold Mines every year;

(b) if so, the details and the market value thereof;

(c) the quantity of gold stolen from mines during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the theft of Gold from Gold Mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) Attention of the Government has been drawn from time to time to the alleged theft of gold from the gold mines of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), a public sector undertaking under Ministry of Mines. According to the available information, stray cases of theft of gold bearing quartz have been reported from the mines of BGML. These are isolated cases and the quantity and value of gold involved are not significant. Hutti Gold Mines Limited (HGML), a public sector undertaking of the Government of Karnataka, have reported that no theft of gold has occurred in the Hutti gold mines.

To strengthen the security arrangements of BGML, the following steps have been taken :-

(i) Physical search of the employees working in the mines and mills is being conducted regularly. Surprise checks are also being conducted.

(ii) Communication and other security equipments have been strengthened. The Company has installed power fencing around vulnerable areas. Also closed Circuit Televisions (CCTVs) with monitoring and recording capacity for 24 hours duration have been installed in the smelting Room.

Doubling of Rail Lines

*239. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for doubling of rail lines in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the target has been achieved during the above period;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the funds earmarked to achieve the said target and the expenditure incurred thereon alongwith year-wise details?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) 1100 Kms.

(b) 942.2 kms. of doublings were completed in the 8th plan.

(c) There are a large number of doubling projects going on all over the country on which expenditure is to be incurred, besides the expenditure to be incurred on the targetted works. In addition there has been shortfall in meeting the target set for doublings due to non-removal of encroachments contractual delays and in a few cases delays in land acquisition resulting into diversion of funds to other ongoing doubling works.

(d) (Rs. in Crores)

Year	Budget Allocation	Revised Estimates	Final Modification	Actual Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5
1992-93	130.00	170.10	202.07	213.48

1	2	3	4	5
1993-94	220.00	207.25	224.94	232.00
1994-95	150.00	160.00	207.32	206.00
1995-96	265.00	245.82	227.46	218.41
1996-97	190.00	201.63	241.86	244.00 (Prov.)
	955.00	985.00	1103.65	1113.89

[English]

Electrification under Urjagram Programme

*240. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages electrified under 'Urjagram Programme' since 1992, State-wise;

(b) the amount spent by the Government thereon, State-wise;

(c) the quantum of energy produced through these programmes; and

(d) the target fixed for the Ninth Plan for electrification of villages under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (d) The Urjagram Programme aims at harnessing locally available renewable energy resources such as Solar, Wind, Biomass, etc. for meeting various energy needs of a selected villages. 21 new Urjagram projects have been sanctioned since 1992-93 as per details, including State-wise break-up and amounts spent thereon, given in the Statement. A target of 500 Urjagram projects at the rate of 100 per year has been proposed for the Ninth Plan.

Statement

State-wise Urjagram Projects sanctioned since 1992-93 and amounts spent thereon under Urjagram Budget Head

S. No.	Name of State	No. of Urjagram Projects sanctioned (since 1992-93)	Name of villages sanctioned	Funds Released under Urjagram (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Haryana	1	(i) Rahuka	60,000
2.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	(i) Mandiran (ii) Jandreri	55,000 1,00,000
3.	Kerala	2	(i) Chithalvetty (ii) Thenmala	50,000 50,000

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Madhya Pradesh	2	(i) Bori (ii) Singpur (Tal)	30,000 35,000
5.	Orissa	4	(i) Kadalipalli (ii) Saba (iii) Samartha (iv) Jamudiha	55,000 55,000 55,000 70,000
6.	Punjab	3	(i) Sangatpura (ii) Dhanansu (iii) Palahi	1,00,000 1,00,000 1,10,000
7.	Uttar Pradesh	4	(i) Karsan (ii) Jagmaljoti (iii) Chandesuwa (iv) Malahpurwa	50,000 35,000 45,000 40,000
8.	West Bengal	3	(i) Bondanga (ii) Baidyapur-Rathtala (iii) Bongopalpur	45,000 1,00,000 45,000

Increase in Steel Prices

2420. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :
SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons of increase in steel prices and its impact on production and demand of steel;

(b) whether the Government propose to decrease the prices of products of SAIL, ESSAR, TISCO and other private steel companies; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINSTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The main producers of Steel namely, SAIL, TISCO and RINL have had to increase the prices of some of their steel products due to various reasons including increase in the prices of petroleum products, railway freight, power supplied by State Electricity Boards, and increase in the price of coal etc. Demand for steel being a derived demand, is dependent on the growth of the economy in general and growth of industrial production and infrastructure sector in particular. Both demand and production of steel and driven by market forces after the liberalisation of the steel sector.

(b) After deregulation of pricing and distribution of iron and steel w.e.f. 16.1.92, Government has no role to play in pricing of steel produced by main producers. Secondary producers were free to fix their own prices even prior to this date.

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

Substitution of 'Mumbai' for 'Bombay'

2421. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that in the maps published by the Surveyor General of India, the word "Bombay" has still been used instead of "Mumbai" in the English version; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to rectify the error?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The Govt. is aware that the maps published before the formal approval of change of name by the Govt. from 'Bombay' to 'Mumbai' retain the name 'Bombay'. However, all maps published by Survey of India after the approval of change in name by the Govt. indicate the town as 'Mumbai'.

(b) Does not arise.

J.R.Y. in Andhra Pradesh

2422. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has brought structural changes in the implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the scheme has been successfully implemented in the State and its result likely to be achieved after revamping?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU): (a) No, Sir. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) is being implemented as per the JRY Manual as modified and amended from time to time throughout the country including Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Encroachment of Land at Hubli Railway Station

2423. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any unauthorised encroachment within and around the premises of railway station at Hubli;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the sheds at above railway station are being used by others for the purposes other than that of railway department;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS

PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are some encroachments by hutment dwellers around the Railway Station Premises at Hubli including one medical shop. Action for removal of encroachments is taken under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Funds to Maharashtra under Poverty Alleviation Programmes

2424. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of funds allocated under various anti-poverty programmes to Maharashtra during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount remained unutilised as on date; and

(c) the employment generated in the State during the above period till date?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The quantum of total (Central + State) allocation, amount utilised and employment generated in the State of Maharashtra under major anti-poverty programmes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during last three years are as follows:

Programme	(Rs. in Crores)			Un-utilised balance as on			(In lakhs mandays)		
	Total Allocation						Employment Generated		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1.4.94	1.4.95	1.4.96	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
J.R.Y	397.60	416.59	189.38*	143.26	124.11	17.70	1100.73	1014.47	455.08
E.A.S.*	90.28*	143.25*	84.12*	28.76	42.87	83.16	233.89	293.23	309.22
I.R.D.P.	90.96	90.88	90.88	33.83	22.85	22.61	1.97	1.82	1.61
							(Lakhs families assisted)		

* EAS is a demand driven Scheme and as such no allocation is made. These figures indicate total (Central + State) funds released.

Foreign Loan to NPCL

2425. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Nagarjun Power Corporation Ltd. has decided to raise 60% of the cost through foreign loans;

(b) if so, the total power to be achieved from this project;

(c) the names of the countries who have agreed to provide loans to this project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) Nagarjuna Power Corporation Limited proposes to set up a 1000 MW coal fired thermal power plant near Mangalore in Karnataka. For this project, although the company has proposed to take recourse to foreign loans, the financial package has not yet been firmed up.

(d) The completion of the project is conditional to the tying up of the required inputs/linkages obtaining necessary clearances and achieving financial closure.

*[Translation]***Bodhghat Hydel Power Project in MP**

2426. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the present position in regard to bodhghat Hydel Power Project in Batar district of Madhya Pradesh and whether the Union Government are reconsidering over giving clearance to this project;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board has already planted trees in the area which is equal to or in excess to the forest area likely to be submerged as a result of this project; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not launching the Bodhghat Power Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The construction activities on the project have been stopped since 1986. The total forest land required for the project is 5904 Hectares. At the instance of the Ministry of Environment & Forest (MOEF) Government of India. Four study reports were commissioned to assess the possible loss of forest area due to construction of the project impact on flora/fauna and identification of endangered species. The reports have been submitted to the MOEF. On the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee the MOEF has taken a decision not to allow the diversion of forest land for the construction of the project.

Afforestation work on 8419 Hectares of land had been completed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh by 1990. The plantation raised has been transferred to the Forest Department by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for maintenance.

*[English]***Stoppage of Rajdhani Express**

2427. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to have stoppage for Rajdhani Express presently running between Delhi and Trivandrum at Kasaragod, Payyanur, Kannur railway stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Halting of Trains**

2428. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any norms have been laid to station trains on various platforms at Delhi, New Delhi, Hazarat Nizamudding railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proper arrangements are made to station passenger trains in equal number at various platforms on the aforesaid stations while preparing the berthing seats;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. When preparing berthing sheet, the Express & Passenger trains are distributed on platforms at Delhi, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin stations keeping in view the availability of platform, duration of halt of train, destination of train, operational factors etc. The actual berthing of platforms however gets changed some-times due to late running, detention outside station and other operational exigencies at the stations.

*[English]***On-going Projects under Southern Railway**

2429. SHRI. A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the status of work-in-progress viz., laying of New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Electrification under Southern Railway;

(b) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed;

(c) whether any other areas under Southern Railway have been identified for the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Security of Telephone Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh

2430. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Naxalites blasted the Telecom building in Kanagal Mandal Headquarters in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh on June 20, 1997;

(b) if so, the total losses suffered as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The exchange was blasted at 0.1.00 hrs on 21.6.1997.

(b) The total loss is approximately Rs. 7,80,000/- (Rs. seven lakhs eighty thousand)

(c) The matter regarding security of telecom installations has already been taken up with State Government authorities.

Ispat International

2431. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ispat International, a Non-Resident Indian owned concern has entered into an agreement to acquire two major German steel rod firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to affect the position of India in the international steel market?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

Details of Officers deputed abroad during last 3 years (April 1994 to July 1997)

Sl. No.	Name, Designation & Date of Joining, MNES	Purpose	Country	Date	Esti. Expenditure incurred in lakh (Rs.)	Remark
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. SECRETARY						
1.	Shri L.M. Menezes, Secretary	(i) For attending Renewable Energy Asia Pacific 1994 at Kualalampur.	Malaysia	16-17 May, 1994	0.53	

[Translation]

Foreign Tours by Officers

2432. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of officials in the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources who went on foreign tour during the last three years alongwith the purpose of their visit;

(b) the expenditure incurred on each of their foreign tour and hospitality;

(c) the extent to which the proposed objectives were achieved as a result thereof;

(d) the expenditure incurred on Research and Development vis-a-vis the expenditure incurred on above foreign tours; and

(e) the achievements of foreign tours and seminars organised during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) The details of the foreign tours by the officers of Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources during last three years, alongwith the purpose of visit and estimated expenditure incurred on tours including hospitality is given in the attached statement.

(c) to (e) The deputation of officer's abroad helped in capacity building, projecting India's capability abroad, exploring the possibilities of exporting renewable energy products and services to other countries and getting external financial and technical assistance from bilateral and multilateral funding agencies for programmes/projects in the country. The seminars organised during the same period helped in creating awareness, information dissemination of the policy and programmes, obtaining suggestions for improvement in the programmes and market development for renewable energy products. As a result of these efforts, India has become one of the leading countries in the world, in renewable energy sector.

The Ministry has incurred a total expenditure of about Rs. 17.93 crores on research and development during the last 3 years as against the expenditure of about Rs. 0.54 crore incurred on foreign tours during the same period.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		(ii) For attending Regional Workshop on Integrated Energy and Environments. Planning for Sustainable Development.	Beijing, China	26-30 Sept, 1994	0.02 (Airport tax organisers telephone charges)	other Exp. by (UNDP/ ESCAP)
		(iii) For attending First World Conference on Photovoltaic Energy Conversion	Hawai, USA	2-12 Dec. 1994		Entire Exp. by organisers
2.	Shri B.R. Prabhakara Secretary	(i) For participation in Donor Conservation Meeting	Hague, Netherlands	17-20 May 1995		Exp. met by IREDA under RRDP
		(ii) For participation in the Indo-Russia ILTP Joint Commission Meeting as a member of Indian delegation.	Russia	11-15 June 1995		Exp. met by DST.
		(iii) For attending International Symposium on "Why Now Renewable Energy-Present Issues and Strategies for Implementation".	Tokyo, Japan	5-8 Oct. 1995		Exp. by Organisers
		(iv) For participating in Regional Workshop on Solar Power Generator using PV.	Manila, Philippines	19-24 Feb. 96		Exp. by ADB.
		(v) For participation in World Renewable Energy Congress & Visiting other NRSE Sides.	Denver, Colorado, USA	15-24 June 96	2.87	
3.	Shri A. Parthasarathi, Secretary	(i) For participation in First Preparatory Meeting of World Solar Programme 1996-2005.	Vienna Austria	26-29 Jan. 97	1.10	
		(ii) For participation in World Sustainable Energy Congress and Meeting with EU.	Netherlands Belgium	26-31 May, 97	1.75	
		(iii) Visiting Egyptian R&D Institution and Manufacturing Companies in area of Renewable Energy to hold policy dialogue with Egyptian Planners & Policy makers in Renewable Area.	Cairo, Egypt	23-26 June, 1997	0.94 (other bills to be received)	
B. SR. ADVISER/ADVISERS						
4.	Dr. S.K. Chopra. Sr. Adviser	(i) For participation in study meeting on Appropriate Energy Sources for Rural areas and for presenting a paper in the meeting.	Manila, Philippines	2-9 Aug, 1994		Entire Exp. by organisers
		(ii) For attending "World Energy Council 16th Congress Tokyo 95".	Tokyo, Japan	8-13 Oct. 95	1.85	
		(iii) For Participation in First meeting of World Solar Summit/World Solar Commission.	Harare, Zimbabwe	13-19 Sept. 1996	1.16	
C. ADVISERS						
5.	Dr. E.V.R. Sastry, Adviser	(i) For attending PV Conference in Marekkash Morocco		13-17 Nov. 95	0.01 (Only Air port tax. visa fee by MNES other by organisers)	
		(ii) 11nd Session of UN Committee on New & Renewable Sources of Energy and Dev.	New York, USA	12-23 Feb. 96	0.01	Expenditure borne by UN.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		(iii) For attending Indo-Russian Conference on Renewable Energy Sources.	Moscow, Russia	21-27 April, 1996	1.07	
		(iv) For attending Review of R 10 Energy Report Per review by U.N. Committee on NRSE.	New York USA	8-9 Oct. 96	Nil	Expenditure borne by UN.
		(v) For participation in (PVSEC-9) at Miyazaki. Indo-Japan Joint Workshop and Visit to Electro tech Laboratory.	Miyazaki, Nagoya. Tsukaba, Japan	10-21 Nov. 96	1.17	
		(vi) For visiting Egyptian R&D Institution and Manufacturing companies in area of Renewable Energy and to hold policy dialogues with Egyptian Planners and Policy makers in Renewable area.	Cairo, Egypt	23-26 June, 1997	0.53	Remaining Exp. by MNES bills to be received
6.	Dr. K.C. Khandelwal, Adviser	(i) Deputing for exploring possibilities of Joint Cooperative Ventures with Srilanka in the field of Wind Energy & Biomass.	Colombo, Srilanka	1-8 Aug. 1995	0.45	
		(ii) For attending FAO meeting on Animal Waste Management	Malaysia	2-6 Oct. 95	0.003	Entire Exp. borne by Organiser
		(iii) For participation in Export Group Meeting on Utilization of Agricultural Biomass as Energy Sources	Bangkok Thailand	16-19 July 1996.	0.01	Entire Exp. borne by Organiser
		(iv) For participation in Second Meeting of Indo-Srilankan Science & Technology Commission	Colombo Sri Lanka	5-7 Sept. 1996.	0.37 (Air fare)	
7.	Dr. Ajit K. Gupta, Adviser	(i) For attending World Energy Conference and travel Washington, California	USA	9-20 May, 1994		(Exp. by USAID)
		(ii) For visiting as a member of the high level Indian delegation led by MOS for discussion with Counter part and signing of MOU etc. in NRSE.	USA	17-22 Dec. 1994		(Exp. given against JS (UNP))
		(iii) Participated in the First Meeting of Working Group on Infrastructure Under Indo-German Joint Commission	Bonn. Germany	9-13 Dec. 1995	0.98	
		(iv) For participation/Discussion in Wind Power 96" Conference & Visit.	Denver, Colorado, USA	18-27 June 1996	0.01	Entire Exp. borne by REPSO
		(v) For participation in Workshop on Financial Incentive Policies for Promoting Renewable Energy Development in China.	Amsterdam Netherland	17-21 Feb 1997.	0.45	Local Hospital by WB.
		(vi) For participation in World Sustainable Energy Congress and Meeting with EU.	Netherlands, Belgium	26-31 May, 97	1.75	
D. JOINT SECRETARIES						
8.	Shri U.N. Panjiar, Jt. Secy.	(i) For visiting as a member of the high level Indian delegation led by MOS for discussion with Counter part and signing of MOU etc. in NRSE.	USA	17-22 Dec. 1994	5.57	(Entire Exp. for the delegation. Individual break is not available)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		(ii) For attending Review Meeting discussion on bilateral consultation on Energy between India, USA and related discussions.	Washington/ Sanfransisco/ Denver (USA)	21-29 June, 95	1.85	
		(iii) For participation as a member of Indian Deligation for attending ABD meeting.	Philippines	25-29 August 1996	0.75	
		(iv) For visiting Egyptian R&D Institution and Manufacturing companies in area of Renewable Energy and to hold policy dialouges with Egyptian Planners and Policy makers in Renewable area.	Cairo, Egypt	23-26 June, 1997	0.53	Entire Exp. by MNES (Only Air fare)
9.	Shri S.W. Oak, JS & FA	(i) Study tour to Austria. U.K. USA under UNDP project.	UK, USA, Austria	12.7.95 to 3.8.95	4.04	Entire Exp. by UNDP
E. DIRECTORS						
10.	Shri K.P. Sukumaran, Director	(i) For participation in Regional Wood Energy Plg. Trg. (FAO)	Malaysia	7-23 Nov. 95	0.01	Entire Exp. by FAO
11.	Dr. P. Saxena, Director	(i) For participating in the World's first Training-cum-Demonstration programme on Renewable Energy.	Germany	24-31 May, 95	0.70	Only Air Fare & 25% DA
		(ii) For attending workshop on Wind Energy	Hurglida Egypt	14-16 Jan. 96	0.054	Only 25% DA paid Air fare & Local Hospitality. DANIDA
		(iii) For attending Seminar on Triangular comp. among Developing countries and International Organisation	Hanzhou, China	1-8 April 1997	1.20	
12.	Dr. A.R. Shukla, Director	(i) For participating in Power Sector Seminars	Canada	18-26 June 1995	0.01	All Expenditure by TERI.
		(ii) For organising NRSE Exhibition on cost effective Housing Technologies	Trinidad & Tabago	14-27 April, 97	2.10	
13.	Dr. T.C. Tripathi, Director	(i) Participate in the Asia Pacific Solar Expert meeting	Islamabad Pakistan	16-23 Dec. 95	0.30	
		(ii) For participation in the Asia & Pacific Solar Summit	Penang Malaysia	15-19 Jan. 96	0.51	
		(iii) For attending Indo-Russian Conference on Renewable Energy Sources	Moscow, Russia	21-27 April 1998	0.70	
		(iv) For Participation in First meeting of World Solar Submmit/World Solar Commission.	Harare, Zimbabwe	13-19 Sept. 1996	0.96	
		(v) For attending Meeting of Govt. Designated Experts for the purpose of finalising the document "World Solar Programme".	Paris, France	9-10 June, 97	1.11	
14.	Shri H.K. Dash, Director	(i) For attending Earth Conference on Biomass for Energy Development. on Environment	Cuba/USA Jan. 1995	10-15 Jan. 95	1.20	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15. Shri A.K. Gayen, Director	(i)	For attending International "Symposium on Hydrogen System	Italy	26-29 June 1995	1.21	
16. Dr. K.K. Singh, Director	(i)	Study tour to Austria, USA & UK under UNDP Project	Austria, USA & UK	12 July to 3 Aug. 1995.	4.00	Entire Expenditure by UNDP
	(ii)	For participation in R-97 Congress	Geneva, Switzerland	4-7 Feb. 97	0.78	
	(iii)	For organising NRSE Exhibition in India Trade Fair	Kathmandu Nepal	12-22 March '97	0.25 (DA only)	
17. Shri B.M.S. Bist, Director	(i)	International Solar Energy Society convention	Zimbabwe	Oct. 95	2.54	
	(ii)	For participating "25 IEEE Photo Voltaic Conference"	Washington, USA	8-17 May 1996	0.01	Entire Exp. by REPSO
	(iii)	For participation for exploring	Dhaka, Bangladesh	6-10 May, 97	0.77	
18. Shri Padam Singh, Director (Regional Office, Bhopal)	(i)	For participation in the International Course on Management of Energy utilization and conservation.	Technion City hanifa, Israel	25.7.95 to 23.8.95	1.00	
19. Dr. Ahmar Raza, Director	(i)	For attending 12th European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference & Exhibition	Amsterdam, Netherland	11-15 April 1994		Entire Exp. by IREDA/W. Bank
	(ii)	For attending as a member of Indian delegation led by MEA to Africa (Mali) for the purpose of developing Economic Cooperation.	Mali, Africa	24.9.95 to 7.10.95		Entire Exp. by MEA
20. Shri N.P. Singh, Director	(i)	For attending Earth Conference on Biomass for Energy Development	Cuba, Germany	9-22 Jan. 1995	1.05	Entire Exp. by UNDP
	(ii)	For participation in the Regional Experts consultation on "Selection Criteria and priority Rating for Assistance to Traditional Biomas Energy Using Industries.	Penang Malaysia	15-18 Jan. 96	0.01	Entire Exp. by FAO
21. Shri J.R. Meena, Director	(i)	For participation/study tour in the area fuel cell power system:	Tokyo, Japan	2-9 March 1996	0.01	Entire Exp. by NEDO
22. Shri A.K. Dhusa, Director	(i)	Study Mission under UNDP/GEF assisted Biomethanate Project	France, & U.K.	11-27 July 1996	2.55	Entire Exp. by UNDP
	(ii)	For attending SAARC Workshop on Biogas	Dhaka, Bangladesh	18-20 July, 1995	0.13	
23. Dr. B. Bhargava, Director	(i)	Training under the USAID assisted projects for the establishment of a National Photovoltaic Test Faculty.	USA	18-21 May 1995	0.01	Entire Exp. by USAID.
	(ii)	For attending "World Solar Programme & Fututre Gen. Photovoltaic Technology.	Paris, France Denver, USA	20-26 March 1997	2.28	
	(iii)	For attending Meeting of Export Group to study Economic and Commercial viability for joint venture in Russia for production of Silicon Wrafers.	Moscow, Russia	24-31 August 1996	1.28	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24. Dr. B. Bandopadhyay, Director	(i)	For attending the First Meeting of the Working Group on Power and New Power Resources under the Indo-Russian Joint Commission Meeting	Moscow, Russia	25-26 August 1994		Entire Exp. by MNES (Air Fair-Rs 51,545)
	(ii)	For attending Project Planning Meeting on Solar Thermal Technology	Stuttgart Germany	7-13 Jan. 1997	1.36	
25. Dr. A.K. Singhal, Director	(i)	For exhibition in Thailand	Thailand	18 Nov. to 2 Dec. 1995.	0.91	
	(ii)	For participation in Solar 97 conference and visit to N.R.E.L.	Denver, Colorado, USA	19-30 April, 97	0.01	Entire Exp. by USAIS.
26. Dr. Ved Mitra, Director (SEC)	(i)	For attending project planning on Solar Thermal Technology	Stuttgart Germany	7-13 Jan. 97	0.01	Entire Exp. by Organiser
27. Dr. Ashvini Kumar, Director (SEC)	(i)	For attending project planning on Solar Thermal Technology	Stuttgart Germany	7-13 Jan. 97	0.01	Entire Exp. by organiser
	(ii)	For testing/discussion for use of 6 Solar Cookers provided by MNES	Rabat, Morocco	23.3.96 7.4.96	1.54	
28. Sh. R.P. Nath, Director	(ii)	For organising NRSE Exhibition on Cost effective Housing Technologies	Trinidad & Tobago	26, April to 6 May 97	2.01	
29. Sh. D.K. Joshi, Director (F)	(i)	For participation in fellowship Training Programme under UNDP/GEF assisted Bio-Methanation Project	USA, Canada Austria	27.4.97 to 21.5.97	3.05	Entire Exp. by UNDP/GEF
F. ADDL. DIRECTOR (IP)						
30. Shri M.S. Shantharam, Addl. Director	(i)	Organizing INDOEXPO'95 in Lusaka Zambia.	Lusaka Zambia	6-18 May, 95	1.13	
	(ii)	For participation/ Organising International Trade fair at World Trade fair	Istanbul Turkey	27 May to 12 June, 96	0.90	
	(iii)	Participation in Exhibition on WW Congress	Beijing China	30 Aug. to 10 Sept. 95	1.09	
	(iv)	Participation/organizing Exhibits in the Quang Trang International fair	Ho-Chi-Minh City, Vietnam	24-30 Nov. 95	0.71	
G. DY. SECRETARY						
31. Shri A.N. Saxena, Dy. Secretary	(i)	Study Mission under UNDP/GEF assisted Biomethanate Project	France, Germany & UK	11-27 July, 96	2.55	Entire Exp. by UNDP
32. Shri B.M.L. Garg, PSO	(i)	Deputing for exploring possibilities of Joint Cooperative Ventures with Srilanka in the field of Wind Energy & Biomass.	Colombo Srilanka	1-8 Aug. 1995	0.58	
33. Dr. J.R. Meshram, PSO	(i)	Study tour on Bagasse cogeneration and other renewable energy programme	USA	27.5.95 to 9.6.95	0.01	Entire Exp. by USAID
34. Dr. O.S. Sastry, PSO	(i)	For participating in the World's First Training Demonstration Programme on Renewable Energy.	Germany	24-31 May 95	0.70	
	(ii)	Training under the USAID assisted project for the establishment of a National Photovoltaic Test Faculty	USA	1995	0.01	Entire Exp. by USAID

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
35. Dr. Mrs. Parveen Dhamija, PSO	(i)	For participating in the Regional Expert Consultation of Gender Issues and World Energy in Asia.	Thailand	28-30 June 95	0.01	Entire Exp. by FAO
	(ii)	For attending "Expert Group Meeting on International Centre for Hydrogen Energy & Technology and II Habitat International Trade Fair.	Istanbul, Turkey	27.5.96 to 12.6.96	0.36	
	(iii)	For Fellowship Training Programme under UNDP/GEF assisted Bio-Methanation Project	Stockholm Sweden	10.3.97 to 5.4.97	2.80	Entire Exp. by UNDP
36. Dr. R.N. Sawant, PSO	(i)	Participation in Exhibition on WW Congress	Beijing China	30.8.95 to 10.9.95	1.80	
37. Shri J.B.S. Girdhar, PSO	(i)	For participation "Soltech/UPVG 96 conference" Organized by SEIA, USA	USA, California	12-18 March 1996	0.01	Entire Exp. by Organiser
38. Shri Suresh Agarwal, PSO	(i)	For participating & presenting country paper in orientation cum training programme on Mini and Micro Hydro Power Development in the Hindu Kush Kathmandu.	Nepal Kathmandu	13-18 Feb. 95		Entire Exp. by Organiser
	(ii)	For participation in 3 weeks fellowship Course on Small Hydro Power	USA/Canada	27.7.96 to 18.8.96	2.22	Entire Exp. by UNDP/GEF
39. Dr. D.K. Khare, PSO	(i)	For attending regional Wood Energy Dev. Programme Regional Committee meeting	Bangkok Thailand	31.1.95 to 4.2.95		Entire Exp. by FAO
	(ii)	For Fellowship Training Programme under UNDP/GEF assisted Bio-Methanation Project	Stockholm Sweden	10.3.97 to 5.4.97	2.80	Entire Exp. by UNDP
40. Shri R.C. Tiwari, PSO	(i)	For participation in "Development of high rate Biomethanation Process (UNDP/GEF) Trg. on West to Energy technology	USA	22.3.98 to 21.5.96	7.50	Entire Exp. by UNDP
41. Sh. A.K. Chopra, PSO	(i)	For participating in 3 Weeks fellowship Course on Small Hydro Power	Switzerland, U.K, Germany	18.8.96 to 8.9.96	2.80	Entire Exp. by UNDP/GEF
42. Sh. Rajesh Dubey PSO (SEC)	(i)	For participation in "Advanced Training Programme".	California Los Angles, USA	22-26 July 96		Entire Exp. by Organiser
43. Dr. P.C. Maithani, PSO	(i)	For participation/organization WORLDETECH 95 Exhibition in Bangkok, Thailand	Bangkok, Thailand	2-18 Dec. 95	0.91	
	(ii)	For participation in Working Group Meeting on Power & NCES	Moscow Russia	13-17 Jan. 97	0.82	
44. Sh. A.K. Varshney, PSO	(i)	For participation in International Experts Consultation meeting on Mini and Micro Hydro Power for Mountain development in Hindu-Kush Himalayan region.	Kathmandu, Nepal	13-17 June 1994		Entire Exp. by Organisers
	(ii)	For participation in fellowship Training Programme under UNDP/GEF assisted Bio-methanation Project	USA, Canada Austria	27.4.97 to 21.5.97	3.05	Entire Exp. by UNDP/GEF

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I. UNDER SECRETARIES						
45. Shri M. Rai. Under Secretary	(i)	For attending SAARC Workshop Seminar on waste recycling based on Biogas technology.	Dhaka, Bangladesh	18-20 July 95	0.31	
J. DEPUTY DIRECTORS						
46. Shri J.L. Trivedi, Dy. Dir.	(i)	Organizing INDOEXPO'95 in Lusaka, Zambia.	Lusaka, Zambia	6-18 May, 95	1.31	
	(ii)	Participation in Exhibition on WW Congress.	Beijing-China	30.8.95 to 10.9.95	1.08	
K. SENIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER - I						
47. Shri M.R. Nouni, SSO - I	(i)	For attending course on Wind Energy Conversion (USAID Energy Training Programme).	USA	15.3.95 to 12.6.95	1.77	Local hospitality by USAID
48. Shri H.R. Khan, SSO - I	(i)	9 Months course on Solar Energy in Israel	Israel	Oct. 94- June 95		Air Fare Rs. 67.618 by MNES & other Exp. by Israel Govt.
49. Shri Dilip Nigam, SSO - I	(i)	For attending Regional Workshop study tour on wind Energy utilization	Beijing, China	10-17 May 95	0.01	Entire Exp. by organiser
	(ii)	For attending 12 months long term Training Course under Colombo Plan on "Grid Connected Wind Energy Conversion"	Germany	1.9.96 to 31.8.97	0.32	(Airfare provided so far)
50. Shri P.C. Pant, SSO I	(i)	For attending Course on Solar Technique Rural Energy Savings (Under TCDC/UNDP Training Programme)	China	15 Aug. to 15 Sept. 1994	0.78	
	(ii)	For attending Sub-Committee meeting on trade and Eco. Cooperation	Budapest, Hungary Zagreb Croatia	26-31 Oct. 95	1.00	
51. Shri V.K. Jain SSO I	(i)	For attending training in the "Anaerobic Waste Treatment".	Netherlands	27.6.95 to 26.9.1995	4.50	Entire Exp. by UNDP
52. Dr. B.S. Negi, SSO I	(i)	Participation in Solar Energy Training	China	15.8.95 to 15.9.95	0.60	
53. Shri B.K. Bhatt, SSO I	(i)	Participation in BG Training	China	10.8.95 to 23.9.95	0.60	
54. Shri Pankaj Saxena, SSO-I	(i)	For participation in Regional Workshop on Stores for use with Loose Residues Fuel	Hanoi Vietnam	16-20 Oct. 95		Entire Exp. by UNDP
55. Shri S.K. Jagwani, SSO I	(i)	For participation in the 13th European Photovoltaic Energy Conference and Exbi.	Nice, France	23-27 Oct. 95		Entire Exp. by organiser/IREDA
56. Shri J.P. Singh, SSO I	(i)	For participation in 4 week Seminar on "Energy-Hybrid Systems Wind Solar Biomass in Germany"	Hamburg Germany	12 Nov. to 9 Dec. 1995.	0.55	
57. Shri M.C. Sharma, SSO I	(i)	-do-	-do-	-do-	0.55	
58. Dr. S.K. Bhardwaj, SSO I	(i)	Grid connected WE Generator.	Germany	Sept. 95 to Aug. 95	0.35	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
59. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, SSO I	(i)	USAID. For participation in IEEE. PV Photovoltaic Conference and Visit NREL	Colorado. Washington USA	18 March to 19 May. 96	0.01	Entire Exp. by Organiser
60. Shri A.K. Tripathi, SSO I	(i)	For participation in Development of High rate Biomethanation process UNDP/GEF trg. on Waste Energy Tech.	USA	22.3.96 to 21.3.96	7.50	Entire Exp. by UNDP Project
61. Shri S.K. Singh, SSO-I	(i)	For participating "International Symposium on Heat Temperature Geo-Thermal Energy Development & Utilisation.	Yunan Province China	23-27 April 1996	0.65	
62. Shri G. Upadhyay, SSO-I	(i)	For participation in 3 weeks fellowship course.	U.K. Germany & Switzerland	24 May to 17th July. 98	2.52	Entire Exp. by UNDP Project
63. Shri K.R. Achary, SSO-I	(i)	For participation in International Conference on Solar & Wind Energy	Havana, Cuba	17-24 June 1994	1.11	
	(ii)	For visiting a member of the high level Indian delegation led by MOS for discussion with counter part and signing of MOU etc in NRSE.	USA	17-22 Dec. 1994		
L. SENIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER - II						
64. Shri A.A. Narvane, SSO II	(i)	For attending course on Wind Energy Conversion (USAID) Energy Training Programme	USA	15.3.95 to 12.5.95	1.77	
65. Shri S.J. Nandre, SSO-II	(i)	Fellowship Programme under UNDP/GEF Biomethanation Project.	UK	8.06		Entire Exp. by UNDP Project
M. PHOTO OFFICER						
66. Shri Nimai Ghatak	(i)	For participation/organization WORLDTEH 95 Exhibition in Bangkok, Thailand	Bangkok, Thailand	4-18 Nov. 95	0.91	
67. Sh. R.S. Yadav, E.A.	(i)	For Organising NRSE Exhibits in India Trade Fair.	Kathmandu, Nepal	12-24 March 1997	0.20	
68. Sh. R.K. Sharm., JEO	(i)	For Organising NRSE Exhibits in India Trade Fair.	Kathmandu. Nepal	12-24 March 1997	0.20	

Rural Sanitation Programme in Gujarat

2433. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals submitted by the Government of Gujarat under the Rural Sanitation Programme;

(b) the number of proposals accorded clearance out of the above during 1996-97; and

(c) the details of schemes being presently implemented in Gujarat relating to Rural Sanitation?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme is being implemented in Gujarat. A tentative allocation of Rs. 290.17 lakh has been made during 1997-98 and an amount of Rs. 145.85 lakh has been released to the State as first instalment of Central share.

[English]

Functioning of Train Information Boards

2434. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Train Information Boards installed at platforms are not functioning and are idle since its inception;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make these Information Boards functional?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Train Information Boards at a few stations have become defective after their installation due to failure of critical components, hardware defect etc. At a couple of stations, these Boards are not functional for want of operators.

(c) The Information Boards are checked regularly to monitor their functioning and suitable remedial measures taken to restore them and all efforts are underway to fill up the vacant posts of Operators.

AIR Station at Asansol

2435. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position regarding setting up of AIR station at Asansol;

(b) the reasons for the delay to start this station;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed to open this station;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (e) The AIR Station at Asansol with 6 KW FM Transmitter Relay Centre is technically ready and would be commissioned by August, 1997.

District Advisory Committees in Kerala

2436. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of district telephone advisory committees in Kerala units have not been reconstituted even after the expiry of the period;

(b) if so, the names thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be reconstituted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) All the district Telephone Advisory Committees and the Circle Telephone Advisory Committee in the Kerala Telecom. Circle have already been reconstituted.

(c) Does not arise.

Railway Divisional Hospital at Petta

2437. SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways Divisional Hospital at Petta in Thiruvananthapuram is in a state of neglect and its working leaves much to be done; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide permanent specialist Doctors, other essential staff, medicines and other facilities for the efficient functioning of the hospital?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is a 50 bedded well equipped Divisional Hospital having a sanctioned strength of 10 doctors and other requisite para-medical staff at Petta in Thiruvananthapuram. Doctors having general as well as specialist qualifications are available and an anaesthetist is likely to be posted shortly. Apart from this Honorary Consultants in the field of Surgery, Paediatrics, Ophthalmology and Gynaecology are also available at this Hospital. There is no paucity of essential medicines.

Purchasing of Flexible Hose Pipes

2438. DR. ASIMBALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are purchasing flexible hose pipes centrally or locally ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the annually requirements of this item alongwith the number of flexible hose pipes producing units in the country;

(d) whether all the units are producing this as per RDSO specification;

(e) if so, whether the Government are procuring this item from all the producing units; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (f) Indian Railways procure Vacuum/Air Brake Hose Pipes from RDSO approved sources through normal tendering procedure. The procurement is as per RDSO's specification and is done directly by the Zonal Railways. Another item, Flexible Hose Pipes for cleaning of the coaches etc. are also purchased by the Zonal Railways. This is a common user item, Flexible Hose Pipes for cleaning of the coaches etc. are also purchased by the Zonal Railways. This is a common user item, procured to IS specification.

Setting up of Electric Loco Shed and EMU Car Shed at Katwa

2439. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since considered to set up an electric loco shed and an EMU car shed at Katwa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Computerised Reservation System

2440. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the New Jalpaiguri, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Mirik, Raiganj and Balurghat have not been connected with Computerised Reservation System; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to provide such facilities at the above mentioned places?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Computerised reservation facilities have been provided at the Siliguri City Booking Office for the convenience of intending passenger at Siliguri and New Jalpaiguri. There is no railway infrastructure or railway staff of Kalimpong, Mirik and Balurghat. Therefore, it would not be possible to provide these facilities here at present. The reservation workload at Raiganj and Kurseong is very negligible and this low volume of reservation work does not justify the provision of computerised reservation facilities.

Sen Gupta Committee

2441. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sen Gupta Committee on electronic media has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the follow up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) The Sengupta Committee appointed to review the provisions of Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act,

1990 and to make recommendations, submitted its report on 12.8.96. The recommendations were discussed in a meeting held on 13.9.96 with the leaders of the various political parties. The report was further discussed in the meeting of the State Information Minister Conference held in October, 1996. With a view to avoid further delay in the implementation of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, Government have notified on 22.7.97 that the Act will come into force from 15.9.97. The major recommendations of the Committee are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

The major recommendations relating to Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, of the Expert Group, are as under :

- Prasar Bharati to be a statutory corporation as envisaged in the Act;
- Akashvani and Doordarshan to be split into two completely separate Wings, under the corporate umbrella of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, with close coordination in areas clearly defined by the Corporation;
- Prasar Bharati Board to be restructured with a full-time Chairman combining the functions of Chairman and Chief Executive, six full time members, four part-time members, representative from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Managing Directors of Akashvani and Doordarshan;
- Employees' participation in management below the Board Level;
- Chairman of the Board to be appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a Committee having Chairman of Council of States, Leader of Opposition, and Chairman of the Press Council;
- Certain suggestions relate to the term of office of the Chairman, members, as well as recruitment and deployment of officers and other employees;
- The Parliamentary Committee provided for in Section 13 (1) to be dispensed with, as its work can be looked after by the Standing Committee on Communications, the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry and by the proposed Radio and Television Authority of India (as directed by the Supreme Court);
- Need to precisely define the areas in Section 24 in respect of which the Corporation will furnish information to Central Government;
- An authorised share of Rs. 5,000 crores, paid up capital of Rs. 2,000 crores, and the assets of AIR and Doordarshan to be transferred on lease to the Corporation;

- Annual grants-in-aid from the government till Prasar Bharati becomes self-sufficient from advertising and commercial revenue;
- Revival of an annual or lumpsum Broadcast Receiver Licence Fee for television sets;
- The cost of running public service broadcasting channels to be met from Government's funding by way of grant-in-aid, equity or loan;
- Certain suggestions relate to creation of professional marketing set-up, aggressive marketing strategies, dedication of particular channels to education, etc.

Handling of High Power Locomotives at Asansol

2442. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Asansol electric shed is capable for handling of high power electric locomotives;
- (b) if so, reasons for not homing high power locomotives at Asansol;
- (c) whether the Government are considering for homing high power electric locomotives at there; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The existing infrastructure facilities at Asansol electric locomotive shed are suitable for maintenance of 4 axled locomotives and not for 6 axled high power locomotives.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Expansion of certain facilities like inspection pits, cranes of higher capacity etc. will be undertaken in due course, when 4 axled locomotives are phased out and 6 axled high power locomotives are homed for maintenance.

[Translation]

Direct Train from Delhi to Rewa

2443. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether no direct rail services has been provided from Delhi to Rewa in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the time by which the Prayag Express upto Rewa is likely to be started;

(e) whether any survey has been conducted for linking Singrauli with Rewa rail line;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The feasibility of providing direct train service between Rewa and Delhi has been examined but not found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Based on the results of the survey, the work of construction of a new line from Lalitpur to Satna and Rewa to Singrauli at a cost of Rs. 925 crores has been included in the Budget 1997-98. The work would be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.

(g) Does not arise.

Annual Budget to Doordarshan

2444. SHRIMATI NISHA A. CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Doordarshan, New Delhi sends the annual budget to various Doordarshan Kendras to prepare commissioned and royalty programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount given to these Doordarshan kendras as budget during the last three years along with the names of the kendras which were not sent the budget amount;

(c) whether the annual budget for the year 1997-98 has been sent to all the Doordarshan kendras;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay and by which time it would be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Launch of Unit of NTPS in West Bengal

2445. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are going to launch more three units at NTPS in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) No such proposal has been included in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) Implementation of Stage - II of Mejia Thermal Power Station (MTPS) in West Bengal by the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) will depend upon various factors including techno-economic clearance of the proposal availability of funds power demand-supply position in the DVC Valley and the Eastern Grid.

Welfare Programmes for Youths in J & K

2446. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various programmes for welfare of rural youths launched by the Union Government during the last two years in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) the achievement level of each of them as on date?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment has not launched any welfare programme during last two years for youths in the country including the State of Jammu & Kashmir. However, Training of Rural Youths for Self Employment (TRYSEM) is an ongoing programme being implemented by the centre throughout the country including J&K for providing technical and entrepreneurial skill to rural youths from the families living below poverty line so as to enable them to take up employment. Besides, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) are also on-going wage/self employment programmes being implemented by the centre throughout the country including the State of J & K for the persons living below poverty line including the rural youths in J&K.

(b) Achievements under above programmes in J&K during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under :

Programme	Achievement		Unit
	1995-96	1996-97	
TRYSEM	4326	4294	No. of Youths Trained
JRY	48.23	18.36	Lakh mandays generated
EAS	129.96	91.66	-do-
IRDP	13189	11474	No. of families assisted

[Translation]

Water Testing Laboratories

2447. SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States where the water quality testing laboratories were set up under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission during the last three years; and

(b) the number of farmers benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The information is given in the attached Statement

(b) The aim of setting up of laboratories is to monitor the quality of drinking water supplied to rural areas and generate awareness about water quality among rural masses.

Statement

Name of State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	Total
Assam	15	-	-	15
Haryana	-	4	-	4
Himachal Pradesh	-	8	-	8
Jammu & Kashmir	4	-	-	4
Meghalaya	-	-	1	1
Uttar Pradesh	37	-	-	37
West Bengal	-	6	-	6
Total	56	18	1	75

[English]

Claims filed by Rail Users

2448. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of claims filed with the Chief Claims Officer, Northern Railway, New Delhi during the last six months by rail users on the ground of inconvenience caused to them due to cancellation and rescheduling of train without intimating them in advance;

(b) whether no claims have been settled during the said period; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No separate data about filing of claims for refunds on account of absence of advance intimation about cancellation/rescheduling of trains is maintained.

During the period 1.1.97 to 30.6.97, 42 claims for refunds have been filed and all these cases have since been settled and payment arranged to the parties. Details of these cases are attached as Statement.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Statement

Sl.No.	Case No.	Amount Paid (in Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	23/2680	336/-
2.	23/2681	138/-
3.	16/2768	66/-
4.	16/2775	35/-
5.	7/5498	268/-
6.	7/5499	268/-
7.	7/5500	268/-
8.	7/5492	268/-
9.	7/5493	268/-
10.	7/5494	268/-
11.	7/5509	536/-
12.	7/5513	804/-
13.	7/5514	268/-
14.	7/5575	268/-
15.	7/5576	268/-
16.	7/5518	268/-
17.	7/5520	536/-
18.	7/5523	268/-
19.	7/5525	536/-
20.	7/5536	804/-
21.	7/5541	268/-
22.	7/5542	536/-
23.	7/5543	268/-
24.	7/5545	536/-
25.	7/5607	165/-
26.	7/5619	268/-
27.	7/5691	268/-
28.	7/5638	536/-

1	2	3
29.	7/5575	536/-
30.	9/2237	420/-
31.	9/2135	299/-
32.	13/9873	393/-
33.	13/9874	360/-
34.	13/9860	128/-
35.	12/9855	390/-
36.	12/4440	306/-
37.	10/787	648/-
38.	10/817	280/-
39.	4/6723	233/-
40.	9/2261	151/-
41.	9/2223	338/-
42.	9/2239	220/-
total		14226/-

[Translation]

**Allotment of Fund By Doordarshan for
Production of Tele-Films**

2449. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 368 dated July 24, 1997 regarding allotment of fund by Doordarshan for production of telefilms and state:

(a) the details of the members of the Costing Committee;

(b) the time limit for convening the meeting of Costing Committee; and

(c) the number of meetings of this Committee held during the period from 1.9.96 to 15.7.97?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) The Costing Committee is headed by the Director General, Doordarshan and consists of the following official members of Doordarshan:

1. Additional Director General (A)
2. Director (Finance)
3. Concerned Dy. Director General
4. Concerned Controller of Programmes
5. Controller of Programmes
(Central Commissioning Unit)

(b) No time limit has been fixed in the guidelines issued for this purpose for convening the meeting of the Costing Committee. This is held periodically on the basis of the proposals in hand, programme requirements of Doordarshan and availability of funds for commissioning of the programmes.

(c) During this period, the Costing Committee held six meetings.

[English]

Internet Service

2450. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI SI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some leading telecom companies have applied to the DOT to become Internet Service Providers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to float tenders for Internet Service Providers licences;

(d) if so, the time by which these tenders are likely to be floated;

(e) the criteria fixed for issuing licences to Internet Services Providers (ISP); and

(f) the extent to which these ISPs are likely to be helpful in providing better telecom services in India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e) A policy decision has been taken by the Telecom Commission to allow Indian Registered Companies to provide Internet Service in the country as 'Internet Service Providers'. The modalities and Terms and Conditions for this are being worked out. Thereafter, proposals shall be invited for award of licences for 'Internet Services'.

(f) It is expected that participation by licensed ISPs will generate healthy competition in the field of Internet Services which will help the ultimate customer to get better service. This will also result in faster growth of this service all over the country.

[Translation]

Supply of Limestone

2451. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Raw Material Division of SAIL has fixed a target of supplying 2,44,000 tonnes of limestone annually to Bokaro Steel Plant from Lime Stone Mines located at Bhavnathpur;

(b) if so, the reasons for supplying 10,000 tonnes limestone per month to Bokaro Steel Plant;

(c) the reasons for purchasing substandard limestone from open market on higher rate by Bokaro Steel Plant;

(d) whether short intake of raw material from Bhavnathpur Lime Stone Mines is not likely to have adverse impact on the mines with which the livelihood of about fifty thousand people is linked directly or indirectly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

2452. DR. BALI RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether employees of different branches of Post Offices in Meerut (U.P) expired in 1995 while in service;

(b) whether the dependents of the deceased employees belonging to general category have been given jobs on compassionate ground whereas Scheduled Castes employees have not been given job till date;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the dependents of the deceased Scheduled Castes employees is likely to be given job?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) While admitting the position, it is clarified that the caste to which the deceased employee belonged in no way determined granting of employment to his dependent which is governed by the rules framed in this behalf by the Department of Personnel, the nodal department concerned with the subject.

(c) The case for giving compassionate appointments to one of the dependents of the deceased employee who belonged to the Scheduled Caste community was duly considered as per the prescribed procedure and was rejected twice by the Chief PMG, UP Circle, Lucknow under proper intimation to the family of the deceased that their family circumstances were not found to be indigent.

(d) The representation of the widow of the deceased employee against rejection of the case for appointment on compassionate grounds is under examination at the appropriate level and will be decided shortly.

Transgenic Plants

2453. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of field trials for transgenic plants going on in the country;

(b) the details of crops and the names of the companies involved in the process, State-wise; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to bring transparency in issuing permits for the field trials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Three limited field trials are going on in the country on transgenic mustard (Brassica) at Gurgaon, Haryana and Doddaballapur, Karnataka by M/s. Proagro PGS India Ltd., New Delhi; and transgenic cotton at Jalna, Maharashtra by M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Co., Mumbai.

(c) Permits are issued in accordance with the Rules for the Manufacture, use, import, export and storage of hazardous micro-organisms/genetically engineered organisms or cells notified by the Ministry of Environment & Forests vide Notification No. GSR1037 (E), dated 5.12.1989, issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The clearances from National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR) are also obtained.

[Translation]

Rural Development Projects of Gujarat

2454. SHRI N.J. RATHWA :
DR. A.K. PATEL :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

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

(a) whether the World Bank has been assisting some rural development projects in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and the present status of each of them;

(c) the number of villages in the State facing acute shortage of water;

(d) the time by which the problem of potable water is likely to be solved in the rural areas of the State; and

(e) the funds allocated under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission to the State during 1995-96 and 1997-98?

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

(c) There are 1435 not covered habitation in Gujarat yet to be provided with safe drinking water facilities.

(d) The State Government is expected to provide drinking water facilities to all Non Covered habitations by 1997-98.

(e) Allocation for Gujarat for 1995-96 was Rs. 3850 lakh and for 1997-98 it is Rs. 4987 lakh.

[English]

Telecast of Old Films

2455. SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE :
SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

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

(a) whether the National Film Development Corporation has decided to telecast some old films based on the theme of freedom movement in the Golden Jubilee year celebrations of the Indian Independence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Department of Culture has shot down the proposal; and

(d) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) has not made any proposal for telecast of old films based on the theme of freedom movement on Doordarshan as a part of celebration of 50 Years of India's Independence. However, NFDC has made a proposal to Department of Culture for exhibition of 13 films on the theme of freedom movement both theatrically and through video for schools, colleges and in semi-urban and rural areas so as to inform the newer generation on freedom struggle and to regenerate national pride. The Department of Culture proposes to screen these films through video.

[Translation]

Documentaries

2456. SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received to make documentaries depicting departmental achievements on

the occasion of golden jubilee year and the sources from which these proposals have been received;

(b) the number of proposals accepted, rejected and the number of films made; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid delay in the work depicting achievements through films and to make films as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Four proposals have been received by the Films Division to make documentaries depicting departmental achievements on the occasion of Golden Jubilee year. Three of them are from the Ministry of External Affairs for production of video films on the titles "Development in Energy", "Development in Agriculture" and "Development in Industry". The fourth one is from the Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Official Language) for production of film on 'Rajabhasha Hindi Ke Prachar Prasar Sambhandit film'. It has been decided to produce the above films.

(c) No delay is anticipated in completion of the above films.

Construction of Flyover

2457. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the places in the country where flyovers are being constructed in the railway lines falling on National Highways;

(b) whether the Government are considering to construct a flyover near Maksi Railway Station on Ujjain-Bhopal railway line falling on Agra-Mumbai National Highway; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Information is not maintained Highway-wise.

(b) and (c) A Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 51 A at Maksi on Ujjain - Bhopal was approved in the Budget of 1987-88. The State Govt. had not approved the drawing till 1993 due to which the work had to be dropped from the Railways' Work Programme of 1994-95.

Maithon Thermal Power Station

2458. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up Maithon right bank Thermal Power Station;

(b) whether the Overseas Economics Finance Corporation of Japan has allocated funds for this project

but the Government has transferred this amount for another project in U.P.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the results thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Various alternatives for funding the execution of Maithon Right Bank Thermal Project of the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) have been considered including position it to the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of the Government of Japan. OECF has not allocated any funds for the project so far.

Fluoride affected Water in Rajasthan

2459. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that various types of ailments are spreading among the villagers of Tonk district in Rajasthan due to excess contents of fluoride in drinking water;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any action in this regard for a long time; and

(c) the time by which remedial action is likely to be taken in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At the instance of Government of India, the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited has prepared and submitted a **Project Report** on Pilot Project for providing safe drinking water to 171 fluoride affected villages of block Tonk in Rajasthan at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.38 crore. The proposed Pilot project has already been considered by the Government of India and sent to the State Government of Rajasthan for their comments/suggestions for further action in the matter.

[English]

Development of Scientific Establishments

2460. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to develop science and technology to promote the causes of scientists and also to develop scientific establishments;

(b) whether the Government are laying any emphasis in that regard; and

(c) if so, the specific plan formulated thereon for Ninth Plan and the steps taken to implement the measures proposed to be adopted in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Development of science and technology is encouraged to gain knowledge of the natural processes and their governing laws. A part of the knowledge so gained results in technology to benefit the society. The cause of scientific research is served when scientific establishments are developed to create congenial conditions to enable them to pursue their ideas.

(b) and (c) Government has been encouraging the development of science and technology in the country. Since independence, there has been a gradual and significant increase in Government support for science and technology. A number of S & T agencies and establishments have been created to promote S&T efforts in the respective areas.

The approach to science and technology development during the 9th Plan has been drafted to include the nurturing of scientific and technological research and manpower, creating centres of excellence, providing more autonomy to scientific institutions and laboratories including their modernization and networking, developing core technological strengths in key sectors, involvement of socio-economic Ministries for S&T inputs and involvement of Voluntary agencies in science and society related programmes, emphasis on technology management and marketing and issues related to Intellectual Property Rights and patenting, etc. Some initiatives already undertaken are the matching rupee-to-rupee scheme and funding for technology through the Technology Development Board. The recent new initiative is the announcement of Swarna Jayanti fellowships for basic research to support outstanding scientists to enable them to do world class level science.

[Translation]

Renewable Energy Institute

2461. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Renewable Energy Institute; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Scientific Devices for Rural Areas

2462. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether various low cost devices, capable of being used in rural areas/homes, were recently demonstrated by Department of Science & Technology;

(b) if so, the details of these devices, their cost and the places where they are available; and

(c) the steps being taken to popularise these items?

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

(b) The details of the devices recently demonstrated are as follows :

Sl. No.	Name of the Device	Place/Instt. where Demonstrated	Cost as per final technical Report of the Institute
1.	Clay Emitter	Centre of Science for villages, Magansangrahalaya, Wardha	Rs. 0.25 per piece
2.	Water Mills	Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organ. Gwar Choki, Chamoli	Rs. 25,000/- per kilo Watt
3.	Carcass Cooker	Society for Economic and Social Studies Saket, New Delhi	(a) 150 Kg (SS) Rs. 45,000/- (b) 150 Kg (MS) Rs. 35,000/- (c) 250 Kg (SS) Rs. 75,000/-
4.	Plata Type Water Lifting Pump	Nb Institute of Rural Technology, 52, Shakuntala Road, Agartala	Rs. 28,000/-

(c) The information of these devices are being disseminated to development departments/agencies of the Government S&T field groups and other voluntary organisations for popularisation.

[English]

Guidelines for Briefing Media

2463. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue fresh guidelines relating to levels of officials who are allowed to brief the media on matters of policy;

- (b) if so, the details of existing and new guidelines;
- (c) whether the existing guidelines are being followed by the officials; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The existing guidelines for briefing media are given in the statement attached.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

*According to the Manual on Office Procedure;
Communication of information to the press*

(1) Official information to the press and other news media, i.e., radio and television, will normally be communicated through the Press Information Bureau.

(2) Only Ministers, Secretaries and other officers specially authorised in this behalf may give information or be accessible to the representatives of the press. Any other official, if approached by a representative of the press, will direct him to the Press Information Bureau.

(3) Whenever it is proposed to release an official information to the press, or to hold a press conference or press briefing, or to give publicity to an official report, resolution or any other publication, the department concerned will consult the accredited Information Officer in advance.

Non-Availability of Train

2464. SHRI VIJAY PATEL :
SHRI B.K. GADHVI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of representations have been made to his Ministry for the introduction of a shuttle train with MST coach facility leaving Ahmedabad in the morning and Palanpur in the evening;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the other alternative arrangements railways propose to make to mitigate the difficulties of daily passengers from Ahmedabad to Palanpur?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Some representations have been received

regarding starting of a train in the morning from Ahmedabad to Palanpur.

(b) and (c) After conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad route, 9105/9106 Delhi-Ahmedabad Mail, 9653/9654 Ahmedabad-Ajmer Fast Passenger and 2915/2916 Ashram Express have been introduced from 3.5. 97, 11.5.97 and 1.8.97 respectively serving Ahmedabad and Palanpur.

It is also proposed to introduce a shuttle DMU train between Ahmedabad and Abu Road serving Palanpur during 1997-98.

A morning shuttle between Ahmedabad and Palanpur is not proposed at present due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of Scheduled Tribes

2465. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the category-wise number of posts of scheduled tribes lying vacant in his Ministry/Departments;

(b) whether the persons other than are working on these posts;

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

(d) whether the Government are taking any steps to fill up the entire backlog; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) 3 posts of Senior Scientific Officer Grand-II, reserved for Scheduled Tribes, are vacant in the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Transmission Capacity of Akashwani Kendra

2466. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the transmission capacity of Akashwani Kendras of Rajkot and Porbandar of Gujarat;

(b) the amount disbursed for the development of these Kendras during each of the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for keeping these Kendras just as a relay Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) All India Radio, Rajkot is equipped with 300 KW MW High Power Transmitter for main channel and 1 KW MW Transmitter for Vividh Bharati Service. It has Type-III Studios and is a fullfledged regional station. There is no All India Radio Station at Porbandar.

(b) During the last three years, i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, expenditure to the tune of Rs. 172.69 lakhs, Rs. 180.62 lakhs and Rs. 198.37% lakhs, respectively has been incurred on operation and maintenance of AIR, Rajkot Station.

(c) All India Radio, Rajkot is a fullfledged Radio Station.

Cleanliness at Bangalore City Railway Station

2467. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are no proper arrangements for cleanliness at the Bangalore City Railway station;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) whether there is any proposal to impose fine on those who spit or throw garbages at the Railway stations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Proper arrangements for cleanliness do exist at the Station.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Punitive provisions already exist in the law for prosecuting the persons indulging in acts of spitting, defecating, urinating and throwing litter etc. in station premises and in trains at other than nominated places, toilets/urinals, wastebins/garbagebins etc. Railway have been directed to invoke these provisions, wherever necessary.

[Translation]

Construction of Over Bridge in Kota

2468. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to construct an over bridge at level crossing on National Highway at Kulhari in Kota District of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the half of the cost is to be borne by the State Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The proposal is to take up the work on deposit terms i.e. Rajasthan State Electricity Board has to bear full cost of the work.

(d) Depends upon receipt of firm proposal from Rajasthan State Electricity Board.

Gram Panchayat Telephones

2469. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme of providing telephone facility to each Gram Panchayat is not being implemented in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by when telephone facility is likely to be provided to the Gram Panchayats of district Almora and Pithauragarh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir, the scheme of providing public telephone is being implemented as per DOT policy for providing public telephone in every village including Gram Panchayats. All villages including Gram Panchayats will be covered by the end of Ninth Plan period.

Railway Stations/Junctions

2470. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of railway stations/junctions in Bhopal, Bilaspur, Jabalpur railway divisions of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the details of the platforms of the stations among the above junctions/stations where tea stall, contracts of refreshment stalls, milk parlour, Book stall and Telephone Booths have been allotted to the educated unemployed and handicapped persons belonging to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes;

(c) the policy adopted by the Government in regard to providing the said contracts;

(d) the percentage of reservation provided in these contracts;

(e) whether the reservation norms meant for the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes have been followed while making the said allotments;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Insurance Scheme

2471. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of insurance scheme introduced by the Government for the benefit of railway passengers;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to increase the insurance amount to be provided to the dependents those killed and injured in rail accidents;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to bring in any amendment in this regard; and

(e) if so, the time by which the said amendment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The salient features of the Railway Passengers Insurance Scheme are as under :

1. Under this scheme, Railway pay compensation for loss of life or injuries to bonafide passengers holding tickets or pass including railwaymen on duty who become victims of untoward incidents such as terrorist acts, violent attack, robbery, dacoity, rioting, shoot-out or arson by any person in or on any train carrying passengers, or in a waiting hall, clockroom or reservation or booking office or on any platform or in any place within the precincts of a railway station or the accidental falling of any passenger from a train carrying passengers. Similarly compensation is also paid for death or injury to bonafide rail passengers or railwaymen on duty in a train accident.

2. The scale of compensation available under this scheme is provided in the Railway Accident (Compensation) Rules, 1990. Under these rules, the compensation in case of death or permanent disability is Rs. 2 lakhs, and in case of injuries the minimum compensation is Rs. 16,000/- and the maximum is Rs. 1,80,000/-

3. No compensation will, however, be payable in cases of suicide or attempted suicide, self-inflicted injury,

his own criminal act, or any act committed in a state of intoxication or insanity or natural death or disease medical or surgical treatment unless such treatment becomes necessary due to injury caused by the said 'untoward incident'.

4. The application for compensation is adjudicated by Railway Claims Tribunal. Twenty one Benches of this Tribunal have been set up in different parts of the country. The decrees of the Railway Claims Tribunal are satisfied by the Zonal Railways after following the normal procedure.

(b) to (e) Keeping in view of the rise in Consumer Price Index, a proposal is under consideration to increase the amount of compensation to be paid to the dependents of dead and injured rail passengers and platform ticket holders who are involved in train accidents or untoward incidents as defined under Sections 124 and 124-A of the Railways Act, 1989. After a decision is taken in the matter, a notification prescribing the enhanced rates of compensation will be issued.

[English]

Wastage of Newsprint

2472. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the normal wastage of newsprint in a newspaper;

(b) the details of those newspapers which have shown a high percentage of wastage during 1996 and upto July, 1997;

(c) whether the Government have enquired into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the remedial measure proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) No such information is maintained by the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Export of Iron Ore

2473. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether iron ore extracted from Kudremukh area in Karnataka is being exported to Japan;

(b) if so, the quantity exported during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government are aware that Kudremukh iron ore has gold concentrations which would be economical to our country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), a PSU under the Ministry of Steel, is producing iron ore concentrates and Pellets from the iron ore extracted from Kudremukh mines situated in Karnataka State. The quantity of iron ore concentrates and pellets exported to Japan during the last 3 years was as under :

(Qty. in Million Tonnes)

Year	Concentrates	Pellets
1996-97	1.267	0.103
1995-96	1.385	—
1994-95	1.541	—

(c) to (e) The iron ore at Kudremukh is of the nature of Banded Magnetite Quarizite with low iron content. The Company undertook extensive studies to find out the occurrence of gold in the mineable depositis as also the tailings from the tailings dam. Numerous samples were collected and sent to Australia for detailed analysis. The samples were also analysed within the country. The tests have revealed that there is no extractable gold present and it is only in minute traces which cannot be exctracted economically.

Telephone Facility in Block Headquarters

2474. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of the Block headquarters connected with STD so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PARSAD VARMA) :

State-wise details of Block Headquarters with S.T.D. facility

State	Block Headquarters	
	Total	With STD facility
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	—	*
Assam	166	105
Bihar	727	476
Gujarat	—	*
Haryana	110	87

1	2	3
Himachal Pradesh	72	68
Jammu & Kashmir	119	38
Karnataka	123	123
Kerala	149	149
Madhya Pradesh	459	339
Maharashtra	311	294
Goa	11	11
Arunachal Pradesh	—	*
Manipur	—	*
Maghalaya	30	10
Mizoram	20	6
Nagaland	77	14
Tripura	—	*
Orissa	314	291
Punjab	136	125
Rajasthan	237	212
Tamil Nadu	397	334
Uttar Pradesh	892	375
West Bengal	322	225
Sikkim	411	16
Delhi	—	*

* There are no Block Headquarters in these states.

Setting up of New Railway Zones

2475. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up three more Railway zones;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has made any request to the Union Government to set up Zonal headquarter of South West Railway zone at Calicut and Trivandrum, Madurai and Palghat divisions under the zone; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Government is setting up 6 new Zones as follows :

1. East-Coast at Bhubaneswar
2. North-Central at Allahabad
3. East-Central at Hajipur
4. North-Western at Jaipur
5. South-Western at Bangalore, and
6. West-Central at Jabalpur.

(c) Representation has been received from Kerala Government regarding setting up of Zonal headquarters of South-Western Zone in Kerala.

(d) New Zones are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload and accessibility, traffic patterns & other operating/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy & efficiency. Keeping the various factors in view the Govt. has decided to set up the 6 new zones as above. At present there is no administrative requirement for a Zonal office in Kerala.

[Translation]

Funds to States for Rural Development

2476. CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA:
SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI :
SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH:
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :

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

(a) the quantum of funds allocated during each of the last three years, and the current year together with the funds earmarked for each year of the Ninth Plan under various rural developmental works, housing schemes, employment schemes etc., State-wise and Programme-wise;

(b) the target fixed and achievements made thereunder, State-wise;

(c) whether complaints have been received against corruption and irregularities committed in implementation of the above scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on each of such complaints, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU): (a) and (b) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) are the major employment and rural development programmes being implemented by the Centre throughout the country. The quantum of funds allocated, targets fixed and achieved thereunder statewide during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and the current year, 1997-98, in respect of the above schemes are given in Statement I to V. The allocation of funds to all the programmes of this Ministry is done on Annual basis.

(c) & (d) The statewide details of the complaints against corruption and irregularities committed in implementation of the IRDP, JRY and EAS programmes received in the Ministry are as under :

IRDP

State	No. of complaints received
1. Bihar	1
2. Madhya Pradesh	1
3. Gujarat	1

JRY

1. Bihar	5
2. Gujarat	1
3. Rajasthan	1
4. Uttar Pradesh	14

EAS

1. Assam	1
2. Orissa	5

All the above complaints have been referred to the concerned State Governments for taking necessary action into the matter urgently.

Statement-I

Statement showing amount allocated, targets fixed and achievements in respect of IRDP

Programme : IRDP

No. of Families benefitted

Sl. No.	States/UT's	Amount Allocated				Target		Achv.		Target		Achv.	
		94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	94 - 95	95-96	95-96	96-97	96-97	97-98	97-98	98-99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4172.00	4168.21	4168.21	4306.11	166884	159908	122863	203135				
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	312.00	311.72	311.72	322.03	12468	18764	14381	4956				
3.	Assam	1374.00	1371.75	1371.75	1417.12	54938	62584	59030	23062				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4.	Bihar	8116.00	8109.12	8109.12	8377.40	324640	224736		265525		241026
5.	Goa	71.00	70.94	70.94	73.29	2840	2192		1486		1982
6.	Gujarat	1531.00	7529.61	1529.61	1580.22	61262	72418		55686		47545
7.	Haryana	368.00	367.67	367.67	379.83	14715	28285		29771		17202
8.	Himachal Pradesh	120.00	119.89	119.89	123.86	4796	7355		6606		7990
9.	J & K	500.00	499.55	499.55	516.08	20000	13545		13189		7929
10.	Karnataka	2802.00	2797.45	2797.45	2890.00	112055	125810		119685		116900
11.	Kerala	1019.00	1018.07	1018.07	1051.75	40767	46294		43357		48690
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5287.00	5282.69	5282.69	5457.47	211466	210629		210692		168123
13.	Maharashtra	4548.00	4543.87	4543.87	4694.20	181926	196677		181597		161018
14.	Manipur	225.00	224.80	224.80	232.24	8982	7658		6077		7256
15.	Meghalaya	239.00	238.78	238.78	246.68	9567	6020		4534		6822
16.	Mizoram	100.00	100.91	100.91	104.25	4027	3345		5085		1360
17.	Nagaland	168.00	167.85	167.85	173.40	6737	2251		2531		2915
18.	Orissa	3385.00	3381.92	3381.92	3493.81	135382	139837		120669		91249
19.	Punjab	261.00	260.76	260.76	269.39	10464	22701		11786		7160
20.	Rajasthan	2196.00	2194.00	2194.00	2266.59	87857	107799		92818		70304
21.	Sikkim	28.00	27.97	27.97	28.90	1120	1281		2843		1483
22.	Tamil Nadu	3772.00	3768.57	3768.57	3893.25	150860	201221		183895		152597
23.	Tripura	321.00	320.71	320.71	331.32	12856	21818		14657		13725
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10167.00	10158.25	10158.25	10494.33	325353	369725		355916		364552
25.	West Bengal	3739.00	3736.10	3736.10	3859.71	149552	159722		161724		110280
26.	A & N Islands	71.00	70.94	70.94	73.29	1421	1126		832		276
27.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-		-		-
28.	D & N Haveli	15.00	14.99	14.99	15.49	300	302		274		168
29.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-		-		-
30.	Daman & Diu	28.00	27.97	27.97	28.90	561	97		310		178
31.	Lakshwadeep	7.00	6.99	6.99	7.22	140	100		18		30
32.	Pondicherry	58.00	57.95	57.95	59.87	1161	1221		1563		1293
Total		55000.00	54950.00	94950.00	56768.00	2115097	2215421		2089400		1881206

* No targets are fixed since 1995-96.

Statement-II*Statement showing amount allocated, targets fixed and achievements in respect of JRY*

Programme : JRY

S.No. States/UT's	Centre Allocation				Lakh Mandays generated					
					1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Target	Achv.	Target	Achv.	Target	Achv.
1. Andhra Pradesh	26674.97	29785.92	13897.91	15528.39	1145.23	812.25	700.08	701.57	373.67	184.85
2. Arunachal Pradesh	258.01	263.66	142.64	159.37	9.38	5.58	7.99	8.24	4.42	1.76
3. Assam	7136.97	8656.14	4574.54	5111.22	211.87	263.29	178.63	179.08	98.77	91.54
4. Bihar	56309.45	62878.54	27260.46	30458.60	1340.30	986.58	1245.86	1197.03	489.25	460.02
5. Goa	278.77	284.87	154.12	172.20	7.84	6.45	7.94	8.38	4.39	5.30
6. Gujarat	11068.29	11803.29	5101.00	5699.44	240.49	258.48	213.23	209.42	109.14	105.20
7. Haryana	1911.69	2718.62	1225.45	1369.22	33.29	33.96	34.63	33.50	15.73	13.08
8. Himachal Pradesh	885.81	919.27	489.73	547.18	28.68	28.87	24.27	21.45	7.63	10.62
9. J & K	2483.00	2704.80	995.14	1111.89	117.10	88.04	90.94	48.23	47.27	23.20
10. Karnataka	18329.15	19537.93	9332.27	10427.12	513.65	499.67	491.56	524.89	255.74	250.94
11. Kerala	5296.09	6423.47	3395.33	3793.66	97.10	101.01	108.01	127.75	59.73	55.45
12. Madhya Pradesh	39666.67	40895.57	17611.61	19677.78	1015.23	1075.25	849.29	759.46	444.97	217.21
13. Maharashtra	31808.14	33327.03	15150.04	16927.42	1119.13	1100.73	910.75	1014.47	469.32	455.08
14. Manipur	330.69	340.36	182.92	204.27	5.78	7.16	5.78	9.34	3.20	3.49
15. Meghalaya	386.94	397.05	213.92	239.02	7.82	8.50	7.88	4.86	4.35	6.61
16. Mizoram	163.00	166.43	90.12	100.69	4.08	5.72	4.15	5.20	2.29	1.89
17. Nagaland	414.77	421.02	229.31	256.21	11.51	8.47	11.82	5.76	6.54	4.18
18. Orissa	23302.54	24514.35	11274.49	12597.20	676.65	604.51	623.47	678.31	321.32	314.19
19. Punjab	1359.41	1575.94	871.51	973.75	25.39	24.36	28.25	6.44	15.62	7.85
20. Rajasthan	15068.49	16660.08	7317.12	8175.55	497.35	545.58	300.89	361.72	162.92	168.12
21. Sikkim	151.01	273.54	83.49	93.28	6.19	7.03	5.38	9.27	1.49	2.63
22. Tamil Nadu	22202.35	26107.25	12563.97	14037.96	815.47	1027.66	853.09	1069.75	406.90	488.60
23. Tripura	429.62	446.92	237.46	265.32	13.19	29.02	12.40	18.43	6.35	10.38
24. Uttra Pradesh	59501.41	69750.84	33867.93	37841.25	1298.55	1395.94	1320.54	1532.46	603.21	658.18
25. West Bengal	24328.42	26630.17	12455.47	13916.74	613.39	580.82	433.38	414.75	221.86	144.29
26. A & N Islands	152.70	154.18	84.41	94.31	2.46	2.59	2.26	2.59	1.25	0.82
27. D & N Haveli	82.89	83.92	45.81	51.18	2.29	2.07	1.42	0.64	0.65	1.02
28. Daman & Diu	48.83	49.28	26.99	30.16	1.48	0.55	1.55	1.11	0.85	0.44
29. Lakshadweep	76.55	76.70	42.32	47.28	1.38	1.91	1.45	1.05	0.80	0.88
30. Pondicherry	149.47	151.86	82.64	92.34	3.08	4.72	3.16	3.10	1.74	2.91
Total	350256.00	387999.00	179000.00	200000.00	9865.45	9517.07	8480.05	8958.25	4141.37	3690.73

Statement-III*Statement showing amount allocated targets fixed and achievement in respect of EAS*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs)				Employment generated (Lakh Manday)			
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97*	1997-98 (June 97)	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97*	1997-98 (June 97)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13787.18	12249.54	25509.86	NR	277.24	252.42	437.35	NR
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	862.81	1956.55	2054.94	118.96	20.84	50.67	39.05	2.29
3.	Assam	4115.31	9822.98	8790.06	1052.59	95.50	181.82	162.38	21.94
4.	Bihar	9639.54	12901.12	20868.18	8171.75	193.72	754.44	324.49	121.65
5.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
6.	Gujarat	1809.97	5751.65	7570.86	1475.17	35.26	92.45	122.98	24.12
7.	Haryana	2901.53	3814.72	7447.56	328.83	34.64	52.11	24.10	1.83
8.	Himachal Pradesh	115.02	455.55	1061.14	NR	3.20	6.86	11.78	NR
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2338.55	6715.49	5318.68	NR	59.85	129.96	91.64	NR
10.	Karnataka	8024.38	12144.91	14307.22	1549.28	177.45	268.73	314.18	35.26
11.	Kerala	1901.38	2241.90	2063.44	1001.29	27.64	32.47	28.76	10.88
12.	Madhya Pradesh	17959.01	22951.66	24229.95	NR	363.78	388.02	379.22	NR
13.	Maharashtra	7617.01	10295.49	11876.27	2206.08	233.89	293.23	309.72	53.47
14.	Manipur	1327.52	1337.11	1131.87	129.77	28.60	31.21	16.72	1.80
15.	Meghalaya	65.88	499.80	368.40	128.68	1.39	8.30	5.90	2.16
16.	Mizoram	2206.36	2023.87	1509.46	0.00	41.71	40.91	32.26	0.00
17.	Nagaland	1124.87	1800.70	1143.10	NR	28.81	49.0	30.74	NR
18.	Orissa	11655.94	13133.80	19778.34	3048.52	781.24	311.06	439.36	63.03
19.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	NR	NR	0.00	0.00	NR	NR
20.	Rajasthan	10876.32	14770.06	12609.31	3112.54	273.11	288.02	212.65	61.76
21.	Sikkim	243.04	778.31	322.40	110.06	8.50	16.01	8.45	1.60
22.	Tamil Nadu	4409.34	7581.23	17014.19	2872.80	141.29	211.35	468.47	62.92
23.	Tripura	2375.65	2085.78	1905.08	793.87	60.35	43.20	44.73	14.86
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8908.28	16731.98	19833.03	6539.75	165.63	318.23	319.94	82.57
25.	West Bengal	9220.72	9929.18	11943.84	1162.99	184.79	143.08	162.76	15.98
26.	A & N Islands	42.11	10.28	25.23	4.95	0.57	0.11	0.32	0.05
27.	D & N Haveli	3.16	20.17	51.05	0.88	0.10	0.23	0.47	0.02
28.	Daman & Diu	3.46	13.05	0.98	1.34	0.12	0.36	0.02	0.03
29.	Lakshadweep	10.94	44.33	100.36	28.81	0.34	1.02	2.06	0.57
30.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00
Total		123545.28	172061.21	213834.88		2739.56	3465.27	3986.45	

* Provisional.

NR - Not Reported.

Statement-IV*Statement showing amount allocated, targets fixed and achievements in respect of IAY***INDIRA AWAAS YOJANA**

Name of the state	Amount Allocated				1994-95		1995-96		1996-97		1997-98
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98*	Target	Cont.	Target	Cont.	Target	Cont.	Target*
	(Rs. in Lakhs)				(in Nos.)						
Andhra Pradesh	2667.50	8764.21	8870.23	8054.75	23817	57483	87642	69086	84640	46191	50342
Arunachal Pradesh	25.80	79.71	79.71	0	204	219	797	420	631	387	0
Assam	713.70	2555.95	2919.68	0	5987	6862	25560	24871	29107	13401	0
Bihar	5630.95	17079.21	17398.92	15799.23	85249	59216	217292	114506	151453	133244	98745
Goa	27.88	86.12	86.12	78.2	249	329	861	967	1736	466	489
Gujarat	1106.83	3450.09	3255.70	2956.36	9574	7895	34501	31770	33633	30481	18477
Haryana	191.17	1084.63	782.14	710.23	1707	3536	10846	9024	6983	6153	4439
Himachal Pradesh	88.58	273.65	273.65	248.49	701	853	2736	1727	2165	2373	1412
Jammu & Kashmir	248.30	1056.07	556.07	504.94	1964	1697	10561	3554	5347	10197	2869
Karnataka	1832.91	5213.33	5956.29	5408.66	16365	13831	52133	37460	53181	45503	33804
Kerala	529.61	1896.68	2167.06	1967.82	12570	18549	24624	29368	18554	23202	11181
Madhya Pradesh	3966.67	11338.39	11240.56	10207.08	35416	48967	113384	125757	147902	86331	63794
Maharashtra	3180.82	9064.06	9669.47	8780.44	26684	22812	89776	66648	81120	58244	54878
Manipur	53.07	102.16	102.16	0	268	197	1022	784	808	715	0
Meghalaya	38.70	119.54	119.54	0	306	283	1195	207	946	646	0
Mizoram	16.30	50.36	50.36	0	129	368	504	569	398	369	0
Nagaland	41.48	128.13	128.13	0	328	895	1281	470	1014	0	0
Orissa	2330.26	6298.16	7195.91	6534.3	20158	13297	62986	51033	62248	54612	40839
Punjab	135.94	486.85	556.24	505.1	4855	3849	7047	1121	4966	1323	3157
Rajasthan	1506.86	5087.49	4670.13	4240.75	13035	28934	50875	41756	50325	46682	26505
Sikkim	15.10	166.65	46.65	42.36	119	108	1491	1065	369	760	241
Tamil Nadu	2220.23	7468.73	8018.92	7281.65	19824	33176	74205	56885	71598	63959	45510
Tripura	42.95	132.69	132.82	0	340	567	1327	1348	1051	983	0
Uttar Pradesh	5950.14	20400.14	21616.12	19628.68	51472	50908	204003	159073	241251	139801	122284
West Bengal	2432.84	6957.87	7949.67	7218.76	21722	15526	69579	34278	70979	34722	45117
A & N Islands	12.22	47.17	37.17	42.83	109	21	377	21	337	78	214
D & N Haveli	6.63	25.61	25.61	23.26	59	59	205	13	278	46	116
Daman & Diu	3.90	15.08	15.10	13.69	35	45	121	62	120	92	68
Lakshadweep	6.13	23.65	23.65	21.49	0	0	189	10	0	105	107
Pondicherry	11.96	46.18	46.15	41.93	107	0	369	36	330	113	210
Total	35015.45	109499.00	114000.00	100311.00	353353	390482	1147489	863889	11233560	801169	624798

* Excluding NE States.

Statement-V*Statement Showing Amount allocated, Target and Achievement in respect of ARWSP*

Programme : ARWSP

S. States/UTs No.	Allocation				1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (Provisional)	Target	Achiev.	Target	Achiev.	Target	Achiev.
1. Andhra Pd.	4644.00	6027.00	6618.00	7964.00	2500	2774	3100	3100	3100	3100
2. Arunachal Pd.	842.00	1092.00	1200.00	1444.00	140	148	150	224	150	344
3. Assam	1422.00	1845.00	2026.00	2438.00	1200	1536	1500	1233	1500	1493
4. Bihar	5469.00	7099.00	7795.00	9380.00	10000	7185	17621	11865	17621	4241
5. Goa	129.00	170.00	189.00	227.00	65	62	54	54	80	79
6. Gujarat	3039.00	3850.00	4197.00	4987.00	500	464	1100	1144	1336	1208
7. Haryana	2008.00	2312.00	2441.00	2736.00	1000	845	1000	895	1263	803
8. Himachal Pd.	942.00	1215.00	1331.00	1596.00	800	800	925	925	1172	1350
9. J & K	2599.00	3362.00	3688.00	4431.00	152	107	350	528	350	387
10. Karnataka	4272.00	5544.00	6087.00	7325.00	5500	4935	10414	8135	9560	9157
11. Kerala	2172.00	2819.00	3095.00	3724.00	235	214	1065	1173	1312	1205
12. Madhya Pd.	5142.00	6673.00	7327.00	8817.00	7000	12138	9000	13112	9000	17415
13. Maharashtra	6182.00	8023.00	8810.00	10602.00	3000	6828	6000	6273	6000	6565
14. Manipur	309.00	401.00	440.00	529.00	250	170	310	246	325	326
15. Meghalaya	420.00	430.00	472.00	568.00	424	363	606	423	560	455
16. Mizoram	236.00	307.00	337.00	406.00	220	222	240	242	198	100
17. Nagaland	422.00	422.00	422.00	422.00	100	0	124	59	75	91
18. Orissa	2434.00	3159.00	3468.00	4173.00	4200	7351	6000	8071	8200	6808
19. Punjab	775.00	1006.00	1105.00	1330.00	552	426	684	293	522	503
20. Rajasthan	8222.00	9739.00	10387.00	11863.00	2400	3054	4500	4554	5000	5101
21. Sikkim	372.00	372.00	372.00	372.00	48	66	88	158	200	120
22. Tamil Nadu	3682.00	4779.00	5247.00	6314.00	3000	3808	2500	2954	2654	2696
23. Tripura	350.00	380.00	418.00	503.00	600	610	795	1031	1085	2190
24. Uttar Pd.	8616.00	11182.00	12278.00	14775.00	10450	11283	12953	19952	20245	19026
25. West Bengal	3326.00	4317.00	4740.00	5704.00	4500	5372	5578	6490	4711	4718
26. A & N Islands	38.00	44.00	25.00	12.50	15	20	15	27	15	21
27. D & N Haveli	22.00	25.00	15.00	12.50	10	112	12	50	33	50
28. Daman & Diu	13.00	15.00	10.00	12.50	23	11	29	29	9	5
29. Delhi	25	29.00	30.00	5.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
30. Lakshadweep	10.00	12.00	0.00	12.50	4	2	5	4	3	3
31. Pondicherry	26.00	30.00	20.00	5.00	28	28	28	28	28	28
Total	68160.00	86680.00	94590.00	112690.00	58888.00	70934.00	86746.00	93272.00	96307.00	89588.00

*[English]***Recovery of Dues**

2477. LT. GEN. (RETD.) PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has sought the help of Law Ministry to recover a sum of Rs. 1300 crore from a private company in respect of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the present status of the matter; and

(c) the total amount to be recovered by Doordarshan from various private companies as on date and the steps initiated by it to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No single private company/agency owes an outstanding amount to the tune of Rs. 1300 crores to Doordarshan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A total amount of Rs. 40 crores (approx.) is outstanding against various agencies. Doordarshan is taking recourse to contractual provision including encashment of bank guarantee, deaccreditation of errant agencies and legal action for recovering the dues. Programmes of major defaulting agencies are also taken off the air and no fresh programmes are allotted to them.

Introduction of Trains

2478. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN:
SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :
SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations/requests/proposals from the State Governments, Members of Parliament and various organisations regarding the introduction of trains in the country during the current year;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the number of new trains started and proposed to be started during 1997, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations are received for introduction of trains at various levels of the Railway Administration. As the information is voluminous and involves repetition these are not compiled Train-wise and zone-wise.

(c) and (d) Introduction of trains is an ongoing process depending upon the traffic justification, resource availability and operational feasibility. During 1997-98, the No. of Express trains (single) introduced/proposed to be introduced on zone-wise originating basis include :

Railway	No. of Trains
Central	2
Eastern	3
Northern	14
North Eastern	5
North East Frontier	3
Southern	9
South Central	3
South Eastern	4
Western	7
Total	50

Post Haste

2479. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Post Haste' appearing in the, Hindustan Times, dated April 30, 1977;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether there is an inordinate delay in the distribution of postal mail in the rural areas; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Post Haste" appearing in Hindustan Times dated

30.4.1997. The facts of the news item and the reaction of the Government thereto are as follows :

1. One, Shri Vasant Sharma complained about delay in delivery and lack of Post Office facility. The matter of delay in delivery was enquired into and the Chief Postmaster General Delhi Circle is taking suitable action against the postmen concerned. As regards opening of Post Offices, there are 2 Post offices in Rohini at present and 3 more Post Offices have been sanctioned for opening and they will be opened subject to availability of suitable accommodation.

2. Mrs. P.L. Vishalakshi had complained about problem at the counter in encashment of National Savings Certificates. It is reported that this problem occurred due to unavoidable heavy pressure at the counters at the end of the financial year despite providing additional manpower.

3. Regarding the delay in payment of Money Orders especially for Bihar. Money Orders are generally delivered in time. Individual case of delay are inquired into and suitable action is taken to avoid these delays. Processing of complaint cases in respect of Money Orders in Delhi Circle has now been centralised in the Customer Care Centre. Complaint cases are processed quickly and duplicate Money Orders are issued on completion of one month from the date of issue of the Money Order if a complaint of non-payment is received.

4. Alleged bungling in the distribution of magazines: To avoid non-delivery of magazines, periodicals etc., a special watch is kept on the prompt delivery of these items.

5. Non-opening of 10 new Post Offices sanctioned for Delhi: These Post Offices could not be opened due to non-availability of accommodation and in some cases due to demand of rent at exorbitant commercial rates.

(d) and (e) The distribution of mail in the rural areas is generally satisfactory. However, occasional delay in delivery of mails may occur due to unforeseen transportation problems, natural calamities, inadequacy of delivery manpower, sudden and exceptional increase in the volume of mails like Corporate and Greetings mail, etc.

The Government systematically monitors and reviews at the field and headquarters level, the delivery of mails in the rural areas and remedial measures are taken wherever deficiencies are noticed.

[Translation]

Doubling of Railway Lines

2480. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are formulating any scheme to lay double track railway line from Hazipur to

Barabanki and Matni Junction to Varanasi railway station of North Eastern Railway;

(b) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government propose to run fast trains on above route; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Doubling between Gorakhpur and Barabanki is being done in a phased manner. In the first phase doubling has been taken up between Gonda and Jarwal Road and between Gorakhpur and Sahjanwa. Between Muzaffarpur and Gorakhpur doubling will be achieved by having a 2nd BG line through gauge conversion of MG route via Narkatiaganj. Rest of the section will be taken up in a phased manner after completing Phase-I work.

The traffic on Bhatni-Varanasi section has not yet reached a level to justify its doubling.

(b) The cost of the Phase-I doubling Works already sanctioned as detailed in part (a) is Rs. 75.00 crs.

(c) The work on these two sections under Phase-I is expected to be completed within the 9th five year plan.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Increase in Frequency of Delhi-Madras-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express

2481. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are proposals for increasing the frequency of Delhi-Madras-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Constitution of Electricity Regulatory Commission**

2482. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
 SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have disfavoured the converting of the Central Electricity Authority into a regulatory body at the national level;

(b) whether the Union Government have formulated a proposal for restructuring the Indian power sector on the basis of the recommendations of the Hyderabad based Administrative Staff College which submitted its report in April, 1997;

(c) whether an independent regulatory body was emphasised by all the Chief Ministers at the December meeting where a common minimum power plan was formulated; and

(d) if so, the main reasons for disfavouring restructuring of the Electricity Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) Keeping in view the decision taken as a part of the Common Minimum National Action Plan on Power (CMNAPP), the Government have formulated a proposal to set up an independent regulatory authority at the State level. It is proposed that these regulatory authorities would initially be concerned with matters relevant to electricity tariffs. The Ministry is presently in the process of initiating the necessary legislative measures for which approval of the Parliament would be necessary.

*[English]***Telephone Exchanges in Assam**

2483. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased in state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in Assam during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the current financial year 1997-98;

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

(c) whether the Government have a proposal for the expansion/modernisation of telephone exchanges in the State during 1997-98; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details for the current financial year i.e. 1997-98 have been given in Statement-I. Details regarding rest of the Five Year Plan have not yet been finalised.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Statement-II is attached

Statement - I

New Telephone Exchanges proposed to be commissioned during 1997-98 in Assam

Sl. No.	District	Location	Capacity	Type
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Barpeta	Barbari	256-p	C-DOT
2.	Barpeta	Belsore	256-P	C-DOT
3.	Barpeta	Morowa	256-P	C-DOT
4.	Bongai Gaon	Bongai Gaon	2000	C-DOT
5.	Cachar	Sieha	1000	RLU, E-10
6.	Cachar	Srikong	256-P	C-DOT
7.	Darrang	Dalgaon	256-P	C-DOT
8.	Dhemaji	Dholpur	256-P	C-DOT
9.	Dhemaji	Naobaisha	256-P	C-DOT
10.	Dhubri	Bansbari	256-P	C-DOT
11.	Goalpara	Agia	256-P	C-DOT
12.	Goalpara	Moronai	256-P	C-DOT
13.	Goalpara	Rangiuli	256-P	C-DOT
14.	Golaghat	Chinatoli	256-P	C-DOT
15.	Golaghat	Dhekial	256-P	C-DOT
16.	Golaghat	Maojan	256-P	C-DOT
17.	Golaghat	Naharjan	256-P	C-DOT
18.	Jorhat	Chinnamara	256-P	C-DOT
19.	Jorhat	Chungi	256-P	C-DOT

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Kamrup	Basisth Chariali (GH)	2000	OCB-RSU
21.	Kamrup	Dispur	2000	OCB-RSU
22.	Kamrup	Kalapahar(GH)	5000	E-10B
23.	Kamrup	Panbazar(GH)	4000	OCB-RSU
24.	Kamrup	Ulubari(GH)	3000	OCB-RSU
25.	Karbi-Anglong	Baithallangshu	256-P	C-DOT
26.	Karbi-Anglong	Kheroni	256-P	C-DOT
27.	Karim Ganj	Karim Ganj	3000	C-DOT
28.	Kokrajhar	Kachugaon	256-P	C-DOT
29.	Morigaon	Boragong	256-P	C-DOT
30.	Morigaon	Bhurbondha	256-P	C-DOT
31.	Morigaon	Charaibhai	256-P	C-DOT
32.	Nagaon	Ambagan	256-P	C-DOT
33.	Nagaon	Choudhuri Bazar	256-P	C-DOT
34.	Nagaon	Doomdoomia	256-P	C-DOT
35.	Nagaon	Jhaklabanda	256-P	C-DOT
36.	Nagaon	Kucheri	256-P	C-DOT
37.	Nagaon	Nagaon	3000	C-DOT
38.	Nagaon	Palasoni	256-P	C-DOT
39.	Nagaon	Pathori	256-P	C-DOT
40.	Nagaon	Udali	256-P	C-DOT
41.	Nagaon	Urigaon	256-P	C-DOT
42.	Nal Bari	Musalpur	256-P	C-DOT
43.	Sibsagar	Bihubar	256-P	C-DOT
44.	Sibsagar	Geleki	256-P	C-DOT
45.	Sibsagar	Jululi	256-P	C-DOT
46.	Sibsagar	Jhangi Jamguri	256-P	C-DOT
47.	Sibsagar	Khonamukh	256-P	C-DOT

1	2	3	4	5
48.	Sibsagar	Sibsagar	3000	C-DOT
49.	Sonitpur	Kalabari	256-P	C-DOT
50.	Sonitpur	Nappam	256-P	C-DOT
51.	Sonitpur	Tezpur	4000	E-10B
52.	Tinsukia	Tinsukia	1000	RLU, E-10

Statement - II**A. Proposed Expansions of Telephone Exchanges in Assam During 1997-98**

Sl. No.	District	Location	Capacity to be added	Type
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Barpeta	Howly	256-P	C-DOT
2.	Barpeta	Pathsala	400	C-DOT
3.	Bongaigaon	Abhayapuri	256-P	C-DOT
4.	Cachar	Borjatrapur	256-P	C-DOT
5.	Cachar	Borkhola	256-P	C-DOT
6.	Darrang	Udalguri	296	C-DOT
7.	Dhubri	Agomoni	256-P	C-DOT
8.	Dhubri	Bilasipara	256-P	C-DOT
9.	Dhubri	Bogribari	256-P	C-DOT
10.	Dhubri	Gaunpur	256-P	C-DOT
11.	Dibrugarh	Kharupetia	328	C-DOT
12.	Dibrugarh	Moranghat	400	C-DOT
13.	Dibrugarh	Nahar Katia	112	C-DOT
14.	Golaghat	Barpathar	256-P	C-DOT
15.	Golaghat	Sarupathar	256-P	C-DOT
16.	Hailakandi	Algapur	256-P	C-DOT
17.	Hailakandi	Lala	400	C-DOT
18.	Jorhat	Kamalabari	256-P	C-DOT
19.	Kamrup	Panbazar (GH)	2000	E-10B

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Kamrup	Rangia	608	C-DOT
21.	Kamrup	Ulubari	3000	RLU-E-10B
22.	Karimganj	Bazarghat	256-P	C-DOT
23.	Karimganj	Bazaricherra	256-P	C-DOT
24.	Karimganj	Braigram	256-P	C-DOT
25.	Karimganj	Nilambazar	256-P	C-DOT
26.	Morigaon	Moirabari	256-P	C-DOT
27.	Nagaon	Dhing	256-P	C-DOT
28.	Nagaon	Lanka	568	C-DOT
29.	Nagaon	Lumding	568	C-DOT
30.	Nagaon	Purani Godam	256-P	C-DOT
31.	Nalbari	Barama	256-P	C-DOT
32.	North Lakhimpur	Bihupuria	256-P	C-DOT
33.	Sibsagar	Sonari	312	C-DOT
34.	Sonitpur	Dhckiajull	448	C-DOT
35.	Sonitpur	Gorai Mari	256-P	C-DOT
36.	Tinsukia	Chapakhowa	256-P	C-DOT
37.	Tinsukia	Ledo	256-P	C-DOT

B. Proposed conversion of Electro-Mechanical Exchanges in Assam during 1997-98.

Sl. No.	District	Location	Present Capacity	Exch. Type	Proposed Capacity	Exch. Type
1.	Kamrup	Rangia	200	MAX-II	1000	C-DOT
2.	Kamrup	Panbazar (GH)	4800	MAX-I	10000	E-10B Expansion and RLUs

With above conversions. All the Telephone Exchanges will be Electronic.

Revenue Earned by Doordarshan by Telecast of Sports Events

2484. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by Doordarshan by telecast of sports events in the country;

(b) whether there is any decline in revenue earnings after the entry of foreign TV Companies in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken for improving revenue earnings?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) The revenue earned by Doordarshan from various sports events during the last one year is as under :

Event	Revenue (Rs. in lakhs)
Independence Cup-1997	2125.00
National Games, 1997	50.80
French Open, 1997	49.00
Wimbledon, 1997	303.08
Kuber Championship, 96	16.75
Titan Cup, 96	488.60

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Induction of Four Non-Official Directors

2485. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to induct four non-official directors into the Steel Authority of India Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what would be its financial impact; and

(c) the guidelines prescribed for appointments for these directors?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) The Government has decided to support nine PSUs in their drive to become Global Giants. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is one of the selected PSUs. As a part of this decision four professionals/experts in relevant fields are to be inducted as part-time non-official Directors in the SAIL Board. The final selection of these Directors would be

made by the Administrative Ministry from a panel of names to be recommended by the Search Committee, comprising Chairman-PESB, Secretary, DPE, and Secretary of the Administrative Ministry.

In SAIL, the part-time non-official Directors are paid Travelling/Daily Allowances, and sitting fees (at present Rs. 1000/- for each meeting), for attending Board/Board-Sub-Committee meetings.

[Translation]

Post Offices in the Country

2486. SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI :
DR. A.K. PATEL :
SHRI D.P. YADAV :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :
SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :
SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Starred Question No. 34 dated 24.7.1997 and state the place for opening of Post Office, circle-wise during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : Post Offices are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of resources. Targets for opening post office in Tribal and other areas, Postal Circle-wise under Annual Plan 1997-98 have been allotted in the given Statement I attached.

The proposals for opening of post offices under the current, Annual Plan are under formulation/examination. 18 Post Office have been sanctioned far and the Circle-wise details are given in Statement II attached.

Statement-I

Allotment of targets for opening Post Offices during Annual Plan 1997-98

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Departmental Sub Post offices			Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices		
		Other Areas	Tribal Areas	Total	Other Areas	Tribal Areas	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pd.	1	1	2	7	3	10
2.	Assam	1	1	2	17	8	25
3.	Bihar	3	2	5	27	13	40
4.	Delhi	2	-	2	5	-	5
5.	Gujarat	2	-	2	17	8	25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Haryana	2	-	2	15	-	15
7.	Himachal Pd.	1	1	2	7	3	10
8.	J & Kashmir	1	-	1	11	4	15
9.	Karnataka	5	-	5	23	7	30
10.	Kerala	2	-	2	10	-	10
11.	Madhya Pd.	1	1	2	25	12	37
12.	Maharashtra	3	-	3	26	9	35
13.	North East	1	2	3	17	8	25
14.	Orissa	1	1	2	18	9	27
15.	Punjab	2	-	2	17	-	17
16.	Rajasthan	1	1	2	22	11	33
17.	Tamil Nadu	2	-	2	16	5	21
18.	Uttar Pradesh	6	-	6	53	17	70
19.	West Bengal	3	-	3	38	12	50
Total		40	10	50	371	129	500

Statement-II

Particulars of Post Offices sanctioned during the first year of the 9th Five Year Plan under Annual Plan, 1997-98

Name of the Post Office	District	Classification
1	2	3

Departmental Sub Post Offices

Delhi Circle

1. Yojana Vihar	Delhi	Urban
2. Saket	New Delhi	Urban

Haryana Circle

1. Garhi Birbal	Karnal	Rural
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Karnataka Circle

1. Lalankere	Hassan	Rural
2. Rani Chennammanagar	Belgaum	Urban

Uttar Pradesh Circle

1. Usmanpur	Barabanki	Rural
2. Kothi	Barabanki	Rural

1	2	3
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Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices**Bihar Circle**

1. Paroria	Samastipur Rural
2. Jhabri	Singhbhum Tribal
3. Mahua	Gopalganj Rural
4. Jasso	Madhubani Rural
5. Songharwa	Gopalganj Rural

Madhya Pradesh Circle

1. Dungaria	Chhindwara Tribal
2. Sahajpuri	Jabalpur Rural
3. Temani	Betul Tribal
4. Banagram	Burdwan Rural

North East Circle

1. Darka	West Siang Tribal
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Maharashtra Circle

1. Tiwai Hills	Pune Rural
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*[English]***Coordination between Minister and Officers**

2487. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the newsitem captioned 'Rail mantri va afsaron mein talmail ka abhav' appearing in 'Dainik Jagran', New Delhi edition dated July 14, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein ; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The report appearing in the newsitem is not based on facts. Contrary to what has been stated therein, the inaugural function for North-Central Railway was held on 28th August, '96. No meeting, as reported was held on 28th June, '97 between the officers of Northern and North-Central Railway (NCR). In order to commence setting up of the new North-Central Railway/Allahabad with least disruption in working, some broad items of work of Allahabad Division, which would form part of the proposed new North-Central Railway, have been taken over by them with effect from 15.7.97. Eighteen Officers and about 96 staff have also been positioned for the smooth functioning of one-division zone. Further, there is no shortage of infrastructural facilities as stated in the report and adequate outlay (Rs. 5.24 cr.) has been provided in 1997-98 for setting up of

North-Central Railway. There is close co-ordination between the two Railways. Further, a large number of New Lines, Doubling and Gauge Conversion projects are in progress on the Railways and will require an amount of Rs. 29681 cr. (current costs) for completion. Against this an amount of Rs. 1600 cr. has been provided in 1997-98.

Senior Citizenship Certificate

2488. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether booking clerks at railway stations insist on Senior Citizenship Certificate while giving them concession;

(b) if so, whether it is compulsory to produce the said certificate;

(c) if not, the reasons of such insistence; and

(d) the names of the authorities who are authorised to issue such certificates?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Doubling of Trivandrum-Quilon Rail Line

2489. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of doubling work of Trivandrum-Quilon Sector;

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(c) the estimated cost of the project and expenditure incurred thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Trivandrum-Kochuveli has been completed. Kochuveli-Kazakuttam will be completed later this year. Work has been taken up at various locations on rest of the section.

(b) By Dec. '99, subject to availability of resources.

(c) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 98 crs. and expenditure upto 31.3.97 is Rs. 36 crs.

*[Translation]***Rank of India Amongst Solar Energy Producers**

2490. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the place India occupies in the world in the production of solar energy and the provision made for its development;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to use solar energy for irrigation purposes in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh etc;

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

(d) the total solar energy generated in the country at present and the capacity likely to be added thereto in the near future;

(e) the details of items prepared or likely to be prepared with the solar energy; and

(f) the efforts being made to formulate a special scheme for benefit of the villagers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Solar energy can be used through two major technology routes, solar thermal route for heating and cooling applications and solar photovoltaic (PV) route for direct generation of electricity. India is one of the leading nations in the world in the production and utilisation of solar thermal and photovoltaic products. India is the largest user of solar cookers. Surveys conducted by some independent consultants have shown India as the second largest producer of photovoltaic modules based on single crystalline silicon solar cells. During the financial year 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 58.50 crores has been provided in the central budget for this sector.

(b) and (c) Government is implementing a programme for the application of solar photovoltaic water pumping systems for agriculture and related uses. Under this scheme, which is implemented through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, manufacturers, suppliers and financial intermediaries can directly market solar pumps throughout the country, including the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. The solar pumps are sold with a soft loan and subsidy arrangement. Present rate of subsidy is Rs. 125 per watt of solar photovoltaic array capacity subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,50,000. Depending on the capacity of the solar pump, a soft loan in the range of Rs. 50,000-Rs. 1,00,000 is available at 5% annual interest rate, repayable over a period of 10 years. A total of 2,159 solar PV water pumping systems have been installed under this programme.

(d) By the end of 8th Five year Plan about 28 MW of solar photovoltaic systems have been deployed. This is estimated to generate about 42 million kwh per year. About 380,000 sq. m. of solar thermal collector area for use in water heating has also been installed in the country and is estimated to save about 256 million kwh (thermal) energy per year. In addition, about 4,35,000 solar cookers, capable of saving 1.3 million LPG cylinders per year, have also been deployed.

The Ninth Five Year Plan proposals envisage deployment of 100 MW capacity of solar PV systems, 1.5

million sq. m. solar thermal collector area and 5 lakh solar cookers.

(e) Solar Energy systems currently in use based on the solar photovoltaic route include solar lanterns, street lights, domestic lights, village power plants, water pumping systems and a variety of other applications in telecommunications, railways, off-shore oil platforms, TV transmission, battery charging etc. Solar PV systems which have potential for large scale use include medical refrigerators, solar powered water desalination systems and grid connected solar power plants etc.

Solar Thermal system currently in use include solar water heaters for applications in domestic, industrial and commercial sectors, solar cookers as supplementing cooking device, solar air heaters/dryers and solar stills. Energy efficient buildings based on solar passive architecture have been demonstrated. Efforts are in progress to develop solar systems for industrial process heat and power generation. A 140 MW integrated solar combined cycle power plant with solar thermal power generation capacity of 35 MW is likely to be taken up for installation in Rajasthan.

(f) Government has formulated programmes on decentralised solar energy systems like solar lanterns, domestic lighting systems, village power plants and solar pumps primarily for the benefit of the villagers. Subsidies are provided to users of these systems.

[English]

Running of Shuttle Between Neemach and Ratlam

2491. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any requests have been made for starting of a shuttle between Neemach and Ratlam under Ratlam Division in Western Railway by the residents of that area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the General Manager (W.R.) has assured for the same; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Some representations including from Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, MP have been received in this regard.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Seal on Letters

2492. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the complaints have been received that date and place of posting as well as receiving place have

not been clearly indicated in the postal seal or mostly the seal is missing on postal letters;

(b) whether the Government are aware that there are delays in the prompt delivery of postal letters to the addressees; and

(c) if so, the step the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Postal Seals and Stamps invariably bear the place and date of the office of posting/delivery. However, complaints are occasionally received about non-affixing or illegible affixing of Postal Seals on Postal articles.

(b) The Postal articles are generally delivered to the addressees on time. However, occasional delays in delivery of mail may occur due to unforeseen transportation problems natural calamities, inadequacy of delivery staff, sudden and exceptionally heavy volume of mails like Corporate mail and Greeting mails etc.

(c) (i) Suitable instructions are issued from time to time to ensure proper stamping of mails. Surprise checks are made by the Senior Officers and corrective measures are taken as deemed necessary.

(ii) The transmission and delivery of mails is constantly monitored at various levels in the field and at the Headquarters also. Remedial steps are taken to curb deficiencies, wherever noticed.

Restriction of Companies

2493. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications has decided to restrict the number of companies with whom orders can be placed for telecom equipment instead of distributing the contracts to all the bidders as has been earlier practice;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of the restricted companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following are the reasons:

(1) To obtain competitive and reasonable prices against tenders.

(2) To distribute the tendered quantity optimally so that orders are commercially viable both for the supplier and the purchaser i.e. Department of Telecom.

(3) The number of suppliers to be selected is invariably indicated in the bid documents for transparency in the procurement process.

(c) Only the number of companies is restricted. Restriction is not based on names. The number varies from tender to tender.

[Translation]

Introduction of Shatabdi Express Train Between Delhi and Amritsar

2494. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce one more Shatabdi Express Train between Delhi and Amritsar;

(b) whether an announcement was made by the Prime Minister in this regard during his Punjab tour; and

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It has been decided to introduce a reverse Shatabdi Express between New Delhi and Amritsar from 02.10.97.

Renewable Energy Centres

2495. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the areas in Uttar Pradesh where the Government have set up renewable energy centres;

(b) the details of the projects of non-conventional energy sources which are proposed to be set up in Uttar Pradesh through Panchayats; and

(c) the details of the estimated annual expenditure thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) One Regional Training-cum R&D Centre under Integrated Rural Energy Programme, at Chinhath, Lucknow and two Biomass Production Research Centres located at National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow and Garhal University, Srinagar respectively, have been set up with financial support from the Ministry.

(b) and (c) State Governments have been advised to involve the Panchayats in the implementation of National Programme on Improved Chulha. In turn, State Government or Uttar Pradesh has issued suitable instructions to District and Block Nodal Offices in this regard. An expenditure of

Rs. 126 lakhs is estimated for the programme of installation of 2.30 lakhs improved chulhas in Uttar Pradesh, during 1997-98.

[English]

Pending Railway Projects

2496. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the railway projects lying pending in the country, State/zone-wise;

(b) since when each of these projects are pending;

(c) the reasons for delay; and

(d) the steps taken/to be taken to expedite clearance of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) These works were included in the Budget 1997-1998 with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances. The clearances are still awaited.

(c) The survey reports are first examined in this Ministry and sent to the Planning Commission for appraisal. Thereafter projects are considered by the Expanded Board and CCEA. This procedure is time consuming.

(d) The clearance of the pending projects is being closely monitored and out of the total of 25 pending projects, 9 have been referred to CCEA and 8 have been sent to Planning Commission so far. For the balance projects, the reports are under examination and are likely to be sent to Planning Commission shortly.

Statement

Sl. No.	Rly.	State	Name of Work
1	2	3	4
1.	CR	Maharashtra	Kipergaon-Shirdi-New Line
2.	CR	Maharashtra	Baramati-Lonad New Line
3.	CR	Madhya Pradesh	Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho-New Line
4.	ER	Bihar	Giridih-Koderma-New Line

1	2	3	4
5.	ER	Bihar	Ganga bridge near Patna
6.	NE	Bihar	Jaynagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj-Gauge Conversion
7.	NE	Bihar	Samastipur-Khagaria-Gauge Conversion
8.	NR	Rajasthan	Sarupsar-Ganganagar Canal loop Phase-I Gauge Conversion
9.	NR	Punjab	Taran Taran-Goindwal-New Line
10.	NR	Punjab	Chandigarh-Ludhiana New Line
11.	NR	Haryana/Raj.	Rewari-Sadulpur Gauge Conversion
12.	NR	Rajasthan	Luni-Munabao Gauge Conversion
13.	NFR	Assam/Nagaland/Manipur	Diphu-Karong-New Line
14.	NFR	West Bengal/Assam	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon-Gauge Conversion
15.	NFR	Assam	Bogibeel Bridge
16.	SR	A.P.	Dharmavaram-Pendukonda-New Line
17.	SR	Karnataka	Yeswantpur-Tumkur-Doubling
18.	SR	Karnataka	Bangalore-Satyamangalam-New Line
19.	SR	Karnataka	Mysore-Chamrajnagar-Gauge Conversion
20.	SR	Karnataka	Bangalore-Krishanrajpuram-Doubling
21.	SR	Tamil Nadu	Villupuram-Pondicherry-Gauge Conversion
22.	SR	Kerala	Angamali-Sabarimala-New Line
23.	SR	Kerala/Tamil Nadu	Quilon-Tenkasi-Virudnagar-Gauge Conversion
24.	SCR	AP/Maharashtra	Secunderabad-Mudkhed and Jankampet-Bodhan-Gauge Conversion
25.	SER	Orissa/AP	Naupada-Gunupur-Gauge Conversion

Capacity of Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project

2497. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the present capacity of the Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project in M.W. Unit ;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to increase the capacity of the power project in view of the chronic power shortage in Kerala;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the extend to which the capacity is proposed to be increased; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The capacity of the on-going Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project being implemented by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is 350 MW.

(b) to (d) The Union Government has no proposal to increase the capacity of the on-going Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project. For this purpose, the relevant factors like availability of liquid fuel and other inputs are to be kept in view.

Development of Hydro Power

2498. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA :
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Electricity Authority has blamed the environment Authorities for the clearances of hydro power projects in the country slowly;

(b) if so, whether environmental issues were not adequately addressed by the project authorities at the time of project formulation;

(c) the number of power projects, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken in removing irritants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) There are four hydro-electric projects which have been sanctioned but are held up for want of environmental and/or forest clearance. There are 19 Central Electricity Authority cleared hydro-electric projects which are yet to be approved from environmental/forest angle by Ministry of Environment & Forests. The details are given in the statement attached.

(d) The project authorities are to pursue the matter with Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Statement*Hydro Projects Requiring Environmental and/or Forest Clearance*

Sl. No.	State/U.T./ Name of Scheme	Installed Capacity No. / Units (MW)	
1	2	3	4
A. Sanctioned schemes held up for want of Environment and/or forest clearance			
KARNATAKA			
1.	Gangawali (Bedthi)	2x105	210.00
2.	Kalinadi St-II (Dandeli)	2x30	60.00
KERALA			
3.	Puyankutty	2x120	240.00
4.	Bodhghat	4x125	500.00
	Total (A)		1010.00
B. CEA Cleared Schemes			
HARYANA			
1.	W.Y.C. St - II	2x8	16.00
HIMACHAL PRADESH			
2.	Neogal	2x6	12.00
3.	Hibra	3x77	231.00
4.	Parbati St-II	4x200	800.00
JAMMU & KASHMIR			
5.	Athwato	3x2.5	7.50
6.	Sewa St-III	3x3	9.00
7.	Parnai	3x12.5	37.50
UTTAR PRADESH			
8.	Koteshwar (Central Sector)	4x100	400.00

1	2	3	4
MADHYA PRADESH			
9.	Marhikheda [1x20 MW will be installed on later date]	2x20+ 1x20	40.00
ANDHRA PRADESH			
10.	Nagarjuna Sagar Tail Pond Dam	2x25	50.00
KERALA			
11.	Adirapally	2X80	160.00
TAMIL NADU			
12.	Paralavar	1x25	25.00
WEST BENGAL			
13.	Farraka Barrage [Central Sector]	5x25	125.00
SIKKIM			
14.	Teesta St. III [Central Sector]	6x200	1200.00
15.	Teesta St. V	3x170	510.00
ARUNACHAL PRADESH			
16.	Kameng	4x150	600.00
MANIPUR			
17.	Thoubal	3x2.5	7.50
MIZORAM			
18.	Dhaleshwari [Central Sector]	3x40	120.00
19.	Tulvai	3x70	210.00
Total [B] :			4560.50

[Translation]

Functioning of Telephone Exchanges

2499. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telephone Exchanges situated in Jaisinagar and Begum Ganj in Madhya Pradesh have been functioning satisfactorily;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to remove the deficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) (a) Yes, Sir.

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

Appintment of Volunteer Ticket Collectors

2500. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether apponintments were made for the post of volunteer ticket collector at platform of Gonda Railway Station during 1983; and

(b) if so, the facilities being given to those employees by the department?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The volunteer ticket collectors were engaged and discontinued after a few months. They had to be reengaged as per Supreme Court directives; and are being deputed to work for 4 hours at the rate of Rupees 9 per day.

[English]

Increase in Criminal Activities

2501. SHRI MURLIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2067 dated December 5, 1996 and Unstarred Question No. 3080 dated March 13, 1997 regarding increase in criminal activities and state :

(a) whether the Criminal activities are on increase now-a-days in Orissa bound trains from New Delhi (2801, 2815, 8476) due to slackness of the concerned personnels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent miscreants and unauthorised persons into the reserved coaches so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) According to the State Government Police authorities, who are responsible for maintenance of law and order, the number of crimes reported has declined slightly during 1996-97. A Statement showing the number of cases reported train-wise in New Delhi. Orissa bound trains for the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 (upto February) is as under :

Statement

Train No. & Name	1995-96 No. of cases	1996-97 (upto Feb.) No. of cases.
1	2	3
8477 Dn. Utkal Exp.	10	5
8478 Up. Utkal Exp.	8	4
2802 Up Purusottam Exp.	15	17

1	2	3
2815 Up Neelachal Exp.	10	6
2816 Dn. Neelachal Exp.	15	-
8302 Up NZM-Sambharpur Hirakund Exp.	2	-
8475/76 Neelachal Exp.	-	19
	60	51

(c) An Action Plan for controlling crime on trains has been prepared which includes measures to be taken to prevent unauthorised entry into reserved compartments in trains.

Functioning of Dispensaries

2502. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount being spent annually by Railways on different systems of medicine, System-wise;

(b) whether Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic doctors get the same facilities as that of Allopathic doctors; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Annual expenditure on different systems of medicine on Indian Railways is as under :

Allopathic - Rs. 302.23 Crores.

Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic - Rs. 66 Lakhs Approx.

(b) and (c) Railways have adopted Allopathic system of medicine for which complete infrastructure has been created. Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic Doctors are also engaged only for professional consultations on fixed monthly honorarium from Staff Benefit Fund.

HPT at Cannanore in Kerala

2503. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land for the proposed High Power T.V. Transmitter at Cannanore in Kerala has been acquired;

(b) if so, whether the Government have laid the foundation stone for the proposed T.V. Transmitter at Cannanore;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the work for the construction of transmitter has been started; and

(e) if not, the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (e) Land measuring 3.5 acres at Mangathuparamba in Taliparamba Taluk has already been acquired for the High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) project envisaged to be set up at Cannanore in Kerala. The foundation stone for the said project was laid in December, 1995. The actual implementation of the HPT project at Cannanore would depend upon approval of the scheme by the competent authority, availability of resources and infrastructural facilities required for the purpose.

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

2504. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN :
SHRIMATI M. PARVATI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some representations from the Government of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat regarding appointment of dependent of deceased railway employees on compassionate ground;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Concessions to District Level Journalists

2505. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2042 dated March 6, 1996 and state :

(a) whether any orders have been issued for giving concession in railway fare to the district level Journalist; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) Press Correspondents accredited to the Headquarters of Districts will be given concession on par with Central and State level accredited correspondents,

i.e. they would be issued rail travel coupon books at 25% concession in First Class and 50% concession in Second/ Sleeper Class for travel upto 2500 Kms. per month on bonafide professional work, if residing within 25 Kms. of the concerned District Headquarter. Those who possess first class coupon books are also entitled to purchase tickets for airconditioned classes within the limits prescribed for First Class. This facility will come into effect from 15.08.1997.

[English]

Shifting of Electrification Office

2506. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to shift the railway electrification office from Vijayawada;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether South Central Railways trade unions are agitating for retaining of the electrification office at Vijayawada; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the electrification work of Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam section has since been completed. Consequently, the work load of the project has got reduced considerably and the project office at Vijayawada has to be operated at a reduced level consistent with the work load. Representations have been received from S.C. Railway Trade Unions, and efforts are being made to minimise disturbance to the existing staff.

[Translation]

Installation of H.P.T. in the country

2507. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to install High power transmitters within the present frame work during the Ninth Five Year Plan in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to incur on it;

(d) the number of persons likely to be benefited from this scheme; and

(e) the target fixed for installing transmitters during Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (e) While the Ninth Plan proposals of Doordarshan have not yet been approved, sixteen High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) projects of varying power are presently under implementation in the country. The requisite details are given in the attached statement. The total approved capital cost of the sixteen HPT projects presently under implementation is Rs. 105.33 crores. Whereas a High Power (10KW-VHF) TV Transmitter is expected to provide TV service to a population residing within a radial distance of 120 km., the HPTs operating on 5KW-UHF/1KW-VHF power are expected to provide TV service upto a radial distance of 60 km. The above coverage ranges are inclusive of fringe service areas where elevated antenna and boosters are required for receiving satisfactory service.

Statement

List of High Power TV transmitter projects of varying power presently under implementation in the country

Type of Transmitter	Power of Transmitter	Location
(i) HPTs(VHF)	10 KW-permanent set ups	Rajamundry, Bhuj, Calicut, Barmer.
(ii) HPTs (VHF)	10 KW	Baleshwar, Sambalpur, Fazilka, Gulbarga, Jodhpur, Mussoorie (DD 2).
(iii) HPT (VHF)	1 KW	Hyderabad (DD2) Bangalore (DD2) Hassan, Churanchandpur, Banda
(iv) HPT (UHF)	5 KW	Kathua

[English]

Dispute Regarding Claim in Power Project

2508. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any dispute between Rajasthan, Haryana & Punjab regarding claim in power projects of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government contemplating for the formation of a National Policy;

(d) if so, the Government are planning to give relief to affected states; and

(e) whether the Government contemplating to allocate any additional power from Central Projects on firm basis, in terms of the agreement dated 10.5. 1984?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) An agreement was reached among Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and the Central Government on 10.5.1984 for making a reference to the Supreme Court on the question of entitlement of Haryana and Rajasthan to a share in the power generated in the Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project, Mukerian Hydel Project, Thein Dam Project, Upper Bari Doab Canal (UBDC) Stage-II and Shahpur Kandi Hydel Scheme; and, in the case of there being such an entitlement to determine the share of each State.

Before seeking the approval of the Government for such a reference being made to the Supreme Court, it was considered desirable by the Ministry of Water Resources that the issues involved should be settled amicably through discussion and consultation with the concerned States. The issues involved have since been discussed in several inter-State meetings convened in the Ministry of Water Resources.

Since the concerned States have divergent views in the matter, the Ministry of Home Affairs was requested to place the matter before the Northern Zonal Council so as to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution and to enable the Ministry of Power to proceed further in the matter.

The allocation of power from the "unallocated quota" kept at the disposal of the Central Government is periodically reviewed in view the overall power supply position in the Northern Region. After such a review, the following allocations from the "unallocated quota" to different states w.e.f. 1.6.1997 has been decided :

Delhi	30%
Haryana	15%
J&K	5%
Punjab	20%
Rajasthan	15%
Uttar Pradesh	15%

The power supply position in Rajasthan seems to be satisfactory. During 1997-98 (April-June, 1997) the energy

requirement of Rajasthan was 4780 MU against which energy availability was 4704 MU. This represents an energy shortage of 1.6% only as against the average energy shortage 5.7% in the Northern Region and 12.1% at All India level. Further, to tide over the energy shortages in Rajasthan the following additional allocations have been made to Rajasthan.

(i) 36 MW from allocated share of UP in Unchahar TPS reallocated to RSEB with effect from 25.6.1997

(ii) 50 MW from allocated share of UP in Dadri Gas Station reallocated to RSEB from 25.6.1997.

Assessment of Manpower

2509. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have realistically assessed manpower requirements to handle the fast increasing work load and diversification in postal/telecom service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the projection of the manpower for the next Five Years;

(d) whether the Government have not taken any action for recruitment of manpower required, inspite of the mounting pressure of postal/telecom/Unions/federations;

(e) if so, the present status of the proposal for creation of new posts and when it is likely to be implemented; and

(f) the estimates of vacancies likely to be available in postal and telecommunications department during 1997-98, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) :

In respect of Department of Posts

(a) Assessment of manpower is a continuous process and such assessments are made at the prescribed intervals in respect of individual offices.

(b) At the number of offices is too large, the information is not readily available.

(c) No such projections are made. The same cannot possibly be made as the workload does not fluctuate on any predictable pattern.

(d) The Government has been taking action for filling up vacancies annually as per the procedure laid down in this behalf by the Department of Personnel & Training, who are the nodal Department.

(e) As the rate of increase/decrease of workload varies from office to office depending upon various local

factors like industrialisation, commercial activities, population growth and growth in literacy etc., it is not possible to have a consolidated proposal for creation of new posts. As the revision of establishment is a continuous process, it is not possible to give any definite date in this behalf.

(f) The relevant information is given at Statement attached.

In respect of Department of Telecom.

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

statement

The estimates of vacancies likely to be available in Postal Department during 1997-98

Circle	Group 'C'	Group 'D'
Andhra Pradesh	1019	55
Assam	346	40
Bihar	657	59
Delhi	183	7
Gujarat	1082	110
Haryana	280	22
Himachal Pradesh	75	28
Jammu & Kashmir	55	6
Karnataka	412	26
Kerala	560	25
Madhya Pradesh	845	48
Maharashtra (including Goa Region, Panaji)	2042	342
North East (including Shillong, Agartala, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh)	115	23
Orissa	388	45
Punjab	468	64
Rajasthan	406	61
Tamil Nadu	1283	68
Uttar Pradesh	662	190
West Bengal	1599	171

N. B. This includes the vacancies arising out of promotions from one cadre to another and the recruitment being made only at the lowest rung in accordance with the rules applicable there to, thereby reducing the actual recruitment.

[Translation]

Functioning of LPTs in Gujarat

2510. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN :

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

(a) the number of high, medium and low power transmitters installed during the last three years, State-wise and place-wise and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the area to be covered by low power Transmitters in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the border districts of Gujarat particularly the Saurashtra region are affected by the propaganda transmitted by the high transmitter of Pakistani Television; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) 20 High Power TV transmitters (HPTs), 253 Low Power TV transmitters (LPTs) and 96 Very Low Power TV transmitters (VLPTs) were commissioned during the period from 1.4.1994 to 31.3.1997 as per the State-wise and location-wise details given in the Annexure. The year-wise total expenditure incurred on various Doordarshan projects, including the projects indicated in the statement attached during the last three years is as under :

Year	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in Crores)		
	Capital	Revenue	Total
1994-95	170.99	85.56	256.55
1995-96	212.02	99.70	311.72
1996-97	233.09	115.82	348.91

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) While HPT, Bhuj (Pmt. set up) with 300 Mtower for wider coverage, in replacement of the existing interim set up on 100M tower, and 6 LPTs are presently under implementation, the existing LPTs at Bhavnagar, Surat, Vadodra and Junagarh are also envisaged to be upgraded into HPTs for further augmentation of TV service in the State of Gujarat.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) & (f) Though weak and irregular TV signals are reported to be received from across the border in the Kuchch-Saurashtra region of Gujarat, with a view to further strengthen TV coverage in the area, an HPT and 6 LPTs are presently under implementation in the region. Additional 2 HPTs and an LPT are also envisaged to be set up in the region subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities.

Statement

TV Transmitters Commissioned during 1.4.94 to 31.3.97

State/UT	Location
1	2

** A & N ISLANDS

LPT	PORT BLAIR (DDII)
VLPT	BARATANG
VLPT	GREAT NICOBAR
VLPT	HAVELOCK
VLPT	KATCHAL

**ANDHRA PRADESH	HPT	KURNOOL
	HPT	NANDYAL
	HPT	RAJAMUNDARY (Int.)
	LPT	ALAGADDA
	LPT	BELAMPALLY
	LPT	BHEEMAVARAM
	LPT	EMMIGANUR
	LPT	HINDUPUR
	LPT	JADCHERLA
	LPT	KADIRI
	LPT	KAMAREDDY
	LPT	KAVALI
	LPT	KOSGI
	LPT	KUPPAM
	LPT	L.R. PALLY
	LPT	MADHIRA
	LPT	MADNAPALLI
	LPT	MANDASSA
	LPT	MARKAPUR
	LPT	MEDAK
	LPT	NAGAR KARNUL
	LPT	NARAYANPET
	LPT	NIRMAL
	LPT	PEDANANDIPADU
	LPT	TAMBLAPALLY
	LPT	TANDUR
	LPT	TIRUPATI
	LPT	VISAKHAPATANAM
	LPT	WANAPARTHY
	VLPT	CHINTAPALLI
	VLPT	ICCHAPURAM
	VLPT	PADERU
	VLPT	PARWATIPURAM
	VLPT	SRISELAM

**ARUNACHAL PRADESH	LPT	ITANAGAR (DD II)
	VLPT	CHAYANGTAJO

1	2
	VLPT KALAKTANG
	VLPT YOMCHA
** ASSAM	LPT BONGAIGAON
	LPT GUWAHATI (DD II)
	LPT HAFLONG
	LPT HATSINGHIMARI
	LPT HOJAI
	LPT LCM DING
	LPT MARGHERITA
	LPT NORTH LAKHIMPUR
	LPT SONARI
	LPT TINSUKIA
	VLPT DIGBOI
** BIHAR	LPT AURANGABAD
	LPT GODDA
	LPT GUMLA
	LPT HAZARIBAG
	LPT LAKHISARAI
	LPT LOHARDAGA
	LPT NAWADA
	LPT NOAMUNDY
	LPT PATNA (DD II)
	LPT PHOOLPARAS
	LPT RAXAUL
	LPT SARAIKELA
	LPT SHEIKHPURA
	LPT SIKANDRA
	LPT SUPAUL
	VLPT SIMDEGA
** CHANDIGARH	LPT CHANDIGARH (DD II)
** D & N HAVELI	LPT SILVASSA
** DAMAN & DIU	LPT DIU
** DELHI	HPT DELHI (DD III)
	LPT DELHI (LOK SABHA)
	LPT DELHI (RAJYA SABHA)
** GOA	LPT PANAJI (DD II)
** GUJARAT	HPT AHMEDABAD (DD II)
	HPT BHUJ (INT)
	LPT AMOD
	LPT DANDI
	LPT DEESA
	LPT DEVGADH-BARIA
	LPT DHARANGADHRA
	LPT GANDHINAGAR (DD II)
	LPT IDER
	LPT KHAMBAT
	LPT MAHUA
	LPT MANGROL (JUNAGARH)
	LPT MANGROL (SURAT)
	LPT MORVI

1	2
	LPT PALITANA
	LPT RAPAR
	LPT SANJELI
	LPT SHAMLAJI
	VLPT NETRANG
** HARYANA	LPT MANDI DABWALI (DD II)
	LPT MEHAM
	LPT REWARI
	LPT ROHTAK
** HIMACHAL PRADESH	HPT SHIMLA
	LPT RAMPUR
	LPT SHIMLA (DD-II)
	VLPT AJHU FORT
	VLPT BAIJNATH
	VLPT BANDLA
	VLPT BHARATHI
	VLPT BHARMOUR
	VLPT DIAR
	VLPT HOLI
	VLPT JAHALMA
	VLPT JOGINDERNAGAR
	VLPT KHARA PATHAR
	VLPT PALAMPUR
	VLPT ROHRU
	VLPT SARKAGHAT
	VLPT SHIVBADAR
	VLPT THANEDAR
	VLPT VEER
** J&K	HPT LEH
	LPT JAMMU (DD II)
	LPT KATHUA
	LPT RIASI
	LPT SRINAGAR (DD II)
	LPT SRINAGAR (KASHIR CHANNEL)
	VLPT ARDH KUMARI
	VLPT BARAMULLA
	VLPT BATOT
	VLPT BUDDHAL
	VLPT GUREZ
	VLPT KALAKOT
	VLPT KUD
	VLPT POONCH
	VLPT SAMBA
	VLPT THANAMANDI
	VLPT TITHWAL
	VLPT URI
** KARNATAKA	LPT ARSIKERE
	LPT BANGALORE (DD II)
	LPT BASAVA KALYAN
	LPT BHATKAL
	LPT GANGAWATI
	LPT GOKAK
	LPT HARPANHALLI

1	2
	LPT HUNGOND
	LPT KUMTA
	LPT MUDIGERE
	LPT PAVAGADA
	LPT PUTTUR
	LPT RAMADURG
	LPT SAGAR
	VLPT MADHUGIRI
	VLPT SAKLESHPUR
** KERALA	HPT CALICUT (INT.)
	LPT ADOOR
	LPT ATTAPPADI
	LPT CALICUT (DD II)
	LPT CHENGANNUR
	LPT COCHIN (DD II)
	LPT KANHANGARH
	LPT PUNALUR
	LPT THODUPUZHA
	LPT TRIVANDRUM (DD II)
	VLPT DEVIKOLAM
	VLPT KANJIRAPALLI
** LAKSHADWEEP	LPT KAVARATTI
	VLPT KAVARATTI (DD II)
** MAHARASHTRA	HPT BOMBAY (DD III)
	LPT AHERI
	LPT AKLUJ
	LPT BRAHMAPURI
	LPT CHANDUR
	LPT CHIKHLI
	LPT CHIPLUN
	LPT DEVRUKH
	LPT HINGANGHAT
	LPT KANKAULI
	LPT KARANJA
	LPT MEHEKAR
	LPT MHASLE
	LPT MORSHI
	LPT NAGPUR (DD II)
	LPT NAVAPUR
	LPT RAJAPUR
	LPT RISSOD
	LPT SANGAMNER
	LPT SHIRPUR
	LPT SIRONCHA
	LPT UMERGA
	LPT WANI
	VLPT BADLAPUR
	VLPT BHOKAR
	VLPT CHIKALDHARA
	VLPT JUNNAR
	VLPT KARJAT
	VLPT KHED
** MANIPUR	LPT IMPHAL (DD II)
	VLPT MOREH

1	2
** MEGHALAYA	LPT SHILLONG (DD II) LPT TURA (DD II) VLPT BAGHMARA
** MIZORAM	HPT LUNGLEI LPT AIZAWAL (DD II) VLPT CHAMPHAI
** MADHYA PRADESH	LPT ALIRAJPUR LPT ASHOKNAGAR LPT BHANDER LPT BHOPAL (DD II) LPT BIJAIPUR LPT DATIA LPT GADARWARA LPT JAORA LPT KELARAS LPT KHURAI LPT KUKDESHWAR LPT LAHAR LPT MAIHAR LPT NARAYANPUR LPT RAGHOGARH LPT SAKTI LPT SIRONJ LPT UJJAIN VLPT BUDHNI VLPT DIAMONDMINING PROJ. VLPT JASHPURNAGAR VLPT KONDAGAON VLPT PAKHANJORE VLPT PARASIA
** NAGALAND	HPT MOKOKCHUNG LPT KOHIMA (DD II) VLPT PHEK
** ORISSA	HPT CUTTACK (DD II) LPT ATHAMALIK LPT BALIGURHA LPT BANAPUR LPT BHUBAN LPT BHUBANESHWAR (DD II) LPT BONAI LPT BOUDH LPT DASHRATHPUR LPT DHENKANAL (DD II) LPT DUDURKOT (DD II) (HINDOL) LPT DURGAPUR LPT G. UDAIGIRI LPT KABISURYANAGAR LPT KENDRAPARA LPT KHANDAPARA LPT KOTPAD LPT KUCHINDA LPT LUTHERPUNK LPT MALKANGIRI

1	2
	LPT NARSINGHPUR LPT NUAPARA LPT PALLAHARA LPT PARADEEP LPT RAIRANGPUR LPT RAJ RANAPUR LPT REDHAKHOL LPT SAMBALPUR (DD II) LPT SOHELA LPT SONEPUR LPT TALCHER LPT TIRTOL LPT UMARKOT VLPT BADA BARBIL VLPT LALITGIRI (DD II) VLPT NAYAGARH VLPT PATNAGARH VLPT ROURKELA (DD II) VLPT THUAMAL RAMPUR
** PONDICHERRY	LPT KARAİKAL
** PUNJAB	LPT ABOHAR LPT JALANDHAR (DD II)
** RAJASTHAN	HPT BARMER (Int.) HPT JAISALMER LPT BANSI LPT BARAN LPT BARI SADRI LPT BASAVA LPT BHADRA LPT CHIRAWA LPT GANGAPUR LPT JAIPUR (DD II) LPT KARALI LPT KESRIAJI LPT KOTA (DD II) LPT MT. ABU LPT NIMAJ LPT NOHAR LPT NOKHA LPT PHALODI LPT PRATAPGARH LPT RAJGARH LPT RATANGARH LPT RAWATSAR LPT SHAHPURA LPT SRIDUNGARGARH LPT SUJANGARH VLPT AMET VLPT BHIM VLPT CHAUMAHLA VLPT DEOGARH VLPT FATEHPUR VLPT GANGAPUR VLPT KUMBHALGARH VLPT MANDALGARH

1	2
	VLPT NEEM KA THANA VLPT RAJGARH VLPT ZAWAR MINES
** SIKKIM	HPT GANGTOK LPT GANGTOK (DD II)
** TAMILNADU	HPT MADRAS (DD III) HPT RAMESHWARAM LPT ARANI LPT ARCOT LPT ATTUR LPT GUDIYATAM LPT KRISHNAGIRI LPT MARTHANDAM LPT PATTKOTTAI LPT PUDUKKOTTAI LPT RAJAPALAYAM LPT SHANKARAN KOVIL LPT THIRUVAIYARU LPT UDAGAMANDALAM VLPT UDUMALPET VLPT VALLIUR VLPT VALPARAI VLPT VAZAPADI
** TRIPURA	LPT AGARTALA (DD II) VLPT DHARMANAGAR
** UTTAR PRADESH	HPT MAU LPT ATHDAMA LPT AURAIYA LPT CHAMPAWAT LPT ETAH LPT GANJ DUNDWARA LPT KANPUR (DD II) LPT KASGANJ LPT KOTDWAR LPT LALGANJ LPT MAHOBA LPT MAU RANIPUR LPT MUHAMMADABAD LPT NAINI DANDA LPT NAN PARA LPT NAUGARH LPT NEW TEHRI LPT SIKANDERPUR VLPT BAGESHWAR VLPT CHAUKHATIA VLPT DEVPRAYAG VLPT DIDIHAT VLPT GAJJA VLPT GHANDYAL VLPT JOSHIMATH VLPT KALJIKHAL VLPT KARN PRAYAG VLPT PRATAPNAGAR

1	2
** WEST BENGAL	HPT CALCUTTA (DD III) LPT BASANTI LPT BISHNUPUR LPT FARAKKA LPT KALNA LPT MURSHIDABAD (DD II) LPT RANAGHAT LPT RAYNA

Amravati-Narkhed Railway Line

2511. SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE :
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the funds allocated for Amravati-Narkhed Railway Line during 1997-98;

(b) whether this amount is sufficient for the purpose;

(c) if so, the reasons for slow work on the said line;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the construction work; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Rs. 10 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The entire land has not yet been handed over by the State Government.

(d) Earthwork and bridge are being progressed wherever land has become available.

(e) The target date has not yet been fixed. Completion would depend on the availability of resources in the coming years.

[English]

Placement of Wagon Orders

2512. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have placed wagon orders to the wagon manufacturing units during 1997 upto June, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the ratio of wagon procurement from the public sector and private sector in 1997-98;

(d) the total amount of procurement from the public sector units made till date;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to import wagons from other countries; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) For 1997-98 the share of total load of orders for wagons (excluding developmental orders), of public and private sectors is 45% and 55%, respectively.

(d) For 1997-98 the value of total orders for wagons on public sector is approx. Rs. 227.98 crores.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

(b) The wagon contracts placed on different wagon builders since January'97 upto June'97 are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the firm	Quantity (in four wheeler unit)	Type of Wagon	Date of order
1.	M/s. Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd., Muzaffarpur.	907.5	BOXN	Contract dt. 31.12.96 Amendment dt. 4.3.97
2.	M/s. Cimmco Birla Ltd., Bharatpur.	1950 717.5	BOXN BCNA	Contract Dt. 31.12.96 Amendment dt. 4.3.97
3.	M/s. Hindustan General Industries, Delhi.	75	BOXN	Contract dt. 31.12.96 Amendment dt. 4.3.97
4.	M/s. Texmaco Ltd., Calcutta.	1482.5 1227.5	BOXN BCNA	Contract Dt. 31.12.96 Amendment dt. 8.4.97
5.	M/s. Modern Industries, Ghaziabad.	1062.5	BCNA	Contract dt. 31.1.2.96 Amendment dt. 4.3.97
6.	M/s. Binny Ltd., Chennai.	195	BCNA	17.2.97
7.	M/s. Bharat Wagon & Egg. Co. Ltd., Mokameh.	195	BOXN	4.3.97
8.	M/s. Braithwaite & Co. Ltd., Calcutta.	195	BCNA	11.3.97
9.	M/s. Burn Standard Co. Ltd, Burnpur	195	BOXN	11.3.97
10.	M/s. Jessop & Co. Ltd. Calcutta	195	BOXN	11.3.97
11.	M/s. Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Howrah.	195	BCNA	23.5.97
12.	M/s. Hindusthan Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Calcutta.	290	BCNA	16.1.97
13.	M/s. Braithwaite & Co. Ltd, Calcutta.	200	BTPGLN	20.1.97
14.	M/s. Burn Standard & Co. Ltd, Howrah.	110	BTPGLN	20.1.97
15.	M/s. Cimmco Birla Ltd., Bharatpur	200	BTPGLN	20.1.97
16.	M/s. Texmaco Ltd., Calcutta.	200	BTPGLN	20.1.97

National Film Policy

2513. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any proposal to formulate a national Film Policy;

(b) whether the views of country's prominent film makers have also been taken into account in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) At

present, there is no proposal to formulate a separate National Film Policy as such. Since matters relating to financing, production, distribution and exhibition of films are largely in the private sector, the policy of films continuously evolves with technological innovations and changes in the investment environment. It is Government's experience that various problems afflicting the film industry can be effectively and promptly tackled by setting up various Committees/Working Groups as and when required. Similar steps would also be taken as and when required in future. Government also holds periodic meetings with the representatives of film industry to discuss various issues/problems and find ways and means of resolving them.

On-going Railway Projects

2514. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the on-going railway projects in West Bengal and Assam;
- (b) the present status of these projects; and
- (c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

On - going Railway Projects

WEST BENGAL

Details of Projects

Project	Year of approval	Kms.	Cost	Exp. upto 31.3.97 (Rs. in crs.)	Outlay 97-98	Status and action being taken by the Government
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NEW LINE						
Howrah-Amta including Bargachia-Champadaga branch line	74-75	73.5	31	25	3	After completing the work from Howrah to Bargachia, the work was frozen. Owing to strong demands from Hon'ble Members, the work was defrozen in 95-96 for the segment from Bargachia to Munshirhat. The work on this 8 km long section is making good progress. An outlay of Rs. 3 crs. has been provided in 97-98 and we expect to complete this section in 98-99. However, the state government has not yet handed over land for 3 km and this target is subject to the land being made available in the next 2-3 months. The work on the rest of section is frozen owing to poor traffic potential and constraint of resources at present as such the target for this portion has not been fixed.
Eklakhi-Baiurghat	84-85	87	81	13	10	Work is in progress. The work was proceeding slowly owing to shortage of funds. It has been decided to accord priority to the construction of this line and the outlay has been increased from Rs. 3 crs. in 96-97 to Rs. 10 crs. in 97-98. Completion of project is dependent upon the resources availability in the coming years.
Tamluk-Digha	84-85	87	165	32	10	The work was proceeding slowly owing to shortage of funds. However, it has been decided to accord priority to the construction of this line and the outlay has been increased from Rs. 2 crs. in 96-97 to Rs. 9.9 crs. in 97-98. Completion of this project would depend upon the resources availability in the coming years
Laxmikantapur Namkhana	87-88	47.5	70	41.8	5	The cost of this work is Rs. 70 crs of which Rs. 41.8 crs. has been spent till 31.3.97. The section from Laxmikantapur to Nischintpur has already been opened to traffic and from Nischintpur upto Kashinagar would be completed in 97-98. The land acquisition has been taken up beyond Kashinagar and further progress of the work would depend on the availability of the land and resources in the coming years.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
DOUBLING						
Salubganj-New Farakka-Malda Town	86-87	49.57	61	58	1	33 kms. of doubling of this section has already been completed. The remaining 9 km between Tildanga and Bodidanga (7.3 km) and Gaurmalda and Malda Town (9 km) was held up due to encroachments which have just been removed by the State Govt. This work is now making good progress and would be completed in 97-98.
Khana-Sainthia Phase-I	92-93		12	7	4	This work was held up due to court case and contractual problems. The work has now been resumed and is expected to be completed in 98-99 including the fly over at Khana.
Jhapatardal-Guskara	94-95	15	12	7	4	One block section has been completed. The work on the remaining section would be completed in 97-98.
Guskara-Bolpur	96-97	18.8	24	2	4	The work is targetted for completion in 98-99.
Budge Budge-Akra	96-97	6.09	8	1	1	The work is targetted for completion in Dec'99.
Gurup-Shaktigarh	96-97	37	41	2	5	The work is targetted for completion in Dec'99.
New Alipur-Akra	96-97	8.7	12	2	5	The work is targetted for completion in Dec'99.
NEW WORKS INCLUDED IN SUPPLEMENTRY BUDGET 1997-98						
Restoration of Bongaon-Petrapole section						Work will be taken up after the budget is passed.
ASSAM						
NEW LINE						
Jogighopa-Guwahati	1983-84	142	635	390	45	The work is being progressed on war footing. Full funding as required has been arranged. The target for completion of the Brahmaputra bridge and line from Jogighopa to Goalpara is Dec'97 and for rest of the line is Dec'98. The work on the bridge was delayed by unforeseen geological problems in pier foundations of Brahmaputra bridge. (pier 17 and 18) but the problems have since been attended to and work is now progressing well.
Bogibeel Bridge	1997-98	46	1000	NIL	15	The work of construction of Bogibeel Bridge at Dibrugarh has been included in the Budget, 97-98 and Rs. 15 crores has been provided this year. The detailed investigation and final location survey has been taken up. Requisite clearances will be obtained after the survey is completed and the project cost become available and the work would be taken up thereafter. As it is a rail-cum-road bridge sharing of cost is also be worked out.
GAUGE CONVERSION						
Lumding-Dibrugarh including link branches	1993-94	628	552	387	165	The line from Lumding to Dibrugarh and Tinsukia to Lekhapani has since been converted to Broad Gauge. The two linked branches from Simalguri to Moranhat and Mariani-Jorhat-Furkating line would be converted during 97-98.
Lumding-Silchar	1996-97	198	648	6	34	The CCEA clearance has been received. Final location Survey for diversions between Migrendisa and Dittockcherra and for portions where sharp curves have to be modified

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						to suit the requirements of BG and preparation of land acquisition plan and papers is being taken up. In the portions where no change in alignment is necessary, the work would be taken up shortly. An outlay of Rs. 34 crs. has been provided in 97-98.
New Jalpaiguri- Siliguri-New Bongaigon	1997-98	380	NIL	20		This is a new work in the budget, 97-98 and will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.

NEW WORKS INCLUDED IN SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET, 97-98

Gauge conversion of Katakhal-Bairabhi as first phase of extension of BG line to Sairang.	Work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.
Gauge conversion of Katihar-Jogbani	Work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION

WEST BENGAL

The electrification work is in progress on the following sections falling in the State of West Bengal

Project	RKM in WB	RKM ENER GISED	BALANCE RKM	PROPORTIONATE ANTICIPATED COST (Rs. in Crs.)	Target
Tiruldih-Ilu (Part of Chandli-Muri-Barkakana)	24	-	24	9.08	March'98
Pundang-Muri & Purlia-Kotshilla (Part of Bokaro-Barsuan)	72	-	72	35.59	Dec'98
Kharagpur-Danton (Part of Kharagpur-Bhubneswar)	54	-	54	31.01	March'2002
Adra-Midnapur	155	-	155		March'99
Ranaghat-Gede	44	-	44	30.60	Not fixed.
Ranaghat-Bangaon	33	-	33	18.33	Not fixed.
Total	382		382		

With the completion of above electrification works total electrified RKM in the State of West Bengal would be $1378 + 382 = 1716$ i.e 56.90% of the BG tracks

Survey for electrification :

Cost-cum-feasibility survey for electrification of the following sections are in progress :

1. Krishnanagar-Lalgola 127 RKM
2. Barsat-Hasnabad 52 RKM
3. Katwa-Azimganj 78 RKM

ASSAM : There is no RE project in Assam.

[Translation]

Central Telegraph Office, Purnea

2515. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Purnea Central Telegraph Office is presently running from a rented accommodation;

(b) if so, whether due to this revenue earning is low;

(c) if so, whether the Government contemplated the construction of building for Telegraph Offices;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be constructed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. There is no plan to construct a separate building for the Central Telegraph Office, Purnea.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) There is a plan to shift the Central Telegraph Office, Purnea to the Departmental Exchange Building.

Palace on Wheels

2516. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :
SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'Palace on Wheels' train being run on the narrow-gauge line in Gujarat have been incurring losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to run it again in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No narrow gauge tourist train is running in Gujarat Sector by the name of 'Palace on Wheels'.

(b) Does not arise

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Construction of Over-Bridge

2517. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a Railway Over-bridge at Agthuri between Changsari and Guwahati; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. SK/2 at km. 8/0-1 between Agthuri and Changsari has been sanctioned during the Works programme of 1996-97 the Plan and Estimate for which are being prepared. The work will be taken up after the state Govt. starts work on approaches.

[Translation]

Research Work in Steel Industry

2518. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made the provision of an expenditure of Rs. 150 crore for undertaking research work in Steel Industry during the current year;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the technology used in steel production in the Country needs much improvement;

(d) if so, the technologies used in China, America, Russia and Japan along with the production cost of steel under the technologies separately; and

(e) the extent to which the production cost will be less when the production is undertaken through these technologies in comparison to the technology already being used in India?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The technologies used in the steel production in India need upgradation in many areas. The technology upgradation is a continuous process and the extent of improvement required depends upon the status of technologies in different companies.

As far as Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) is concerned, the company is constantly pursuing various modernisation programmes to suitably upgrade the level of technology in different SAIL plants.

In RINL/VSP, upgradation of technology is required in some of the areas like utilisation of waste energy in sinter plant for energy conservation, incorporation of expert system and computerisation at blast furnace for improving the productivity, incorporation of pulverised Coal Dust Injection and oxygen enrichment to improve the productivity and to reduce the production cost, automation and modernisation of continuous casting machines and introduction of facilities like oil water mist cooling and electro-magnetic stirring for improving the productivity and

quality of the product at continuous casting machines, introduction of additional facilities for secondary steel making for improving the intrinsic quality of steel etc.

(d) The level of technologies in other countries can be represented as follows :

Sl. No.	Parameters	China	USA	Russia	Japan	India
1.	% of steel Produced through BOF route (1996)	70	58	52	67	54
2.	% of steel processed through secondary refining (1993)	35	86	-	96	21
3.	% of steel continuously cast (1996)	51	93	41	94	34

Technology no doubt plays an important part in production cost of steel but there are several other factors which equally influence the production cost. Hence, the comparison of the date of production cost of one country and other country and from one plant to other plant will not reflect the true effect of technology on production cost.

(Source : For Sl. No. 1 & 3 IISI World steel in figures (1997 edition); For Sl. No. 2 Report of the Sub-group No. 4 of the Working Group on Iron & Steel Industry constituted by Planning Commission for 9th Five Year Plan)

(e) The new technologies, it is felt, are cost effective and improve the competitive edge as these technologies are able to enhance the productivity of the plant. They also improve the quality of the products which improves the overall competitiveness. However, it is not possible to quantify and compare such issues because the production costs are influenced by many factors other than technology itself.

[English]

Performance of Postal Saving Schemes

2519. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the performance of Postal Savings Schemes being operated through Department of Posts for the last three years in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof for rural and urban areas in general and district-wise for Amra Division in particular as per standard norms of assessment;

(c) the total number of Agents operating in Amraoti Division, district-wise and the quantum of funds mobilised under the saving Schemes including Recurring Deposit Scheme together with the commission paid to the Agents thereon and the nature of difficulties faced by the depositors and agents in realisation of their dues from postal authorities; and

(d) the efforts being made to streamline the postal operations and to mop up savings from small investors in rural and urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Deptt. of Post handles the Small Savings Bank work as an agent on behalf of the Ministry of Finance which is the nodal Ministry for the policy making and rule framing of the Small Savings Schemes.

The Deptt. of Post monitors the operation of Post Office Savings bank to ensure its smooth implementation and to remove the public grievance, if any. The details about the gross deposits and the net deposits in the postal savings schemes for the last three years in Maharashtra one given in Statement-I attached.

(b) The Deptt. of Post has a well defined administrative machinery and prescribed procedure to redress the public grievance not only at the Directorate level but also in the States and the Districts, covering the urban as well as rural areas. The complaints are settled expeditiously as per the prescribed procedure.

(c) The details regarding the total number of the Agents under the Standardised Agency System (SAS) and the Mahila Pradhan Bachat Yojana (MPKBY) in Amraoti Division are 1226 and 1706 respectively. The details of the fund mobilisation through the agents under the small saving schemes, including RD scheme and the details of commission paid to the SAS agents only as available with the postal authorities are given in Statement II attached.

The depositors have sometime encountered difficulties on getting matured amount of RD Accounts due to abnormal heavy premature closure of RD Accounts through out the division/district. To alleviate the problem, steps have been taken to clear the work on payment of incentive to staff and engagement of extra manpower. No difficulty is faced by Agents.

(d) The deptt. of post constantly monitors the public grievance and has gone in for modernisation of SB work, including computerisation, to provide efficient and customer friendly service. As and when required, based upon the feedback from the field units, the deptt. of post takes up with the ministry of finance for the revision of the post office savings bank rules as the ministry of finance is the nodal ministry for the small saving schemes.

Statement - I

Figures in respect of the Small Savings Schemes for Maharashtra

Year	Gross Deposit	Net Deposit
1994-95	3527.55	677.31
1995-96	3369.52	(-) 500.46
1996-97	3564.41	3090.20

Statement - II

(i) Commission paid to the agents under the standard the standardised agency system (SAS) in Amroati Division.

Year	Amount (Rs.)
1994-95	25,17,528
1995-96	34,13,133
1996-97	28,26,060

(ii) Yearwise fund mobilisation through agents under Small Savings Scheme including the RD Scheme.

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1994-95	74.38
1995-96	84.71
1996-97	88.08

Encroachment of Railway Land in Delhi

2520. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of policy on retrieval of railway land under unauthorized occupation;

(b) the area of railway land in National Capital Territory, Delhi which is presently under the occupation of Jhuggi Jhoupri;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to get these areas cleared of Jhuggi clusters for Railways own needs; and

(d) if so, which are these areas and the scheme planned to rehabilitate/resettle those who are uprooted from the railway land?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Removal of unauthorised occupation on Railway land is a continuous process. New encroachments are removed as soon as these are noticed. Old encroachments are dealt with under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(b) About 327 Hect. of Railway land in Delhi is under unauthorised occupation of Jhuggi Jhoupri dwellers.

(c) and (d) Development/expansion of Railway activities is a continuous process. Whenever the Railway land unauthorisedly occupied by Jhuggi dwellers is required for developmental works the same is got vacated. So far as resettlement of Jhuggi dwellers on Railway land is concerned, this is the responsibility of State/Local Authorities.

[Translation]

Inflated Telephone Bills

2521. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJI BHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether inflated bills are being sent to the telephone subscribers;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take some concrete steps so as to put check on its;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether with the Connivance of the employees of MTNL the telephone lines are interchanged which results in inflated billing to the other subscribers;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to institute an inquiry in this regard in Delhi and Gujarat; and

(g) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (g) The information has been called for and the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Target of Steel Production

2522. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the target of steel production by the Steel Authority of India Limited in the current year;

(b) the actual production achieved in the first quarter; and

(c) the reasons for lagging behind the target fixed for the first quarter of the year?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The MOU target for Saleable Steel production by the Steel Authority of India Limited (excluding subsidiaries) in the current year is 9.6 million tonnes.

(b) The actual production of Saleable Steel in SAIL (excluding subsidiaries) during the first quarter 1997-98 was 2.006 million tonnes.

(c) Stabilisation of the modernisation facilities in Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants, and operational and equipment problem in the Steel Melting Shop - I and Hot Strip Mill of Bokaro Steel Plant are the major reasons for actual production lagging behind the target, of 2.221 million tonnes, fixed for the first quarter of the year.

[Translation]

Theft in Trains

2523. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints about thefts and increasing inconvenience to passengers travelling on reservation in second class sleeper coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check this menace ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order in trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The cases of thefts are reported to, registered and investigated by the Govt. Railway Police (GRP). As and when this Ministry receives complaints in this regard, they are sent to the concerned GRP authorities for taking necessary action.

(c) Railway Administration on their part also maintain close and constant coordination with State Government concerned and render necessary assistance to them to contain crime on railways.

[English]

Water Supply Schemes in Rajasthan

2524. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

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

(a) the number of villages and hamlets affected by acute shortage of potable drinking water in Rajasthan, particularly in Western Areas and the factors held responsible therefor;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to solve this problem;

(c) the quantum of funds allocated to the State in the current year for the same;

(d) whether Government of Rajasthan has sought the help of Japanes Government to fund the drinking water projects of the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of the drinking water projects of the State pending with the Centre for clearance and the time by which these are likely to be cleared; and

(g) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter of raising ground water level in the desert districts of the State by constructing water harvesting structures there ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) The number of not covered habitations facing acute shortage of potable drinking water in Rajasthan was 12,000 as on 1.4. 1997. However, this is subject to further verification by the State Government. The main reasons for emergence of NC habitations are :

Sources going permanently defunct, expiry of the design, life of the system, poor operation and maintenance, setting-up of new habitations and habitations not having any public source of safe drinking water supply.

(b) Schemes/projects for safe drinking water supply are taken up under the Minimum Needs Programme, the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and under the Basic Minimum Services. The State Government has prepared an action plan for coverage of Not Covered and Partially Covered habitations within the availability of annual allocations.

(c) An allocation of Rs. 87.32 crore under the normal ARWSP and Rs. 31.31 crore for the Desert Development Programme Areas has been made to the State Government of Rajasthan during 1997-98.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The State Government has requested for assistance from the Government of Japan for Jaipur Water Supply and Sanitation Project and Water Supply and Sanitation schemes for five major towns.

(f) No other drinking water project of the State Government of Rajasthan is pending with the Central Government.

(g) The State Government has initiated measures for implementing artificial recharge project in critical areas including Desert districts to check the depletion of water level, under Agricultural Development Project with financial assistance from International Development Association, World Bank.

Power to State for Mining Lease

2525. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have a proposal to relax rules governing mining lease and also propose to empower State Governments to provide mining lease;

(b) if so, the reasons for relaxing mine leasing norms;

(c) the details of private sector companies permitted by the Union Government for mining and norms adopted for assigning them mining lease ;

(d) whether any State Government can enter into a collaboration with any private party for mining at diamond without getting prior permission from the Union Government; and

(e) if so, under which Act it can be done?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The Central Government have constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) with Secretaries, Mines & Geology of State Governments etc. as members. The terms of reference of the Committee *inter alia* include review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/renewal of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease. The Committee is also to consider and suggest further delegation of powers to the State Governments regarding grant/renewal of prospecting Licence/Mining Leases and measures to be taken to prevent illegal mining.

(c) to (e) All applications for grant of mineral concessions are received by the respective State Governments only. Further, the Mineral Concessions to the applicants including private sector Companies are granted by the concerned State Governments subject to the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the Rules made there-under. As per Section 5 of the Act, Mineral concessions can be granted only to an Indian National or a company as defined in Sub-Section (1) of Section (3) of the Companies Act, 1956. However, in respect of minerals specified in the First Schedule of the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, no prospecting Licence or Mining Lease can be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government.

Acquisition of Land by Konkan Railway Authorities

2526. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Authority has acquired land from farmers for Konkan Railway;

(b) if so, the rate of compensation per hectare paid/proposed to be paid by the Konkan Railway Authority;

(c) whether complaints of improper and inadequate payment of compensation have been received by the Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir. The Konkan Railway Corporation does not acquire land. The State Governments acquire and hands over land.

(b) The rate of compensation is varying depending on location, state etc. however, the rate of compensation per hectare is fixed by the respective State Governments.

(c) and (d) Complaints are received by the respective State Governments. The Konkan Railway Corporation neither fixes the rate nor makes the payment directly. Any compensation to the land losers is made through the respective State Govts. The Konkan Railway deposits the amount of the declared award with the State Govt., who in turn arranges/to the land losers. Some of the representations are at different stages of awards finalisation by State Land Acquisition Officers (SLAOs).

All out efforts are made by the KRC to get these cleared and keep close liaison with SLAOs.

Broadcasting Bill

2527. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S. Government has expressed its opposition to the new broadcasting bill introduced in Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) (a) : No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility in Maharajganj

2528. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Maharajganj district of

Uttar Pradesh where telephone facility has been provided so far;

(b) the target fixed for the same during the year 1997-98;

(c) whether the tempo of providing telephones facility has been slow during the last year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to provide telephone facility speedily?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Telephone facility has been provided in 345 villages of Maharajganj District of U.P. as on 31.7.1997.

(b) The target for providing telephone facility for Maharajganj District for the 1997-98 is 315.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) The action proposed to be taken to provide telephone facility speedily is given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Action Proposed to be taken to provide Telephone facility speedily

It has been decided to lay underground cable in rural areas, use A,B,C,D posts in addition to Masts for antennas.

Statement

DETAILS OF GAUGE CONVERSION ONGOING PROJECTS

							(Rs. in Crores)
Project	Year of approval	Kms.	Cost	Exp. upto 31.3.97	Outlay 97-98	Throw forward on 1.4.98	TDC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ANDHRA PRADESH							
Mudkhed-Adilabad	1984-85	162	110	5	37	69	9/98
Guntur-Guntakal and Guntakal-Gooty-Kalluru	1992-93	458	452	359	35	58	12/98
Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati	1992-93	104	72	6	15	51	10/98
Secunderabad-Dronachellam and Secunderabad-Bolarum	1992-93	331	283	178	53	52	3/98
Solapur-Gadag	1993-94	300	208	78	31	99	3/98 for Hotgi-Bijapur

More and more exchanges are being planned to be opened in rural areas, as per the policy of the Department i.e. an exchange is planned at a place when the Registered Demand reaches 10 or more.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

2529. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to convert narrow/metre gauge lines into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the names of such lines which comes under this scheme; Zone/State-wise;

(c) whether Jabalpur-Nainpur-Gondia line in Madhya Pradesh has also been included in this scheme; and

(d) if so, the time by which the conversion on above line is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The preliminary work has already been started.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Secunderabad Mudkhed and Janakampet-Bodhan	1997-98		283	nil	0.01	282.99	Not yet fixed.
Naupada-Gunupur	1997-98		47	nil	0.01	46.99	Not yet fixed
ASSAM & NE STATES							
Lumding-Dibrugarh including link branches	1993-94	628	552	387	165	nil	Main line completed 31.3.98 for
linked branches							
Lumding-Silchar	1996-97	198	648	6	34	608	Not yet fixed
New Jalpaiguri- Siliguri-New Bongaigon	1997-98		380	nil	20	360	Not yet fixed
BIHAR							
Narkatiaganj- Valmikinagar	1994-95	50	36	8	25	3	Dec'98
Hajipur-Bachwara	1996-97	71	54	10	40	4	10/97
Mansi-Saharsa	1996-97	155	210	8	8	194	12/98
Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension to Tori	1996-97	113	147	nil	10	136	Not yet fixed
Jayanagar- Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj	1997-98	260	233	nil	0.01	232.99	Not yet fixed
Samastipur- Khagaria	1997-98	86	70	nil	0.01	69.99	Not yet fixed
GUJARAT							
Bhildi-Viramgam	1991-92	157	155	nil	2	153	12/98 for Viramgam- Mehsana Rest of the work is frozen.
Rajkot-Veraval	1994-95	155	100	5.50	13	81.50	12/99
Gandhidham-Bhuj	1995-96	58	42	13	2	27	12/99
Wankaner-Malia Miyana	1995-96	90	79	nil	1	78	Not yet fixed
Surendernagar- Bhavnagar, Dhola- Dhasa-Mahuva with extension to Pipavav	1996-97	385	337	0.01	0.01	336.98	Not yet fixed
KARNATAKA							
Arsikere-Hassan- Mangalore	1994-95	236	185	64	24	97	12/98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mysore-Hassan	1995-96	119	116	35	69	12	3/98
Mysore-Chamarajanagar with extension to Mettupalayam	1997-98	210	175	nil	0.01	174.99	Not yet fixed
KERALA							
Quilon-Tirunelveli-Trichendur and Tenkasi-Virdhunagar	1997-98		280	nil	0.01	279.99	Not yet fixed
MADHYA PRADESH							
Neemuch-Ratlam	1993-94	135	116	2	1	113	12/2000
Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi	1996-97	285	356	0.01	1	354.99	Not yet fixed
MAHARASHTRA							
Gondia-Chandafort	1992-93	242	215	127	55	23	3/98
Miraj-Latur	1993-94	359	310	24	20	266	Not yet fixed
ORISSA							
Rupsa-Bangariposi	1996-97	89	58	1	3	54	Not yet fixed
RAJASTHAN							
Viramgam-Jodhpur, Bhildi-Samdari-Luni	1990-91	416	185	0.11	0.0001	185	Not yet fixed
Luni-Marwar	1995-96	72	45.5	4.5	30	11	12/97
Luni-Jodhpur	1995-96	28	32	4	15	13	12/97
Ajmer-Udaipur-Chittaurgarh	1996-97	300	262	01	5	256.99	Not yet fixed.
Luni-Barmer-Muna bao	1997-98	300	240	nil	0.01	239.99	Not yet fixed
TAMIL NADU							
Dindigul-Trichy	1992-93	93	80	11	17.5	51.5	12/98
Madras Beach-Tiruchchirappalli	1992-93	340	300	142	139	9	3/98
Tiruchchirappalli-Nagore-Karaikal	1995-96	200	139	63	10	66	12/99
Villupuram-Pondicherry	1997-98	38	30	nil	0.01	29.99	Not yet fixed
UTTAR PRADESH							
Mathura-Achnera	1995-96	35	20	0.10	0.001	20	Not yet fixed
Khadda-Gorakhpur	1995-96	86	67	8	5	54	12/99
Kashipur-Lalkuan	1996-97	60	45	1	3	41	12/99
Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura & Kasganj-Bareilly	1997-98	458	395	nil	0.01	394.99	Not yet fixed

*[English]***Gas Based Power Station in MP**

2530. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a power station based on gas in Bhandar of Madhya-Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) There is a proposal for setting up of 342 MW Dual Fuel based (Gas/Naptha) Combined Cycle Power Project in the private sector at Bhandar in Gwalior district. M.P. The generating company namely M/s Bhandar Power Ltd.. has been formed for implementation of the project.

*[Translation]-***Participation of NGOs in the Field of Science and Technology**

2531. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the assistance of Non-Governmental Organisations is being sought in the field of Science and Technology;

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

(c) the details of such organisations in Uttar Pradesh and the amount of financial assistance provided to them during the last three years and the provision of funds made for 1997-98; and

(d) the details of the projects undertaken by the organisations?

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

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be palced on the Table of Lok Sabha.

*[English]***Allocation of Gas for Power Generation in UP**

2532. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has

sent a proposal for allocation of gas for power genertion in the state; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested for allocation of gas for establishing four gas based power projects by private entrepreneurs to be located at Jagdishpur (210 MW), Aonla (600 MW), Shahjahanpur (600 MW) and Babrala (600 MW). However, as the gas projected to be avialable along HBJ pipline has already been fully allocated. it has not been found feasible to allocate any gas to the proposed power projects of Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Provision of Escalators at Vijayawada Railway Station

2533. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated funds for providing escalators at Vijayawada Railway station;

(b) if so, whether work has not been started inspite of allocation of funds; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The estimate for this work is under process for sanction and the field activities would start after sanction of the estimate.

Debt Trap of Railway Land

2534. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are facing the threat of falling into debt traps on account of high interest rate to be paid on funds mobilised by Indian Railway Finance Corporation; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to pull Railways out of the debt trap?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) There is no immediate threat of the Railways falling into a Debt Trap on account of interest rate to be paid on funds mobilised by Indian Railway Finance Corporation. Indian Railway Finance Corporation has raised the money through tax-free and taxable bonds as well as External Commercial Borrowings at very competitive rates of interest, which are lower than the commercial rate

prevalent in the market. Railways are also taking necessary steps to augment their revenue and contain operating expenses in order to increase the internal generation of resources and keep market borrowings to the minimum. Indian Railways is also seeking greater budgetary support from the Central Government.

Steam Engines

2535. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of steam engines in the country;
- (b) the time by which these steam engines are likely to be replaced by diesel and electric engines; and
- (c) the manner in which the steam engines are to be disposed of ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) As on 1.4. 1997, there were 75 steam locos working on Indian Railways.

(b) Steam locos are expected to be replaced by 2000 AD depending upon the availability of diesel/electric locos on Indian Railways except in some sections of tourist importance where such locos will be an attraction.

(c) Steam locos are disposed of by auction as scrap by the Railways. However, some locos are being preserved in the museums/important places.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchange in Rajasthan

2536. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the faults in telephone exchanges situated in Churu and Nagaur districts of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the telephone services in these districts;

(c) whether any scheme to expand and modernise these telephone exchanges and to link more and more telephone exchanges with STD service is under consideration of the Government;

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Faults in telephone exchanges are generally attended in time. But some times, due to thefts of Open Wire lines, the working of telephone exchanges get affected.

- (b) Details are given in Statement-I attached
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) As per Statement II (A,B,C)
- (e) Not applicable in view of (d) above.

Statement - I

Steps taken to improve telephone services in Churu and Nagaur districts in Rajasthan

1. Regular monitoring in rural and farflung exchanges is being done.
2. Two sub-divisions at Sadulpur and Sardarshahar in Churu Distt. have been recently opened.
3. Group dialing between Sujangarh (Churu) and Ladnu (Nagaur) exchange have been provided recently.
4. Connectivity between exchanges is being progressively converted to reliable media.
5. 8 channel open wire carrier system between Bidasar-Sujangarh and 3 channel system between Bimsar-Sujangarh have been provided in May, 1997 and June, 1997 respectively, which have improved the connectivity of these exchanges.
6. In Nagaur Distt. Makrana has been brought on 34 MR OFC media this year and OFC laying and dropping work is in progress for Parbatsar, Kuchaman city and Merla city.

Statement - II (A)

Tentative Expansion and Modernisation Schemes for the year 1997-98

S.No.	Name of Scheme	Churu Distt.	Nagaur Distt.
1	2	3	4
1.	DELS to be added	2800 lines	5300 lines.
2.	Net capacity to be added	3336 lines	5936 lines.

1	2	3	4
3.	New Telephone exchanges opening.	4	2
4.	TAX Expansion	1 K CLT	—
5.	STD provisioning	10 Stations	15 Stations
6.	Reliable media. (M/W OFC)	3 Schemes	3 Schemes.

Statement II (B)*Development Programme 1997-98 for SSA Nagaur*

Name of Exch.	Net Addition (Lines)
1	2
** SSA Nagaur	
Alai	152
Basni (Nagaur)	104
Bori Khurd	96
Besroli	64
Bhadwasi	56
Bidiyad	152
Daulatpura	80
Deedwana	552
Deh	56
Dhankoli	64
Dugastau	56
Gudha Salt	72
Harsor	64
Idwa	64
Jasnagar	56
Jawaja	56
Jayal	88
Jodhiyasi	56

1	2
Khiyala	56
Khunkhuna	64
Kuchaman city	1000
Kuchera	96
Kukanwali	64
Loonwa	72
Makrana	1400
Manana	72
Manglana	88
Maroth	72
Maulasar	80
Merta City	552
Mithari (KCR)	64
Mithari (LDN)	32
Nuwa	72
Parbatsar	152
Roli	56
Sribalaji	56
** Sub Total **	5936
*** Total ***	5936

Statement - II (C)**Development Programme 1997-98 for SSA Churu**

Name of Exch.	Net Addition (Lines)
**SSA Churu	
Chhapar	200
Ghangoo	56
Lohahat	64
Ratan Nagar	232
Ratangarh	424
Salasar	152
Sandwa	56
Sardarshahar	800
Sidhmukh	56
Sridungargarh	400
Sudsar	96
Sujargarh	800
Sub Total	3336
Total	3336

*[Translation]***Direct Train Services**

2537. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether direct train services are not available for Gandhi Nagar, Surat, Vadodara, Bhavnagar, Rajkot etc. from Jabalpur in Central Railway;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to start direct train services for the said places; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) At present, Surat-Varanasi Tapti-Ganga Express (5 days in a week) is available between Jabalpur and Surat. A weekly train is also being introduced between Surat and Patna serving Jabalpur during August '97.

Introduction of trains between Jabalpur and Gandhinagar/Vadodara/Bhavnagar/Rajkot etc. are not feasible due to operational and resource constraints and also gauge variation.

*[English]***Recognition of Medical Certificates**

2538. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the medical certificates issued by the Ayurvedic/Unani practitioners are not recognised by the Railways; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Railway has recognised allopathic system of medicine.

Railway employees are required to be issued the medical certificates by the Railway doctors in case of their sickness.

Certificates issued by non-Railway doctors, regardless of the system of medicine they practice are treated as private medical certificates.

Anugul-Dubri New Railway Line

2539. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to construct a Railway line between Anugul and Dubri via Budha Park, Kamakshya Nagar and Sukinda in East Coast zone, Orissa has been cleared;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the allocation made for that line so far;

(d) the progress made in the construction of Anugul-Sambalpur railway line; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite the construction work and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 245.58 crores.

(c) The work is included in the Supplementary Budget 1997-98 with a token outlay of Rs. 10 lakhs.

(d) 70%

(e) Full requirement of funds and materials have been provided and the work is being progressed on a war footing. The present target for completion of this line is March, 1998.

*[Translation]***Financial Provision for IRPP**

2540. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to ask the various State Governments to ensure adequate financial provision in their respective states during the Ninth Plan to implement New Integrated Rural Power Programme;

(b) whether his Ministry is not satisfied with the achievements made by the States in the said programme; and

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has requested them to accelerate the pace of implementation of their programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Government is not implementing any programme called 'Integrated Rural Power Programme' in the States.

(b) and (c) In view of 'a' above does not arise.

Changing of Tracks for Superfast Trains

2541. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating any scheme to change the railway tracks for superfast trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No Sir, the existing track is fit for superfast trains.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]***Production in Bokaro Steel Plant**

2542. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether continuous case unit of Melting shop No. 2 of Bokaro Steel Plant is ready for the production of Hot Rolled and Cold Rolled from the next month to meet the demand of International quality of steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether sophisticated technology has also been added in Hot Strip Mill of Bokaro Steel plant of Rs 2000 crore;

(d) if so, whether the said modernise action plans of BSP and other steel plants of SAIL are part of those modernisation plans which is implemented by International Cooperation;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the action taken by the Government till now to improve zero defect continuous cast slab, production of slab in slabbing Mill, and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (g) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has undertaken stage I modernisation of its Bokaro Steel Plant at an estimated cost of Rs. 1792 crores. Among others, Continuous Casting unit in SMS-II and Modification of Hot Strip Mill are the global packages. Continuous Casting Unit consists of two Nos. of Twin strand Continuous Casting Machine which is in advanced stage of completion. Slabbing Mill is not a part of BSL modernisation. The modernisation project is under implementation. Production from the modernised units will commence after the completion and stabilisation of on-going projects.

In addition to Bokaro, SAIL has undertaken modernisation of its plants at Durgapur and Rourkela. The financing of these projects is met by SAIL through internal resources and external borrowings and not by international aid.

Continuous cast slab production will be available from Continuous Casting Unit after its commissioning. The action taken by SAIL to improve zero defect slabs and production of slabs in Slabbing Mill are :

- (i) regulation of soaking pit pressure;
- (ii) improving availability of soaking pit & mill;
- (iii) timely repairs and maintenance; and
- (iv) scarfing of slabs.

Complaints against Indian Railway in Consumer Courts

2543. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending in the Consumer Courts in the Country district-wise and Zone-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to settle these cases outside the Courts?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) Cases being *subjudice*, no out of Court settlement is done.

Statement

Division-wise/District-wise break-up of pending Consumer Cases

CENTRAL RAILWAY

Jhansi	8	Bangalore	3	Hosangabad	1
Morena	8	Karimnagar	1	Vidisha	2
Dholpur	4	Jalandhar	1	Guna	2
Mathura	9	Amravati	5	Shivpuri	1
Banda	6	Jalgaon	5	Secunderabad	4
Orai	3	Nasik	10	Madanpalli Road	1
Agra	9	Akola	7	Durg	1
Faridabad	2	Khandwa	3	Chindwara	1
Sultanpur	1	Dhule	1	Chennai	9
Jaipur	3	Yavatmal	2	Amritsar	5
Muzzafarnagar	1	Allahabad	7	Shidhpur	1
Rampur	1	Indore	6	Emakulam	12
Delhi	4	Golagorakhnath	1	Gorakhpur	7
Aligarh	1	Deokali	2	Deoria	3
Chattarpur	1	Kolhapur	1	Rourkela	2
Kanpur	3	Jabalpur	26	Raipur	3
Lucknow	12	Sagar	24	Vishakhapatnam	4
Lalitpur	1	Satna	8	New Delhi	5
Gwalior	17	Narsinghpur	2	Pondicherry	1
Bhopal	32	Rewa	3	Darjeeling	1
Nagpur	13	Damoh	7	Bhagalpur	1
Wardha	2	Sehore	3	Jaunpur	2
Chandrapur	4	Mumbai	60	Goa	1
Buldhana	4	Thane	5	Patna	2
Secunderabad	3	Trivandrum	7	Gulbarga	4
Baroda	1	Kota	3	Pune	43
Sholapur	7	Aurangabad	5	Machilipatnam	1
Hyderabad	8	Quilon	3	Ahmedabad	7
Total				508	

Total number of cases pending on Central Railway - 508

Division-wise/District-wise break up of pending Consumer Cases

EASTERN RAILWAY

Patna	98	Agra	1	Lucknow	4
Darjeeling	4	Barasat	2	Mathura	1
Ballia	3	Bangalore	1	Hyderabad	1
Allahabad	10	Bhubaneswar	1	Malda	6
Munger	10	Faridabad	1	Muzaffarpur	1
Hajipur	1	Balasore	1	Indore	1
Polakkad	1	Bhojpur	5	Merath	1
Bhagalpur	18	Bulandsahar	1	Nagpur	1
Alipore	52	Begusarai	2	Ranchi	3
Hazaribag	2	Behampur	1	Rohtas	1
Madras	1	Burdwan	4	Sasaram	2
Etawa	1	Buxar	3	Rampurhat	1
Bombay	2	Chapra	1	Rampur	1
Himachal Pd.	1	Fatehpur	1	Saharsa	2
Gwalior	1	Kanpur	1	Jind	1
Trichur	1	Balangir (Orissa)	2	Sealdah	1
New Delhi	12	Dallonganj	5	Saharanpur	2
N.F. N. Delhi	1	Dianapur	1	Shimla	1
Dist. Forum Jaipur	1	Deoghar	14	Sahibganj	8
Guwahati	5	Jalpaiguri	2	Sundergarh	2
Howrah	5	Junagarh	1	Suri	2
Gaya	2	Kazlikodi	1	Varanasi	6
Amritsar	1	Faizabad	1	Unnao	1
Giridih	10	Kangra	1	Arrah	5
Azmir	1	Katihar	7	Palamu	1
Kohima	1	Kota	3		
Jammu	1	Kamrup	2		
Total				373	

Total number of cases pending on Eastern Railway - 373

*Division-wise/District-wise break-up of pending Consumer Cases***NORTHERN RAILWAY**

Allahabad	26	Haridwar	8	Mansa	4
Aligarh	13	Bardoi	7	New Jalpaiguri	1
Agra	2	Hissar	2	Nagore	4
Ambala	3	Hanumangarh	2	Nizamabad	1
Amritsar	5	Jaunpur	3	Nagpur	1
Almora	1	Jammu Tawi	12	Nanital	1
		(11+1 in High Court)			
Bulendshahar	6	Jalandhar	10	Patna	3
Barabanki	4	Jhansi	1	Pali Marwar	4
Bareilly	8	Jaipur	35	Pratapgarh	3
Basillr	1	Jodhpur	4	Palghat	1
Basti	2	Jalore	2	Rewari	1
Bijnor	2	Jakhal	1	Rohtak	11
Bikaner	3	Kota	1	Rampur	3
Bhopal	1	Katihar	1	Raibareilly	12
Beghsarai	1	Kesargarh	1	Ranchi	1
Bhilwara	1	Kanpur	3	Sriganganagar	3
Chandigarh	11	Lucknow	60	Saharanpur	9
Cuttack	2	Ludhiana	4	Sitapur	3
Dharamshala	1	Lakhimpur	1	Sahajanpur	6
Delhi	38	Mainpuri	2	Shimla	5
Dehradun	2	Moradabad	13	Sultanpur	5
Etawah	7	Meerut	7	Sonbhadra	1
Ferozpur	4	Muzzfarnagar	9	Sangroor	2
Ferozabad	5	Muzaffarpur	50	Sirsa	1
Faizabad	5	Mathura	1	Silliguri	1
Faridkot	4	Morena	1	Uttarkashi	1
Gwalior	1	Mysore	1	Unnao	2
Gaziabad	5	Mumbai	2	Varanasi	10
Total				463	

Total number of cases pending on Northern Railway - 463

*Division-wise/District-wise break-up of pending Consumer Cases***NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY**

Lucknow	16	Agra	3	Siwan	8
Kanpur	8	Pitharagarh	2	Deoria	12
Lakhimpur	10	Bareilly	5	Muzaffarpur	40
Sitapur	6	Badaun	3	Hajipur	7
Basti	13	Mathura	2	Begusarai	14
Gonda	8	Eta	1	Khagaria	1
Bahraich	8	Mau	5	Patna	4
Gorakhpur	15	Azamgarh	3	Madhubani	1
Naugarh	2	Varanasi	4		
Barabanki	1	Ghazipur	7		

Total 335

Total number of cases pending on North Eastern Railway - 335

*Division-wise/District-wise break-up of pending Consumer Cases***SOUTH-CENTRAL RAILWAY**

Adilabad	3	Ongelo	4	Jalna	1
Anantpur	8	Visakha-patnam	10	Jhansi	1
Chittoor	4	Warangal	4	Kesargad	1
Cuddapah	4	Akola	1	Kottayam	1
Guntor	3	Ajmer	2	Madurai	2
Hyderabad	46	Bijapur	1	Parbhani	10
Kakinada	12	Belgaum	1	Puri	1
Khamam	6	Chanderpur	1	Sangli	2
Kurnool	4	Cuttack	1	Ujjain	1
Machlipatnam	15	Delhi	1	Trivandrum	1
Nellore	7	Indore	1		

Total 160

Total number of cases pending on South Central Railway - 160

*Division-wise/District-wise break-up of pending Consumer Cases***NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**

Darjeeling	13	Agartala	1	Raiganj	1
Karimganj	1	Bongaigaon	2	Diphu	2
Katihar	9	Purnia	1	Sibsagar	1
Coochbehar	1	Silchar	1	Shillong	1
Jalpaiguri	2	Dhubri	1	Barpeta	1
Guwahati	11	Nagaon	1	Nalbari	1
Dibrugarh	1	Jorhat	3		
Total					55

Total number of cases pending on Northeast Frontier Railway - 55

*Division-wise/District-wise break-up of pending Consumer Cases***SOUTHERN RAILWAY**

Madras	34	Palghat	57	Other Zones	48
Madurai	20	Trivandrum	62		
Bangalore & Mysore	21	Tiruchirapalli	4		
Total					246

Total number of cases pending on Southern Railway - 246

*Division-wise/District-wise break-up of pending Consumer Cases***SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY**

Hemagiri	55	Chakradhar Pur	62	Waltair	75
Kharagpur	37	Sambalpur	5	Khurda Road	68
Nagpur	65	Bilaspur	69	Adra	37
Total					473

Total number of cases pending on South Eastern Railway-473.

*Division-wise/District-wise break-up of pending Consumer Cases***WESTERN RAILWAY**

Ahmedabad	29	Farukhabad	4	Nagore	1
Ajmer	27	Firozabad	3	Nallore	1
Anantpur	2	Gaziabad	3	Navsari	1

Allapuza	1	Godhra	3	Nagpur	1
Alwar	3	Hoshingabad	1	Nadiad	1
Akola	1	Hyderabad	5	Narnaul	1
Amroha	1	Indore	8	Palanpur	5
Agra	1	Jaipur	29	Pallakad	1
Anantpur	2	Jodhpur	6	Patna	1
Bharatpur Jn.	7	Junagarh	8	Rajkot	5
Bangalore	1	Jamnagar	4	Ratlam	11
Bhilwara	3	Jabalpur	1	Sawai Madhopur	12
Buldana	1	Jalgaon	1	Sangli	1
Bharuch	4	Jamshedpur	1	Shivpur	1
Bhubaneswar	1	Kota	19	Surendranagar	1
Bhopal	3	Kollam	1	Sehore	3
Baran	1	Kottayam	1	Shajapur	2
Beherai	1	Khandwa	1	Surat	16
Bhuj	2	Lucknow	2	Sirohi	3
Bhavnagar	2	Lakhimpurkhiri	1	Sikar	1
Bhiwani	1	Lalitpur	1	Saina	1
Chitorgarh	3	Mumbai	31	Thane	1
Chandigarh	1	Mehsana	3	Tiruchchirapalli	1
Dausa	1	Mathura	2	Udaipur	3
Dewas	1	Mandsore	5	Ujjain	3
Delhi	5	Madras	1	Vadodara	20
Elahabad	3	Madurai	1		
Etawa	4	Moradabad	2		
Total					358

Total number of cases pending on Western Railway - 358.

Digital Network

2544. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the performances of recently launched Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) is not upto the mark;

- (b) if so, the factors responsible therefor;
- (c) the total investment made by the Government so far for introducing ISDN; and
- (d) the steps the Government propose to take to remove bottlenecks in the functioning of ISDN and to make it functional?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, it is up to the mark.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) No separate investment in infrastructure is being made. The existing new technology telephone exchanges are being utilised to provide this service. However, an amount of Rs. 2.48 crores has been spent for procuring the Customer Premises Equipments.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Telephone Complaints in Gujarat

2545. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Department of Telephone Taluka Bhanvad of Jamnagar district of Gujarat, Jamnagar city Gujarat circle, Ahmedabad has received complaints/letters from 'Jupiter' Cement Industries Limited of Taluka Bhanvad regarding non-functioning of the Telephones;
- (b) if so, the number and details of such complaints received each months during 1994 to till date;
- (c) whether the Members of Parliament have written to the concerned officials in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the actions taken against the employees and officials who are responsible in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) No. of Complaints received are as below :

Year	Month	No. of Complaints
1	2	3
1994	August	2
	September	1
1995	October	1
	December	1
1996	January	1
	July	2

1	2	3
1997	August	3
	September	2
	November	1
	December	1
	May	2
	June	3

- (c) Yes Sir.

(d) Hon'ble MP has enclosed copy of the letter of party addressed to TDM Jamnagar stating that the Telephone connections reported working were still not working satisfactorily.

(e) Connections to Jupiter Cement Industries Ltd are working on overhead alignment had been adversely affected since June, 1996 due to severe cyclonic rains and hostile environment (Coastal Area). This overhead alignment is being replaced by underground cable. No laxity was found on the part of officials/officers.

Dispute between Rajasthan and NTPC

2546. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any dispute between Rajasthan and NTPC in regard to tariff for gas based power stations; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) had represented for amendment in the tariff notifications notified by the Ministry of Power in April, 1994 for NTPC gas based power stations in regard to Calorific Value of the Gas. The issue had been examined by the Central Electricity Authority and the tariff of Gas based power stations of NTPC have since been revised, considering Rajasthan's point of view "Gross Calorific Value" of Gas and revised "Normative Heat rate Values" as approved by CEA. These revised tariff have already been notified by Ministry of Power in January, 1997. RSEB has again represented about the 'Normative Heat Rate Values' as approved by CEA.

[Translation]

Power theft in the Country

2547. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have formulated or propose to formulate any action plan to prevent unproductive

use of power, power theft and wastage of power in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to enact a new law for conservation of power; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) Government have taken or propose to take following steps towards efficient use of power & for tackling of theft of electricity :

(i) In order to promote conservation and efficient use of energy, Ministry of Power had constituted the National Energy Conservation Award in 1991. for industrial units who undertake exceptional initiatives in field of energy conservation.

(ii) Moreover, the Central Government is considering proposing an enactment for energy conservation. The main features of the proposed enactment would be to (a) lay down standards and norms for energy consumption for equipment and appliances used in production, supply and consumption of energy, (b) prescribe a scheme for energy labelling and energy audit, (c) provide for an agency to administer aforesaid functions.

(iii) "National Energy Conservation Day" is celebrated every year on 14th December to create awareness regarding energy conservation.

(iv) So far as theft of energy is concerned. Section 39 of Indian Electricity Act, 1910 was amended in 1986 to make theft of energy & cognizable offence, with deterrent punishment of upto 3 years imprisonment or fine of not less than Rs. 1000/- or both.

[English]

Metro Project

2548. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the Metro Project in Chennai is likely to be made fully operational;

(b) the total allocation made for the project;

(c) the funds released out of that so far;

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred on remaining work of project; and

(e) the reasons for delay in completing the project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) MRTS Phase-I from Madras Beach to Luz was sanctioned in 1983-84. Commercial services are already in operation between Madras Beach and Chepauk since 16.11.95. Works on the balance section are in advanced stage and services are likely to commence shortly. A sum of Rs 35 crore has been earmarked during the current year i.e 1997-98 and a balance of Rs 36.13 crore would be required next year to complete the residual work.

The Phase-II of Madras MRTS project from Luz to Vellacheri has been sanctioned in 1996-97 at a total cost of Rs 605.70 crore to be shared between Railways and Government of Tamil Nadu. The preliminary works have been taken in hand and project is likely to be completed in four years subject to availability of adequate funds. A sum of Rs 12 crore has been allotted in the current year (1997-98) and a balance of about Rs 132 crore would be required in the coming years for the Railways share to complete the work.

[Translation]

Setting up of Coach Factory in Bihar

2549. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar to set up an integral Coach factory in Jamalpur/Muzzaffarpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date on which the said proposal was received and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas

2550. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in the rural and tribal areas of Orissa for the development of women and children;

(b) the amount released by the Union Government to Orissa for such schemes during the last three years; and

(c) the achievements made under these schemes so far?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) A Statement is attached.

Statement

Programme	Year	Amount released by Central Govt. to Orissa (Rs. in lakhs)	Achievement (Physical)		Number of women benefited	Remarks
			Target	Achievement		
I. Programmes meant for rural women of families below poverty line.						
1. Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)	1994-95	84.84**	430 Groups	736 Groups	10471	**Includes UNICEF share also.
	1995-96	220.20	1623 Groups	1730 Groups	23989	
	1996-97	187.11	1623 Groups	2094 Groups	28452	
2. National Maternity Benefit Scheme of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)	1994-95	***	***	***	***	***The Scheme was launched w.e.f. 15.8.95.
	1995-96	240.08	15875	1524	1524	
	1996-97	435.53	253400	92328	92329	
II. Programme for rural families below poverty line where specific percentage is earmarked for women.						
3. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)	1994-95	3243.29	135382	139837	54548	*Target not fixed.
	1995-96	3830.88	*	120669	47993	
	1996-97	3375.19	*	102741	30220	
4. Training of Rural Youth for Self- Employment (TRYSEM)	1994-95	227.86	19847	15656	7311	
	1995-96	202.47	*	6388	2050	
	1996-97	199.51	*	18555	8832	
5. Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY)	1994-95	2082.66	676.65 lakhs Mandays	604.51lakhs Mandays	186.40 lakhs Mandays	
	1995-96	22017.83	623.47 -do-	678.31 -do-	215.35 -do-	
	1996-97	10709.94	321.32 -do-	314.19 -do-	102.17 -do-	

Tatkal Scheme for Ticket Booking

2551. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether on the lines of the *Tatkal* scheme for Telephone booking, the Government are planning to earmark a certain percentage of tickets for release just 24 hours prior to the departure and the passenger availing themselves of this facility would be required to pay a premium over the normal fare;

(b) if so, the likely amount of premium per ticket;

(c) the details of superfast trains on which the said scheme is likely to be introduced initially;

(d) the anticipated 'premium fare' which the Railways are anticipated from this scheme; and

(e) the extent to which this scheme is likely to curb the growing menace of touts?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Electrification of Chandil-Muri-Barkakana Railway Line

2552. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether provision has been made in the Railway Budget during 1997-98 for electrification of Chandil-Muri-Barkakana railway line;

(b) if so, the works executed in this regard till July 31, 1997; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the above work?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Lines between Chandil-Tiruldi and Barkakana-Ramgarh has been charged. The work has been taken up on the remaining section. Rs. 20.27 crore have been allotted during 1997-98 for this project.

[English]

Setting up of Hotels

2553. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up railways hotels at different tourist spots in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of railway hotels at present in the country, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The proposal is in a conceptual stage.

(c) There are two Railway Hotels at Ranchi and Puri besides three Rail Yatri Niwases at New Delhi, Howrah and Gorakhpur.

[Translation]

Accidents due to fall of people from running Trains

2554. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidents of accidents have occurred due to fall of the people from the running trains on account of overcrowding in trains in Delhi-Sonapat and Delhi-Rohtak rail section in Haryana during the last three years;

(b) if so, the total number of such accidents occurred so far and the steps taken by the Government to check such accidents;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the number of compartments so as to provide more space in these trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

People killed at Unmanned Railway Crossing

2555. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed or injured at Unmanned Railway crossings during the year 1996 and upto 30th June, 1997, Zone-wise;

(b) the steps taken to prevent such accidents;

(c) whether it is proposed to construct Railway crossings at 12T.K. (Rai Singh Nagar) of Shri Ganga Nagar and at Dholipal, Nava 34 STG, Bagalawali of Kojuwala and Hanumangarh and at Ramgarh of Nohar; and

(d) if so, the time by which these railway crossing are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Zone-wise break up of casualties at unamanned level crossings during 1996-97 and April to June, 1997 is as under :

Railway	1996-97		April-June 1997	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
1	2	3	4	5
Central	1	6	-	-
Eastern	1	3	-	-
Northern	12	25	11	8
N.E.	49	17	5	4
N.F.	-	-	-	-
Southern	46	20	1	5
S.C.	50	51	7	1
S.E.	3	4	4	1
Western	10	9	-	-
Total	172	135	28	19

(b) The following steps are being taken to prevent level crossing accidents :

(1) Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on the approaches to unmanned level crossings so that the road vehicles may reduce their speed.

- (2) Whistle boards are also provided alongside the rail track on approach of the level crossings to enable the train driver to whistle to warn road users about the approaching train. Periodic drives are launched to check whether the drivers are whistling from the whistling boards.
- (3) To educate the road users about safety at unmanned level crossings, publicity campaign is launched through various media like quickies on TV, cinema slides, posters, talks on radio and newspaper advertisements and street plays.
- (4) Joint ambush checks with civil authorities to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Railways Act, 1989.
- (5) Since accidents at unmanned level crossings take place due to negligence of road users, the State Governments can help by exercising strict checks while issuing driving licenses, specially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles. Road users have still not got used to the faster speeds of Mail/Express trains. A train travelling at 90 kmph covers 25 meters/second. Thus, although to the road user it appears to be 200 meters away, in terms of time, it is only 8 seconds away.
- (6) Involvement of village panchayats in their public awareness programme.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Technology Development Board

2556. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have constituted a Technology Development Board in the country;
- (b) if so, the date on which the board was constituted and the annual estimated budget of the board;
- (c) whether the officers of this board undertook foreign tours to give thrust to the technological research work during the last few years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether there are any guidelines for the Board to spend the annual budget amount on various heads, and if so, the break up of amount incurred on the salaries, maintenance, tour expenses, research and technological development etc. during each of the last three years?

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

(b) The Technology Development Board was constituted on 1st September, 1996. The Budget Estimate for 1997-98 is Rs. 70.00 Cr.

(c) and (d) The Board's functions include providing financial assistance to industrial concerns and other agencies for attestation development and commercialisation of indigenous technology or adaptation of imported technology for wider domestic application and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Board may sponsor foreign travel including of its officers in furtherance of its objectives. The Member-Secretary of the Board was included by the Government in a joint group with representatives of industry association and academic institutions to study the functioning of technology transfer centres in Germany and meeting with the officials of Science & Technology in the Department of Trade and Industry in London in July 1997. The expenditure incurred by the Government on the tour of the Member-Secretary was Rs. 1.70 lakhs. No other tour has been undertaken by any officer of the Board so far.

(e) The Board is administered under the provisions of the Technology Development Board Act, 1995 and the Technology Development Board Rules, 1996. The Government has released a sum of Rs. 29.97 crores during the year 1996-97, the break-up of which is as follows :

Grant	Rs. 29.00 crores
Salaries	Rs. 0.50 crore
Other administrative expenses	Rs. 0.47 crore

[English]

Free Rail Travel Pass facility to Dronacharya Award Winners

2557. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide free rail travel pass facility to the Dronacharya Award Winners on the line of facility provided to the Arjun Award Winners;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to resource constraints, Railways are not in a position to add any new category, including Dronacharya Award Winners, in the list of categories entitled to Complementary Card Pass.

[Translation]

Survey for New Railway Line

2558. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1976 dated December 5, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the survey for Kalka-Parwanoo rail line has been completed;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to be started;

(c) whether the modalities for funding of Una-Bhanupali-Beri via Bilaspur rail line has been worked out with Himachal Pradesh Government; and

(d) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost of the 5.3 km. long Kalka-Parwanoo new line will be Rs. 23.50 crores. The work has been included in the Supplementary Budget 1997-98 at cost of Rs. 23.00 crores. The work would be taken up only after the requisite approvals have been received.

(c) and (d) The matter has not yet been finalised. It is being coordinated by Himachal Pradesh Government. IRCON is participating from Railway's side. Once the modalities of funding are settled, and the requisite clearances have been obtained, the work can be taken up.

[English]

Enhancement of Time Limit for Reservation

2559. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to enhance the time-limit for advance reservation upto two months from the present time-limit of one month to eliminate cornering of berths by the travel agents/touts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that with references to a Public Notice issued by the Railways to various people have suggested the Ministry to enhance the said time-limit; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) In response to the advertisement issued by the Railways, a number of persons have suggested enhancement of advance reservation period. It has been agreed to in principal to increase the advance reservation period from 30 days to 60 days. The modalities for the same would be worked out in due course.

[Translation]

Waiting List in M.P.

2560. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :
SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the waiting list for telephone connections in Madhya Pradesh as on February 28, 1997 District-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The required information is given in statement attached.

(b) The total waiting list as on 28.2.97 in Madhya Pradesh was 64012. About 47950 new telephone connections were provided since then till 30.6.97. The majority of the remaining waiting list is likely to be cleared by the end of March, 1998 subject to availability of equipment and other resources.

Statement

District-Wise detail of MP tel-com circle

S.No.	District	W/L as on 28.2.97
1	2	3
1.	Balaghat	302
2.	Bastar	1451
3.	Betul	1411
4.	Bhind	775
5.	Bhopal	9148
6.	Bilaspur	5555

1	2	3
7.	Chhatarpur	853
8.	Chhindwara	619
9.	Damoh	336
10.	Datia	496
11.	Dewas	1183
12.	Dhar	783
13.	Durg	5517
14.	Guna	470
15.	Gwalior	3090
16.	Hoshangabad	1987
17.	Indore	3037
18.	Jabalpur	3604
19.	Jhabua	372
20.	Khandwa	947
21.	Khargone	775
22.	Mandla	201
23.	Mandsaur	1098
24.	Morena	580
25.	Narsinghpur	726
26.	Panna	227
27.	Raigarh	622
28.	Raipur	2977
29.	Raisen	562
30.	Raigarh	417
31.	Rajnandgaon	1085
32.	Ratlam	2045
33.	Rewa	774
34.	Sagar	1015
35.	Sarguja	1213
36.	Satna	1754
37.	Sehore	570
38.	Seoni	165
39.	Shahdol	1216

1	2	3
40.	Shajapur	278
41.	Shivpuri	621
42.	Sidhi	483
43.	Tikamgarh	270
44.	Ujjain	2370
45.	Vidisha	528
Total		64012

[English]

Compensation to Parents

2561. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Orissa High Court has recently granted compensation to the parents of 15 year old boy who was crushed to death under the Utkal Express at an unmanned level crossing two year ago;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to pay the compensation to kith and kin of each victim of such accidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble High Court of Orissa has passed an order for payment of Rs. One lakh as compensation and Rs. five thousand as cost to the petitioners. It has, however, been decided to file an S.L.P. in the Supreme Court against the Judgement, as this mishap does not come under the purview of Sections 124 & 124-A of Railways Act, 1989.

(c) and (d) As the railways are not responsible for the accidents at unmanned level crossings, it is not proposed to pay any compensation to kith and kin of the victims of such accidents.

Generation of Garbage in Delhi

2562. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY. Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of garbage generated during 1997 so far, month-wise in the Union Territory of Delhi;

(b) how much of this garbage is found bio-degradable/non-biogradable;

(c) whether there is any proposal to make use thereof for non-conventional energy purposes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The estimated quantity of garbage generated in the Union Territory of Delhi, month-wise during 1997, upto the month of June, is as follows :

Jan, 1997	6188 tonnes
Feb, 1997	5916 tonnes
March, 1997	6213 tonnes
April, 1997	6618 tonnes
May, 1997	7418 tonnes
June, 1997	6280 tonnes

(b) As per the analysis carried by Municipal Corporation of Delhi through the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur, the average bio-degradable content of the garbage of Delhi is 38.6%.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, under its National Programme on "Energy Recovery from Urban, Municipal and Industrial Wastes" is encouraging the setting up of projects for recovery of energy from wastes, in the country. Municipal Corporation of Delhi have initiated steps for preparing Feasibility Report for erection of a Garbage processing (Pelletisation) Plant and its erection and operation through a third party.

[Translation]

Functioning of Rural Public Telephones

2563. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any guidelines have been issued for the improvement in the functioning of rural public telephones;

(b) if so, the reasons for not following the guideline in the districts of Saharsa and Supul; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All guidelines laid down by the Department from time to time are being followed. The

following steps are being taken to improve functioning of rural public telephones:

(i) A Circle level repair centre has been established at Patna.

(ii) Training for staff is being arranged.

(iii) One time repair from suppliers like ITI, BINFO, HTL for MARR equipment is being organised

(iv) Monitoring is being done at SSA and Circle levels and faulty rural public telephones are attended to.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

2564. SHRI K. KANDASAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps are being taken to convert Salem-Karur railway line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for this project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir. There is no NG/MG line between Salem and Karur and work in question of conversion of this line does not arise. However, construction work for a new MG line from Salem to Karur has been taken up.

(b) The total cost of the project has been estimated at Rs. 136 crs. and allotment for 1997-98 is Rs. 5.00 crs.

(c) Final Location Survey, preparation of land plans and other preparatory works have already been taken up.

[Translation]

Setting up of New AIR Station

2565. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earnings of AIR through advertisements has been adversely affected due to the extensive coverage of Doordarshan telecast in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to set up new AIR station; and

(c) if so, the policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No comparison can be made between All India Radio and Doordarshan as both are entirely two different media, one being audio and the other visual. All India Radio is having its own market for advertisement earnings which has shown a steady increase during the last few years.

(b) and (c) It is the continuous endeavour of the Government to expand and improve All India Radio's coverage. During the VIII Plan, several stations were planned, which are presently under various stages of implementation. In the IX Plan, additional Radio Stations are proposed to be set up to cover more areas, subject of the approval by the Government/Planning Commission and availability of adequate financial resources. Further, the power of several transmitters is also being increased to improve the coverage and with a view to earn more revenue.

[English]

Blacklisted Companies

2566. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2969 dated March 13, 1997 and state :

(a) whether the companies to whom show cause notices have been issued, have submitted their replies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by DOT against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An Inquiry Officer has been appointed. All the Firms have submitted replies and the same are under examination.

Village Telephones

2567. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether DOT has fixed a target for providing telephones in villages during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof and target achieved so far;

(c) whether the MARR equipment suppliers have expressed their inability to make deliveries of such equipments on schedule;

(d) if so, the names of the firms which have shown their inability; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to meet the target in view of the suppliers inability?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The achievement of VPTs for the period 1996-97 is 56719 as against the target of 75,000 VPTs.

(c) and (d) Some of the suppliers expressed difficulties in completing their supplies within the stipulated delivery schedule. The list of the firms is given in the attached Statement.

(e) (i) The delivery schedule of the suppliers was extended;

(ii) Suppliers were persuaded to expedite the supply;

(iii) Additional orders for MARR systems were placed to augment the supply position; and

(iv) Circles were asked to increase target on physical medium such as cables/overhead lines.

Statement

Sl. No.	Firm's name
1.	ARM Ltd. Hyderabad.
2.	Phoenix Telecommunications Ltd. Hyderabad
3.	Himachal Futuristic Commn. Ltd., N. Delhi.
4.	Phoenix Technology Corporation (P) Ltd., Bangalore.
5.	Sinclair Electronic Industries Ltd., Hyderabad
6.	MIC Electronics (P) Ltd., Hyderabad
7.	HTL Ltd., Madras.
8.	Technicom System Ltd., Nasik.
9.	National Telecommunication India Ltd., Bombay.
10.	Gold Stone India Ltd., Hyderabad
11.	Shyam Telecom Ltd., New Delhi.
12.	ITI Ltd., Bangalore
13.	Intercity Cables Systems (P) Ltd., New Delhi.
14.	Binfo Electronic (P) Ltd., Bangalore
15.	ANCO Communication Ltd., Bangalore

Calcutta Metro

2568. SHRI TAPIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide extra budgetary support for expansion of Calcutta Metro;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Railways have approached the Planning Commission in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) to (c) : It has been decided to approach the Cabinet to provide dividend-free funds under Plan Head 'MTP' in the Railway Plan for Metro's extension, as also for making good the losses on the operation and maintenance of the existing Metro.

New TV Centres

2569. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Doordarshan Kendras, Relay Transmission Centres and new channels to be completed during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether there is any venue in favour of Darjeeling Hill, Baughat, Purulia and Birbhum district of West Bengal, so far relay centres concerned;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any sports channel will be introduced during the Ninth Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) While 9th Plan proposals of Doordarshan are yet to be approved, 25 Programme Production Centres (PPCs), 16 High Power TV transmitters (HPTs), 121 Low Power TV transmitters (LPTs), 106 Very Low Power TV transmitters (VLPTs) and 4 transposers, which are presently under implementation, are expected to be completed during the 9th Plan as continuing schemes, in phases, subject to availability of resources, infrastructural facilities and *inter-se* priorities. At present, no new channel is proposed to be started.

(b) and (c) While an LPT at Balrampur in Purulia district and TV Studio project (permanent) at Shantiniketan in Birbhum district are presently under implementation, HPT each at Balurghat and Shantiniketan and a VLPT at Baghmandi are envisaged to be set up in these districts subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) Does not arise.

SAIL Profits

2570. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "SAIL profits hit by free pricing regime" appearing in the *Times of India*, June 29, 1997;

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

(c) the steps/measures adopted and proposed to be adopted to increase the profits of SAIL during 1997-98;

(d) the total production of SAIL during 1996-97 and likely to be produced in 1997-98; and

(e) the total export of the above steel production by SAIL and consumed indigenously during 1996-97 and to be exported and consumed during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The profit (before tax) in SAIL in 1996-97 was Rs. 602 crores as compared to Rs. 1318.61 crores in 1995-96. During the year 1996-97 SAIL had to face abnormal increase in input costs on account of cost escalation in coal price, petroleum price, railway freight, power tariff, special custom duties etc. The impact of these escalations is about Rs. 1000 crores while only a part of this impact could be neutralised through improvement in operational efficiencies. Other reasons, which have affected the profitability, include decline in the international prices of steel and freer imports bringing the margins under stress as also the sluggish market behaviour etc. due to which SAIL could not pass on the impact of input cost escalation to the customers.

(c) SAIL is taking steps on a continuous basis to improve its performance, which include modernisation and technological upgradation of its plants, improving techno-economic factors i.e. reduction in coke rate, energy consumption, metallic input, improvement in yield, extensive customer contact, market oriented product-mix, improvement in quality, long term relationship with customers, leadership in service and customer satisfaction, strict control and monitoring of operating costs, higher productivity and greater autonomy to field officers, etc.

(d) The total production of Saleable Steel in SAIL (excluding subsidiaries) during 1996-97 was 9.235 million tonnes and the MOU target for 1997-98 is 9.6 million tonnes.

(e) During 1996-97 total exports of Saleable Steel from SAIL accounted for 4.79 lakh tonnes and domestic

sales for 75.87 lakh tonnes. For the year 1997-98 the MOU target for exports is 5 lakh tonnes while the sale for indigenous consumption would depend upon overall availability/demand scenario in the country.

Cancellation of Trains

2571. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the trains cancelled between Sarai Rohilla Delhi and Ajmer on metre gauge line and between Delhi Junction and Ajmer on Broad-gauge line from December, 1996 till date;

(b) whether any public notice has been issued through print media about the cancellation of the above trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the new trains along with their arrival and departure timings introduced during the said period between Delhi Junction and Ajmer (BG) and between Sarai Rohilla, Delhi and Ajmer (MG)?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The following Metre Gauge trains were cancelled after Dec. '96 due to gauge conversion work :

(1) 9943/9944 Ahmedabad-Delhi Express on Ajmer-Delhi section.

(2) 9905/9906 Delhi-Ahmedabad Fast Passenger.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Public notice has been issued through media like Newspapers.

(d) After Dec.'96 the following Broad Gauge trains have been introduced, serving the traffic between Delhi & Ajmer :

9105 Mail	2916 Exp.		9106 Mail	2916 Exp.
1925	0210	d. Ajmer	a. 0715	2310
	↓		↑	
0425	1015	a. Delhi	d. 2210	1505

An exclusive service on Metre Gauge between Ajmer and Delhi Sarai Rohilla has been provided after cancellation of Jodhpur Mail on Jodhpur-Ajmer section. It has been decided to introduce a weekly Swarna Jayanti Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Ahmedabad via Ajmer during Aug.'97 to the following timings :

2428 Rajdhani Exp.		2427 Rajdhani Exp.
2215	d. Ajmer	a. 0255
↓		↑
0505	a. New Delhi	d. 1945

Indo-US Scientific Cooperation

2572. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the press report captioned "Scientists see a threat in Wisner remark" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated May 22, 1997;

(b) if so, whether cooperation between Indian and American scientists could be jeopardised unless India tightened its intellectual property rights (IPR) regime; and

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

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

(b) and (c) There are some differences on the intellectual property rights which have had an impact on efforts to work out a new science and technology agreement between India and the USA. Cooperation in science and technology between the two countries has been an ongoing process through last four decades, primarily at the level of scientific agencies, and also under the Indo-US sub-Commission on Science & Technology. This cooperation continues. Indian position on intellectual property rights, based on the social and economic requirements of the country, is known to the US side.

Private Sector in Transmission and Distribution

2573. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private sector participation in power transmission and distribution have any impact to meet power shortages; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The participation of private sector in transmission and distribution of power will help in improving the power supply position as additional investment in transmission and distribution will enable transfer of power over long distance from pithead power stations/mega projects to load centres in several States and also result in reduction in Transmission losses.

*[Translation]***Telecom facilities in Gujarat**

2574. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any scheme to the Union Government for providing telecommunications facilities in the backward and tribal areas of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Deptt. of Telecommunications has formulated tribal Sub Plan for providing Telecom. facilities in Tribal areas of the country including those of Gujarat. During the year 1997-98, addition of about 8000 lines of net switching capacity and 5000 new telephone connections have been planned for Tribal areas of Gujarat. No separate plans are formulated for the backward areas which form part of the overall plan of the State.

*[English]***Profit of MTNL**

2575. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether MTNL has understated its profit by Rs. 109 crores;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. In his comments on the accounts of MTNL for the year 1995-96, Audit wing of the CAG opined that the profit figure was understated to the extent of Rs. 109 crores due to higher rates of depreciation applied by the Company on various assets. However, MTNL's view was that it was quite in order for the company to apply a higher rate of depreciation based in technical evaluation in accordance with the Company Law and that these rates had been adopted since 1993-94.

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

*[Translation]***Drinking Water to Drought Affected Areas of UP**

2576. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for providing drinking water in drought affected areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government for this purpose during the current financial year;

(c) whether the Government have any action plan for permanent solution of water scarcity in these areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : (a) Schemes for drinking water in drought affected and other rural areas of Uttar Pradesh are implemented under the State Sector Minimum needs Programme, the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and under the Basic Minimum Services.

(b) The amount allocated so far by the Union Government under the ARWSP for 1997-98 is Rs. 122.78 crore. The Scheme-wise/district/area-wise allocation is made by the State Government.

(c) and (d) All the not covered habitations are expected to be provide with safe drinking water facilities by 1998-99 and the partially covered habitations by the year 2000.

*[English]***Suspension of Trains**

2577. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of trains between Nizamabad and Medchal route have been suspended from 1st July, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the total number of trains suspended;

(c) whether this suspension of trains has created problems in the district of Nizamabad; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to restore these trains immediately?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) 3 (three) pairs of Express, 3 (three) pairs of passengers fully and 4 (four) pairs of passenger trains partially were cancelled on account of law and order problems due to naxalite activities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Constant liaison is maintained with the State Government authorities for providing security to passengers

staff and Railway installations against attack by extremists so that the services can be restored.

National Centre of Films

2578. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Centre of Films for Children and Young People in various cities are being set up in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend such facilities for the rural children also; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal to set up offices of National Centre of Films for Children and Young People (N'CYP) in various cities of different State.

(c) and (d) N'CYP exhibits its films and serials through Doordarshan Network and theatres. Since Doordarshan transmission covers both urban and rural areas, the programmes of N'CYP are already available to rural children also.

[Translation]

Introduction of Dikshant Bhoomi Express

2579. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a weekly train Dikshant Bhoomi Express (1451) Nagpur-Gaya-Nagpur has been introduced;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering any proposal to ensure that lakhs of citizens of Bhopal are benefited by this train;

(c) whether any train has been introduced between Bhopal and Patna;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are considering to start Cochin-Barauni-Cochin weekly train on daily basis; and

(f) if so, the time by which this proposal is likely to be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1451/1452 Nagpur-Gaya Diksha Bhoomi Express (weekly) is not running via Bhopal.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Operational and resource constraints.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

National Film Festival at Cannes

2580. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether India participated in the National Film Festival at Cannes during the last month;

(b) if so, the film displayed thereat;

(c) whether any Bengali film was also screened;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) India's achievements at the Cannes Festival?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of the entries sent by India, only one film titled "Gudia" (Hindi) was selected by the Cannes Film Festival Authorities in 'Uncertain Regard' section of the Festival.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The film 'Lal Darja' (Bengali) which was one of the entries sent by India was not selected for screening by the Festival Authorities.

(e) Cannes is a very prestigious International Film Festival. The Festival receives entries of films from the world over. Although the selection process of this Festival is very strict, films from India have been selected, almost every year, for screening in one or the other section of the Festival. A number of our eminent film-makers have got international recognition through screening of their films at the Cannes International Film Festival.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Railway Stations in Delhi

2581. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for the modernisation of railway stations in Delhi during the current financial year;

(b) the estimated amount to be spent for each railway station, separately;

(c) the targets fixed for modernisation of those railway stations where the work is already in progress;

(d) whether the work of modernisation of railway stations is expected to be completed by the end of current financial year;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the expenditure incurred on modernisation/maintenance of railway stations in Delhi during the last three Years station-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (f) A list of stations where major modernisation works have been taken up in Delhi is as under :

(Figures in lakh Rs.)

Station	Particulars of works	Estimated cost	Allocation in 1997-98
1. Delhi Jn.	Replacement of washable apron on platforms 1, 2, 4, 6 & 10	130.51	64.90
	Provision of second entry	124.00	1.00
2. New Delhi	Development of station (Phase II)	1655.77	66.03
	Development of station (Phase III)	1475.13	218.06
	Replacement of washable apron on platforms 2, 7, 3, 4, & 5	141.80	59.84
3. Hazrat Nizamuddin	Improvements to circulating area and approach road	406.37	150.00
	Extension of shelter on platforms 2, 3, 4 & 5.	33.04	11.00
	Washable apron on platform	24.92	20.92
	Improvement to water supply	24.50	2.00

Works costing below Rs. 50 lakh are expected to be completed by 1998-99 and other works will take two to three years.

(g)

Station	Expenditure in lakh Rs.
Delhi Jn.	137.00
New Delhi	870.82
Hazrat Nizamuddin	426.85

[English]

Cracks in Wheels of ABB Engines

2582. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the wheels of ABB engines have developed cracks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the M/s. ABB; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One wheel disc of a freight ABB engine had cracked on 28.6.97.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The matter is under investigation with ABB. The investigation involves detailed metallurgical tests which are under process.

Vizag Power Project

2583. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether trouble is brewing for the Vizag power project promoted by the Hinduja National Power;

(b) if so, the main hurdles that are coming in the way of smooth running of this project;

(c) whether the 1040 MW Vizag project has been hanging fire for almost a year now following a lack of consensus on the fuel supply agreement; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Coal Supply & Transportation Agreement has to be negotiated and settled between M/s. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltds. & M/s Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd. The provisions of the agreement have also to be acceptable to Railways and Government of Andhra Pradesh. This process has taken time. Government of India have been monitoring the progress and have resolved the major outstanding policy issues relating to the contract.

Fulfledge DD Kendra in Asansol

2584. SHRI HARADHAN ROY :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

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

(a) whether there is a demand to set up a studio at Asansol TV relay centre and make it as a fulfledge DD Kendras;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to fulfil this demand in view of the telecast of local cultural programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) While a High Power TV transmitter (HPT) is already operational at Asansol, a request has been received from the Asansol Chamber of Commerce for setting up of a TV studio Centre there.

(b) to (d) TV Studio Centres are initially being set up in State Capitals and major cities depending on availability of resources and interse priorities. There is no approved scheme, at present, to set up a TV Studio Centre at Asansol.

Derailments in Kerala

2585. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the frequent derailments in Kerala;

(b) if so, the number of derailments and accidents occurred during each of the last three years;

(c) the persons killed/injured due to these derailments/accidents;

(d) the losses occurred to the railway properties; and

(e) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Statistics of trains accidents and related information are maintained railway zone-wise and not State-wise. The relevant information for Southern Railway is as under :

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
No. of accidents (including derailments)	62	52	40
No. of persons killed	39	77	47
No. of persons injured	74	69	29
Cost of damage to Rly. property (Rs. in crores)	2.37	5.24	6.48

(e) Some of the steps taken to prevent accidents are as under :

- (i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.
- (ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human errors in causing accidents.
- (iii) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.
- (iv) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometer are being progressively used.
- (v) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
- (vi) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.
- (vii) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.
- (viii) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
- (ix) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
- (x) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of simulators for training of drivers.
- (xi) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.
- (xii) Performance of the staff connected with train operations is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.
- (xiii) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

Delay in Running of Trains

2586. SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints have been received from passengers as well as their association regarding delay in

running of trains and cancellation of services between Trivandrum and Kanyakumari section of the Trivandrum Railway Division;

(b) if so, any direction has been issued to ensure timely running of trains in this sector;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any action against those who are responsible for the late running of trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Some complaints have been received from Passengers and Associations regarding delay in running of trains.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Staff responsible for avoidable detentions have been taken up for action under Discipline and Appeal Rules.

Introduction of Direct Trains

2587. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that direct train services between Bandel and Kalyani/Ranaghat/Krishnanagar can easily be introduced by laying a kilometer of rail line by-passing Naihati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these services can be introduced by constructing a curve line from Garifa to Halisahar;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the earth-work of the said section still exist; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to fulfil the aspiration of a large section of people by constructing this curve line?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Full Time Programmes at West Bengal

2588. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since taken any decision to run TV Relay Centre at Kalna in the district of Bardhaman West Bengal full time.

(b) whether the Government have sanctioned staff for operation and maintenance of the project so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) The Low Power TV transmitter (LPT) at Kalna is presently being run by a truncated staff sanctioned for this project and hence provides only limited hours of transmission. Full Time transmission from the LPT centre at Kalna would be started after sanction of full complement of staff for its operation and maintenance, the proposal for which is already under consideration.

Jalpaiguri-Siliguri Telephone Exchange

2589. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to bring Jalpaiguri-Siliguri area under one telephone exchange;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) As per existing departmental norms Jalpaiguri-Siliguri areas do not fulfill the criteria for being served under one telephone exchange system.

As per National charging plan, Jalpaiguri & Siliguri are two separate LDCAs (Long Distance Charging Areas), which are further subdivided in six and three SDCAs (Short Distance Charging Areas) respectively. All the Telecom network is built on the LDCA and SDCA concept throughout the country.

Financial Assistance to Scientific Projects of Andhra Pradesh

2590. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Technology Development Board has cleared two projects for financial assistance to be set up in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects and the total assistance to be provided ?

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

(b) the project details including the total assistance to be provided to the two projects are tabulated below :

S.No.	Name of the Project	Name of the concern seeking Assistance	Project Cost	Loan Amount sanctioned
1.	Production of Hepatitis - B Vaccine.	M/s. Shantha Biotechnics Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	Rs. 15 cr	Rs 3.0 cr
2.	Establishment of 10 Ton per hour Fresh Fruit Bunches Palm Oil Mill at Ashwaraopet (A.P.)	M/s. Andhra Pradesh Co-operative Oil Seeds Growers' Federation Ltd., Hyderabad	Rs. 11.6 cr	Rs. 3.4 cr

Construction of Over Bridge at Varkala

2591. SHRI. A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent so far on the construction of railway over bridge at Varkala in Trivandrum district of Kerala;

(b) whether the construction work of overbridge is being delayed; and

(c) if so, the measures taken for the speedy completion of the bridge?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal for construction of Road Over Bridge at Varkala. However, a Road Under Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 561 at Km. 179/13-14 on Quilon-Trivandrum section near Varkala was sanctioned during Works Programme of 1996-97. General Arrangement Drawing as well as location has been finalized and estimate sanctioned. Tenders are being called shortly.

Increase in Frequency

2592. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to increasing the frequency of EMU service between Asansol and Bardhaman section of Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that frequency of EMU services can be done by using the existing rakes;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Provision of additional train services including on Asansol-Bardhaman sector is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, resource availability and traffic justification.

With effect from 01.8.97 one pair of MEMU service has been provided on Asansol-Bardhaman section in lieu of a conventional service.

(c) to (e) The frequency of peak hour train services cannot be increased with existing rakes due to operational difficulties like path constraints and time necessary for maintenance etc.

Reservation for SC/ST in Railways

2593. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide thirty percent reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the railway catering services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which and the manner in which the said reservations are likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The reservations (20% for Scheduled Castes and 10% for Scheduled Tribes) will be effected by inviting applications from these categories with immediate effect.

Deposit of Huge Amount

2594. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the huge quantity of granite tiger stone good quality of tiles and

quartz deposits huge amount at P.S. Saltora under the district of Bankura in West Bengal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes Sir. Good quality tiger stone (decorative stones) are available at P.S. Saltora area in Bankura district of West Bengal. Further cherty quartz is also reported from Benageria and Chhotasagara in Bankura district, West Bengal.

(b) Granite being a minor mineral, the grant of mineral concessions for the same is governed by the provisions of Minor Mineral Concession Rules framed by the respective State Governments. As per information available, Govt. of West Bengal has reserved the area under reference for exploitation by a State Public Sector Undertaking named West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation.

Reduction in Frequency of Rajdhani Express

2595. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the frequency of Rajdhani Express plying between New Delhi and Jammu has been reduced from twice a week to once a week;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received many representations against this step; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Nizamuddin-Jammu Tawi Rajdhani Express is a weekly train. However, a weekly Summer Special Rajdhani Express was run between Nizamuddin and Jammu Tawi from 19.4.97 to 30.6.97.

(c) and (d) No representations have been received in the regard.

MARR System

2596. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Multi Access Radio Relay systems procured by DOT so far;

(b) the total requirement of DOT of such system by 2001;

(c) whether DoT propose to procure 6000 pieces of this system for the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total cost involved in procurement of these pieces and criteria adopted for procurement of such system?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) About 12800 Multi Access Radio Relay Systems have been procured so far.

(b) to (d) The requirement for the year 1997-98 is about 3420 systems. The requirement for subsequent years has not been assessed.

(e) The total cost involved for 3420 systems is about Rs. 134 crores. The systems are being procured through an open tendering process;

Introduction of Train between Bhubaneswar and Mumbai

2597. SHRI BHAKTACHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request/proposal from Orissa for introduction of second train from Bhubaneswar to Mumbai and provision of one 3 tier A.C. and three second class sleeper coaches in Bhubaneswar-Mumbai Konark Express;

(b) if so, since when such request is pending with the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Some representations were received for provision of an Express train to Mumbai from Bhubaneswar and provision of A.C. - 3 tier sleeper coaches in 1019/1020 Konark Express. These have been examined.

With effect from 01.07.97, 1019/1020 Konark Express is running with 1 AC- Three tier and 10 sleeper coaches. Its load has also been augmented from 15 to 16 coaches. However it has not been found feasible to introduce an additional service between Bhubaneswar and Mumbai due to Operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

2598. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for delay in the conversion of Hotagi-Bijapur and Bijapur-Gadag rail lines into broad gauge;

(b) the earlier target for completion of the said gauge conversions;

(c) whether the said works have been included in the priority list of railways; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Constraint of resources.

(b) The earlier target date for Bijapur-Hotgi section was December 1996 while for Bijapur-Gadag section it had not been fixed. The work will now be completed on Bijapur-Hotgi section by December, 1997 and on the rest of the section two years later.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STD/ISD Telephone Booths

2599. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications lying pending for STD/ISD telephone booths in the all telecommunication circles of Bihar, circle-wise;

(b) the names of circles for which advisory committees have been set up for the allotment of STD/ISD booths;

(c) the number of persons applied for STD/ISD booth in Sasaram circle and the dates on which their applications were received by the office;

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

(e) the action taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, the applications pending for STD/ISD telephone booths in various SSAs of Bihar circle are given in the Annexure.

(b) STD PCO allotment committees have been reconstituted in all the 17 SSAs of Bihar Telecom Circle as per Statement attached.

(c) Sir, In Sasaram SSA, a total of 685 persons applied for STD/ISD booths progressively since the introduction of scheme.

(d) The STD PCO connections are released progressively subject to eligibility and technical feasibility.

(e) Does not arise as there is no erring official.

Statement

1.	Patna	3864
2.	Ranchi	57
3.	Sasaram	425
4.	Chapra	410
5.	Dhanbad	50
6.	Hazaribagh	232
7.	Muzaffarpur	37
8.	Saharsa	—
9.	Munger	90
10.	Darbhanga	464
11.	Katihar	35
12.	Dumka	90
13.	Bhagalpur	166
14.	Motihari	115
15.	Arrah	120
16.	Jamshedpur	1596
17.	Gaya	274
Total		8025

Financing of Renewable Energy Development Programme

2600. SHRI YELLAI AH NANDI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank is encouraging private companies to finance renewable energy development in countries like India and Indonesia to build global carbon markets to contain environmental changes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c) The World Bank under its Photovoltaic Market Transformation Initiative (PVMTI), has proposed to finance through its private sector window, International Finance Corporation, projects in India, Kenya and Morocco to accelerate the development and commercialisation of Photovoltaic (PV) technology for carbon abatement. A grant of US\$ 30 million has been approved by Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the first

phase of the project, out of which US\$ 15 million have been earmarked for projects in India. International Finance Corporation (IFC) is to finance the projects directly to private sector. Government of India has already endorsed the initiative.

In addition, a World Bank assisted "India Renewable Resources Development Project" is under implementation through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency to finance Wind Power, Small Hydro Power and Photovoltaic Projects in the country. The World Bank has sanctioned a loan of US \$ 115 million from International Development Association and a grant of US\$ 26 million from GEF for project. The project is scheduled to be completed by December, 1999.

Expansion of Sri Chitra Thirunal Hospital

2601. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any expansion programme for Sri Chitra Thirunal Hospital, Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum has envisaged a number of expansion programmes in its Ninth Five Year Plan for its Hospital Wing. The programmes include new initiatives in cardiology, strengthening of interventional cardiological programme, the establishment of a Paediatric Cardiac Unit, Upgradation of Vascular and Thoracic Surgery Unit, Epilepsy Care Programme, Neuromuscular Disorders, Speech, Language and Cognitive Disorders Unit, replacement of X-ray equipment with image intensifier and television system and Non-invasive vascular laboratory, digitisation of Radiology Unit, upgradation of MRI facilities, etc.

[Translation]

Relaxation to Private Power Producers

2602. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the projects in Maharashtra and National Capital territory of Delhi wherein the private power producers are proposed to be given relaxations;

(b) whether any directions have been issued by the Union Government to the State Governments in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The policy of Government of India on the development of private sector power projects is equally applicable to all projects. No relaxations are proposed to be given to the independent power producers setting up projects in Maharashtra and the National Capital territory of Delhi.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise

Introduction of Palace on Wheels between Mumbai and Goa

2603. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation has taken a decision to introduce "Palace on Wheels" luxury train between Mumbai and Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said luxury train is proposed to be operated by a private party;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the terms and conditions of the agreement signed between the Konkan Railway Corporation and the said private party?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Konkan Railway has no proposal of introducing a 'Palace on Wheel' train. However, a tourist train between Mumbai and Goa is planned.

(b) The tourist train is proposed to be a daily service between Mumbai and Goa to cater principally to foreign and domestic tourist traffic. The train is proposed to have two classes viz. Executive A.C. Chair Car and General Chair Car and other pantry and dining facilities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The party under consideration is M/s. Patil Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd., belonging to Patil Group of Industries with its Corporate Head Office at 205 & 206, 2nd Floor, Amarchand Sharma Complex, S.P. Road, Secunderabad. However, they have failed to deposit the security deposit within the stipulated period and the matter is under correspondence.

(e) The terms and conditions of agreement signed between M/s. Patil Tours & Travels (P) Ltd., and Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., are enclosed as Statement

Statement

1. The entire cost of construction, procurement of rake including spares will be borne by the operator.

2. The Corporation shall provide all facilities necessary for operation of train, such as track, signalling, station premises, locomotives, telecom, train crews, access to and from platform, halt/stabling facilities at stations, watering and maintenance facilities.

3. In case of accidents involving the operation of Luxury train, the corporation shall provide all emergency services as is normally made available for any other train. However, the cost incurred on this account as computed by the Corporation will be reimbursed by the operator.

4. The overhauling of coaches, and associated equipments will be done by the operator at his own cost.

5. The operator will be responsible to provide all services and amenities to passengers of Tourist Train, such as catering on board as well as on ground, house keeping, including provision of linen, Air-conditioning, drinking water, special lighting and others including telecom facilities in working order.

6. The operator shall be solely responsible for his contractual and statutory obligations towards passengers under the consumer protection act or any other law that is applicable.

7. The operator shall make his own arrangement for designing, printing and selling of tickets directly or by appointing agents in India or abroad. The tariff of the package tour shall be fixed by the operator.

8. The operator shall be responsible for maintenance of interior furnishing and security of the train.

9. The operator shall pay to the Corporation every month an amount calculated at 12% of gross monthly payment. In addition the operator shall pay to the corporation haulage charges @ Rs. 2.80 lakhs for long trip between Mumbai and Goa. The haulage charges will be subject to revision biannually by the corporation.

10. The operator shall comply with the payment of Wages Act 1936, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition Act 1936), Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition Act, 1970) and Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition Rule, 1971)

11. The corporation reserves the right to suspend the services or terminate the agreement without notice and without any compensation for :

(i) persistent default in payment.

(ii) breach by the contractor and infringement of obligations.

(iii) any unlawful activity or public nuisance or omission conduct by act on Rly. permits directly/indirectly by the operator or his agents, subletting or assigning without prior approval of the corporation.

The contract will be awarded for a minimum period of 15 months. This will be further extended. However, no exclusive operation rights have been given to the operator. As and when the need arises, Luxury Train will be introduced by the Corporation.

Gauge Conversion

2604. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government of start the work of gauge conversion between Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dassa-Mahuva;

(b) whether the IRCON is going to execute the above conversion work; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The modalities of funding of the project are being finalised.

(b) No final decision has been taken in this regard so far.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Closure of Power House

2605. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board issued notice for closure of some power houses due to spreading of pollution by them;

(b) if so, whether two units of Panki power house i.e. Hardua Gunj and Tanda Paricha Power houses are also under threat;

(c) whether the Electricity Boards do not have adequate money to install pollution control equipment in their power generation units;

(d) whether a unit of Unchahaar Power house is completely closed down whereas I.D. Fan of other unit is being operated on only 110 Megawatt Capacity due to technical fault in I.D. Fan blades thereby aggravating the power crisis further in Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government to deal with the above situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have issued directions to 28 coal based thermal stations in the various States for preparation of a time bound Action Plan for compliance with the emission limits from the generating units. The Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) have also received a notice for compliance with environmental standards within specified time schedule. However, no notice for closure of power houses has been received. The two units of Panki Power house are presently closed due to technical reasons as well as on account of non installation of electrostatic precipitators. Paricha and Tanda thermal power stations have been provided with electrostatic precipitators and their units are in operation. In Harduaganj thermal power station available units are running.

(c) Some of the State Electricity Boards do not have adequate funds to instal pollution control equipments in their power generating units.

(d) and (e) During April, 1977. Unchahaar Unit 2 was taken under planned shut down for annual overhaul and Boiler Licence renewal. The other unit had developed some technical problem in I.D. Fan which was attended during 19.4.97 to 21.4.97. Both the units are fully operational at present and have operated during July, 1997 at 78.1% PLF.

Functioning of Computers at Azamgarh

2606. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether computers have been installed at Azamgarh railway station in Uttar Pradesh for reservations;

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting reservation by computer till now; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Provision of computerised reservation facilities at Azamgarh railway station in Uttar Pradesh is an approved work in the Annual Plan for 1997-98. Work is in progress for the same and they are expected to shortly become operational.

Vacant Post of STs

2607. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :-

- (a) the category-wise number of posts of scheduled tribes lying vacant in his Ministry/Departments;
- (b) whether the persons other than those are working on these posts;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government are taking any steps to fill up the entire backlog; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) One vacancy each of Private Secretary (Group-B); Personal Assistant (Group-B); and Upper Division Clerk (Group-C) reserved for Scheduled Tribe candidates exist in the Secretariat of the Ministry of Steel. The Ministry of Steel has no Department under its administrative control.

(b) and (c) As per the existing procedure, these vacancies were communicated to the Department of Personnel and Training (DPT), Government of India, for nomination of eligible candidates. Nominations of eligible candidates by DPT are awaited. Pending availability of eligible candidates, the existing vacancies reserved for them have been filled, as a purely temporary measure, by appointment of other candidates on an ad-hoc basis, due to administrative exigencies.

(d) and (e) Filling of backlog vacancies will depend upon the availability of eligible candidates nominated by DPT, as per procedure.

[English]

Frequency of Hirakud Express

2608. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are considering to increase the frequency of Hirakud Express from New Delhi to Titilagarh;
- (b) if so, the time by which the frequency of the said train is likely to be increased; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) There is no proposal at present to increase the frequency of Hirakud Express.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational reasons.

Demands of STD/ISD Booth Owners

2609. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the STD/ISD Booth Owners of Bangalore city have submitted any memorandum to the Chief General Manager of Karnataka Telecom Circle;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal from STD/ISD booth owners, contained in the memorandum include raising rates of commission, allotment of extra lines and new lines, payment of bills through cheques, maintenance and transfer of telephone lines, revision of tariffs, security arrangement for booths operated by ladies, payment of Security deposit and collection of extra service charges.

(c) At present there is no proposal to review the existing policy in respect of rate of commission, service charges, tariff, security deposit, additional lines etc.

Pact on Liquid Fuel Pricing

2610. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "IPPs may renegotiate pacts over liquid fuel pricing" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated 11.7.97;

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

(c) the details of representations/communications received from the independent power producers to this effect; and

(d) the action/decision taken thereon proposal-wise

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

(b) to (d) The article has highlighted that the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) of liquid fuel based power projects may have to renegotiate the Power Purchase Agreements in view of Government of India's decisions on fuel pricing and import arrangements. Government of India has also received several representations from the IPPs, SEPs and State Governments with regard to the draft Fuel Supply Agreement proposed by the oil industry. These representations will be taken into account in finalising the Fuel Supply Agreement.

[Translation]

Indira Awas Yojana in M.P.

2611. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families living below poverty line in the rural areas of Madhya Pradesh who have no houses or land to construct houses as per the last survey;

(b) the number of persons who have lands but needs assistance to construct houses;

(c) the criteria being followed for selection of beneficiaries in the State;

(d) the Central assistance provided under Indira Awas Yojana to Madhya Pradesh during 1997-98 so far;

(e) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has sought increase in the Central Assistance under the said scheme; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

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

(d) The Central Assistance provided under Indira Awas Yojana to Madhya Pradesh so far during 1997-98 is around Rs. 39 crore.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Union Government has provided Additional Central Assistance to the tune of Rs. 4 crores for earthquake affected victims of Jabalpur District.

[English]

Loss in NHPC

2612. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Idle Chamera unit causes Rs. 100 crore loss to NHPC" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated 13.7.1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether a number of equipments/machines imported/locally purchased are not operative and the detailed estimated loss in this account and steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the present status of investigations into reported irregularities committed in purchase of high valued equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) : Yes Sir. The news item mentions about the outage of the Unit-2 of Chamera Hydro-electric Project Stage-I and about faulty construction of the tunnel carrying water to the generating units. The facts are as follows :

All the units of Chamera Project were running satisfactorily since commissioning in April 1994 and no major problems relating to turbine and generators were experienced. However, operational problem with generating Unit-2 are being experienced since June 1996 when the load on the machine exceeds 90 MW.

Experts from GE Canada and GEC Alsthom and M/s. SNC/Acres were deputed to look into the problems and set right the machines from time to time. Experts from BHEL have been assisting on project authorities in resolving the problem. A team of experts comprising representative from Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Central Water Commission (CWC) and Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) was constituted by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) to look into the problem and to make recommendations for improved performance. The committee's recommendations for rectification of Unit-2 are in line with the action being taken. Further investigations and assessments would be continued to ascertain the cause of trouble in Unit-2 during lean season of October-April when the system will permit such assessments.

(c) There were no unusual problems with any of the except the break down of a unit of GIS switchgear and the radial gates anchoring system which have been rectified/replaced. The Head Race Tunnel (H.R.T) of 6.4 k.m was constructed by Indian contractors. It is not true to say that the generating units are hit by boulders. A concrete piece was found wedged before entrance to turbine on two occasions and this is not indicative of defect or danger to the HRT. This phenomenon is also neither uncommon nor unusual and in a similar manner concrete pieces were found in the case of some other projects which were completed more than a decade back and the tunnels are intact. It is not true that NHPC suffered a revenue loss of about Rs. 100 crores on account of problems in generating unit-2 in the last one year. The design energy of station is 1664 Million Units (MUs). The target of annual generating fixed by the CEA was 1700 MUs. The actual generation from Chamera Stage-I in 1996-97 was 1884 MUs. The excess generation from Chamera Stage-I over the design energy and annual target is 220 MUs and 184 MUs respectively.

(d) The turbines and generators of Chamera-I Project were procured from M/s. Marine Industries Ltd. and

M/s. GE Canada. The leading Canadian manufacturers, after negotiations by the Price Negotiating Committee appointed by the Government of India. All other equipments were purchased by the usual tendering process from Canadian firms. No specific irregularity has been reported in the procurement of these equipments.

[Translation]

Supply of Sleepers

2613. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a policy for purchasing of PSC and Steel Turnout sleepers for future requirements of the railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have now taken a decision to change old steel and cement sleepers by reversing its earlier policy decision;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether life of concrete sleepers is five times more than that of the wooden sleepers;

(f) whether orders for concrete turnout have been placed with nine firms @ Rs. 70,000/- (including HTS wire) per set when the infrastructure capability available with the manufactures of concrete sleepers in the country is only for 1000 sets per month;

(g) whether the orders have also been placed for the supply of 4,500 wooden turnouts @ 1,80,000 per set costing Rs. 100 crores when its life span is substantially less than the concrete sleepers; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) As per present policy as far as possible only concrete turnout sleepers sets are being used on Indian Railways.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The estimated life of Concrete sleepers is about 30-40 years whereas average life of wooden sleepers is 10-12 years.

(f) Orders for 8000 sets of Concrete turnout sleepers have been placed on 8 firms at the rate of Rs. 49,999/-

(+Rs. 8400/- MODVAT) per set and 1000 sets of concrete turnout sleepers on one firm at the rate of Rs. 47,635/- (+Rs. 8400/- MODVAT) per set. The rates are excluding cost of HTS Wire. The above quantity is to be supplied in five years.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. Proceedings have been completed for placement of the contracts for supply of Sal Wooden Special Sleepers on following Govt. Corporations :

	In cums.	Rs. in crores
1. MMTC (A Corporation of UOI	43,000	81.28
2. MARCOFED (A Corporation of Govt. of Nagaland).	9,000	16.61
Total	52,000	97.89

The above ordered quantity of wooden sleepers includes the following types of sleepers:-

1. Sleepers for Bridges.
2. Sleepers for Diamond Kings and Spl. layouts.
3. Sleepers for Lines in Bombay Sub-urban section.
4. Sleepers for Rail Joints
5. Sleepers for Turnout.

The use of wooden sleepers on bridges, at diamond crossing and special layouts, in Lines at Bombay Sub-urban section, at Rail Joints etc. is unavoidable as use of other types of sleepers including concrete sleepers there, is technically not feasible. Wooden turnout sleepers are to be used mostly for maintenance of about 52000 sets of wooden turnouts sleepers presently laid in the Tracks.

[English]

Shortage of Funds for Doordarshan

2614. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has approached the Ministry of Finance for extra funds to save Doordarshan from resource crunch; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to avoid shortage of funds for Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has approached the Ministry of Finance to agree to phasing out of the Non-Lapsable Fund (NLF) support to Non-Plan expenditure so that adequate provision is available for Plan funding of Doordarshan.

[Translation]

Losses suffered by NDTV

2615. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allowed concessions to NDTV for its programmes called 'The World This Week';

(b) if so, the details of concessions allowed; and

(c) the other programmes on which such concessions were allowed during the last two years and the estimated loss to the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) The programme 'World This Week' was placed in "A" category for the purpose of sponsorship fee and in "A Special" category for the spot buy rates.

(c) No other programme has been allowed similar terms during the period;

Extraction of Palm Oil

2616. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Technology Development Board has decided to provide financial assistance for extraction of palm oil by using latest techniques;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount targetted to be provided during 1997-98 for this purpose;

(d) whether the Government are formulating any comprehensive scheme for obtaining optimum production in crushing of other edible oil seeds by using latest techniques;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the schemes formulated in regard to other oilseeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The Technology Development Board had received an application from Andhra Pradesh Cooperative Oil Seeds Growers' Federation Ltd., Hyderabad seeking financial assistance

from the Board for the establishment of a 10 Ton Fresh Fruit Bunches per hour Palm Oil Mill at Ashwaraopet in Andhra Pradesh. The Palm Oil Mill is proposed to be installed by the Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Thiruvananthapuram. The Co-operative Federation has entered into a MOU with the RRL, Thiruvananthapuram for this purpose. As against the total project cost of Rs. 11.60 cr., the Cooperative Federation has requested for a loan assistance of Rs. 3.40 cr. from the Technology Development Board. The Board has approved a loan of Rs. 3.40 cr. and a sum of Rs. 1.70 cr. has been released as first instalment so far during the year 1997-98.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulse, functioning under the Ministry of Agriculture, has been financially supporting Palm Oil and other Edible Oil Processing Programmes both for the field demonstrations and for initiating new R&D Programmes. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, the Mission released Rs. 25.88 cr. for new R&D Programmes in Post Harvest Technology In Oil Seeds.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Demolition of Houses in Villages of Chandigarh

2617. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received memorandum and representations from Sarpanches of villages and some other organisations protesting against the demolition of houses outside 'Lal Dora' of the villages of Union Territory Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected from Chandigarh Administration and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Appointment of Enquiry Commission

2618. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of enquiry commissions appointed to enquire into causes of accidents and derailments of trains, during the last 3 years;

(b) the findings of the enquiry commission and action taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the enquiry commissions;

(c) the reasons for the unabated continuance of accidents and derailments; and

(d) the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) During the last three years, only one Commission of Enquiry under Justice N. Venkatachala, a retired Judge of Supreme Court has been appointed by the Ministry of Railways to enquire into the causes of accidents involving (i) collision of Up 3151 Jammu Tawi Express against Up BKSC Goods train on Eastern Railway on 1-6-1995, and (ii) derailment of train No. 8448 Hirakhand Express which occurred on S.E. Railway on 1-6-1995. The commission concluded rash and negligent behaviour of the station staff at Kalubathan on Eastern Railway and unrenewed bad track condition in Sambalpur Division of South Eastern Railway respectively, being responsible for these accidents. The commission made the following major suggestions for checking collisions and derailments on Railways.

Suggestions for Checking collisions:

- (i) Track circuiting
- (ii) Auxillary Warning System
- (iii) Mobile Radio Communication
- (iv) Solid State Interlocking
- (v) Use of pre-stressed reinforced concrete sleepers
- (vi) Ensuring supply of quality spare parts for railway maintenance etc.

Suggestions for checking derailments :

- (i) Thorough detection of rail flaws.
- (ii) Making good of shortage in track maintenance gangs
- (iii) Track renewal
- (iv) Improving infrastructure and other facilities in the train examination depots.
- (v) Timely action to prevent spring breakages
- (vi) Provision of additional washing lines/pit lines at all sizable carriage sheds.
- (vii) Posting of technically qualified persons as TXRs and avoid indiscriminate promotions of fitters etc. as TXR.
- (viii) Ensuring adequate supply of spare stores at all carriage depots.

(ix) Check on introduction of new coaching service.

(x) Periodical cadre review.

All these recommendations have been accepted and implemented by the Ministry of Railways. An Action Taken Report together with the Report of the commission has been laid on the Table of the Sabha on 20th December 1996.

(c) Despite all out efforts to contain them, accidents on the railways occur mainly due to human error, equipment failures, sabotage and other incidental factors.

(d) Rs. 26.52 lakhs.

[Translation]

Full Time Programmes on LPT

2619. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAJ : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast full time regular programmes through Low Power T.V. Transmission centres in Deoria, Gorakhpur districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to start these channel under a time bound programme; and

(d) if so, the time by which these channels are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) While a High Power TV transmitter (HPT) at Gorakhpur and a Low Power TV transmitter (LPT) at Deoria are, at present, operational in these districts and providing regular transmission of National network programmes and Regional service of Uttar Pradesh, there is no approved scheme, at present, to relay any other channels from these transmitters.

Scheme for Thermal Power Plant

2620. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to make the thermal power plants of the country pollution free and to increase their efficiency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. To make the thermal power plants pollution free and to increase their efficiency the Central Government initiated a scheme viz. Renovation & Modernisation (Phase-I). Which mainly covered installation of electrostatic precipitators in the thermal stations. This scheme has already been implemented. Renovation and Modernisation (Phase-II) has been taken up for implementation since 1991 and is likely to be completed by the end of the 9th Plan period.

[English]

Expenditure Incurred on Film Division

2621. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on Films Division during the last two years;

(b) details of expenditure incurred separately in respect of wages to employees and cost of films produced;

(c) whether the working of Films Division is reviewed from time to time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) The details of expenditure incurred by Films Division during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1995-96	1996-97
I. Production		
(a) Cost of production	310.53	458.73
(b) Wages	109.13	120.60
	419.66	579.33
II. Distribution		
(a) Cost of Distribution	828.43	748.50
(b) Wages	381.98	422.20
	1210.41	1170.70
III. Overheads	160.00	167.23
Total expenditure (I + II + III)	1790.07	1917.26

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. On the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Communications, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Shyam Benegal, a noted film personality, has been constituted to review the objectives, functions and procedures of Films Division in all its aspects. The Committee is expected to submit its report by 31st October, 1997.

[Translation]

Construction of Over Bridge at Varanasi

2622. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the railway crossings in Varanasi cause disruption to road traffic thereby causing a lot of inconvenience to the road users; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to construct over bridges on the said railway crossings particularly at Madu, Aadih, Alaipura and Lahartara for the convenience of villagers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No proposals have been received from State Govt. for construction of Road Over Bridges on these level crossings.

[English]

Development of Software for Network

2623. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the software for networking arrangements at all locations where computerised reservations facilities made available has been developed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which all the State Capitals are likely to be brought under networking arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) A project has been undertaken for networking of the 5 computerised Passenger Reservation Systems of Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Secunderabad, the software for which has been developed. In the initial phase, the new software has been made operational in a stand-alone mode at the New Delhi and Secunderabad Systems. Preliminary testing has been undertaken for networking between these two Systems and this testing is in progress. It would be feasible to connect all locations having computerised reservations facilities, including State Capitals, only after the networking

system has been tested thoroughly for its reliability and effectiveness.

Shortage of Wagons in Gujarat

2624. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of railway wagons in Gujarat particularly at Unjha station in Mehsana District for loading of various local; agriculture products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of railway wagons provided by the Western Railway for loading various goods and agricultural products from the Unjha station during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to provide railway wagons to Unjha station to meet the demands of local traders?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) The details of outward loading took place at Unjha railway station in the past three years is as under :

Year	No. of wagons (Booked)
1993-94	347
1994-95	31
1995-96	-

(d) Unjha is a 'B' Class station on the Mahesana - Palanpur newly converted BG section of Rajkot division on Western Railway. The Station was closed for goods traffic w.e.f. 3.4.1995 due to inadequate offering of traffic. Now it is a 4 line station with the fourth line yet to be commissioned. The fourth line will be the goods shed line. When the line is commissioned, it will be possible to handle both inward and outward traffic in rake loads and wagons will be supplied to Unjha station as and when indents for full rake loads are placed.

Gauge Conversion

2625. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken up the gauge conversion work of Quilon-Tenkasi-Tirunelveli metre gauge line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the total estimated cost thereof;

(c) the fund allocated during 1997-98;

(d) whether the Government got the approval of Planning Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The work has been included in the budget 1997-98 and will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.

(b) Rs. 280 crs.

(c) Rs. 1 lakh.

(d) and (e) The project has been sent to the Planning Commission for their consideration.

[Translation]

Proposal for Documentaries

2626. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of proposals received for producing documentaries on Rural Development and River Valley Schemes during the year 1995-96;

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

(c) whether the Hindi serial 'Pani ke Akshar' has been discontinued;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to re-start it on Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) A total number of 710 proposals inclusive of Spots on rural development were received during the year 1995-96. As regards river valley schemes, no proposal was received from outside producers and the programmes on river valley schemes were produced in-house. Out of these, 119 proposals including 69 documentaries were approved.

(c) and (d) 'Pani Ke Akshar' was a series of programmes based on different River Valley Projects and it was an in-house production. The programme went off the air after completion of the series.

(e) The Government has no plan, at present, to restart it on Doordarshan.

*[English]***Losses to SAIL**

2627. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that SAIL management has taken arbitrary decision to write-off huge loans to various undertakings which has caused losses to the organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to effect recovery of loans?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) SAIL management has not taken arbitrary decision to write-off huge loans to various undertakings which has caused losses to the organisation.

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

Allocation of Fund

2628. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :

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

(a) whether funds being spent lavishly by the Doordarshan in the name of celebration of Golden Jubilee of Independence of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the name of persons responsible for it;

(c) the budget fixed by for various Doordarshan centres for the production of programmes relating to the struggle for independence; and

(d) the period during which these programmes would be telecast?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An amount of approximately Rs. 30 crore has been sanctioned for production of regional as well as national programmes relating to celebration of Golden Jubilee of India's Independence.

(d) These programmes would be telecast for one year commencing from 14th August, 1997.

MTNL - Chennai and Calcutta

2629. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to add Calcutta and Chennai to the portfolio of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the staff unions of these circles have oppose the decision;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to appease the staff;

(e) whether there is a proposal to make the MTNL an independent corporation with greater autonomy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above

(e) and (f) The Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited is already a Public Sector Enterprise, incorporated as a Public Limited Company under the Companies Act, 1956 with requisite autonomy.

*[Translation]***Model Railway Stations**

2630. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Five Railway Stations into model Railway Stations in Punjab;

(b) if so, the names thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon alongwith the facilities likely to be provided;

(d) the amount allocated for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) Model station scheme which was introduced to develop some of the stations as Models to other stations during 1986 has since been discontinued in 1992. Provision of facilities for passengers at railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken wherever warranted by traffic needs depending on the availability of funds. Accordingly various works have been taken up at Amritsar, Jalandhar City, Anandpur Sahib, Ludhiana, Beas, Firozpur Cantt., Rathinda and Jandial.

*[Translation]***I.R.E.P. in U.P**

2631. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Development Blocks included under IREP in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the State Government have presented any scheme to the Union Government for implementation of all programmes in energy institutions of the State ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) By the end of 1996-97, 88 Development Blocks have been taken up under Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The State Government has not presented any schemes to the Union Government for implementation of all these programmes in energy institutions of the State.

[Translation]

Development of Communication in Uttar Pradesh

2632. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent for the development of communications system in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether the telecommunications is not working properly in the State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The amount spent on development of Communication system in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is given below :

Year	Amount (Rs. Crores)
1994-95	391.45
1995-96	593.68
1996-97	677.26

(b) and (c) No Sir. The Telecommunications system in Uttar Pradesh is comparable with the National average in terms of such parameters as percentage of Waiting List to number of DELs, Fault rate and call completion rates.

(d) A number of steps have already been taken in this regard and are being continued for the improvement of the Telecommunications in the State as detailed below :

- (1) Computerisation of services.
- (2) Introduction of new technology in the network.
- (3) Replacement of old and life expired exchanges.
- (4) Upgradation of outdoor plant.
- (5) Use of Jelly filled cables.
- (6) Laying of cables in ducts.
- (7) 'Higher Level Monitoring System' for exchanges.

- (8) Introduction of reliable media for junction working.
- (9) Refresher training for staff to improve their skill.
- (10) Introduction of wireless in local loop, HDSL, ADSL contracts and Optical Fibre Technologies gradually in the local network.
- (11) To provide STD facility to all exchanges by the year 2000 A.D.
- (12) Expand the network to make available telephone on demand.
- (13) Introduction of new services such as :
 - ISDN
 - Intelligent network
 - Internet
 - Mobile Satellite Services.

[English]

Bedding Services

2633. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the services for providing beddings in train Nos. 2802, 2815, 8476 is very poor;

(b) if so, whether the contracts for providing beddings, pillows, blankets, towels in A/C sleepers are given to private parties in the said trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to take expeditious steps to redress the complaints in A/C coaches; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Bed roll service in train No. 2801/2802 is managed by a private contractor while the same is done by the railway administration in train Nos. 2815/2816 and 8475/8476

(d) and (e) Complaints received including those in A/C coaches are investigated and necessary remedial action including disciplinary action against the staff causing complaints is taken.

[Translation]

AIR Stations in Gujarat

2634. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of All India Radio Stations in Gujarat as on date particularly in tribal areas; location-wise;

(b) whether the programmes relating to the promotion of tribal culture are not being broadcast from these stations;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective steps being taken by the Government to broadcast such programme?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) There are 7 All India Radio Stations located in Gujarat namely, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Bhuj, Vadodra, Godhra, Surat and Ahwa. Out of these 7 stations, Vadodra, Surat Ahwa and Godhra are located in tribal areas.

(b) to (d) The 4 stations located in tribal areas are All India Radio, Ahmedabad broadcast programmes for the promotion of the tribal culture in addition to other programmes.

Production of Iron Ore and Steel

2635. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of production of iron ore and steel during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and upto June, 1997 in the country, State-wise, plant-wise both in Public and Private Sector;

(b) the grade-wise quantity and value of iron ore and steel produced and the target fixed for its production for the current year;

(c) the total quantity of iron ore and steel exported to the various countries alongwith the details of the countries during the said period;

(d) the details of foreign exchange earned by exporting iron ore and steel;

(e) whether some more areas having iron ore reserves have been explored in the country;

(f) if so, the quantity of iron ore reserves estimated to be available therein;

(g) the details of steel projects set up at various places in the country during 1994-97 and the likely effects thereof;

(h) whether all the steel plants including Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro have shown a decline in production; and

(i) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to improve the production of steel ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) As reported by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Nagpur the Statewise, sectorwise production of iron ore in the country during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and April-June 1997 is enclosed in the Statement-I attached. The details of producer-wise production of finished steel for the last 4 years and upto June 1997 in the public sector and the private sector is enclosed in the Statement - II attached.

(b) As per the latest information available with IBM, the quantity and value of iron ore produced during 1996-97 was 66.67 million tonnes valued at Rs. 1415 crores, details may be seen in the Statement-III attached. After decontrol of iron and steel, the Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel assesses the domestic demand and projects the availability annually for each category of finished steel. For the year 1997-98 demand for finished steel has been estimated at 24.71 million tonnes. The item-wise details are in the Statement-IV attached.

(c) and (d) The quantity and value of exports of iron ore & steel during the last 3 years is as under :

	Qty - in Million Tonnes		Value - Rs. Crores	
	Iron Ore (Prov.)		Saleable Steel	
	Qty.	Value	Qty	Value
1994-95	31.75	1561	1.32	1238
1995-96	31.77	1782	1.50	1696
1996-97	29.65	1887	1.92	2039

While Export of Iron Ore is mainly to Japan, China, Korea, Iran, Italy, Turkey, Pakistan, Australia etc., exports of Steel is made to China, Japan, USA, Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Germany, Australia etc.

(e) The total recoverable reserve of iron ore in the country (As on 1-4-1990) was as follows :

Haematite 9602 million tonnes (All Grades)

Magnetite 3143 million tonnes (All Grades)

Because of the self sufficiency and exportable surplus status in the reserve position of iron ores, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has diverted its resources for exploration of comodities other than iron ores since more than a decade.

However during ensuing field season 1997-98, a new item of exploration for iron ore deposits within the iron ore group (IOG) of Sundergarh and Keonjhar districts of Orissa has been programmed by GSI in keeping with one of its IX Plan priorities towards resource augmentation of exportable commodities. Another investigation of iron ores in private leasehold areas of South Goa has also been contemplated subject to sponsorship.

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

(g) According to available information, the following medium/large capacity steel plants have been set up during the period 1994-97 :

Name of the Unit	Location	Capacity (LT) (saleable steel)
1	2	3
Nova Udyog Ltd.	Nainital, UP	2.40 (closed)
Indian Seamless	Pune, Mah.	1.50
Lloyds Steel Ltd.	Wardha, Mah.	6.00
Essar Steel Ltd.	Hazira, Guj.	20.00

1	2	3
Jindal Strips Ltd.	Raigarh, MP	4.00
Rajendra Steel Ltd.	Raipur, MP	1.70 (under expn)
Prakash Ind. Ltd.	Bharuch, Guj.	1.20 (being shifted)

(h) No, Sir, the production of Saleable steel by all the Steel Plants of Steel Authority of Indian Ltd. (SAIL) has shown an increase in the last 3 years except Bokaro Steel Plant which has shown some decline during 1996-97.

(i) SAIL is taking steps on a continuous basis to improve its performance and sales, which include modernisation and technological upgradation of its plants, improving technoeconomic factors i.e. reduction in coke, rate, energy consumption, metallic input, improvement in yield, extensive customer contact, market oriented product-mix, improvement in quality, long term relationship with customers, leadership in service and customer satisfaction, strict control and monitoring of operating costs, higher productivity and greater autonomy to field officers, etc.

Statement - I

State-Wise/Zone-Wise production of Iron ore in India

(In million tonnes)

Sl. No.	State/Zone	1994-95 (Prov.)	1995-96 (Prov.)	1996-97 (Prov.)	1997-98 (P) (Apr. - Jun)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Zone A				
	(i) Bihar	12.00	12.75	12.45	2.99
	(ii) Orissa	7.05	8.36	10.68	2.48
	Sub Total Zone A	19.05	21.11	23.13	5.47
2.	Zone B.				
	(i) Madhya Pradesh	15.87	17.06	16.31	3.53
	(ii) Maharashtra	0.13	0.16	0.00	0.01
	Sub Total Zone B	16.00	17.22	16.90	3.54
3.	Zone C				
	Karnataka	12.22	12.70	12.41	2.99
4.	Zone D				
	Goa	13.27	15.00	14.01	4.21

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Zone E				
	(i) Andhra Pradesh	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.03
	(ii) Rajasthan	0.02	0.02	0.02	—
	(iii) Haryana	0.01	0.003	0.01	—
	Sub Total Zone E	0.20	0.203	0.22	0.03
	Grand Total India	60.74	66.58	66.67	16.25
	Public Sector (%age to total production) (60.43%)	36.70	39.50 (59.32%)	38.93 (58.39%)	9.03 (55.57%)
	Private Sector (%age to total production) (39.57%)	24.04	27.08 (40.68%)	27.74 (41.60%)	7.22 (44.43%)

Source : IBM

Statement - II*Production of Finished Steel*

(In Million Tonnes)

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 Apr-June
SAIL	6.40 (6.7%)	6.61 (3.3%)	6.88 (4.1%)	6.95 (1.4%)	7.15 (2.9%)	6.79 (-5.04%)	1.51\
IISCO	0.32 (33.3%)	0.32 (1.6%)	0.25 (-21.1%)	0.28 (11%)	0.27 (-5.0%)	0.28 (3.7%)	0.06
VSP	0.25 (1250%)	0.54 (118.6%)	0.67 (23.1%)	0.97 (45.6%)	1.34 (38.4%)	1.45 (8.2%)	0.34
TOTAL	6.97	7.47	7.80	8.20	8.76	8.52	1.91
PUBLIC SECTOR	(11.3%)	(7.2%)	(11.3%)	(5.1%)	(6.8%)	(-2.7%)	
TISCO	0.99 (6.5%)	0.94 (-4.8%)	0.97 (2.9%)	1.37 (41.2%)	1.83 (33.6%)	2.01 (9.8%)	0.46
TOTAL	7.96	8.41	8.77	9.57	10.59	10.53	2.37
MAIN PRODUCERS	(10.7%)	(5.6%)	(4.3%)	(9.3%)	(10.7%)	(-0.6%)	
SECONDARY PRODUCERS	6.37 (0.5%)	6.79 (6.5%)	6.43 (-5.3%)	8.25 (28.3%)	10.81 (31.03%)	12.19 (12.8%)	2.71
TOTAL	14.33 (5.9%)	15.20 (6.1%)	15.20 (Nil)	17.82 (17.24%)	21.40 (20.12%)	22.72 (6.2%)	5.08

Figures in brackets indicate the percentage over last year/corresponding period.

Statement-III*State-Wise production of iron ore during 1996-97*

India/State	Qty. in, 000 tonnes Value in Rs. '000.	
	1996-97 Quantity	Value
Total	66669	14150170
Andhra Pradesh	188	8937
Bihar	12451	2022649
Goa	14015	2231701
Haryana	6	939
Karnataka	12408	4038403
Madhya Pradesh	16808	3517961
Maharashtra	91	7560
Orissa	20680	2320561
Rajasthan	22	1459

Statement - IV*Item-wise demand for finished steel for 1997-98*
(‘000 tonnes)

Category	Domestic Demand
FINISHED STEEL	
(a) <i>Non-Flat Products</i>	
Bars & Rods	8100
Structurals	3000
Rly. Materials	650
Total (Non-Flat)	11750
(b) <i>Flat Products</i>	
Plates	1935
HR Coils/Skelp/Strips	5000
HR Sheets	500
CR Coils/Sheets	3350
GP/GC Sheets	1200
Electrical Sheets	230
Tinplates	300
Pipes (large dia)	450
Total (Flat)	12965
Total (Finished steel)	24715

Export of Passenger Coaches

2636. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railways exports the passenger coaches to different countries;

(b) if so, the names of the countries to which railway coaches are exported;

(c) the number of passenger coaches exported during 1994, 1995 and 1996; country-wise; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Passenger coaches have been exported to Taiwan, Zambia, Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Mozambique.

(c) and (d) The number of passenger coaches exported during the last three years country-wise and the value of each order is as under :

Year	Country to which exported	Number and type of coaches	Approximate value of the order in rupee equivalent of foreign exchange (Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95	Nepal	6 (NG)	64.68
-do-	Vietnam	15 (MG)	783.20
1995-96	Nepal	12(NG)	129.36
1996-97	Tanzania	27 (MG)	2300.00
(Under execution)			

Running of Special Goods Train

2637. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special goods train runs for early transportation of Bananas from Bhusawal in Central Railway to Northern India;

(b) if so, the frequency of this train per week and whether any time has been fixed as to how many runs it would take in reaching Northern India (Delhi-Lucknow); and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The frequency of the Banana Special trains depend upon availability of traffic and wagons. These trains are run as per operational convenience, thus do not have fixed schedules. However priority is given to these trains.

[English]

Technical Consultancy Services

2638. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the programmes of CSIR laboratories regarding technological self reliance;

(b) the technical consultancy capabilities in the State of Andhra Pradesh and manpower engaged for the purpose;

(c) whether the consultancy services remain underutilised; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) In its 'vision & strategy CSIR 2001' document CSIR has enunciated its strategy for technological self reliance *inter alia* focussing on :

(i) Technology for Economic growth by partnering Indian industry enabling it to emerge as a significant global player and assisting the nation in deriving enhanced and sustainable value from endogenous services.

(ii) Technology for human welfare by providing S&T based solutions to mitigate the vulnerability and improve the quality of life, especially, for the weaker and disadvantaged sections of the society.

(b) As per study on consultancy capabilities in the State of Andhra Pradesh, there were around 275 consultants/consultancy organisations, institutions, in-house consultancy cells/divisions of the large and medium industry and machinery manufacturers providing consultancy services. The capabilities include preparation of feasibility and project reports, detailed project consultancy, design & development of plant and machinery, technology upgradation and modernisation, pollution control and productivity enhancement. The area of services include civil engineering, computer software, geology and mining, food industry, paper industry, drugs & pharmaceuticals and chemicals. Total manpower engaged in consultancy services is about 2400.

(c) and (d) Awareness about such consultancy services and the areas of their specialisation is gradually increasing amongst the user groups which will ensure optimal levels of utilisation of these services in course of time.

Provision of Compensation

2639. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any provision of compensation for financial losses due to delay in supply of gas to power projects;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in supply of gas by the Government to Ramgarh Gas based Extension Power Project of Rajasthan ;

(c) the revised schedule for full supply of gas to Ramgarh Extension Project;

(d) whether the delay in supply of gas, kept under utilisation of power plant; and

(e) if so, the details of compensation to RSEB?

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

(b) to (d) As against the original schedule of April, 1995, Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) completed its project in January, 1996 whereas Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) was ready for supply of gas in November, 1995. However, gas supply to Ramgarh power project of 35 MW capacity could commence from July, 1996. Presently, Oil India Limited has offered to supply committed quantity of gas and RSEB is drawing gas as per its requirement.

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

Communication Projects in Maharashtra

2640. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the major communication projects in Maharashtra awaiting clearance from the Union Authorities and their present status thereof, project-wise; and

(b) the position in regard to the availability of equipments and the fiscal targets set up for the current year for completion of the ongoing projects?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There is no major communication project in Maharashtra awaiting clearance from the Telecom. Commission.

(b) To meet the physical targets set for Maharashtra for the current year 1997-98 the equipments for some of the ongoing projects have already been received and for the remaining projects necessary action has been initiated for the procurement of required equipments and these are likely to be available during the current year.

Necessary funds to achieve the physical targets for Maharashtra are being made available.

Route of present Darjeeling Mail

2641. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for routing the present Darjeeling Mail through Bangladesh to New Jalpaiguri; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

[Translation]

AIR Station in Rajasthan

2642. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the AIR broadcast centres opened in Rajasthan so far; and

(b) the number of such centres proposed to be opened during the next Five Year Plan, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Presently, seventeen AIR Broadcasting stations/relay centres are under operation in Rajasthan. These are located at Jaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Suratgarh, Kota, Alwar, Nagpur, Banswara, Chittorgarh, Barmer, Sawai Madhopur, Churu, Jhalawar, Jaisalmer and Mount Abu.

(b) During IX Plan, there is a proposal to set up Broadcasting stations at Dungarpur and Sriganga Nagar in Rajasthan subject to the approval by the competent authority and availability of adequate financial resources.

[English]

Construction of Latrines under Rural Sanitation Programme

2643. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the year during which the cost of construction per latrine was worked out last and the total cost so worked out;

(b) the total cost per latrine worked out during 1997;

(c) the reasons for not revising the cost in view of the increased cost of construction; and

(d) the time bound programme for implementing the revised cost of latrines under Rural Sanitation Programme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) In 1991-92 the unit cost of construction of a latrine

under Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme was worked out Rs. 2500/-

(b) to (d) Revised cost has not been worked out in 1997. The States/UTs have been permitted to meet the difference between the actual cost and Rs. 2500 from out of their State Sector Minimum Needs Programme.

Panel on Power Plants

2644. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned "panel on power plants update on the cards" appearing in the *Financial Express* dated 15.7.1997;

(b) if so, details of the proposal finalised/under consideration of the Government; and

(c) the number of Power Plants in the country requiring renovation/update and estimates of cost involved and strategies finalised to take up the programme to improve power generation through efficient operations of the existing old projects-targets set physical and financial under the scheme State-wise for the current year?

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

(b) Government has proposed to provide funds at concessional rate of interest through PFC for accelerating the generation programme which would also include R&M activities. Under the programme, PFC would lend money to the State Electricity Boards at interest rate which is proposed to be 4% lower than the normal rate of interest. A sum of Rs. 200 crores has been proposed for meeting the interest subsidy for the year 1997-98. A committee including representatives of CEA, BHEL, Planning Commission and PFC would monitor the progress of R & M programme.

(c) In order to improve the performance of existing old thermal power plants a programme for R&M was taken up in 1990-91 by the Government of India for implementation during the 8th Plan. Under this programme, 44 thermal power stations comprising 198 units aggregating to a total capacity of 20869.435 MW at an estimated cost of Rs. 2383 crores are covered. Similarly, 55 hydro schemes with an aggregate capacity of 9653 MW were identified which required renovation modernisation and uprating. The total estimated cost of these schemes is Rs. 1493 crores.

A Statement showing power stations targetted to be completed during the year 1997-98, State-wise is attached.

Statement*State-wise targetted R&M works during the year 1997-98 (Targetted Stations)*

Sl. No.	Name of Organisation/ TPS	No. of activities expected to be completed during 1997-98	Funds required during 1997-98 (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	DVB/IP Station	18	603
2.	HSEB/Faridabad	10	1750
3.	PSEB/Bhatinda	3	1350
4.	RSEB/Kota	5	137
5.	UPSEB/Panki	14	7773
6.	MPEB/Amerkantak Korba (East) Satoura	41	4934
7.	GEB/Ukai, Gandhinagar Dhuvaran, Wanakbori	24	3002
8.	MSEB/Nasik, Koradi Bhuswal Parli, Paras, Chanderpur	22	2847
9.	TNEB/ Ennore	5	1633
10.	APSEB/Nellore	2	8193
11.	NLC (Neyveli)	50	5796
12.	WBPDC/Kolaghat	10	779
13.	DVC/Chanderpura Durgapur	15	663
Total		219 Nos.	39460 (394.6 crores)

State-wise targetted R&M works during the year 1997-98 (Hydro Schemes)

State	Name of Scheme	Installed Capacity (MW)	Est. Cost (crores)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
	Lower Sileru	4x115	13.35
	Srisaigram	7x110	16.32
Gujarat			
	Ukai (U1&3)	4x75	20.17
Himachal Pradesh			
	Bassi	4x15	5.35

1	2	3	4
Karnataka			
	Sharavanti (U 1 to 8)	8x89.1	65
Maharashtra			
	Koyna-III (U 10-12)	4x80	0.80
Orissa			
	Hirakud-I (1&2)	2x37.5	90.26
	Hirakud-I Switchyard Equipment	-	9.85
	Hirakud-II	3x24	50
BBMB			
	Dehar (U2, 3 & 4)	6x165	46
	Gangwal (U2)	2x24.2+ 1x29.25	18.90

Security Measures in Railway Stations

2645. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared a scheme to ensure effective security measures at all major railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order in trains and railway premises is the responsibility of the State Government concerned, which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP). The Railway Administration, on their parts also maintains close and constant co-ordination with the State Governments concerned and render necessary assistance to them to contain crime on Railway. Concerted efforts are made to ensure escorting of trains, registration of cases, systematic analysis of crime trends and criminal records, constant surveillance and modernisation of the police force.

STD/ISD/PCO Booths in Rajasthan

2646. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received for opening of STD/ISD/PCOs booths in each district of Rajasthan;

(b) the number of applications pending and cleared so far;

(c) the steps taken for early clearance of these applications;

(d) the number of applications of SCs/STs, Ex-Servicemen, Women and Handicapped persons cleared among them;

(e) whether the most of the PCO/STD booths in Western Rajasthan are not working; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The SSA-wise information is given in the Statement.

(b) 7840 applications have been cleared and 10034 applications are pending.

(c) STD PCO allotment committee meetings are being held regularly and STD PCOs will be provided to the applicants subject to technical feasibility and fulfilment of eligibility criteria.

(d) 1160 applicants of these categories have been cleared.

(e) and (f) Sir, the STD PCO booths are by and large working satisfactorily. Complaints of faults whenever received are attended to promptly.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of S.S.A.	No. of application received during last three years
1	2	3
1.	Alwar	929
2.	Ajmer	1079
3.	Bharatpur	339
4.	Banswara	267
5.	Bhilwara	513
6.	Bundi	include in Sawaimadhopur
7.	Bikaner	946
8.	Barmer	581
9.	Churu	243
10.	Chittor	365
11.	Jaipur	6702

1	2	3
12.	Jodhpur	667
13.	Jhunjunu	478
14.	Jhalawar	included in Kota
15.	Kota	690
16.	Nagaur	510
17.	Pali	368
18.	Sawaimadhopur	286
19.	Sirohi	428
20.	Sriganganagar	461
21.	Sikar	527
22.	Tonk	49
23.	Udaipur	1446

Special Concession to Foreign Investors

2647. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have plan to give special concession to foreign investors for investments in the various power projects to be commissioned in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign investors have since come forward for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) In the context of paucity of resources in the public sector a policy to encourage private sector participation in power generation and distribution has been formulated in 1991 and is currently under implementation. The policy is equally applicable to projects being set up by domestic as well as foreign investors.

(c) to (e) During the period from August, 1991 to May, 1997, 45 projects specific proposals, envisaging a total

capacity of 20.047 MW, have been approved for foreign direct investment in the field of power generation in the private sector.

[Translation]

Power Projects in U.P.

2648. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :
DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of power projects on which work is going on in Uttar Pradesh as on 30th May, 1997;

(b) the number of power projects on which work has been stopped;

(c) the reasons for not starting construction work on these incompleated projects;

(d) the expenditure incurred so far and likely to be incurred in future on Vishnu Prayag Power Project in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) the total number of Power Stations/Sub-stations in U.P. at present; and

(f) the total Power generated during last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Five power projects with a capacity of 1816 MW, including three power projects in the Central Sector are being implement in the Uttar Pradesh as on 30.5.97.

(b) and (c) Details of power projects in the Uttar Pradesh on which work has been stopped and the reasons therefor are given as under :

Sl. No.	Name of Project/Capacity (MW)	Status
---------	-------------------------------	--------

Private Sector

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Vishnu Prayag HEP (400) | Project posed to Pvt. Sector. The techno-economic clearance for the project was given by CEA in June, 1997. |
| 2. Srinagar HEP (30) | Project posed to Pvt. Sector. Detailed Project Report returned by CEA as certain inputs were not tied up. |

State Sector

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3. Ladhwar Vyasi HEP (420) | Work held up for want of Funds. |
| 4. Maneri Bhali-II HEP (304) | Work held up for want of Funds. |

(d) An amount of Rs. 32.49 crores has been incurred on the Vishnu Prayag HE Project upto the year 1995-96. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 1614.66 crores.

(e) At present, there are 28 power stations in Uttar Pradesh including 8 power stations from the Central Sector.

(f) Energy generated from these stations in U.P. during 1995-96 & 1996-97 was 63457 MUs and 65779 MUs respectively.

Modernisation of Railway Protection Force

2649. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
SHRI A. SAMPATH :
DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Protection Force has been provided with outdated weapons;

(b) the nature of facilities demanded by the Inspector General of Railway Protection Force and Chief Security Commissioner of South Eastern Railway;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government propose to modernise/revamp the Railway Protection Force;

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

(f) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives with the State Governments to discuss problems in effective protection of Railway property and ensure safety to passengers?

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the details of action plan for 1997-98 and the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise and for Maharashtra in particular

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

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

12.00 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE*[Translation]***Railways Red Tariff (54th Amendment) Rules, 1996 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989 :

- (1) The Railways Red Tariff (54th Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. (267(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 1996 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 554(E) dated the 29th October, 1996.
- (2) The Carriage of Passengers Suffering from Infectious or Contagious Diseases (Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 340 (E) of India dated the 17th June, 1997
- (3) The Railway Passengers (Cancellation of Tickets and Refund of Fares) Second Amendment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 401 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st July, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2293/97]

Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet (On Accrual Basis) of the Deptt. of Telecommunications for the year 1995-96

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet (On Accrual Basis) of the Department of Telecommunications for the year 1995-96 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2294/97]

[English]

Annual Report alongwith Audited Accounts and Statement regarding Review by the Govt. of the working of the National Centre of Films for Children and Young People, Mumbai, 1995-96

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S.JAIPAL REDDY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre of Films for Children and Young People, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Centre of Films for Children and Young People, Mumbai, 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. L.T. 2295/97]

12.03 hrs.

HIGH COURT AND SUPREME COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958".

The motion was adopted

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : I introduce the Bill**

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Nand Kishor Rongta was abducted from the area following under Bhelpur District Police Station in Benaras on 21st January, 1977. He was taken to Punjab by abductors who made his Video Cassette and showed the same to his family members as proof of his being alive. After that a ransom of one and half crore rupees was extorted from his family and only thereafter he was murdered.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government of India that when DIG of Benaras and S.P. of Gazipur investigated the case and were about to arrest the culprits, both of them were suddenly transferred by the Chief Minister of U.P. I would like to make two requests to the Government of India in this regard. First, this case should

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 dated 7.8.97.

**Introduced with Recommendation of the President.

be got investigated by CBI. Secondly, the point of manouevring to save the abducters by the Chief Minister of U.P. should also be investigated.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have given a Notice of Privilege Motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When did you give that?

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Two or three days ago.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Though I do not know about it, I will look into it.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker sometime back, CBI Joint Director Shri Biswas's illegal activity was discussed and the Home Minister had constituted an investigation Committee where report is still awaited (*Interruptions*) and the way Shri Biswas is acting in a prejudiced manner, it seems that he can destroy evidences. I, therefore request to the Government of India that he should be transferred from the places wherever he can try to destroy the evidences..... (*Interruptions*) This proves that Shri Biswas acted in an unauthorised manner by calling the army inspite of being aware of the announcement made by Shri Laloo Prasad that the latter would surrender on a fixed day and place. I have a doubt if his intension was to create a battle between Bihar police and army in which Mr. Laloo Prasad Yadav could lose his life (*Interruptions*) His life is still in danger.

SHRI NITJSH KUMAR (Barh) : The statement of Minister in this regard has been received. Now you can not raise the matter(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have received your privilege motion.....

[*English*]

About the notice of privilege motion given by you, comments of the Minister of Human Resource Development have been sought on 6.8.1997.

[*Translation*]

That will be possible only after receiving the comments.

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI (Bijnor) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, an amount of 10 lakh rupees was released to build dams in ten villages so that the villagers there need not be displaced. Out of these ten villages were identified for the purpose. The D.M. had sanctioned 47 lakh for the purpose but when the next Government came into power in Uttar Pradesh, the D.M. and other Officers were transferred and the new officers sanctioned Rs 15 lakh only in place of 47 lakh, but yet it is not sure whether even this much amount was released or not. The reality is that the villages are submerged in flood waters. These officers

discontinued giving me Gypsy for which I am entitled. The district officer is acting in an arbitrary manner. The Certificate stating previous amount has already been used has not been sent so far. No more loans will be sanctioned unless the Certificate showing the use of previous instalment is received. I make and appeal that action should be taken against the District Officer. This is a matter of breach of privilege. Besides, he should be suspended as well.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : I would like to draw kind attention of the Government to a very old case that is pending with the Parliament. Converse in Dogri is lingua franca of about 80 lakh people in Jammu-Kashmir, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. It is a rich language having its own script and literature. It has also got Sahitya Academy Award laureates. It is taught in the University, but it has still not been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. When Manipuri and Gurkhal were being discussed in the House, Mr. Home Minister had promised that this language would also be considered for inclusion alongwith Konkani. But he has not fulfilled his promise so far. I had gone to convention in Jammu last month. Where all intellectuals, literary persons, professors and other people except Gupta ji turned up. The people delivered the Speeches marked with anguish. Dogri Pandit Shambhu Nath has announced there that if his demand were not accepted, he would immolate himself in fire, as Ramalu had already done. We should not add new problems any more with the problem of Jammu and Kashmir, as 15% people of our army speak Dogri. Dogri Sangharsh Morcha has been running a movement for the purpose since 1992. Their demands must be accepted. Dogri should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution by bringing a Constitutional amendment in this regard in this very Session. It is democratic demand. I am laying it before the House.

SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI (Salempur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the issue of Uttar Pradesh(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will have to think whether I should allow you to speak or not?

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Katheria, now I allow you to speak, Since you have raised this question many a times. I request you to be brief in your Speech.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am making my point with deep feelings of grief. This is the supreme House. Today 92 crore people of our country are watching towards this House. What happened with me on 17th February, 1997. I had already narrated on 4th March in this House. Even though the Chair had directed that the information relating to members of my family should be given immediately but even then I did not get any information about them from 4th March to 12th March. I raised the matter again on 12th March. Even then, no information was furnished to me and the House as well. Then I was constrained to give notice of

Privilege on 8th May. Again the order was given by the Chair. Shri Somnath got the Best Parliamentarian Award. Jaipal Reddy and other leaders of this House have a faith in this House. This country has a populace of 92 crore. Such incident has happened with me and might happen with my friends as well. Even though all of us are the people's representative yet I do not know what faith the 90 crore public of this country owe to us and our Government. I have already raised this point two or three times in this House but yet have not received any information as to what has happened to my family members.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Government as to whether this House holds any dignity or not. Before that, I met the hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th May and next time on 12th May.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : You atleast give me a chance to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That I am giving you.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was telling that I did not get the information even after meeting with the hon'ble Prime Minister thrice. Three members of my family have been kidnapped I do not know whether they are alive or not. What is their position. I want to ask the Government whether it is rust because I belong to the BJP, which the Government call a communal party or because I am the representative of downtrodden society that nothing is being done in my favour. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I want information from the Government(Interruptions)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA (Dhundhuka) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must know as to how much trouble he is having being an M.P.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Please sit down

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to the Leader of the Opposition. Please let him speak. Please have some patience.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, You have given the opportunity to Mr. Katheria to raise this matter. The House should be taken into

confidence about the progress, the CBI has made the investigation on the incident that actually took place. The days are being converted into weeks and weeks into months. But the members of his family are missing and as Mr. Katheria is saying that he does not know whether they are alive or not. The truck in which they were taken has not been traced and the whereabouts of the driver of that truck is not known. This issue has been raised in this House several time. But Mr. Katheria is right in saying that he did not receive a satisfactory answer. Therefore, this matter gives rise to the suspicion as to whether the efforts are being made or not to find out these facts in right earnest? This is not a party matter. If this happens with a Lok Sabha member then no family could be said to be safe in this country. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you may please direct the Home Minister or the Government to apprise the Government about the progress made in this regard so far along with the future course of action.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Since my hon. friend, Shri Katheria made a mention about me I want to say something. I share his agony. It is naturally anguished that three members of his family are untraced. There are serious charges of kidnapping, etc.

I remember, the hon. Member discussed this matter with the hon. Speaker and, if I am not mistaken, the hon. Home Minister made a statement directing a C.B.I. inquiry.

I humbly join the Leader of the Opposition's suggestion that the hon. Home Minister may kindly tell the House as to what steps have been taken and what progress has been made. I am sure, the Government will not deal with this matter on a party basis. That will be a very sad day for this country. I am sure the C.B.I. or the Government will not do that. The hon. Member's problem like this should be treated in a manner with all seriousness it deserves. What is the stage of investigation should be brought to the notice of the House.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This issue has been raised for three or four times. I, therefore, would like the leader of the House to intervene in the matter and ask the Minister of Home Affairs to give satisfactory reply in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, You have rightly said that the issue has been raised in the House for once and all the members have expressed concern over it. Certainly we would ask the Home Minister about the action taken so far. But the State Government should.....(Interruptions) CBI would present the report but.....(Interruptions). This is not a party matter. This case relates to the life of one of the family members of an hon'ble member and he has the

sympathy of all the people and we all are the members of one family. While this case is being investigated into by the Central Government though the CBI which would present its' status report at the same time we will ask the State Government also to conduct a serious inquiry into it to find out the facts... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : Sir, 85 lakh powerloom weavers of India, who are the sons of handloom weavers, are now in great difficulty. This year, for powerloom weavers, the export quota was only ten per cent, but due to the wrong export policy of the Government of India for textiles, they are allowing ninety per cent quota for the mill cloth. Out of the total cloth produced in India, only six per cent is produced by the mills and ninety per cent is produced by powerlooms, but the powerloom sector was allowed only ten per cent quota.

In this regard, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Prof. Madhu Dandavate had written a letter to the Government of India on 15.7.97 saying that the quota must be increased to 25 per cent for the powerloom sector. But even though the letter came from the Planning Commission, the Government of India did not allow 25 per cent to be exported by the powerloom sector. They allowed only ten per cent to be exported. Because of that, 85 lakh powerloom weavers are now suffering. Fifty per cent of the powerloom sector has now been closed, mostly in Tamil Nadu because out of the 85 lakh powerlooms, 35 lakh powerlooms are in Tamil Nadu, particularly in Tiruchengode, Komarapalayam, Erode, Tirupur, Coimbatore, Palladam, Somanur, Gudiyatham and Rajapalayam. I urge upon the Government that this anomaly should be rectified. Twenty-five per cent of the export must be allowed to the powerloom sector.

I also demand that the Government should withdraw the ban on powerloom not to weave certain varieties of cloth. All the varieties should be allowed to be woven by the powerloom sector. This is most essential. The Government of India must consider this.

[Translation]

SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you towards a serious incident which took place in my constituency. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Greater Kailash comes under my parliamentary constituency. One Income Tax Officer told the shopkeeper of M. Block market in Greater Kailash that he wanted to talk with the shopkeepers in connection with voluntary disclosure scheme and a meeting should be called for this purpose. Deputy Speaker, Sir, by taking it in natural way all the shopkeepers arranged a meeting there in Meenar Restaurant. Those shopkeepers visited my house last night with feelings of anguish and agony on their faces and the details of the meeting which they gave, can not be set-

aside. Therefore, I have sought your permission to place this point before the Government. I would not like to point out the name of that Income Tax Officer, I will give the name to the Government through you separately. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, without giving any introduction, they opened the meeting with these words-

[English]

'My name is so and so. Do not take me for granted. Either mend yourself or I will put all of you behind the bars.'

[Translation]

He further added that they would pine for the bail just as all pick pocket and thieves sitting on the benches of Patiala House. He said that Voluntary Disclosure Scheme was total failure and that he had talk with Chidambaram that also latter regretted it.

He was not using any respectable word for Finance Minister. He was addressing him in such a manner as if Mr. Chidambaram were his younger brother. A women walked out of the meeting after hearing such abusive language. The meeting prolonged for one hour and during that one full hour he kept on rebuking, threatening and challenging the people that Voluntary Disclosure Scheme is a failure and we are not receiving revenue from anywhere and therefore I am warning you that either you mend yourself or I will heavily bring crack down on you, conduct raids and put you behind the bars. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my area the people of M. Block Market, Greater Kailash have put their shutters down. All the people are on strike. They are registering their protest. I would like to ask through you, whether such measures would be resorted to implement the policies, which have been announced by the Government.

If the voluntary disclosure scheme is not an appropriate scheme or if it is not getting success, then would you take such recourse and give threats by sending Income-tax officers. Leader of the House is present here, I would ask him to take a serious note of it and bring it to the notice of the Finance Minister. Later, I will disclose the name of the Income-tax officer who has done all this to you. Action should be taken against all such officers. If you ensure me, I will go to the market and ask them to open their shops. Therefore I would like that Government must respond to it, even for a minute.... *(Interruptions)* Deputy Speaker, Sir, please ask them to respond for a minute on my query *(Interruptions)* Deputy Speaker, Sir, you please ask, the leader of the House is present here *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am listening as well as watching.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : If the leader of the House responds to it by saying that the

Government will take a serious note of it, I will go and get the shops opened(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You give in writing. We will get that examined through the Finance Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will give in writing(Interruptions)

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : Sushma ji has raised the matter in a proper way. Now you listen (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please present your point.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down now.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this House, the question of giving recognition to the organisation named as Railway Protection Force has been raised time and again during last so many years. It is under consideration of the Ministry of Railways. The then Minister of Railways Shri Janeshwar Mishra had declared in the House to recognition the Association. On 13.5.97, Shri Basudeb Acharia was in the Chair, when Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev raised the matter here. At that time Mr. Acharya directed the Government to make an announcement in this regard in the House immediately, within two days. But till now, no action has been taken by the Ministry of Railways or by the Minister of Railways. On this question great resentment and apprehension is prevailing among all the members and employees. The office bearers have given a notice of self immolation. Through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Railways to break an announcement for giving recognition to the Railway Protection Force by taking a decision at the earliest.....(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Minister of Railways is present here, please ask him to give an immediate statement (Interruptions) Many times it happened.

[English]

12.28 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Harivansh Sahai came and sat on the floor near the table.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go to your seat. It is a State Subject. It will not be allowed

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I want to speak about the recognition to the R.P.F. Association(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your's is a State subject, therefore I will not allow.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me for a minute. The matter which he wants to raise, is a State subject, I will not allow.

.....(Interruptions)

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Minister of Railways should say something about the RPF Association(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not related to the Centre, Income-tax is a central subject

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

I have allowed him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am sorry, I cannot go beyond the rules.

[Translation]

If you are not willing to discuss it during the zero hour, it is up to you, but please sit down.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record. What is the use of speaking.

.....(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, please go on speaking

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Harivansh Sahai, I request you to please go to your seat.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down all of you.
Shri Chaman Lal Gupta.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If hon. Minister of Railway is willing to say something about RPF, he is allowed.

12.31 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Harivansh Sahai went back to his seat.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Supplementary Demands related to the Ministry of Railways are likely to come up for discussion, in the House at that time, I will go into the details but as far as Ministry of Railways is concerned, we have taken keen interest on this and I also met the Home Minister in the capacity of Minister of Railways as this matter is not concerned with the Ministry of Railway only. The subject of RPF comes under the Armed Forces Act, therefore there are a few legalities in it. As it comes under Armed Forces, therefore whether they have the right to form an Association or not, we are looking into this aspect.

As hon. Member said that Welfare Association can be formed, I requested the Home Minister to get it examined. There is no objection from our side, but when we had a meeting with the Home Minister in which Mr. Basudev Acharya and Mr. Janeshwar Mishra were also present, this matter was referred to the Law Secretary. We have got an adverse report on the matter from Law Secretary in this regard. I told you that we do not have any objection but the matter is related to all the three i.e. Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs and Law Ministry. If hon. Member is interested, we will again discuss the matter. If they give clearance, we have no objection(Interruptions)

[Translation]

I said that the act would have to be amended or withdrawn, as all three Ministries namely the Railway Ministry, Home Ministry and Law Ministry are involved in this matter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But please, also reveal that there is no need to repeal for constituting a Welfare Association..... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The Railway Ministry is ready to constitute a Welfare Association if both the Home Ministry and the Law Ministry permitted.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to request the Government to implement the matter related to enlisting Dogri language in

the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, as early as possible because this language is used by over one lakh people and it is fully developed from every angle.

Now, I would like to speak on the subject related to Jammu in the House. More than one lakh people of Bilwar and Basoli have been dislocated on account of construction of Ranjeet Dam that is being built on the river Ravi combining both Jammu and Punjab. Even though this dam will provide electricity to the State like Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana etc., but today there is no way out for the people who have been dislocated. Moreover, it was the plan of the State that both the Government of Punjab and the Government of Jammu would jointly build a dam on Ravi river. But though four years have already taken in the construction of the dam, it is still not complete and this has created a lot of problems for the locals for in using the way. The way which was 30 Km. for them in past, now has become a 150 Km. long way.

I would like to request the Government to resettle the people who have been dislocated and build a dam immediately on Ravi river with bridge combining both Punjab and Jammu.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter has been raised time and again. The Employment guarantee scheme is being implemented in backward States. One crore rupees have been released to one block by the Central Government. But neither the recommendations of the Members of Parliament are accepted nor their opinions are invited in all the matters. That is why today all the Members of the House are of the opinion that the recommendations and involvement of MPs. should be ensured in this regard. But when all the people are of the same opinion, why are we being ignored? We want protection from the Chair in this regard and request you to give direction to the Government to ensure the acceptance of recommendation and participation of MPs. We are the representative of the people and accountable to them and the country as a whole. We live in the villages so we are fully aware of the condition prevalent there. This is the fund of the Centre therefore all the people desire that the participation of the MPs should be ensured in this regard(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him finish.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him finish. Please allow him to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the leader of the House Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is leaving his seat I request you to stop him and make us assured in this matter(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him complete his point....

[English]

Please sit down.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the collector of the district has been appointed as the Chairman of the Committee constituted under the scheme, how can Member of Parliament participate in the scheme?..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why do you not sit?

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want your protection. You are requested to give direction to the Central Government in this regard. We are the representatives of the people. We are well aware of the problems of the villages. One crore rupees are being released by Central Government to backward block under the scheme and the amount is being looted in absence of the participation of Parliament who are the representatives of the people are not being accepted. Therefore we want you protection..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This issue has been raised many a times in the House. The Employment Assurance Scheme should be concerned with the Members of the Parliament. The plea of the Members of the Parliament is that since the collectors are the Chairman, they do not bother consulting farmers in any matter related to the scheme. It is therefore necessary that the association of the Members of the Parliament should be ensured in the Scheme. I would like to urge upon the Government to give some definite direction in ensuring Hon'ble MPs. and MLAs. associated with the scheme.

Mr. Jena, would you like to say something in this regard on behalf of the Government? (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please listen to the Minister

..... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, the Employment Assurance Scheme is concerning the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment and the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment is already thinking about how to change the guidelines. While changing the guidelines, it is required that the State Governments are also consulted because this scheme is concerning both the State Government and the Central Government though

the Central Government's share is more than that of the State Government. The subject of how to change the guidelines was also discussed by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment with the concerned Chief Ministers.

I think, they are in the process of doing it. The Standing Committee on Rural Development has also recommended to change certain things in the guidelines. That is being considered at the Minister's level. So, I will be able to say something in this regard only after consulting the Minister of Rural Areas and Employment.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please avail the time; do not waste the time.

.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow you to speak. But sit down now.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnia) : The Collector inflict too much insult (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let Shri Nitish speak.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind) : They are misusing the money under Employment Assurance Scheme (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Nitish Kumar, Everybody cannot speak at one time. Please take your seat.

..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : The Deputy Speaker, Sir, The members of Parliament are grossly ignored, while identifying the schemes under Employment Assurance Scheme. This matter was discussed during the Budget session and it was decided that due importance should be given to the opinion of Members of Parliament and the Finance Minister had given an assurance to consider the same following a direction from the Chair. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shri Srikanta Jena who does not seem to be having any interest in the things like Government etc.... (Interruptions), previously he was deeply involved and after hearing the Members, he resorted to lobbying within the ruling party and helped in taking the decision as well. These days he seems to lack interest.

Today, all of a sudden he is vaguely deliberating upon the matter and telling that guidelines are under consideration. This is Assurance Employment Scheme. We are not demanding our share in Jawahar Rojgar Yojna--Share does not mean, we are not demanding share in money. Our opinion is that when our responsibilities have become functional and Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme have already been implemented, then the people are expecting proper implementation of development schemes. In this situation and also to see as to where the money is not being properly utilized. It had been discussed separately, but, if the opinion of the Members of Parliament will be sought on Assurance Employment Scheme, and importance will be given to their opinions, only then some conclusion could be drawn out of it. The best solution to it is that for the selection of Employment Assurance Scheme, Committee may be constituted at the District level under the Chairmanship of the Member of Parliament or it may be clearly prescribed that the Member of Parliament will recommend the schemes of the 40 or 50 per cent amount of Employment Assurance Scheme.....(Interruptions) I do not want to say that the entire amount be utilised as per the recommendation of the Member of Parliament. It does not mean that the recommendations of Members of Parliament against the guidelines. But they must get the right to recommend the scheme and this practice should be followed, only then it has an authenticity, otherwise in every State Employment Assurance Scheme has become a Collector Centred Scheme. Collectors give importance only to the Members of Legislative Assembly of the ruling party, otherwise they do not listen to anybody. Most of the time, Employment Assurance Scheme, can be rather a 'collectors' Employment Scheme' contractors select the scheme in it. Everywhere contractor decides as to where which scheme should be adopted. I have a doubt that even people at Yojna Bhawan, are not aware of it. I am sorry even Shri Jaipal Reddy is not concerned about these things. Shri Srikanta Jena should be concerned about it but I think he has also lost interest in it. You, therefore, are not taking feed-back from your area.

I would like to say the third thing today itself, that Rajya Sabha is not needed to be included in Member of Parliament Rajya Sabha interferes in every matter. Rajya Sabha members have no constituency. Which-soever scheme is handed over to Rajya Sabha, these members play politics in it. Lok Sabha Members have a Constituency, where they implement the Developmental schemes. They are concerned about the elections, which are to be held year after year or 5 years. Uneven development is going on everywhere. Rajya Sabha members select a district as their area of operation but I feel sorry. Often it is being noticed that they implement large number of schemes in a year at a particular place. As a result uneven development is going on. Therefore, whenever we demand, it becomes a problem of Lok Sabha members only. Being a Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha interfered in all the matters(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will request that Rajya Sabha Member should not be criticised here.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am not talking about the criticism. It is not their responsibility.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : We are totally opposed to that approach. We have a Panchayati Raj system; we want that system to survive and not be demolished by other people. Our experience is that the Panchayati Raj system is functioning well. Why should an M.P. be given that power when there is a Panchayati Raj system? What is the meaning of decentralisation?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I would like to say to Shri Nirmal Chatterjee that I do not have any obstinacy whatsoever towards anybody. But Rajya Sabha members are not having any public accountability, they are not answerable to anybody. They are the representative of a State(Interruptions)

I would like to make the last point. Please do not misunderstand me. I am not giving any statement against the Members of Rajya Sabha(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No side talks please. Please sit down.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : It is against spirit of the Panchayati Raj System.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I will conclude just in a sentence. Shri Nirmal, my intention was not to give any statement against the Members of Rajya Sabha. I meant to say that Rajya Sabha members represent the States and State Governments themselves take care of their interests. Lok Sabha Members represent the people of a particular constituency. They have accountability to the people in their constituency. If once you have linked the functional responsibility with the Lok Sabha Members, then expand the same. Either do not assign any responsibility to the Lok Sabha Members, or once functional responsibilities entrusted upon them then it has to be expanded keeping in view the increasing demand and needs.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Please listen. You are given one crore of rupees for your constituency. We all fought for the Panchayati Raj system. They have been given powers. Why should we usurp those powers? You talk in the name of Gandhiji and you talk in the name of decentralisation. Is it just because that we are at the

Centre that we want all the powers to be given to the MPs? This amount of one crore of rupees is at your disposal and no panchayat will enter into that. Why do you want to grab their powers?

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nitish Ji, you have made your point. Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I am sorry to say that you are not behaving properly

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please maintain decorum in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : We are the Members of Lok Sabha(Interruptions) Telephone and Gas connections slips are being given to the Members of Rajya Sabha but these are not being given here(Interruptions)

12.50 hrs.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR in the Chair]

SHRI ILLIYAS AZMI (Shahbad) : Mr. Pappu Yadav, I request you to please sit down(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : I have also given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You were absent when your name was called.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : You please give the direction in the capacity of Chairperson. Mr. Chairman, the direction should come from the Chair(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, has already given this direction.

SHRI ILLIYAS AZMI : Mr. Chairman, I as a Member fully agree with what you have said but I want to say to Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Illiyas Azami, please sit down for a minute.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Mr. Chairman, through you I want to raise a very important issue pertaining to my constituency. The issue of Yakoobpur and Jewar dam which come under my constituency has been raised

several times in the House during the last year. Every year the flood brings disastrous there and(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give you a chance after it. Please sit down. You can speak only one by one.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, it is all right. Let him speak now. You listen to him now, you will also get a chance.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : In my Parliamentary Constituency the Jewar and Yakoobpur area, the flood-brings heavy disaster with it every year and I have always been raising the matter in the House. Mr. Jena is sitting here. Last time he had assured me that it will not be repeated next time. There dams would be ready by the next time. But Shri Jena ji, who is present here, I want to draw his attention towards the fact that he had assured me last year also that your area would not be affected by the flood(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You were absent, please take your seat.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : But the work has not been taken up on these dams in my Constituency and more than worse, the rainy season has also started and possibilities of flood there. I want to draw through you the attention of the Government towards it that if the work on these dams has not been completed in time and the dams of Jewar and Yakoobpur would not be constructed, then flood would surely hit. Therefore, I want to bring it to the notice of the Government that immediate action be taken and orders issued so as to complete the construction of dam. Jenaji, you please give assurance. Mr. Chairman, Jena Ji is present. Last time also he had given assurance(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is listening. What can I do? He is listening.

.....(Interruptions)

KUNWAR SARVRAJ SINGH (Aonla) : Five MP's have written in this regard.

SHRI ILLIYAS AZMI : Mr. Chairman, the issue which was raised is an important issue.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : If the flood hit any area of Uttar Pradesh and it poses a risk to the embankment in that area, I, then, stated that elected Government was not here, the elected Government has now been formed there and I will certainly write in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have said your point.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : The 15 per cent share of Central Government should be released for the construction of dam there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have mentioned your point. Please sit down.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, had called his name.

SHRI ILLIYAS AZMI : I am speaking on that point. Mr. Chairman, Sir, while supporting the views expressed by you in regard to the capacity of member I whole heartedly would like to say that it was neither your intention nor our to insult the Members of Rajya Sabha. So far as the Employment Assurance Scheme and other Schemes are concerned, the funds for these schemes go to the districts and the entire staff of DRDA right from the collector level resort to looting that money. When for the first time this point was raised, the report which was presented by districts mentioned that all the Members and Legislators are the member of governing body. But I want to tell you about their position. My Constituency has two districts. Whenever the meetings were arranged there, these meetings were postponed for four times. Collectors make a bungling of 35-40 per cent out of local funds allotted to the MPs. The Employment Assurance Scheme and other schemes cannot be implemented effectively. It is, therefore, requested that the Government should ponder over that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You, please sit down. Your name was not there, inspite of that you were given a chance.

SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI (Salempur) : Sir, the police is collecting money in the name of Vishwa Hindu Parishad. The workers of Samajwadi party organised a programme of staging a Dharna in protest on 4th August. The SHO there used to collect money in the name of Hindu Vishwa Parishad. The inquiry therein was conducted by the DIG followed by the suspension of two constables but the SHO was not suspended. Shri Shardanand Anchal a former Minister and other workers sat on Dharna. A murderous assault was attempt thereon and police looted about 500 bicycles shops and the textile and articles stored therein. Several workers and office-bearers of our party were injured in the attack. Mohamfmad Rizwi received several injuries besides that other office bearers were also seriously injured.

A case should have been registered against the police under Section 307 and 395 but that has not happened. On the contrary a case has been registered against 46 workers of the Samajwadi party under Section 307 and 395. The workers of the Samajwadi Party are still being intimidated and threatened. The policemen have been ill-treating them and looting their houses.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Alright, that is enough. This is a State subject.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Pappu Ji, you will also get a chance. There is no sense to be on your legs time and again.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your five colleagues have given notices, it does not mean that all should be given an opportunity. Sahaiji has spoken and that is enough. You instead of looking at the clock look at the Chair.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please keep silence. Everybody would get an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI E. AHMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have called me to speak but these Members are not allowing me to speak(Interruptions)

I may bring to the notice of this House the problems facing the State of Kerala. Coconut and rubber are the two very important products of Kerala. The fall in the price of these products will shatter the economy of the State of Kerala.....(Interruptions) What is this? Let me Just make my submission(Interruptions)

May I be permitted to make my submission? I would like to say that the price of rubber has fallen due to the import policy of the Government of India. For the last five years, the import duty on rubber has been reduced from 75 per cent to 20 per cent with the result the farmers in the rubber sector have been suffering a lot.

With respect to coconut, the Government of India has already declared that it would be treated as an oilseed. But it has been revised. Now an hon. Member of this House Shri P.C Thomas and his co-workers have taken a novel style of protest against the Government decision. Kerala is always novel in many things. In the matter of rubber agitation also, Kerala has now introduced a novel style of protest.

13.00 hrs.

Shri Thomas, an hon. Member of this House, and his colleagues with their co-workers have wrapped the rubber sheet on their bodies, rolled and registered their protests against the policy of the Government of India in respect of rubber on the streets of Delhi. Likewise, many of the Members may take up some other novel methods to register their protests against the fall in prices of coconut and also not including it as an oilseed. I urge upon the Government to treat this seriously and take necessary steps.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA (Satna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Rajendra alias Dadua Sen, a local representative of my area was fatally attacked when he was shot at. I want to submit this case before the House and the Government, through you.

The policemen killed a Sukarukol tribal on 14.7.97. He was picked up from his house on 11.7.97 and handed over his dead body to his family members on 14.7.97 and told them that he committed suicide by jumping off from the running train. But when that area was visited and facts were collected and after examining them it was found that policemen had killed him and handed over his dead body to his family members. When the matter was discussed with the Collector and the SP, they constituted a judicial inquiry into it. Rajendra alias Dadua was conducting an inquiry into this matter and he was collecting evidences. Meanwhile the policemen at the behest of feudalists got him shot at in the day at 2 p.m. and now he is struggling with death. Since I have been elected, so many incidents have occurred within a year. In the Maihar incident, people were riddled with bullets. I will request the hon. Home Minister through this House that if atrocities on dalits are to be stopped and peace and law and order is to be restored there, he should direct the State Government to remove the Superintendent of Police first and a case should be registered against the SDOP and the SHO and those policemen who are involved in the Sukarukol killing under Section 302. And those people should be arrested within 24 hours who fired at Dadua. It is my request that this should be curbed otherwise people's representatives could be targeted there at any time. Such people could fire at politicians in collusion with the policemen and could get them killed. Therefore, I want to bring this fact in your knowledge that if this is not done by the date 10, I will sit on fast unto death in front of the office of the Collector and if any loss is caused, the Union Government and the State Government would be responsible for that.

SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN (Basti) : Sir, my constituency, Basti is in the grip of fury of floods and this has led to many problems. The Vikramjot Huhava dam is 15 kms. in length. Due to the current of the river between Madhavapur and Huhava which is flowing 2 kms. away, the pressure has increased on the Ghagara river. Due to heavy erosion, the distance between the river and the dam has been reduced to 100 or 120 metres only. If the proper arrangement is not made and the assistance by the Union Government does not reach, the dam could give way which may devastate thousand of villages. Therefore, it is my submission that to check the erosion by this river, the Central assistance should be provided to the State Government and through the State Government it should reach my constituency. Likewise there has been heavy soil erosion in Agayali village of Godda district and half of the village has been swept away by the current of the river. I want to request through you that efforts should be made to save this village from soil erosion.

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM (Palamu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to give a very important suggestion to the House. There is Bihar caustic and chemicals factory situated at Palamu district in Bihar under my constituency which has been causing harm to environment. Due to the acid emanating from it the nearby areas surrounding it has become infertile. The water of the wells and handpumps have become saline. This company is a joint venture of the Bihar Government and the Birla group and the Birla house knowingly shows it as a company running in losses and preference is not given to local people in appointment to the posts in class three and class four categories and nor does it get done the work of community development as per its capacity and under the prescribed process. Due to continuous plying of heavy vehicles of this factory, the nearby roads of that area are in a very bad shape which may lead to a fatal accident at any time but the management of the company have turned a deaf ear to this problem.

The water used to be supplied to the nearby villagers by tankers earlier but that practice has also come to an end now, Garbage is dumped by the company directly into the river and in fields which has been causing a great deal of harm and a cooling pond is needed to be constructed for this purpose. Sufficient sheds have not been constructed by the company or by the Railways at the railway station for transportation of salt as a result of which the bags of salt are kept in open space which is swept away in the nearby areas during rainy season. What is the use of such factory to be there which helps in devastation and not in development of the area? The river provides employment to the unemployed youth of the nearby areas and the river does the work of community development the garbage of the company is transported through the over-bridge of the rail line as a result of which the pillar of the bridge has been badly affected by the impact of acid emanating from garbage which may fall down anytime and could cause a serious train accident. The efforts of drawing the attention of the company towards this problem have proved futile. Hundreds of cattle have died and die due to intake of acid water. Many people have not get compensation in lieu of their land acquired by the factory and nor they have been given jobs.

I urge upon the Government through this House that a committee of Members should visit that area and take stock of the situation and give its proper advice(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the Yamuna Action Plan which is also called the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II. In the first phase cleaning of the Yamuna river in some parts of Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh was planned. The financial institution of Japan, the IECF has made available financial resources for this project. Both the State and the Centre will bear 50 per cent share each of the expenditure incurred on it. It was said that with the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan, the pollution of the Yamuna river will come to an end. But this has not

happened. This problems was also brought forward in 1991-92 and the then Chief Minister, Shri Kalyan Singh and the Urban Development Minister, Shri Lalji Tandon had represented that his Plan was incomplete and it should be made complete but it was not done so. It was also said at that time to protect the Taj and to clean the Yamuna from pollution, a barrage should be constructed across the Yamuna. Besides that water arrangement should be such as to maintain greenery but the greenery of Agra and the Taj has been disappearing. Now the position has become so precarious that the water of the Yamuna river has become so polluted in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh that it is not fit for drinking for human beings and it is harmful to the health of man and animals.

Scientists have said that the water is not suitable for irrigation purposes. The produce also gets polluted and is also harmful for health(Interruptions) Therefore, the pace of the implementation of Yamuna Action Plan may be reviewed. The implementation of the Project may be speeded up and the use and adequacy of the implementation of the Project should be assessed and if inadequacy is there, it should be reviewed and changed after holding discussion with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh State Government and also with Japanese Financial Organisation and those short comings should be removed and it should be ensured that the pollution of Yamuna river may be removed(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put off the mike, as soon as the other member is asked to speak.

[English]

SHRI C. NARASIMHAN (Krishnagiri) : I would like to bring to the notice of the Central Government the callousness shown by the Government of Tamil Nadu in respect of such a small matter like construction of a bus stand in my constituency at Krishnagiri in my constituency. Krishnagiri is the only municipal town in Tamil Nadu which does not have a bus stand.

Krishnagiri is a big municipal town as also an industrial and trading centre. The floating population of Krishnagiri is about one lakh and about five lakh people are living in that rural area. It is a place which is connected to two national highways and persons going to important places like Madras, Tirupathi, Vellore, Coimbatore, etc. have to pass through my constituency.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to raise a matter regarding construction of a pucca bus stand in Krishnagiri.

SHRI C. NARASIMHAN : This has been a demand pending before the Government for about twenty years. But the State Government is turning a deaf ear to it. We want the Central Government to intervene in that area and to see that justice is done to that area.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE (Yavatmal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are 87 mines under W.C.F. in the country. Out of them 50 mines are in Maharashtra. 25 mines out of them are underground with whereas 25 mines are open cast mines. Out of these 25 opencast mines 8 mines are located in my constituency. There is difficulty because of the 40-50 feet dumping in these opencast mines. The officers of W.C.L. dump that overburden along the bank of Vardha river. Dams are constructed on the banks of the river to check the inflow of water in mines during floods in rainy seasons. But at the time of flood the villages located on the other side of the bank get flooded. These villages have been facing this problem for the last two-three years. When the Minister of Coal visited those places. She had given assurances, but nothing was done so far. The crops in these areas get destroyed in rainy season each year and diseases spread. No officer, of W.C.L. is paying attention in this regard. I request you that this is an important issue. You should give direction to the Government for its solution and the difficulty of these farmers should be removed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Discussion on supplementary Budget is to be held shortly. Discussion on Railways is also be held today. There was discussion on flood for two days continuously but, Mr. Pappu Yadav, you were not present.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the situation of North Bihar. There is an area between Motihari and Sitamadhi and there is Shivhari district between them. There is shortage of means of transportation in those area due to Gandak river and Bhagmati river. I would request that a new rail line may be constructed between Motihari, Sitamadhi and Rakadi-Dayal via Shivaha. Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is broadgauge rail line between Raxsol, Motihari. For the last two years the trains have been modernised. Motihari Railway Station, where Mahatma Gandhi came for the first time after returning from South Africa and which is a historical Railway station, should be modernised in the Golden Jubilee year of Independence.

PROF. RASASINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : There are two N.T.C. Mills Mahalaxmi and Advard in Bayawar. Due to closure of these mills thousands of workers have become unemployed. Another mill is Aditya Mill at Kishanagarh. It was also closed down one year ago and due to that thousands of workers have been facing starvation. The workers of N.T.C. Mills were cured to take voluntary retirement by promising to give assistance for making them self dependent.

But even after taking voluntary retirement they were not given any assistance so far. Then it was said that workers would be employed after merging both the mills through Renewal Fund. But both the mills were not merged, instead of that they were closed down and thousands of workers were rendered unemployed.

Government are requested to restart those N.T.C. Mills and the unemployed mill workers be provided employment. They want to do work and become self-dependent. They want to run the mill on co-operative basis. Please direct the Government to restart N.T.C. Mill of Bayawar and Aditya Mill of Kishangarh.

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me a chance to speak. Modern Food Industry is the biggest Industry in the country and Asia. There are many branches of this Mill in India. Lacs of workers are employed therein. The Ministry of Finance and the Disinvestment Commission have decided to disinvest its shares. I request you that its shares may not be disinvested because it is the question of the livelihood of lacs of workers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mullappally Ramachandran and Shri Ajay Kumar, both of you have given notice on the same issue. It relates to raising the allocation of foodgrains. Already, this matter was raised on the 4th August 1997. So, this cannot be allowed now as per the rules. Now, I call Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanor) : Who raised it? Nobody has raised it.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this hon. House to the silence of the Ministry of Civil Aviation on the alarming situation.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This matter was already raised on the 4th August, 1997.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Who raised it? Nobody from Kerala has raised this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is not written here in the list but it has already been raised.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : But it is a major issue concerning allocation of foodgrains to the State of Kerala.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, let Shri Suresh raise his matter now; after that, I may allow you. Please take your seat.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. House to the silence of the Ministry of Civil Aviation on the alarming situation of the Gulf passengers who have been stranded in Kerala due to non-availability of sufficient flights for their Journey to the Gulf countries.

As of today, there are more than 5,000 passengers waiting to get flight tickets to the Gulf countries from

Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode Airports. The Ministry is reluctant to provide additional flights and not even permitting the private airlines which are ready to operate during this peak season. It is pertinent to note that Air India and Indian Airlines are providing additional flights from other sectors but have excluded the Trivandrum and Calicut sector.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister to intervene in this matter and provide additional flights from the Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode sector to the Gulf countries during peak seasons.

Thank you.

SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR (Ottapulam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to request, through you, the hon. Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to enhance the allocation of foodgrains from 17.76 lakh tonnes to 24 lakh tonnes, which used to be the allocation for the State of Kerala for the last several years.

The present allocation of 17.76 lakh tonnes of foodgrains is in the form of 14.76 lakh tonnes rice and three lakh tonnes wheat. Since the State of Kerala requires more rice, I demand that seven lakh tonnes of additional rice should be made available to the State at Central Issue Price.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, I want to support what Shri Ajay Kumar has said just now. This is a major issue because there is shortage of foodgrains in the State of Kerala. There is considerable reduction of supply of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System this year. We all know that the State of Kerala is reeling under flood and this devastating flood has affected the State to a great extent. Onam is fast approaching. During the last two years, twenty thousand tonnes of additional foodgrains were allotted to the State. My request is that this should be enhanced to fifty thousand tonnes this year as the Onam season is fast approaching.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance regarding a issue which is affecting lakhs of workers in the State of Kerala. The State of Kerala is the pioneer in enacting labour welfare legislations. There are twelve labour welfare legislation in the State. They are not being run for deriving any profits, but they are functioning for the welfare of the workers. It is functioning on the contribution of the workers.

Recently, a huge amount of income-tax has been assessed on the Worker' Welfare Fund Board and the recovery and attachment proceeding are going on. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Finance to exempt this Board from paying taxes. Sir, the former hon. Minister of Finance, in one of his Budget speeches, said that this Board will be exempt from paying taxes. I would like to urge upon the Ministry of Finance to exempt this Board from

paying taxes as they are not running with any profit motive. This Board is functioning to safeguard the interests of the poor workers who are being benefited now.

SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) : It has been reported that several extremist groups like the ATTF and NLFT of Tripura and ULFA of Assam have called a bandh on 15th August 1997 in all the North-Eastern States. They have sought the help of other extremist groups of the region to join them in their call. This is a serious threat to sovereignty and integrity of the country.

It is needless to mention that imperialist forces are behind all these heinous activities of the extremists. Operation Brahmaputra launched by them was designed nearly two decades back with the specific aim to dismember India and weaken the country.

I urge upon Parliament and the Government of India to strongly condemn this anti-national activity of the extremist and secessionist forces operating in the North - East. I also call upon the Central Government to extend all out help to the State Governments of the region in their bid to combat the extremists and spoil their nefarious activities.

[Translation]

SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH (Mujaffarnagar) : I while endorsing the views put forth by the Hon. Member on the Employment Assurance Scheme, take this debate ahead. Though the funds are made available for providing employment but it is not possible to provide employment due to prevailing corruption in this scheme. In fact, this scheme is the mother of all corruption. The district administration has to carry out several government works, therefore it is not able to provide funds for developmental works. The Government's failure in providing funds in time also gives way for large scale corruption. More than half of the funds earmarked for this scheme goes into the coffers of the Government officers. Therefore, through you I would earnestly request the Government that the funds allocated by the Union Government under this scheme should be spent with the approval of the local M.P. the guidelines laid down in regard should be adhered to.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would request you to issue directives to the Government in this regard.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now it is Shri Ramshakal Ji turn to speak.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, large scale bungsings have been committed in whatever schemes have been launched by the Government of India in the rural areas in my Constituency, Robertsganj. The officers have been involved on large scale corruption in these schemes. The labourers working on the works being undertaken in the district under the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, ten lakh Wells Scheme and Assured Employment Scheme are not even being paid full wages at the rate of

Rs. 47 per day. The funds allocated for the ten lakh well scheme are being looted in collusion with officers and contractors people's representative does not know even how much amount was received by the district under the Assured Employment Scheme and the Schemes on which for said amount was spent. All work is being done on paper. Therefore I would like to request the Union Government through you that a technical inquiry should be get conducted into the works being carried out under various schemes and the labourers working on these schemes should be given proper wages through the District Collector.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramvilas Vedanti. Shri Ramvilas Vedanti

.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name has been called twice. Yours is the case of railways. Please speak on the railway budget.

The leader of the House should sit in his allotted seat. It would be better if the leader of the House sits in his allotted seat.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, how callous is the attitude of the Union Government towards the States where there are the Governments of the opposition parties. I would like to give an example of Uttar Pradesh in this context.

Kanpur, has a population of 40 lakh, there has been an acute shortage of drinking water. In the tenth Lok Sabha, after a great deal of efforts, the then Union Water Resources Minister the Hon. Vidayacharan Shukla visited Kanpur on January 20, 1994 and sanctioned the scheme of constructing a barrage across the Ganges. 50 per cent of the expenditure thereon was to be borne by the Union Government and the remaining 50 per cent by the State Government. There were three objectives of this barrage. One was constructing a barrage on the river, the estimated cost to be incurred thereon was Rs.173 crore*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHARIMAN : Vedantiji, you please take your seat. Your name was called twice but you were not there. Now you will get a chance after pappu Yadavji.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : A scheme was formulated by the Jal Nigam to solve the drinking water problem of Kanpur on which a sum of Rs. 60 crore was to be incurred. In the aggregate it was a scheme of Rs. 233 crore. And this burden was to be borne by the Union Government and the State Government on 50-50 per cent basis. In the first phase the Union Government provided only Rs. 4 crore and whereas the State Government has spent Rs. 24.24 crore so far but the share of the Union Government has not been received as a result of which a question mark has been put on the fate of this barrage which is being constructed by the Irrigation Department

and it has hampered the pace of work. The construction work has already been delayed. As a result of delay its cost has been escalated. Therefore I would like to urge the Union Government and demand that it should immediately provide the requisite amount to the Uttar Pradesh Government so that the work which has been slowed down on the construction of barrage on the Ganges is taken up with full speed and the work is completed on time.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to idleness and short-sightedness of the National Textile Corporation.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get a chance. The thing is that, Asim Balaji, your name is already there in the list. The member of the other party have been accommodated. Shri Badal Choudhury of your party has already spoken. You will also get a chance.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : The mills operating under the National Textile Corporation are almost closed or on the verge of closure. The mills in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are already lying closed. In this sequence two more mills of Madhya Pradesh have been closed. One each in Ujjain and Indore. Their revival plans have also been submitted time and again. Repeated requests have also been made to the Government. Despite that there has been no improvement in the position of the N.T.C. I request the Government that the mills operating under the N.T.C. should be made viable and sufficient assistance should be provided for their revival so that they could restart their work otherwise the existing crisis prevailing before thousands of workers would further deepen which may lead to unrest among the workers.

[*English*]

DR. ASIM BALA (Navadwip) : Thank you, Sir.

Some Bengali refugee-widows with their small children, after the death of their husbands, crossed over to India from the erstwhile East Pakistan, which is now, Bangladesh. They have been given Eligibility Certificates and Permanent Rehabilitation Numbers.

Eighty such Bengali refugee-widow families along with their minor children were brought to Karnal in Haryana in 1968. The Government of India had given some plans for rehabilitation. But in 1986 a landmark agreement was made and signed by Shri S.P. Chandra, the Director, Social Welfare Department, Haryana for additional rehabilitation. It is very sad that the Government of Haryana has passed eviction orders on 28.07.1997 and so, police force was deployed at the Mahila Ashram, Karnal; and the sons of the widows were stopped from entering the Mahila Ashram, Karnal. So, they remain outside the Ashram which means in the street or in the open air.

In view of this, action may please be taken against the Director, Social Security and Defence, Haryana for violation

of the agreement of 1986, signed by then Director, Social Welfare Department, Haryana. Due to this, mental and physical torture, harassment, exploitation, etc., are going on against the Bengali refugee-families who remain in the Mahila Ashram. Their sons may also please be allowed inside the Ashram.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Government through you, Sir, that the Central Government may send a message to the Haryana Government to rehabilitate them immediately. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already raised this issue last time, therefore I will not allow you more time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have just said that there has been discussion on this issue for two days. But I would like to point out that though the said discussion is going on, but no solution to the problem seems to come out.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, make your point.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : But there is nobody here to listen my point. You all are aware of the situation arising out of flood. I belong to Purnea Constituency, adjoining the districts like Saharsa, Madhepura and Katihar, all are severely affected by the flood. When we want to approach Deputy Collector or any concerned officer there, nobody is ready to listen to us.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Pappu, we have already had discussion on natural calamities for two days in which you did not take part. Today, you are raising the same issue again. You are requested to let the other Members raise some other issues. Now I am giving you a chance despite the fact that there had been a discussion on this issue for two days and Minister's reply in this regard had already been given. You are therefore requested to be brief in making your demands. You need not speak more(*Interruptions*) when your turn comes, I will call you.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I would like to point out that there are roads adjoining the cities of Dhamdaha, Barahara, Roopoli, Srinagar and Baisi to Purnea district which have been damaged. All the culverts have also been damaged. Though I feel totally exhausted in making this point repeatedly yet there is no one to listen our case. The Collector of the area Shri Shisher Sinha says that the House and Members of Parliament have nothing to do with all these matters. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would request you to direct the Government to repair the roads there, keeping in view the

seriousness of situation in my constituency. Besides, you perhaps, might not be aware that a dam has broken in Jahanabad and Gaya as I have been informed by one of my relatives over phone. This relative of mine also told me that his house had also collapsed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am aware of it.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the four blocks in Jahanabad and one block in Gaya have been flooded with water on account of breaking of the both of the dams. The army has not been called there. As the misleading statements are being made by the Government.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, do not politicalize the matter. Be seated.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I would like that truth should come out as the Government of Bihar is making false statements on the issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your point is correct. But the Government of Bihar has said what it wanted to say. Now, Shri D.P. Yadav.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing except Shri D.P. Yadav's statement will go on record.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI D.P. YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the House and the Government through you towards the problem of storage of potatoes. Though today so many months have passed since when the potatoes were dug out from the fields, yet thousands of bags of potatoes are lying in the cold storages. The Government of Uttar Pradesh had exempted the cold storages for storing potatoes from duty. But the owners of all private cold storages raised their charges from Rs. 35 to Rs. 60. I belong to Lok Sabha Constituency which is divided into three districts. There is Jeotiba Pholle Nagar, earlier called Amroha, where the lakhs of potatoes have rotten. When the farmer go to ask for their potatoes, they not get the same even if they have paid the charges for storage of potatoes. The owners of cold storages take the full charges and premium amount of insurance in advance from the farmers but the latter is not given any compensation of insurance amount.

Today, this situation is not only confined to Jeotiba-Pholle Nagar and Badaun but it is also prevailing in whole of the Uttar Pradesh and entire country. I would like to point out that the owners of the cold storages take charges from the farmers for keeping their potatoes in the cold storages. When the farmers go to take their potatoes, they are neither given their potatoes nor the amount of their claims and insurance is returned to them. The situation has taken a serious turn there.

Allahabad High Court had directed to maintain *status quo* in this regard while implementing the decision given on

16 April, 1997. However, the problems of the farmers are being not paid heed to and this has made farmers perplexed. Today the farmers are bound to be helpless from all quarters because they are neither getting the potatoes nor the amount of claim and insurance. The owners of the cold storages are harrasing them. I request that necessary steps should be taken in this regard.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the House and the Government towards a serious accident that took place in a multi-national company located in my Constituency. There is a D.C.M. Dayabu factory at Greater Noida in Gautam Budh Nagar where many workers, who were constructing the tank, were killed due to caving of the tank on the noon of 3rd August. Even though the death-toll was more than a dozen, but the officials of the factory tried to hush up the matter by starting relief work. Even though the relief work started on Monday the 4th August, but even today the condition is so grim that the debris of the tank has not been cleared up. It has not been known as to how many workers are still lying under the debris. The family members of the workers who come to see, their relatives are not being allowed to come there. They have become perplexed. The owners of the factory are not helping these families.

I request to the Government, through you, that the families of those died in the mishap be provided compensation of five lakh each. Had the relief work been started in time, many workers would have been saved. The delay in starting the relief work should be investigated and atleast one person from each family of those died should be provided employment. It is a very important and serious matter. I would like to request the leader of the House here, to say something about Dalit workers who have died as it is very much related to Dalit workers.

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE (Wardha) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir through you I would like to draw the kind attention of the House and the country to Shri Jain Sadhavi Nirupama of Beed District who was abducted in Ripoli village of Karnataka and misbehaved by some anti-social elements. It is very unfortunate incident as saints never favour one or other.

Jain religion preaches paramount supremacy of peace and non-violence and humbly endeavour to create an amicable milieu of friendship and fraternity in the society as a whole. Janata Dal Government is there at the helm of affairs in Karnataka and the Prime Minister also belongs to this party. Therefore, through you I would like to request the Government to protect the Jain Sadhavis and religious preachers as they travel foot through out the length and breadth of the country to propagate the ethos and ideals of the Jain religion. In fact, the Government is duty bound to protect the preachers of all religions. Through you, I would again like to request the Government to provide necessary protection to them.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir this year we are all set on celebrating the 50th year of our independence, however it is quite unfortunate to note that in the 50th year of our countries independence, the Archie's Gallery is selling out such a map of India as depicts a large area of Kashmir belonging to Pakistan and as if all this is not enough, this Archie's map also depicts certain border areas of North-Eastern India belonging to China and Bhutan but surprisingly our Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home are yet to respond over it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to remind the House that a globe imported from Taiwan in 1995 had also triggered such a controversy and the then Government had not paid any attention to it and that globe was displayed and sold in the world book fair.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this map has been prepared in Switzerland and the Archie's Gallery has imported it from there only. I am not able to understand that this map has been put in the category of banned maps by Shri R.K. Bhatnagar, the incharge Brigadier of border unit of Indian Survey department situated in Delhi which is also the final authority on demarcation of Indian borders and also this map does not match the standard category laid down by the Survey of India for the maps to be sold out in India.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I said a little earlier, this map is made in Switzerland and the Archie's Gallery has imported it from there only but now did it come through the customs department without matching the Indian standards in this regards as the notification issued on 6.3.1997 categorically states that anything showing the Indian borders, as disputed, cannot be imported. But, then how did the custom department allowed the import of this map?

Sir, it is a very sensitive issue. Through you, I would like to request the Government to immediately order an inquiry to ascertain as to how and in what conditions such a map delineating Indian territory as foreign territory is being sold out in the country. This map should be confiscated and its sale be prohibited right forth and those responsible for it should be brought to the book and dealt severely.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This matter should be looked into.

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH (Unnao) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a large number of leather tanneries, bone processing mills and Chemical industries are located on the Unnao by-pass of Rajdhani Road in the mid of Kanpur-Lucknow in my constituency, are releasing a huge quantity of polluted water into the Ganga and thus polluting the drinking water. Already there has been high level of pollution in this area due to mushrooming of large number of industries all around so much so that people going to Kanpur and Lucknow have to put the handkerchief on their nose. The pieces of bones and meats are shown here and there all around by the crows & eagles hovering there. The people are seared of outbreak of diseases. Some people have

developed symptoms of deformity. Such a high level of pollution is not there in any part of the State. Air and Water of this area highly polluted. On my behest and initiative, the pollution board carried out the water tests there and found the drinking water polluted to a high degree and the Union Government provided 37 crore of rupees to the State water corporation, however it did not solve the problem. The work is also being carried out in this regard but to no avail and the funds are going into the coffers of contractor and middlemen. Sir, despite heavy level pollution in this area, the Government has accorded permission to "Indgree Foods Ltd." to set up a big industry in the mid of Kanpur Lucknow in the Unnao district. In this factory, 2500 animals will be slaughtered per day and a cold store with the intake capacity of 1000 tonnes is also proposed to be set up in this area.

Sir, what will happen to the health of the residents of Unnao? It poses a serious threat of outbreak of several disease and deformity to them. People are not getting safe and clean potable water(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sir, you please take your seat. Nothing will go on record. Shri Vedanti ji please go ahead

...(Interruptions)*

DR. RAM VILAS VEDNATI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the Railway Minister that a train which ran from Farakka to Bhivani and from Tundla to Mathura connecting the pilgrim places of Ayodhya and Varanasi. But after Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has become Railway Minister, this train was discontinued the very next day and the train which died from Tundla to Mathura is now being run from Tundla to Delhi directly. Through you, I would like to request the Railway Minister to restore the old schedule of these trains and the train earlier plying between Tundla and Mathura should be reintroduced so that the people arriving from Ayodhya and Varanasi keep up their link with Mathura.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khargon) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to raise a very important issue. The Government have declared to implement the Prasar Bharati. The Information and Broadcasting Minister is repeatedly claiming that Prasar Bharati Board would recruit the Director General for Akashwani and Doordarshan. But the Government does not seem honest in this regard and has planned to appoint a person of their choice to the post of D.G. of Akashwani and the process in this regard has been initiated.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter relating to posting and employment is not raised in Parliament.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : But he said that the recruitment to these posts would be made by the Prasar Bharati Board(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter regarding the posting of a particular officer is not raised in Parliament. You please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : When the Information and Broadcasting Minister has announced that Prasar Bharati would make the appointment, why the Government are making appointment. I want to raise the issue(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please go through the Rule Book. This administrative matter is not raised here. This is not assembly(Interruptions) Your point will not go on record.

.....(Interruptions)*

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Hon'ble Chairman, I am drawing the attention of the House towards a very important matter. Recently a drive was launched which continued for whole month to check the breeding of mosquitoes through fogging machine at the residence of all MPs. My request is that four days ago Central Health Director, Shri P.P. Chauhan has also indicated that spraying through fogging machine may spread a disease and it has not been effective. It is done in the colonies only due to the pressure of politicians and for the satisfaction of the people. It does not kill mosquitoes. It is my submission that we incur 150 crore rupees on pesticides to check Malaria instead if the Government of India spend 900 crore rupees to spray the pesticides throughout the country, then something effective could be done to check the breeding of mosquitoes. But total Budget of the Health Ministry is Rs. 900 crores. Keeping it in mind it is my request that you please make adequate provision.

We saw the ill effects of this fogging machine in Rajasthan just during the last year when 200 people became unconscious and it was very difficult to take to breath by the people. People instigating communalism got a good chance. As the spurious pesticide was sprayed in the Muslim dominated areas, so the communal minded people spread the rumour that it was the conspiracy hatched by BJP to kill the Muslim. Such propoganda was made by the so called parties fighting against communalism.

My submission is that fogging machine is not useful. It is the way only to befool the people. The fogging machine is being used because the politicians want. It should be totally banned in our parliamentary constituencies. Neither it kills any mosquito nor does it check spread of malaria.....(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, my point is very important Rajasthan State has maximum length of the national highways and despite that minimum assistance is extended to Rajasthan, for the maintenance and improvement of national highways, surface transport ministry, Government of India(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Supplementary Demands are being presented. They will be taken up just next.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : These are not dealt in the supplementary Demands. I mean to say that in Rajasthan maximum(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rudi Ji, your name is at the bottom and time and again you are on your legs to disturb us. I am saying this only because had I not seen the last paper you would not have got the chance. You are passing comments while sitting there. Take your seat please. If you want to get a chance to speak then sit peacefully

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Rajasthan have the maximum number of national highways. Sanction has also been accorded to other highways. But the Government of India is allocating even less than half of the funds demanded by Rajasthan Government for the maintenance and construction of new national highways. Other States which are smaller in size are being provided more funds. Rajasthan Government demanded 4,300 crore rupees, whereas it has been allocated only 2389 crore rupees. For the maintenance of roads the Government of Rajasthan had sought 44,000 lakh rupees but was provided 2179 lakh rupees. Sanction for construction of new national highways has provided in Rajasthan funds should also be allocated to Rajasthan Government. Rajasthan which is the fare runner in the matter of national highways, should be provided as much as funds are demanded by them for their maintenance.

If you go by roadways, you will realised that you have reached in Rajasthan when the bus starts swinging due to the pit holes on the roads. Rajasthan is a State which is called for using camel for travelling. Thus, there should be no discrimination with Rajasthan. The demand of Rajasthan for maintenance of roads should be met(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : The employees of Central Water Commission such as of Bihar and Bengal, have their division in Asansole. There are 90 daily wagers and 100 employees as seasonal staff. The employees who look after the rivers like Damodar, Barakar, Ajay, Myrakshi, Kangakshavati, Darkeshwar and Roonarayan etc. are paid only Rs. 750. The seasonal-staff gets work only for four and half months from June to October. They have been working there since 1982. The result is that those who used to get work for four and half months now get it only for four months, that is why the employees there sat on a Dharna in the office yesterday also. They should be made

permanent. The employees who have been working there since 1982, are not getting work now. The decision of Patna Highcourt which has come into force in Patna Division, is not being implemented in Rampur. They should be given work and I read out their demands.

[English]

No curtailment of Posts; Immediate filling up of all vacancies; immediate departmentalisation of seasonal work-charged staff; fix the job period of seasonal staff not less than four and a half months; promotion to all eligible regular-work-charged employees; proportionate bonus and medical facilities to seasonal staff; Government accommodation for site office and its staff with drinking water facilities; security arrangement should be made for the employees and material at the site. Ensure eight-hour duty to all staff in every work spot; This is my submission.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR LAL BISHVAKARMA (Hazaribagh) : Hon'ble Chairman in my constituency there is Barkakana one of the field of CCL wherein Gurdunda colliery and one other colliery nearby got fire. Huge quantity of coal is burning in this fire resulting in poisonous gases. It is densely populated area which has perceived a crisis looming large.

No action is being contemplated in this regard due to the prevailing corruption. I would request you that problem may be solved by considering the matter.

SHRI NANDKUMAR SAI (Raigarh) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, in the area adjoining Garhwa district of Bihar, in the eastern border of Madhya Pradesh, Raigarh and Sarguja areas had to bear the brunt of the calamity Nexalites from Bihar are creating spree unrest and resorting to frenzy of violence in that area. Through you, I would like to attract the attention of the Government to the sequence of incidents, which culminated there on 10th June. In Bargarh started genocide.

The house of a person, named as Parasnath Gupta was set at fire, he was gunned down. In Bandu village, Haaji was also gunned down, they set in many houses fire and still unrest is prevailing there in the entire Raigarh, and in some parts of Sarguja and Bilaspur. The entire law and order machinery has crippled. People are perforce seeking exodus from there, nexalites are also coming there, therefore terror and fear prevades the entire belt.

Through you, I would like to request the Government, and the Home Minister that he should direct the Government to keep watch on the terrorists and nexalites, who are entering into the Eastern areas of Madhya Pradesh, which are adjacent to the Bihar and spreading unrest there. The State Government as well as the Central Government should note their names and where about, such as who is coming, and from where with a view to keep these nexalites

and terrorists away from the area so that law and order situation can be maintained.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Krishan Lal Sharma.

SHRI PUNNULAL MOHLE (Bilaspur) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, it was my turn and my name had also been called.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai East) : You were supposed to give an opportunity to Shri Rudy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : When his name was called, he was not available. Now rule 377 has been prevailing. His name was called but he was not here at that point of time. Now rule 377 is in vogue. Zero hour is prolonged for two hours.

You please speak (Interruptions) you were not available. Your name was called, it is your fault. When you were not present, then what could we do. It is your fault

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI PUNNULAL MOHLE : I have been waiting since morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have given the notice to speak after 10 o'clock. If you are waiting then, what to do. I have seen, you have given the notice to speak after 10 o'clock. No one is left in the list to speak.

13.59 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) **Need to take effective steps to check atrocities against women and children particularly in Delhi**

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, presently the incidents of adultery forcible and forcible deflowering of innocent girls and women taking place in Delhi and their sad and helpless description being published in the newspapers. It is clear from the report of Delhi women commission that in Delhi maximum atrocities are being imposed on the women and the girls.

It is not possible to compensate the social stigma and mental trauma of such criminal assault on the girls and women. Their parents also feel victimised by such accidents.

Yesterday, I have a request with the Government for checking the heinous incidents of rape, the hearing of the suits related to the rape may be taken at the priority and without any further delay and the culprits may be punished rigorously at the earliest. Special courts may also be

appointed to settle these matters, depending upon the need, and necessary amendments may be made to gear up the law effectively.

[English]

(ii) Need to Expedite Work on Electrification and Doubling of Railway Track between Daund and Gulbarga

[Translation]

SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL (Solapur) : I am glad that Ministry of Railways is making efforts to double the rail line between Daund and Gulbarga but for the last several years this work is going on at slow speed. The progress of work is very slow. Solapur is a big station on this line. This city is important from the industrial point of view and connects the North and South to West. It is for this reason that about 50 passenger trains and over 100 goods trains are operating on this line. It is because of this aspect that some problems arise in controlling the railway traffic. The number of accidents are also on rise. It also affects the trains starting from the South and on the residents of Solapur. I request the hon'ble Minister that doubling of track and electrification work be taken up immediately.

[English]

(iii) Need to Prepare Comprehensive Development Programme for Export of Vegetables and Fruits from Saran District of Bihar

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : The district of Saran in Bihar can rightly be referred as "bowl of vegetables" and the land is extremely fertile for cultivation of all sorts of vegetables and fruits like Mango, Lichi etc. The boundary of Saran district starts 28 kilometers from the State capital of Patna. However, no effort has been made to promote the cultivation, marketing or export of fruits and vegetables or processed products. I request the Minister of Commerce to prepare a comprehensive development and promotional programme through Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for production, processing, marketing and export of vegetables and fruits from the district of Saran in Bihar.

(iv) Need to Provide Sufficient Funds for Promotion of Solar Energy

DR. B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda) : The country is passing through power and energy crisis. Even in Delhi, the capital of the country, we are all experiencing acute shortage of power.

Precious foreign exchange is also utilised on import of petro products.

Hence, there is an urgent need for taking up steps for promotion of solar energy in our country, on a war footing.

The greatest advantage is that the raw material, sun shine, is available in plenty in almost all part of the country round the year, without any cost.

I request the Union Government to consider promotion of solar energy seriously, to provide sufficient funds for achieving the speedy results and to encourage the entrepreneurs in this line by giving more and more subsidy.

(v) Need to Exempt Residents of Ladakh Region of Jammu and Kashmir from the Payment of Income Tax

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : The residents of Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir was exempted from payment of Income Tax under Clause (26) Section 10 of Income Tax Act of 1961 with effect from the assessment year 1962 to 1988-89 on the ground of Chinese aggression on Ladakh in 1962 which resulted in stoppage of border trades between Ladakh and Tibet and Ladakh with Shinjiang (China). With the result, the business of hundreds of Ladakhi traders was totally ruined overnight and the economy of Ladakh was badly affected. Consequent to this, the Central Government had given exemption of Income Tax to Ladakh till 1989.

In the year 1989, keeping in view of continuous poor economic condition of the Ladakhi people, the Government of India declared over 95 per cent population of Ladakh as Scheduled Tribe and on the other, the then Government at the Centre imposed Income Tax on the Ladakhis. From 1989 onwards the economy of Ladakh was further adversely affected because of the militancy in the Valley as the main supply line for Ladakh was through the Kashmir Valley.

The Scheduled Tribe as defined in Clause (25) of Article 366 of the Constitution, a member of Scheduled Tribe residing in specified areas is exempted from payment of Income Tax accruing or arising to him. On the same analogy, the tribal population in many States, the North-East, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar etc. have been exempted from payment of Income Tax but not the tribals of Ladakh.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to give exemption from Income Tax to the tribal population of Ladakh with effect from the year 1989 and for a further period of five years with immediate effect.

(vi) Need to Issue New Licence for Setting up of Sugar Mill in Supaul District, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Saharsa) : Sir, sugarcane is produced in large scale in Supaul district of Bihar. As there is not sugar mill in this area, the farmers are unable to get the remunerative prices of their crop. The licences to set up a sugar mill in Supaul have been issued much before, but the licence-holder is not taking interest in opening sugar mill in Supaul.

I therefore, request the Government to make early arrangement for opening the sugar mill in Supaul by cancelling the previous licences and issuing afresh to another competent person in the interest of the farmers.

(vii) Need to Introduce 'Inner-Line Permit' to Restrict non-tribal settlement in Tripura

SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY (Tripura-West) : Tripura has been predominantly a Tribal State ruled by Tribal Maharajas till the Princely State merged with the Indian Union on 15th October, 1949. But the steady inflow of Bangalee refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan in large number, ever since the partition of the country, reduced the tribals to an insignificant minority endangering their identity as tribals. To safeguard their interests the Government of Tripura set up an Autonomous Council for Tribal compact areas under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution in 1980.

To ensure greater autonomy for said Council, the Central Government was requested by the Government of Tripura to amend the Constitution and bring the said TTAADC under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution in 1986, and it was implemented by the Parliament and the Central Government in the said year. But the infiltration of foreigners continues both in the areas under the TTAADC and outside it. Infiltration is mostly concentrated in the TTAADC areas as some vacant land is still available there. This has been endangering the tribal compactness of these areas, the entitlement of tribals to their land, their share in the development projects, their language, culture and customs.

To prevent the situation from deteriorating further, the State Government as well as the Tripura Legislative Assembly through a resolution, passed unanimously, requested the Central Government for an early introduction of "Inner-Line Permit" with a view to restricting non-tribal settlement in the TTAADC areas.

I urge upon the Government of India to consider the proposal favourably and introduce "Inner-line Permit" in TTAADC areas immediately.

(viii) Need to Build A National Highway to Dhanushkodi, Tamil Nadu

SHRIS.P. UDAYAPPAN (Ramanathapuram) : National Highway No. 49 is an important road which connects Rameswaram Island with other parts of our country. Pilgrims who visit Rameswaram desire to have a holy dip at Dhanushkodi bathing ghat also. National Highway from Mukuntharayar Chatram to Dhanushkodi is abandoned due to deposit of sand by high velocity of wind and tidal sea waves. Pilgrims coming to Rameswaram from all over India have to bear much hardship to reach Dhanushkodi due to lack of proper road facility. The fish folks of Dhanushkodi area are suffering to transport their daily catches to the marketing centre and to fetch their daily

needs from Rameshwaram and Ramanathapuram. This proposed road will also be more important from security point of view.

I request Government of India to take immediate steps to form new road to Dhanushkodi.

14.10 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS - (RAILWAYS)* 1997-98

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Now we shall take up item No. 7 - Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways), Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey.

Motion moved :

"That the Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1998, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second Column thereof - Demand Nos. 2 and 16."

Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1997-98 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha
1	2	3
		Rs
2	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	5,000
16.	Assets - Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	<i>Other Expenditure</i>	
	Capital	20,000
	Railway Funds	25,000
	Total	50,000

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : We are discussing in the House that railways play an important role in the overall development of the country and also in

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

maintaining the unity and integrity of the country. From this point of view, while considering over the requirements of the railways, we give our suggestions so that it can expand and public facilities can also be increased. There are three-four issues important therein, gauge-conversion, doubling of rail tracks, laying of fresh lines and provisions of rail network in railway board are the issues which have been discussed in the debate. Welfare-fund for the Railway Protection force has also been discussed. Suggestions have been made to make the Railway-Protection-Force more useful. We should have a sense of concern about their family interests. We have also discussed about their duties also. Many times doubts have been raised about the ability of the Railway-Protection Force. It has been alleged that it is unable in providing adequate safety to the passengers. In view of these allegations if any loophole exists, it should be considered. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to consider this aspect also. We have no objection to welfare fund but their efficiency should also be strengthened and improved.

The second demand, which has been made is about the gauge conversion. It was decided that we will complete the gauge conversion work in entire India by 2000. It seems to me that due to the present financial condition of the Union Government or Railways, it is not possible to expedite the work. Gauge conversion work is an important one, but it is not being given so much attention as it should be given. I would like to draw the attention of Minister of Railways that the priorities which were fixed earlier now has been changed. What are the reasons for changing the priorities on which we had started the work? Whether the priorities fixed earlier were not appropriate keeping in view of the development of the Nation or the development of that area. I would like to know as to why those priorities had been changed? I would like to give an example. The railway line between Kota and Neemach in Western Railway has been converted into broad gauge. Although provision for conversion of railway line from Neemach to Ratlam is made time and again yet the funds being provided are so meagre that gauge conversion work is not being done as expeditiously as it should be.

Minister of Railways has been taking the plea in regard to the gauge conversion that this area will be developed and it is necessary for transportation of goods as well as minerals. This gauge conversion work may be completed at the earliest. Cement Industry is there, four cement plants are working there. Soyabean factories are also there. Two-three factories of Soyabean having a capacity of 1500 tonne each are there. So gauge conversion is necessary for DOC loading and marketing of these products. The Railways are receive the entire loading out of it and they will get revenue. All these goods are now transported by road. I would like to request the Minister of Railways to make provision of sufficient funds for completing the gauge conversion work from Neemach to Ratlam at the earliest which is going at slow pace so that the development of the area which has been obstructed should go properly. Although this work was to be completed during the year 1996-97.

In demand for grants, it has been demanded to equip the Railway Board with Rail network so that entire railway traffic could be operated from one place. It will be a good system. Today Railway Board has full paraphernalia in spite of that rail accidents are taking place every other day due to which many families are facing difficulties. The number of persons who die in these accidents are increasing. Recently, accidents had taken place at Faridabad Mahendergarh, Ratlam and other places. Four-five accidents took place continuously in a month, due to which the number of deceased increased. Many people were injured and there was a heavy loss of Railway Property. You want to control the entire system by railway network, but it has created stagnation. You will remove the bottlenecks, coming in the way. Sometimes, you hold the driver responsible or sometimes you say it is because of the failure of mechanical system. Railway Board has been incompetent in performing their duties. As far as, the question of the facilities in regard to the rail passengers is concerned, they should feel that they are safe.

Sir, Madhya Pradesh is a backward tribals dominated State. There has been a demand for allocation of funds for the laying new rail lines. The rail line from Vishrampur to Ambikapur in South Eastern Railway has been considered to be useful in view of Tribal areas and development as well-Sarguja is a very backward as well as tribal area. Granite, Bauxite and other minerals in great quantum are also found there. That is a substantial reserves of minerals. If we explore them and export the same to other countries, it will certainly provide a relief to the state and increase the national income. We want that the work in regard to laying of this line should be completed as early as possible. The amount of Rs. 40 crores allocated for this purpose is very less. How much time will it take to complete this line. I do not think that it could be completed with this small amount as I said that Madhya Pradesh is a neglected and deprived of the railway facilities. Time and again we have demanded that work should be started on the proposed rail line from Manmad to Indore via Dhulia. Survey has already been conducted in this regard. It is a tribal dominated area and I would like that you may please look into it. Similarly, there is a proposal for a rail line from Ratlam to Dohad. You are making provisions for laying more new rail lines. You have proposed for it in the demand for grants. Passengers are not getting such facilities as they should get. You are planning to create new Zones. You have created a Zone in Jabalpur. I would thank you for that. What's about the Bilaspur Zone? You said that it would be considered. Strike continued for several days in Bilaspur on this issue. Rail facilities came to a halt there. Honourable member has raised a question in this regard at that time it was stated that you could look into it.

Mr. Chairman Sir, it has been stated that gauge conversion work from Ajmer to Palanpur will be done, it should be completed. Here I discussed about the gauge conversion of the line from Ajmer to Chittor too. From Chittor to Kota and from Chittor to Neemach broad gauge line already exists, if it is extended from Ajmer to Chittor,

then Chittor-Neemach-Ratlam rail-line will be completed. In this way parallel rail line upto Ratlam will be completed. In case any rail-accident occurs or any natural calamity comes, then Ministry of Railways can lay a rail line from Ratlam to Kota via Chittor. In think, he will give due consideration to this important rail-line. The entire state of Rajasthan will be connected with Madhya Pradesh through it.

Mr. Chairman Sir, rail facilities has been mentioned in this supplementary Railway budget, and several demands are there. I do not want to go into the details of these demands but you have stated two things. First is about the modernisation of New Delhi Railway Station, which is very good thing. Delhi is the capital of the country, so it should be modernised but apart from this, there are many railway stations where even ordinary facilities are not available to the people, neither rest house, nor waiting room is available there and even care is not taken in regard to the providing basic amenities there. Ratlam, Ujjain, Devas, Nagda, Mandsore and Neemach stations of Madhya Pradesh are some of stations where basic amenities are not available. I want when you are spending lakhs of rupees on modernisation of New Delhi railway station, due attention to the development of these railway stations should also be given. These stations are the important business centres of the country and I hope you will certainly give proper attention towards the development of these stations.

Like Anandpur Sahib, there are several other shrines where need of increasing passenger amenities should be considered. In the same way, there are cities of Ujjain and Onkareshwar in Madhya Pradesh which should also be considered for this purpose.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, diesel loco factory was also referred to while discussing south-eastern railway and western railway and sanctioning of amount had also found a mention therein. So far as the manufacturing of diesel Engines is concerned, we should produce them so as to have high horse power engines. I would like to draw your attention towards the Ajmer-Khandwa section in this context. On the one hand you are talking of electrification of tracks, on the other side steam engines are still being used. The condition of these steam engines is such that they move and halt at their own. At times it takes them 2-4 hours to start. I have talked about it with the Railway Board officers and the Railway's Minister but one part of that region is still pulling on with amenities again 25-30 years so. My request is that steam engines should be replaced with diesel engines in these trains.

14.24 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

It is unfortunate that the number of boggies of Chetak Express have been reduced reportedly due to inability of steam engines in carrying full load. Is it not possible to ply diesel engines there? Our friend Shri Rasa Singh Rawat

mentioned that Chetak was known for its speed. Then why is this train being driven with steam-engine and with relatively lesser boggies? Does Railway Ministry not have diesel engines any more? I held discussions with Railway Board in this regard and I have been told that diesel engines have not been plying on metre gauge lines. You are going to convert the metre gauge lines into broad gauge lines in near future. So kindly provide diesel engine for the convenience of the passengers till the gauge conversion takes place, as the passengers are facing a lot of a problems on this account.

I would like to tell you about certain railway amenities. New trains have been introduced at some places and some of them are yet to be introduced in my constituency. Recently a train has been introduced between Indore and Chennai via Jaipur. That is an important train and there may be a few such commercial centres or intermediate points, where stoppage or haltage becomes essential. I had also mentioned in this regard that railway would get additional revenue on this line. I have already submitted about the Jaipur-Chennai rail that it should have an stoppage at Shyamgarh as it is an important railway station of western Railways. It is a central place too, where the number of daily passengers departure is quite high and thus I am sure that enough additional revenue would accrue to Railway on this route. Once, on an experimental basis, you allot a stoppage there and then only you will be knowing that this public demand has got an importance and should be fulfilled. Barring a few like Jammu-Tawi Bomay or Jammu Tawi-Ahmedabad Superfast trains, which do not have even a single stoppage there usually all the trains stop. This is an intermediate point, and if someone has to journey from Shyamgarh and Dharod to Madras, one does not get any other train. Please consider this aspect as well.

There is an Intercity Express from Indore to Bhopal, which it not running as per the prescribed norms. There should be change in the timings of the train, as it should reach and come back from Bhopal in time. Halts of the train on some points, such as at Begwa of Shahjahanpur, which have been demanded should be granted. I have given priority to Ambikapur and Sarguja. You have already given your consent regarding Gondia and Jabalpur. I would like to thank you, as you are interested in completing that work. However, I would like to reiterate that Gauge conversion work from Neemach to Ratlam should be completed at the earliest. A demand has also been made for lying new lines from Indore to Dhulia via Manmad and from Ratlam-Dohad, for which survey has already been conducted. I hope that you will get the work done by taking an early decision and provide instructions to provide passenger amenities there.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for providing me this opportunity to participate in this discussion on the Supplementary

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Railways. While participating in this discussion I have mixed feelings. Why do I have mixed feelings and why have I not got the pleasure to support the Demands wholeheartedly? Of course, I support these Demands, but I have also got some reservations.

Sir, definitely, the Minister of Railways deserves some bouquets, because he has been trying to enhance the size of the Annual Plan with increased budgetary support from the general finance. He has achieved certain degree of success in this matter.

Railways, in our system, is like a Government within a Government. We have two Budgets before Parliament. When we meet in the month of February, which is called the Budget Session, the first Budget that comes up is the Railway Budget followed by the General Budget. Therefore, to give flexibility to the Railways to manage its finances, there is a provision of a separate Budget presented in the House. This privilege is not enjoyed by any other Ministry. This is the principal mode of transport in our country. There is tremendous need for expansion of the railway network in the country. There is no doubt about it. It is not that the Government or those in authorities including the Ministers are found wanting in their endeavours to expand the network but the major constraint is the resource crunch; the lack of finance or the lack of fund stands in its way. Earlier, up-till the Fifth Plan, this Ministry was having the benefit of a very-high percentage of Budgetary support of about 75 per cent. Now that has been drastically reduced. It was as low as 15 per cent in the Eighth Plan. Of course, this time with the personal effort of Shri Paswan, there has been a slight increase in it. I think, our Annual Plan is of the order of Rs. 8,300 crore. I will be happy to be corrected if I am wrong. Of course, you, Mr. Chairman, have better knowledge about it as you preside over the Standing Committee on Railways. With the plan size of Rs. 8,300 crore, I think, the budgetary support was of the order of Rs. 1,839 crore or something like that, which is a matter of gratification. I was happy to come across a news item saying that it has been further increased to Rs. 2,000 crore by making an additional allocation of Rs. 169 crore. I do not know whether it is correct or not. I have the press cutting which says that the budgetary support for railways is hiked to Rs. 2,000 crore. It is very good and I congratulate him for that.

After the annual Railway Budget this is the first Supplementary Budget we have before us, which is of the size of Rs. 50,000 crore only. This is symbolic that way. This document of Supplementary Demands for Grants has a financial provision of Rs. 50,000 only under two heads, under two Demands number 2 and 16. Now to meet the technical requirements, new services cannot be taken up without the approval of the House. That is why, this has come before the House. As for instance, Rs. 1,000 only has been provided as an expenditure to be approved by Parliament for Rs. 245.58 crore Sukhinda Aungal new railway line. In congratulate him for that. He has taken

steps to get the technical approval. This being the new service, there is a provision of Rs. 10 lakh. He has proposed to spend this by re-appropriation. So, it is a very-very symbolic item, a symbolic measure that we have today by way of the first Supplementary Demands for Grants.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about what is happening to this additional amount of Rs. 169 crore which will go to the Ministry of Railways this year by way of increased budgetary support. We wanted some more details in the first Supplementary Demands for Grants.

Sir, we have as many Supplementary Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Railways as the number of Parliament Sessions we have every year. In the month of February we have General Budget and the Railway Budget together with the Third Supplementary Demands for Grants. Both are there at the same time. Thereafter, during the Monsoon Session, we have the First Supplementary Demands for Grants followed by Second Supplementary Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Railways in the Winter Session.

Now, I would switch over to other items. This is the first year of the Ninth Plan. Probably, the Ninth Plan is yet to be finalised. How long will it take? How long we will be going on an *ad hoc* basis? Adhocism is not conducive to planned growth of our economy in different sectors including the Railways. Rs. 65,000 crore, as I believe, is the projected Ninth Plan size of the Ministry of Railways. At the rate of Rs. 2,000 crore budgetary support per annum they will be then getting Rs. 10,000 crore as budgetary support for the entire plan period plan size, it is feared that it will be as low as Rs. 40,000 crore. At the maximum if it will touch Rs. 50,000 crore, that is why I say that this will not be in the interests of the country, the entire Rs. 65,000 crore. So, against the projected amount of Rs. 65,000 crore which has been projected, should be cleared by the Planning Commission. I lend my support also to the Ninth Plan, as prepared by the Ministry of Railways.

Sir, safety, security, punctuality and the cleanliness are the declared mottoes, much publicised objectives of the Railways. Of course, we saw the photograph of the hon. Minister Shri Paswan in almost all the national dailies holding a broomstick and cleaning a railway station. I think, that was a track near New Delhi Railway Station. I congratulate him for that. Really, he has taken the initiative in regard to cleanliness of the railway platforms etc. There, some programme on creation of awareness was organised and I think, the hon. Minister of Railways himself inaugurated it by cleaning the railway platform or some track. On this I am reminded of one thing--our esteemed friend Shri K.P. Singh Deo is also present--that in Orissa, everybody knows. Lord Jagannath Car Festival is in Puri. In the Car Festival, after the deities are brought in procession which is called *Pohandi*, from the temple itself, they are placed on the cars, the chariots. Thereafter, Maharaja Gajapathi of Puri comes himself there is a legend behind it--and then cleans the floors of all the three chariots, of

course, with a golden broomstick, while we saw in the newspapers the photograph of the hon. Minister of Railways sweeping one track I do not know whether that was also some silver or other type of broomstick, but he was doing it. Anyway, he has taken the initiative. But in addition to that, I would also like the hon. Minister to have some surprise checks on the railway platforms and running trains.

Sir, there is a terrific deterioration in the services of the Railways.

Only a few prestigious superfast trains are being monitored and taken care of. But sufferings of passengers due to non-adherence to punctuality and safety standard casualty are very much on the increase.

Coming to the safety aspect, it is with a mixed feeling that I am participating in the debate. The other side of the railways is lack of safety. People are now scared of train journey. In the month of July alone there have been four major accidents which claimed a large number of lives. Loss of life and property has taken place in a big way in several train accidents, including the Faridabad accident. We do not know where we are heading.

Coming to the month of August, in the first week, on 3rd, a sitting Minister in this Union Council of Ministers, Shri Sheesh Ram Ola, Minister of State for Water Resources, has been the victim himself. I would like to quote what he has said about his own experience. He has spoken something to the Press. He was one among the thirteen persons injured when Shekhawati Express derailed in an act of suspected sabotage, or whatever it is. What he has said is important. I am pained to come across this. Shri Sheesh Ram Ola was unhappy with the response of the railway officials. Accidents do occur sometimes. But what has been the response towards those accidents of the officials concerned? Shri Sheesh Ram Ola was unhappy with the response of the railway officials. He said : " I managed to make a phone call to the railway authorities soon after the accident. I informed them that several bogies had derailed and people were trapped inside the train. Still no official came till 5.30 a.m. It was only three hours after the accidents that the officials were sighted. "Three hours after the accident, that too after a Minister personally intervened! He took the trouble of telephoning the officials concerned.

Regarding the Faridabad accident, it is at a stone's throw distance from the Rail Bhawan. But it took several hours for the occupants of the Rail Bhawan, the big *babus* to visit the site. Even the Minister could not go very promptly. I do not know at what time he was not conveyed this news, whether there was any delay or whether the Minister himself was present in the Capital. The fact is that he also could not go. The Minister should have gone to the accident site judging the short distance from the Capital much earlier. Even the medical relief van took more than three hours to go from Delhi to Faridabad. This is the callous attitude.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Chairman Sir, when I introduced new zones in Railways, many a people were criticising the same. The incident which took place at Faridabad does not fall within the Delhi Zone, but it falls under the Mumbai Zonal office. The people, who went to the site of the accident, they were personnel as they went there beside those from there only. You can understand as to how much time it would take if the General Manager has to reach Delhi from Mumbai, even if takes a flight. Whenever we raise the matter of decentralisation and establishing of new zones. Many problems come in our way, which pain us. So far as the question of the officers is concerned, they reached accident site in time but only they failed reach the site who were actually supposed to work there who were responsible for security arrangements and cleanlines and making investigation. Well, clean-liness and making investigation. Well, you are aware, that we can not remove anything from the site of the accident, until the investigation officers or other officers concerned reach the site.

So far as I am concerned I had gone out. I returned to Delhi at 9 O'clock on that very day. I did not go straightway to the Parliament though I could do so I knew that I would have to face criticism here. I was, however, least bothered about that. Instead, I went to the spot of accident and stayed there for as many as four hours. I came to the Parliament only thereafter and replied to the queries.

So far as the case of Mahendragarh is concerned, railway was not involved in the incident that had occurred there. The State Government has accepted this fact. Fishplates were removed from the railway tracks. That accident took place at quarter to 3 O' clock and I had immediately telephoned to the concerned railway guard. Feeling concerned, the officer rushed to Mahendragarh. So far as my reaching the spot.... (Interruptions)

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Whatever you are telling is totally wrong. You tell us at what time 'your' railway officer reached to the site (Interruptions). He is his colleague. He got his three limbs broken. I have met him.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not going on record.

.....(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You are a front ranking leader and you have just now entered into the Chamber.

You have not listened to whole of my speech as also what I had been telling therein. I was narrating the accident so that our hon. Members need not repeat that. This is why I have intervened... *(Interruptions)*

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : When did your railway officer reach to the spot for the first time? Please reply to this point. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : There is a BJP supported government in Haryana. You have your own government there. You ask the Haryana Government whether railway or the State Government is responsible for the accident *(Interruptions)*

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : At what time the railway officer reached there? At what time did he touch Shri Shish Ram Ola?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Joshiji, please take your seat.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are the Chairman of the Standing Committee. You are aware that we do not have such a car so as to reach the spot immediately in case of an accident. Major accidents including road accidents occur in every State taking a large toll. I, however, do not intend to justify that accident. But I am trying to press the point that Mahendragarh is not such a big place where an extra engine could be parked. We can use railway engine only to pull a train to reach our destination. As soon as the news of accident came from there we made the arrangement of a train. Our senior medical officer reached there. Moreover, a special relief train was sent from here. The place where accident took place is an isolated place. There is no station there. Joshiji, you are going on telling your own points and you are not ready to listen about the problems of others. What more you want when the relief train reaches the site at 5 minutes passed 5 O'clock whereas the accident had occurred quarter to 3 O'clock? Moreover, that is not on the main line. We do not have any magic switch to reach there immediately by pressing it *(Interruptions)*

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : It is all right that you do not have any magic switch, but tell me one thing *(Interruptions)* That is all right. Tell me who had appointed him there if not the railway authority? *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, he came himself. The railway authorities did not have the sense to hospitalise the Union Minister of Railways hurt in a rail accident. You reply to my this question. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will not reply.

.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This will not go on record.

.... *(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGARHI : Mr Chairman, Sir, we were showing our concern on the fact that so many accidents have taken place during the last two-three months and all those have been serious accidents.

[English]

... *(Interruptions)** In an accident that had occurred due to bomb blasts in Bhatinda 34 people were killed and 64 injured. In an accident on Simla-Kalka route in which a toy train was involved three people were killed and seven injured.

In a train-bus collision eight people were killed and 25 people were injured. Like this, a series of accidents have taken place. This is not a good commentary on the functioning of the Ministry of Railways. I am not holding the hon. Minister personally responsible for all the accidents. What I want to say is that there should be some soul searching by the Rail Bhawan and by the hon. Minister himself because safety, punctuality and cleanliness should be given high priority.

Once the accident takes place, it is customary on the part of the Ministry to entrust the Commissioner of Safety with the task of inquiring into the accident. He takes his own time. He brings out a report. What is more important than all these things is that, when an accident takes place, the Ministry should know how to deal with the situation. In many cases there is lack of preparation to deal with such eventualities. When the medical van and relief train are called, by the time they reach the place of accident, it is all over. So, they have to be in a state of readiness all the time. *(Interruptions)* Fire, bomb blast and accidents are the three main reasons for the loss of life and property. Sometimes it is due to mechanical failure and at some other times, it is due to human failure.

What I would like to stress is that safety aspect should not be ignored. We should not let the safety aspect take the back seat. I would request the hon. Minister not to let the safety aspect. Of course, it is not to undermine the importance of new tracks or the need for gauge conversion, but it should not be done at the cost of safety.

* Not recorded.

So far, there has been no announcement of any plan for systematic maintenance and repair works of tracks that have been antiquated. Too many accidents have taken place because of worn-out tracks also. Even the signalling system is sometimes defunct. Because of all these things, a large number of accidents are taking place. That is why, while becoming ambitious for the expansion of railway network, these works should also not be ignored or neglected. This is what I wanted to bring home.

I would like to quote from the Report of the Standing Committee on Railways. I think, Sir, you will also be happy about it. Regarding safety and crimes, I would like to say that crimes are also increasing in running trains. The Committee has found that there has been a decrease under the Head 'Safety' of the Demands in Revised Estimates. This is one thing which is seen.

There has been a reduction in the allocation of safety camps and training courses and other expenses. This is on page 55, paragraph 1.88. This has been found while scrutinising the budgetary demands of the Ministry of Railways for the current year. These are the observations made by the Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of the present Chairman who is now presiding over the House. It indicates that less number of safety camps and training courses were organised during the year than envisaged. Even the budgetary provision is not being exhausted. Budgetary provision is always less than the requirement. This is also a common knowledge. We are not able to provide for the requirement and even what has been provided for is not properly spent. That amount is not exhausted. This is evident from your report, Mr. Chairman. And the allocation has been substantially raised to Rs. 2.58 crores.

"The Committee are of the view that since safety is of foremost importance; more safety camps be organised and intensive training be provided to officers and staff."

Again coming to the first paragraph of page 57, it is stated:

"The Committee are concerned to note that there has been a large scale increase in crimes like dacoity and robberies in running trains."

So, in running trains, a large number of dacoity and thefts are taking place. On the other side, accidents are also taking place. So, the atmosphere is not conducive now. That is why, with all the best intention of the hon. Railway Minister, things in the railways sector are deteriorating.

People are talking about one thing. The political situation is such in the country that even many people including Ministers are more occupied with political work and are not able to spend the required time to look into the functioning of their Ministers, etc. This point is being talked about. Of course, this is democracy and Ministers are

political leaders and they have also to spend time on political aspects but that should not be at the expense of their Ministerial responsibility.

Sir, since you asked me to be conscious of the time factor, I would now switch over to some of the genuine demands of my State, Orissa. Orissa is famous on the negative side, from the angle of poverty. Bihar and Orissa are on the top of the list of poor States of our country. The hon. Minister himself belongs to Bihar. Again, Orissa is an abode of natural calamity. Right now, Orissa is having severe floods.

15.00 hrs.

The rivers are in full spate; they are over-flown and large areas are inundated by floods thereby aggravating the sufferings of the poor people.

Sir, Orissa has abundant natural resources in terms of minerals and forestry. There are a lot of potentialities for this State to become an advanced State. But one of the bottlenecks to its becoming advanced is the lack of infrastructure; and lack of railway infrastructure is at the root of the object poverty of the State of Orissa. I submit again that one of the reasons is the lack of railway communication.

15.01 hrs.

[PROF. RITA VERMA *in the Chair*]

Certain new railway lines and projects have been cleared recently. I would like to request the hon. Minister for Railways to give his personal attention to these lines and projects so that work on these lines could be speeded up. The Railway Ministry has finally declared that the Sambalpur-Talcher line would be completed and thrown open for passenger traffic before March, 1998. There should not be any further extension of time. The Railway Ministry should ensure its completion within the stipulated time-frame.

Sir, regarding the other lines I would like to submit that meagre funds have been provided for the Khurda - Bolangir, Kalahandi, the Lanjigarh-Junagarh railway lines. I would like to request that more funds should be provided, and work should also be expedited for these lines.

I am grateful to the hon. Railway Minister for the Angul-Sukhinda project. There was a survey for this and now it has been decided that work would be undertaken for this project. Technically, the hon. Minister has provided for some funds in this Supplementary Demands for Grants. I would like to submit that in the Sukhinda region, about 20 steel plants have been proposed and are in the pipeline. I do not know as to how many of them would be set up but right now preparation for construction of two to three steel plants are going on. So, top priority should be given for the completion of this Angul-Sukhinda line. It would connect

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

Angul with Sukhinda by the side of Talcher, which covers coal belt and should be a priority line.

The hon. Railway Minister has agreed to carry out a survey for the Talcher-Vimlagarh line. I would like to request that it should be expedited. Then again, keeping in view the importance of the sector, the Raipur - Bargarh should be a loop line. I would submit that instead of having a third line along the Howrah - Mumbai sector, there should be a loop line. A survey should be ordered for this as early as possible.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Of which line are you referring to?

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I am submitting about the survey for the Bargarh - Raipur line. A survey has already been ordered for the Talcher- Vimlagarh line and this needs to be expedited.

Sir, I would like to submit about one thing and that is the East Coast Zone has not yet been made fully functional. The hon. Railway Minister has taken the initiative for creation of six new Railway zones, including one in the State of Orissa. Here again, there is an anomaly. Here it has been mentioned that the Angul - Sukhinda line is in the South-Eastern Railway but now it comes under the East Coast Railway. The whole of Orissa - it is a small State - should now come under this new Zone. We have been repeatedly, systematically, every time bringing it to the notice of the Railway Minister that even the new Railway Division located at Sambalpur should not be a truncated Division.

Its jurisdiction is very-very limited and important places like Rourkela, Jharsiguda which are very near to Sambalpur are under the jurisdiction of Chakradharpur. So the jurisdiction should be redefined and determined in respect of Sambalpur Division and the new East Coast Zone. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that for this no financial involvement is there. I do not know why this bureaucratic bottleneck is there for all these things; the officials in the Railway Board do not listen to the reasons. It is only when violence is resorted to and when trains are stopped, then only that they come to understand the problem. What is this?

Once what happened was that when the Ispat Express was extended from Jharsiguda up to Sambalpur people demonstrated for its stoppage at Rangali. At my residence, I am grateful, that the South-Eastern Railway General Manager came and an understanding was reached that there would be a stoppage of that train at Rangali. But two years after, even today, that has not been allowed. What sort of a set up is this? We cooperate with the hon. Minister and with the Railways. We do not resort to these agitational methods straightaway. Is that our weakness?

So, the work on Khurda-Bolangir sections, etc. should be speeded up. With regard to overbridges and other passenger amenities, Orissa, particularly the Western part of Orissa, is again a case of criminal neglect. Talcher is one place where, I am told, the daily income of Railways is more than one crore rupees. But in Talcher we do not have any overbridge. Hundreds of trucks have to wait for long to get across the line. I do not say they wait continuously for eight to ten hours. But out of twenty-four hours, about eight to ten hours is the duration of closure of crossings.

Madam, I conclude by demanding that Chainpal, should be made a new station. The General Manager, Railways had said that he would personally look into it. It is along the new Sambalpur-Talchar line. Chainpal Road, which should be renamed as Talcher Road, also needs an overbridge at Chainpal and another overbridge at Belpaher. Two stoppages of Uttakal Express, one at Garhposh and another at Baghbihi, should be there on that line. Three new trains, Sambalpur-Rourkela, a passenger or DMU should start from Rourkela in the morning and should come back from Sambalpur in the evening. One new train, either from Rourkela should be started or even for that purpose from Tata to be routed through Jharsiguda, Sambalpur upto Raipur or Mumbai. It is a genuine demand of the people of that area. I would also demand that Kochin-Bilaspur Express should be extended up to Jharsiguda.

I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister towards modernisation of certain Railway Stations. Some of the stations in Orissa are giving huge income to the Railways, like Talcher, Jharsiguda, Belpar, Brajrajnagar, etc. The condition at Sambalpur - the divisional Zonal Head-quarters Railway Station is far-far unsatisfactory. So, the convenience of the passengers should be looked into properly.

With this, I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants and would expect from the hon. Railway Minister an assurance that we would give top priority to the projects of backward areas of Orissa and other parts of the country. I appreciate the thrust that the hon. Railway Minister has given to the backward areas. I also appreciate the hon. Railway Minister, who has said that 'Railway cannot be a commercial organisation, Railway is a vehicle for the development of backward areas' From that angle also, Orissa and Bihar should get priority.

Madam, it is time that we give top priority to safety and other aspects, which I have dealt. With this, I once again support the Supplementary Demands for Grants presented by the hon. Railway Minister and demand that there should be a hike in the budgetary support and that amount should be properly spent for the development of backward areas from the Railways point of view.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : Madam Chairman, the supplementary demands for grants for Railways has come before this House.

[Translation]

It is now before the House. There are two demands in it - No.2 and 16.

[English]

Demand No. 2 deals with survey and other miscellaneous.

[Translation]

Demand No. 16 includes construction of new lines, bridges and other works. These are 39 items of work in it. I support this demand. As a matter of fact it is just for one year that I am a Member of this House. I represent that part of Karnataka which is very backward and which once used to be the part of Nizam. It was under the rule of Nizam. There was a survey conducted in 1956 to construct a new line in that area. It is a matter of happiness that now when our country is celebrating 50 years of its independence the construction of new railway lines in Gulbarga and Bider of Hyderabad, Karnataka where the People did witness the freedom of India but did not witness rail engines and boggies in their area, has been included in the plan as it is mentioned against item No. 24 out of 39 items of works. I am thankful to the hon'ble Minister for this who has been kind enough to visit that area several times. The people of that area have got special affection with Ram Vilas ji. They raised this demand there several times. I had also put this demand during the budget discussion last time. That time he had only given an assurance that construction of new railway lines in Gulbarga and Bider would be taken up after the completion of survey. Recently it has been upgraded to the tune of Rs. 242 crore and that has been included in the present demand after completing other formalities. I am thankful for this. Here I would also like to highlight its importance because security of our country is our paramount concern. At present there is only one railway line in our area. In case of any emergency or in the situation of war.

[English]

There is no other line.

[Translation]

Which goes parallel to it or which may link it. That line stretches from Bider to Hubly, Bider to Hospet. In the first phase of work construction lines from Bider to Gulbarga has been included. A survey for construction of line from Gulbarga to Hubly has been included in the last budget. I hope that this will also be included in the next budget. This is the most important railway line from defence point of view. This line is also important from security point of view of our country. I also appreciate this for giving due importance to this point.

Secondly, we have an important Upper Krishna Irrigation Project and as per the recommendation of Bacchawat Commission we have to utilise water from there

by the end of two thousand year. After investing more than two thousand crore rupees the Upper Krishna Project is near completion. It was highly essential to have a railway line in that area so as to streamline the transportation of foodgrains which we shall produce after the irrigation facility in various parts of India. That point has also been taken notice of while including construction of the said railway line in the supplementary demands for grants.

[English]

Transportation of the foodgrains, which will be produced because of the heavy irrigation in the Upper Krishna Valley of Karnataka, or Hyderabad, Karnataka and Gulbarga district has been kept in view.

[Translation]

I am thankful to you for this.

Thirdly, I would like to say that the distance of Delhi would be reduced by 275 K.M. we shall now go enroute Warli, Baijnath, Beed instead of Sholapur Gaon which subsequently reduce the distance by 275 K.M. Marathwada and Hyderabad, Karnataka will get connected. This is a very good thing. This was a demand on the part of nine members hailing from Marathwada to Hyderabad and Karnataka. This distance of Gulbarga Bider line is 116 K.M. in between which there are 12 stations.

But this is just a beginning. The demand of we nine M.Ps. is being fulfilled. Out of these nine M.Ps. five are from Marathwada and four are from Hyderabad and Karnataka. I am thankful for inclusion of this Project in the demand. After this our another major demand is related to computerisation. The problem after computerisation is that

[English]

Udyan Express is the only train which starts from Mumbai to Bangalore and from Bangalore to Mumbai.

[Translation]

All M.L.As, M.Ps. and other V.I.P.s including those who come from Gulbarga and Bider who go from there to attend session take the train from there. This is because the Divisional Head quarter is located there. After the introduction of the computer system the problem is that berths may also be allotted to other persons in case they are available.

We have got a 240 seats quota of second class sleeper but only four coaches are attached. One general and three boggies from Sholapur to Udhyan are attached with these. It has only 21 boggies. For it, two engines are attached from Sholapur. When this train arrives in Sholapur from Mumbai, it reaches here with only 17 coaches. After arriving in Sholapur, the number of coaches are increased to 21. As one engine can carry 18 coaches therefore when four more coaches are attached one more engine is also

[Shri Qamarul Islam]

attached. I would earnestly request the Railway Minister to introduce a new train from Sholapur to Mysore so that those who want to reach Bangalore and Mysore from Gulbarga, Raichur and Sholapur do not get stranded at Bangalore. Udhyan is being run with two engines and after arriving at Sholapur from Mumbai, its coaches are increased from 17 to 21 thereby increasing the capacity. When all this is being done, I think it should not be very difficult for Railways to introduce a new train. I do not think that the Railways can not arrange for 8-10 extra coaches to introduce a new train. I, therefore, again demand that a new train should be introduced from Sholapur, to Bangalore and Mysore via Gulbarga, Raichur and Guntkal and until introduction of a new train, our first and second class quota in 'Udhyan' should be delinked so that people of Gulbarga could avail the reservation facility. The same system is in operation in the train plying on Pune-Ahmedabad route. You have acceded to their demand and

[English]

You have delinked only for the train, why can you not delink this Gulbarga quota of the Udhyan Express from that, so that nobody can pick up?

[Translation]

We should do it there also.

Secondly, if it takes two months to introduce the new train till then two more coaches could be attached and instead of 21 coaches there should be 24 coaches. Our quota of 240 seats should also be increased to 350-400 seats. Similarly, two more coaches should be attached to Udhyan Express and the quota of 140 be increased to 400. This would benefit the people of this backward area to a great extent. The people of this area want to go to Bangalore. With the introduction of Udhyan Express they can easily make it to Bangalore.

Thirdly, the Hossain Sagar Express train runs on Mumbai-Hyderabad route. After Sitapur district of Bihar, Gulbarga is a very important town. A large number of Cement and lime stone factories are there and one-third revenue of Karnataka is collected from this area. Shri Reddy is saying that a large number students of Bihar take advantage of it and in view of large number of factories in this area, the train should be stopped here. I have also written to the Railway Minister and the Officers to provide a stoppage of Chennai Express at Nalawar station and also suitably increase the first class and A.C quota in Chennai Express and Hussein Sagar Express which is at present 2-4 seats, I have written a letter to the authorities in this regard and it should be done expeditiously and on priority basis. It may not be something big for you but it would certainly benefit the people of this area.

Mr. Chariman, Sir, the Karnataka Express plies between Delhi and Bangalore via Gulbarga. Earlier there

was a quota of 40 berths from there but when it was found that the number of passenger was less, it was reduced. Today atleast 100 people remain in the waiting list daily. This is the only train which connects with Delhi, Therefore, the quota should be increased to 60-70 seats. Gulbarga is a renowned university and ranks 23rd among the universities in the country. A large number of student come from Bihar here as there are several medical colleges, engineering colleges. D. Pharma and other educational institutions. Moreover, it is a backward area and people reach Gulbarga via Delhi. The students hailing from Bihar go back by Karnataka Express. There is 22 seat quota in this train which should be increased for both to and fro journey.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would request the Railway Minister to link Gulbarga from Patna so that people could also make it for Mumbai easily. This arrangement would also help the students a great deal. As we are celebrating our 50th year of independence, I must mention it here that our Hon'ble Railway Minister has fulfilled the genuine demands made by Members and I do hope that he would also fulfil my demand as well. With these words, I extend my sincere thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

[English]

DR. ASIMBALA (Navadwip) : Madam, Chairperson. A gradual transformation from railway-dominated transport to road-dominated transport has been seen in the last few decades. The Railways' share has decreased from about 36 per cent of the total passenger-kilometres in 1991 to about 16% per cent in 1993-94.

There was decrease in 1993-94. During the same period the share of Railways for freight transportation, that is tonne kilometres, has declined from 62 per cent to 42 per cent. The National Transport Policy Committee. (N.T.P.C.) in 1980 has given a model split of 72 to 78 per cent for railways and railway representatives for distance trains the railways are also one of the least consumers of energy. That means our railway transport system has been demanding more. The N.T.P.C has also recommended to increase the railway transport system.

The main thing is that the excess of railway earnings over expenses is much smaller compared to the investment needs. The Railways are demanding more investments. But the earnings are very little which is the main problem of railway expansion. Our Government has to look into this matter and find out as to how to get more resources for the development of the railway network.

The N.T.P.C. has also given a number of suggestions which are to be implemented. During the last one year the Railways have earned greater earnings compared to the previous two-three years. To review the whole gamut of the working of the railways a High-Powered Railway Reforms Committee was constituted in May, 1981 under the chairmanship of Shri B.D. Pandey which was for zone

formation. That also has been implemented now. I congratulate the hon. Minister that the Railways have implemented the recommendations that have been made by the High-Powered Reforms Committee.

The main thing with regard to Railway is maintaining cleanliness and the providing better passenger amenities. The need for cleanliness is more. That is much insufficient now. In most of the stations, in the waiting rooms and in the trains, cleanliness is not sufficient. It very much requires improvement. Presently cleanliness is lacking in the Railways.

In his Budget speech recently the hon. Minister has assured that the regional economic imbalances which are there would be minimised through the railway network. In this regard the Government has taken some steps. In the North-Eastern region also they have taken up some programmes and are going to implement some of the programmes regarding railway lines. For example, in Sikkim there is no railway line. The hon. Minister of Railways has given order for a survey of that area. Some computerised railway reservation centres have also been installed in the North-Eastern region. It is a very good gesture on the part of the Government.

I must also mention that the people are suffering very much for want of confirmation of their journey tickets. The passengers while coming from Calcutta upwards to Delhi and other places are finding it difficult to get return reservations. The ordinary people are not getting the reservation and they are suffering very much. While coming to Delhi they are going here and there to get the reservation to back to their places which is not available to the ordinary people.

So, our Minister of Railways should look into this matter. With this, I would also mention some of the demands in my area as well as in West Bengal. In the Budget Speech, the Minister had said that the gauge conversion work would be taken up because the Government policy was for unigauge. Some unigauge works have already been taken up in South-Eastern and Southern Railways. In my area and in West Bengal the gauge conversion works have not been taken up though the Minister had promised in the last Budget Speech that in the next phase, that would be taken up. I would also request the Minister to take up 20 to 25 kilometres line from Shantipur to Nabadwip Ghat for gauge conversion for which survey has already been done in 1993 but the gauge conversion programme has not yet been taken up. I would request the Minister to take up that gauge conversion project. I would also request that the gauge conversion work of Bankura-Damodar railway line and expansion work from Tarakeshwar to Aram Bagh may be taken up.

In the last Budget, there was proposal to increase the outlay of Eklakhi-Balurghat line. I do not know whether that project has been taken up or not. I would request the railway authorities to take up this project and also some

other projects for early implementation. Howrah-Amta line is a very old line. In 1971, ex-Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had laid the foundation stone for Howrah-Amta line, but it has not yet been completed. Tamluk-Digha line has also remained as it is. It has not been completed. Lakhshmikanpur to Namkhana line has also not been completed.

There is another programme to double the line from Kalinarayanpur to Krishnagar. Krishnagar is one of the district headquarters. Kalinarayanpur to Krishnagar line is 22 kilometres long. Sometimes it takes more than an hour to reach Krishnagar. This is a long-standing demand to double the line. We are pressing hard to the railway authorities, but no action has been taken by them. I would request the Minister to take up this case also.

The techno-economic survey to extend the Metro from Tollyganj to New Garia and from Dumdum to Barrackpore was to be done. The Minister had assured that the survey would be conducted. But I do not know whether that survey has been completed or not. I would request the Minister to kindly expedite this matter.

There is Chittaranjan Locomotive Works shops. This has to be expanded so that more electric locos would be coming up each year. Kanchrapur Workshop is a repairing workshop which is very famous. It has a lot of space and land. We would request the Minister and demand to convert it into an integral coach factory.

Ranaghat railway junction is a very busy railway junction and an important link between Ranaghat-Bongaon, Ranaghat-Lalgola, Ranaghat-Shantipur, Ranaghat-Gede and Ranaghat-Calcutta.

During peak hours the office goes and students suffer very much because the railway gate near Durgadas Park remains closed for more than half-an-hour. The situation is very bad there. So, I would request the Minister of Railways to take for construction of a fly-over in that place. Similarly, there is a railway gate in Ranaghat-Dayabari Railway line through which the National Highway No. 34 passes. Thousands of vehicles are passing in that road from Calcutta. This National Highway goes to North Bengal, Assam and other parts of the North Eastern Region. When a train passes in that line, hundreds of vehicles are stranded there for a long time. The situation is very critical there. So, I demand that the Minister of Railway should take steps to construct a fly-over there also. This fly-over is very much essential for the development of that area.

In North Bengal and South Bengal several projects are pending. They should be implemented soon so that there would be railway link between North Bengal and South Bengal. These projects are very much essential for the socio-economic development of North Bengal and South Bengal.

Madam, for a long time, no new trains have been introduced in Howrah Division. So, I demand that a new

[Dr. Asim Bala]

Superfast Express like Rajdhani Express should be introduced from Howrah to Mumbai. It is very essential because there is no superfast train from Howrah to Mumbai at present. Whatever trains are there now, they cannot cope up with the increasing demands of the passengers.

A new railway line from Kumarghat to Agartala is to be constructed to covering a distance of 119 kilometres in the North Eastern Frontier Railway, at an anticipated cost of Rs. 575 crore. The budget outlay made during the year 1996-97 was just Rs. 1 crore. I would request the Minister of Railways to expedite the completion of that line.

There is a lot of passenger congestion in the trains running between Sealdah and Bongaon. Whatever trains are running in that line, they are not sufficient and the frequency of trains in that line should be increased.

Finally, introduction of a shuttle train between Bongaon and Barasat is very much essential, because most of the passengers in that line are office goers. They are all coming from a long distance and are attending office at Barasat. So, I would request the Minister of Railways to introduce a shuttle train in that line.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the Demands for Supplementary Grants (Railways) right now....(Interruptions)

Reddy Saheb, you have been talking with the hon. Minister for quite sometime. Let us also convey our views to the hon. Minister. You are already a member of the ruling party (Interruptions)

Sir, we are discussing the Supplementary Demands. The Statement of the hon. Minister regarding Supplementary Demands has been laid on the Table of the House and I want to congratulate him for the projects which are mentioned therein, particularly the proposal which has been put up for construction of a rail bridge over the Ganga, linking Monghyr and Khagaria. I felicitate him for that since this has been a long-standing demand of the people there. Sir, if we cast a look at Bihar, we find that the number of bridges over Ganga in Bihar is very less in proportion to the length of the river traversing the State. We urge that the construction of road bridges and rail bridges should taken up simultaneously.

Mr. Chairman, Sir the previous Government had made a provision for construction of both the bridges simultaneously. The then Prime Minister, certain members of the Planning Commission including Shri Brahmanand Mandal and Mr. George Fernandes, had a lengthy discussion on this issue which had kept our hopes alive that rail bridge and road bridge would be constructed

simultaneously. We therefore, want to remind the hon. Railway Minister of his Railway Budget Speech which he made and what we discussed here and the statement following his reply to the said discussion. I want to draw his attention towards that and want to tell that Bihar has been a neglected lot in the matter of railways and not now but for the many years.

Members from Bihar have been raising their voices not only in this House, but also outside, not only for construction of new rail lines. Certain Members belonging to Parliament from Bihar has been raising all these demands and thus crying in wilderness in fact. There had been demands from Orissa and West Bengal and also from Bihar but the previous Governments did not pay any attention towards railway needs and problems of backward areas. Since Paswanji has taken over as Railway Minister, he has started giving attention towards railway needs and problems of these backward areas for which many people have also indulged in criticising him and have asked him whether he is a Railway Minister of Bihar or that of the Union as a whole.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we go through the details of construction works executed by Railways in the last 10-15 years, we will find that the Railways have expanded everywhere except Bihar which is lagging behind in the matter of railways. However, Railway symbolises national integration since it does the work of squeezing the country. Therefore, I have drawn attention of the House towards Bihar which has been neglected in the last some years. I want to remind the hon. Minister of his speech wherein he highlighted the works done in many areas and we welcome that. A demand has constantly been made to the hon. Minister for the construction of the Buddhist Railway circuit. The construction work of rail line from Bakhtiarpur to Rajgiri was started in 1960. There was a company named the Light Railway Company at that time and that was merged in the Indian Railways later and its all assets became the property of the Indian Railways and was later converted into broad gauge line and this broad gauge line was constructed 35 years back so that a link is established for Rajgiri and Bodh Gaya and one Buddhist Circuit is constructed there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Japan was to provide financial assistance for the construction of the said Buddhist Circuit at one point of time and no initiative was taken for that as a result of which that could not be implemented. Some work was done when George Fernandes Saheb was the Railway Minister. An agitation was going on there in the country due to the Mandal Commission Report and people retracted after going ahead to some extent in this regard, as a result of which this matter has been hanging fire. I want to remind those days, five years back of the last Lok Sabha, the tenth Lok Sabha. Some Members of Parliament including those from Bihar has been repeatedly saying in this House each year that Rajgir should be linked with Gaya and only 22 kilometres of rail track would have to be constructed upto a place named Hiswa for this purpose and if this is done, the Buddhist circuit would in a way be constructed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the second thing is that Indian Railway had acquired railway line from Fatuha to Islampur 15 years earlier which was owned by Light-Railway Company. The employees of that company were adjusted to an extent but the operation of that railway line came to a stop.

Later on the area was flooded and that caused a substantial loss to the railway line. Further, the Indian Railway auctioned that railway line and sold it out. The people occupied it illegally from here and there. Even the Government of Bihar also occupied the land. The demand used to be raised in this regard. That does not only relate to our area but also relates to Nalanda. The People of other areas also have been raising it because it is of public importance. The Minister had stated that Fatua and Islampur railway-line would be restored and would connect Islampur with Rajgir so that a railway network may develop there properly. You have to do nothing new there, but only restore whatever existed there and connect Islampur to Rajgir. You would have to construct a new 22 kilometre long railway section to connect Rajgir to Bodhgaya. It would also create Buddhist circuit.

The hon. Minister has not so far paid attention to Madhya Pradesh. I request him to pay attention towards this also. Last time, when the railway budget was being discussed, we had reminded him in this regard. But he is not paying attention towards it deliberately as he is having relations in that area. He has relation in Fathua and is not paying attention towards it on account of that. Perhaps he takes it as his own area.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Are you interested in having a railway line between Rajgir and Hiswa only or Hiswa, Rajgir, Islampur and Fatuha. If it is about Hiswa only, it is alright because it involves short length and we will make the announcement to that effect whenever you so desire.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Please make the announcement just now.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It is very essential to connect the Buddhist circuit. I definitely assure you that I would take up it in the next budget, but I am not sure whether I would remain a Minister or not. But I assure you that if I remain the Minister, I would take up Fatuha, Islampur, Rajgir and Hiswa issue. I want to give this assurance to you. The line between Hiswa and Rajgir which you have mentioned, is a Buddhist circuit and you have rightly stated that if it was developed, we would get donation from abroad. I myself is concerned about that and if it falls under the jurisdiction of the Minister, I would certainly try to take up that work in that budget.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Thank you very much Sir. But I would like to request you to make announcement to that effect in the next budget. We think that laying of railway lines in Fatuha, Islampur and Rajgir would be a major achievement for this entire region. The people of that area would remember you for that.

I had made request last time also Madam Chairperson, you would be surprised to know that there is Hathida Junction where a railway-cum-road bridge was constructed on the river Ganga first of all. There is Hathida and the junction is named after that. There is Hathida junction below that but still that junction is a flag station. There is curve there. You would be surprised to know that signal facility does not exist there. The people have to come upward to catch a train. They board the trains underneath also. There is a curve there. The person, standing on one side can not see person standing on other side and signal facility is not available there. Thousands of passengers travel every day from there. Neither the signal system nor the public Address system is available there. As a result, dozens of people get killed every year. It occurs not due to the human fault but on account of railways' fault. The people without guessing about the other side, start crossing that railway line-cum-road bridge. That causes such accidents. I had requested last time also but we got the reply that that was a flag station. You must be personally aware of the geographical position or the importance of this area and Shri Ramendra Babu and Shatrughan Babu who are present here and represent Begusarai and Balia, must be aware of the importance of this place.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : (Begusarai) : We fully agree with you.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Therefore, at least signals should be provided there and Flag Station should be removed from there. We are placing minimum and planned demand before you.

The third thing for which I want to appreciate you is the announcement of complementary passes for the persons receiving Gallantry Service Award, President Police Award and Police Awards. But the people who are known for their distinguished or specialised service for long periods are also awarded with the awards of President Police Medals and police medals by the Hon'ble President. The receivers of gallantry awards have been given this honour but the awardees of medals for distinguished services have not been given this facility. I would like to request you to consider that point also. These four awards are provided by the Hon'ble President under the same resolution, rule and purpose. Therefore, discrimination should not be made in that. I had also written to you in this regard. You please conduct inquiry in this regard at your own level and get it reviewed while giving reply. Please try to take note of this issue also.

I am not raising this issue for making a complaint. Railway Board is known for its courtesy. It does not lack on that point. They provide information to the Members of Parliament about the launching of the projects etc. in their constituencies. They contact and try to ensure their participation. But I am compelled to register my protest in this House and if you observe the entire network of Indian Railways under which the Eastern Railway is the oldest, you would come to know all about Eastern Railway situated

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

in Calcutta which also houses the headquarters of South-Eastern Railway. You would find out the difference there itself. In the Eastern Railway itself, if you enter the Danapur division, you yourself would understand that it is Danapur Division. All the trains arrive usually in time in Mugalsarai. But as soon as the train enters the Danapur division, it becomes late without any reason.

One day we reached Patna Junction. We were to go to Farakkha via east. The train was in time. Farakkha train arrived at the Danapur station in time. Danapur is located at a distance of 15 km. from Patna. But the train arrived at the Patna junction by 5 hours late without any valid reason, so this is the situation. Similarly so far as the question of protocol is concerned whether you introduce a new train or provide a halt or you provide any other facility we are never informed by the divisional headquarters even if the work is being done because of our efforts though we receive information from your office. Therefore efforts should also be made to improve its efficiency. The way the other works like sanitation are done should also be taken care of.

We have seen your photograph in the today's newspapers itself. You are cleaning the New Delhi Railway Station with a brook launching a sanitation drive. I do not know what impact this sanitation drive have on your officers. But the sanitation condition in the trains passing via Patna is ridiculous about which I have emphasised a number of times. You have really done a tremendous job by introducing a Rajdhani Express to Patna. But who will travel for 16 hours in Rajdhani Express. Rajdhani Express reaches in 12-13 hours. Still its duration can be reduced. Even if it is diverted via Lucknow, its duration can be reduced by one and a half to quarter to two hours. Although there is no need to divert it via Lucknow. Atal Ji is not present here. Neither he nor other people in Lucknow will board the train. Neither the people from Lucknow board this train for going from Delhi, nor any person coming from Patna will get down at Lucknow in late hours at night. One has to wait at the platform for three hours. It is not at all beneficial to go to Lucknow by this train and there are much better trains from Delhi for going to Lucknow. Therefore, it should have a direct route. If you wish to provide this facility to any other area of Uttar Pradesh by diverting the route of this train then it is welcome. Less time will be taken by running it on the main line.

I would like to say a few words about your policy in regard to the catering services. Railways are not incurring any losses on account of catering services while glancing through all the previous budget you will find that profit to the tune of more than a crore of rupees have been earned by the catering services. Catering services have never suffered any losses through, as you have seen, that Railways are liberally spending on organising programmes. In spite of bearing all these expenses, catering services are running in profits, but you have privatised the same. Now it has been privatised as you have launched the sanitation drive

it will definitely leave some impact on your employees, but you have given the responsibility of sanitation to the private sector, it would hardly have any impact on the private sector. When we initially become member of Parliament we remember that if it was mentioned in the reservation chart that a member of Parliament is travelling they would upkeep, maintain and clean the railway stations in somewhat better way may be for the sake of ostension. At present you go on calling a man for cleaning the place, nobody will turn up. This is the impact of privatisation. This is the situation.

Whatever responsibility or role you have assigned to the private sector whether is bedroll facility to the private sector is providing very poor services and that is beyond explanation. You have started Rajdhani Express, while we were travelling by this train, it is disgusting to say anything to anybody about the bedroll provided to us in the train which was untidy unwashed and it was quite unhygienic for use but when we called the train Superintendent and showed the bedroll to him he said that it is not up to the mark. We unfolded the bedsheet which was quite untidy and shown it him. Four-five bedsheets were unfolded in front of me. He saw those and said that these are not upto the mark. I told him that don't say that it is not upto the mark rather call it unhygienic. I suggested him to show it to his seniors. I directed him to write a letter immediately. I have made a complaint before you too. In all the trains, which are starting from Danapur Station, the bedroll and catering services are quite substandard. I would therefore urge upon you that this very division comes under the capital city of the State and the state to which you belong to. Now you have already declared the Zonal Headquarter in Hazipur too, where work has already been started. Now it is a challenge for you. It is like a challenge that when the division as well as headquarter is in your constituency, it should be clean, equipped with better facilities and it should Defere as a model. It should be upto the standard be it the issue of sanitation or whatever it is. I would urge upon from that a special initiative is needed for it.

Last time, when the main budget was presented here, we have explained the situation of Bihar during the discussion. The complaints of my colleagues from Uttar Pradesh should also be considered. Many trains are running in Uttar Pradesh. Prayagraj Express is one, you just travel by it. They are not providing bedsheets with the blankets, normally these blankets are covered but no where in the country this is followed. There are so many excellent trains in UP and on the other hand there is Plamau Express in Bihar I do not know, how it has been changed as Link Express from Singrauli. I myself and some other persons were travelling. The train stopped there for 45 minutes, it was not fully electrified. We decided to move around with a torch. Do you know what reply the Ministry of Railways gave to us? Their reply was that the electric system in the train is fully working. What could we say? Now in this august House whatever we people say is not heeded. Whatever facts are given by us are lost in the dim and facts

received from the lower level are headed. This is the situation. The fact reveal us that the trains are not being operated satisfactorily.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Air-conditioning plant was not working well in that train.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You are telling the truth. They switch off the air-conditioning plant. If you want air-conditioning plant to be operated in the trains in Bihar then the presence of some member of Parliament or Railway official is essential in that train. Once I was travelling by Tata Express..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Nitish ji, air conditioning plant was switched off in that train. It is not functioning for the last one week. A.C. two-tier coach is also not being attached.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : That is also not working (*Interruptions*) There is only one A.C. two tier compartment in Tata Express. In your area, Ganga Damodar Express is there. There is an A.C. two tier compartment in it too. There is a Patna Hatiya Express, which is having an A.C. two tier compartment but do you know, if any member of Parliament or Railway official is not travelling in that train, the A.C. starts functioning only after half when the train starts. Even they try to before us that the air conditioning is already functioning. We ourself go and examine whether the air conditioning is functioning or not.

We have to go and check ourselves whether it is at slow speed or high speed or it is only the fan which is moving and get it operated properly. Then, we caution the passengers that it is their money, the expenses of which they are travelling and it is their right and why should they not register complaints, so this is the position.

Now, thanking you I would like to submit that an overall improvement should be made in the whole system for effective running of the trains. I would like to request you while concluding that members of Parliament do not get sufficient time to take part in the divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee meetings themselves held at the divisional level and I therefore request you to kindly nominate a representative of members of Parliament as a matter of policy to this committee so that he may discuss on the day to day affairs at the divisional head quarter level concerning matters relating to the respective Parliamentary constituency of an M.P.

16.00 hrs.

The members may otherwise, pay a visit whenever they get an opportunity to do so. But their representatives meant for this purpose would be doing their job. It is for that reason, I request you to see to it.

What I had submitted last time I am again emphasising that one day every member of Parliament has to become an Ex-MP. So whatever facility, they are getting at present through Lok Sabha is all right as an Ex-MP has got the facility that he can travel by A.C. II tier with his attendant. But my submission is that he should be provided with A.C. first class travelling facility if he travels alone.

While concluding I hope that you would take note of these points and take appropriate action. Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for having an opportunity to me to speak.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Tommorrow is Friday and I have to go out of Delhi tomorrow. The discussion which remained inconclusive today, should be taken up on Monday instead of tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Speaker would decide this issue.

16.02 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Need for Streamlining the Public Distribution System

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up the item No. 16 — Discussion Under Rule 193 on the need for streamlining the Public Distribution System.

SHRISRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Madam, Chairperson, I rise to raise a discussion on the need for streamlining the Public Distribution System under Rule 193.

The Public Distribution System is a welfare measure of our Government meant to serve the poor people and the common man. The Public Distribution System is in practice, in vogue in our country after Independence since early Fifties. Of course from time to time, it has undergone some changes here and there in different States to suit to the local requirements. The Government of India also, from time to time, has brought out guidelines to streamline the system.

Ours being an agricultural country and a vast country, the entire food requirement or requirement or essential commodities of the total population cannot be met by the Government through the Public Distribution System. Only a small fraction, a small portion of the requirement of the people is met through this system. Basically it is meant to provide succour to the poor people; to the needy people, Whenever scarcity condition developes in any part of the State, there also the State Government strengthens the

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

system. In urban areas also when rice, wheat are not available in the required quantity, the requirement of the people who work in industries and other poor people is taken into account by the Government and accordingly provision is made. So, in this way, the interest of the vulnerable section of people, the poor people is kept uppermost in mind while running the public distribution system.

We have a network of more than 4.35 lakh fair price shops located throughout the length and breadth of our country wherein rice and wheat, together with sugar, are made available. Of course, kerosene is also supplied through the public distribution system. There are six items which are treated as essential commodities and are supposed to be made available in our public distribution system. They are rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene, edible oil and soap. In early 1991-92 the PDS was further strengthened and a new scheme called Revamped Public Distribution System was started. I think in as many as 1782 blocks mostly in the tribal areas the RPDS was provided for. In the RPDS I think rice at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg. was made available. Furthermore, some additional items like tea, soap, cloth etc. were also made available. But last year, from the 1st of June we have another system, a modified public distribution system known as Targeted Public Distribution System, TRPD has been started. I think this was the brain child of our former Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda, who from the ramparts of Red Fort announced it on the occasion of the last Independence Day. Later on there was a Chief Ministers' Conference to debate on it. This was to be implemented from the Republic Day of 1997. But I do not think it was implemented from that date. I think it was implemented from the 1st of June in different States.

The highlights of the Targeted Public Distribution System are: 'States to identify families Below the Poverty Line, who would be issued 10 kgs. of foodgrains per month per family at prices less than the Central Issue Price' - this is the main characteristic feature of the TPDS; the population above the poverty line (non-poor) now under PDS to continue to receive normal entitlement at the full CIP; supply of foodgrains for the BPL at 10 kgs. per month per family shall be guaranteed to States by the Centre. Additional quantities required by States would depend on the availability of stocks in the Central Pool.' These are the highlights of the new targeted public distribution system, which is called 'Targeted Public Distribution System'.

16.11 hrs

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR *in the Chair*]

This Targeted Public Distribution System is supposed to target eradication of poverty but I believe, the way it has been formulated and the way it is being implemented, instead of targeting at eradication of poverty, it is targeting at politics. As I said, according to this, 10 kgs. of foodgrains

are to be provided to a family below the poverty line per month. Naturally, the number of families below the poverty line becomes very important.

The requirement of foodgrains varies from State to State. There is a change in the procedure that was adopted earlier. The average of the last ten years offtake of foodgrains by the respective States is now made the basis. After that figure is obtained, the number of families below the poverty line is to be given ten kg. of foodgrains per month. This is clear from that. The rest of it is given for consumption by people belonging to other categories. This is in clear violation of item No. 2 of the highlights, that is, population above the poverty line - non-poor - now under PDS to continue to receive normal entitlement at the full Central Issue Price'. It is not being followed. This is very clearly a violation of whatever was the consensus at the Chief Ministers' Conference; it is a violation of whatever was the understanding given.

What is the impact of this new public distribution system? I would say, it is horrible. I do not know why the Government of India is pursuing this. No State has welcomed it. I would like the hon. Minister to reply to this. Which are the States that have welcomed this new public distribution system, the Targeted Public Distribution System? Here are Press clippings to show what every State feels. Bihar says, 'It is horrible'; Orissa is the worst hit State.

With your permission, I would like to quote a few Chief Ministers or Food Ministers of the States on what they say about the new public distribution system. To start with, we have yesterday seen a scene here.

Now, let us see what the Minister of Food of West Bengal Government, Shri Kalimuddin Shams, had to say about this Targeted Public Distribution System. According to him :

"Instead of helping people below the poverty line, the scheme was giving them more discomfort with less amount of food grains and that too, not at the expected cheap rates"

His Oriya counterpart, Shri Habibullah Khan said:

"The Targeted Public Distribution System has put the Orissa Government in a quandary".

He further says:

"The new TPDS would only assist people below the poverty line in a nominal way for they will be given only 10 kg rice at the rate of Rs. 4 a kg. Whereas the Planning Commission estimates, being followed by the Union Government, put the number of BPL families in Orissa at 32 lakhs, State surveys put it at 43 lakhs."

Sir, I would like to say that the impact is horrible on the State of Orissa. I will speak in detail about that a little later. Now, let us see what the Governments of other States have to say on this.

A report from Jaipur said that the Rajasthan Government was not happy with the scheme and had raised the matter with the Centre. Prof. Kamal Kabra of the Indian Institute of Public Affairs and an expert on PDS, said that the new scheme was inherently flawed in that it was "too centralised, too general and too aggregative... the macro estimates which the Central Government is following, may not tally with the existing ground realities. "Mr. Minister, this is not a political view. I am only quoting what an expert had said on this scheme. You have ignored the ground realities altogether. Sitting in the air-conditioned chamber, I do not know, how some economists brought out this formula on the basis of which the number of BPL families are estimated in the States.

Sir, then I will quote what Maharashtra's Secretary for Food and Civil Supplies, J.M. Phatak said about the scheme:

"The ceiling of 60.45 lakh BPL families imposed by the Centre was inadequate as the States has already identified 43 lakh families with an annual income less than Rs. 4,000 and 77 lakh families with an income less than Rs. 11,000. A family is BPL if its income is less than Rs. 15,000".

Similar is the case with the Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh Governments. Gujarat spends Rs. 77 crore annually in providing 32.6 lakh BPL families 12.5 kg wheat at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg as against 19.95 lakh households proposed by the Centre. This has adversely affected the States. Sir, all of us know that it is the basic and essential need of the people. Poor people spend 75 per cent of their income on food.

They do not have more than 25 per cent to spend on other items. No State welcomes this Scheme.

Now, I would like to come to the State of Orissa. Our State also has vehemently protested against the implementation of this Scheme. The Minister in the Orissa Government rushed to Delhi; the Chief Minister also has addressed several communications to the Minister of Food and also to the hon. Prime Minister. Further, when the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Gujral, visited Orissa, our Chief Minister discussed this matter with him and the Prime Minister promised and assured him that the Government would sympathetically consider the case of Orissa particularly when the State was very poor and a backward State and was still reeling under the severity of drought. Added to this, floods have aggravated the situation further.

Sir, hitherto, the State of Orissa was getting one lakh tonnes of rice and 50,000 MT of wheat every month from the Centre against the quota of 1,50,000 tonnes of foodgrains. This was the allotted quota for the State. This quantity was released to the State prior to this policy. Now, suddenly, the State has become entitled to a paltry quantity of 35,000 MT of foodgrains. I do not know as to what is the logic and justification that has driven the Government of

India to fix this quantity of 35,000 MT of foodgrains for our State. If we compare the intake of the State during the last ten years, then this is a very unrealistic quantity for a State like Orissa. Till very recently, the intake of the State was roughly about one lakh tonnes. But if you consider the position for ten years since, then it would be seen that earlier there was hardly any difference between the prices of the PDS to those of the open market. So, there was no pressure. Now the Government says that this was the average of the intake of the last ten years. How unrealistic is this estimate!

Sir, now the total allocation for the State would be 4.26 lakh MT per year and the monthly allocation thus comes to 35,000 MT. Out of this 4.26 lakh MT, 3.81 lakh MT would be meant for the BPL people, the Below Poverty Line people; and the rest 45,000 MT would be meant for the ABL, the Above Poverty Line people. This is the allocation for the whole year. So, hardly anything is left for the people Above the Poverty Line (ABL).

Sir, on the other side of it, the Government of Orissa, on its own, is running a programme called the 'Liberation from Hunger' programme. Out of 315 blocks in the State, this scheme has been extended to 143 blocks. Under this scheme, ten Kg. rice per family is given at the rate of Rs. 2/- per kg. Another ten Kg. is given at the rate of Rs. 5.12 per kg. Five Kg. wheat is given at the rate of Rs. 3.78 per kg. For the next 30 Kg. they depend on the open market availability. On the lower side, the monthly requirement of a standard family is 55 Kg. and this is how it is given. A family has to spend Rs. 330 per month on rice and wheat.

Now, according to the Deve Gowda formula, the Bhoomiputra formula, how does the much publicised TPDS help? Ten Kg. of rice is given at Rs. 2/- per Kg. The people would have to purchase the rest of the quantity from the open market, which sells at Rs. 8/- per Kg. So in all, the consumer has to spend Rs. 388 per month and so the poor people would have to spend Rs. 50/- more per family under this Scheme.

Thus, there is a difference of Rs. 50 per month for a poor family. This is the outcome, Mr. Minister of your new TPDS. It is horrible. I would request him to kindly withdraw this scheme forthwith. I will be happy to be contradicted. I have given the figures.

There is another disastrous effect of TPDS on market prices of rice and wheat, etc. What they are giving is, about 35,000 metric tonnes, of only rice and not a grain of wheat. There is so much of publicity for the last ten years for consuming wheat. So Orissa fell in line with that and they have been lifting 55,000 tonnes every month. There are about 6,400 *chakkis* in Orissa, they will all remain idle now. Flour mills are there but they belong to rich people. But people who own *chakkis* are not so rich. For wheat they have to depend on Haryana and Punjab. Some traders are also there who are exploiting the situation. That is the situation there in Orissa.

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

I would now touch upon the system of fixation of estimate of people living below poverty line. How they do it? A door to door survey was conducted by DRDA. As you know, Sir, DRDA is the agency in the district for implementation of all poverty alleviation programmes. They prepared a list of beneficiaries for several anti-poverty programmes. According to them, percentage wise, 78 per cent people and items of family, 43 lakh families are entitled to come under Below Poverty Line category.

But according to Prof. Lakdawala and one other expert, on the basis of sample survey, held that only 32 lakh families are entitled to come under BPL category. That is why, I said; that it does not tally with the ground realities. Ground realities are something else, but what they say is something else. This is the disastrous situation Orissa has landed in. Orissa cannot, effectively, meet the situation arising out of natural calamities because of this type of things happening there. The Government of India will have to be held responsible if anything happens there, if any starvation death takes place there. Wherefrom would Orissa get foodgrains to run special feeding programmes.

We have a Prime Minister who first agrees to take action and thereafter he forgets everything. This is the type of situation prevailing in the country. I said that the requirement of the entire population cannot be met. In 1974 I had the fortune or misfortune of having become Orissa's Food and Civil Supplies Minister. I had taken a lot of pain to streamline the Public Distribution System

So this way, as I said, release of sugar, rice and wheat, etc. has a salutary effect on the open market price.

It caters to the requirements of the poor people to some extent. At the same time it has some effects. If PDS is properly run, it regulates the open market price. That way also, the Government has failed.

Now, I come to the anomaly in the allocation of foodgrains to various States and say how discriminatory it is. As far as the Government of India policy is concerned, there is wide discrimination in the allocation of foodgrains from State to State. After meeting the needs of the below poverty line families of the States, the allocation of the remaining foodgrains to the above poverty line population is having wide variation. It is observed that as against the all India annual average of 995 kg per capita, the annual average per capita in respect of the States getting the above poverty line allocation is 388 kg of foodgrains. Against this, Orissa gets a meagre quantity of 13.25 kg of cereals annually in the background of 995 kg per capita in the country (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there should be some time limit (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Actually, he is the Mover of this Discussion.

Shri Sriballav Panigrahi, you have taken 38 minutes. Now, I think, you should wind up your speech.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I will take another ten minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Perhaps, ten minutes will be too much. Please try to wind up in five minutes.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I was mentioning as to how there is an anomaly in the allocation of foodgrains to various States. It is highly discriminatory.

In Orissa, we have 64 lakh families coming under PDS and they are spending about Rs. 100 crores from their own funds. It will need another Rs. 30 crore. That is why, Orissa's legitimate demand of getting the share of subsidised foodgrains has to be taken into consideration. All economic indices rank Orissa as one of the poorest States. Under such conditions, food security is to be equated with security to life. Under the TPDS, the objective of the Government of India, is to provide minimal nutritional level and prevent prolonged malnutrition. It is, therefore, important that the Government should not rely upon the statistical data given by Prof. Lakadawala, etc. and it should rely upon the DRDA data.

The Orissa Government was earlier getting one lakh tonnes of rice and 50,000 tonnes of wheat and that has to be restored. That will be fair and proper, just and equitable for the State of Orissa.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude my speech by referring to one or two points.

The hon. Minister may say that the Minister from Orissa came and the Centre is giving 20,000 tonnes of additional quantity of rice. But at what rate is the Centre giving this additional quantity of wheat? I know what answer he will give.

What does the Chief Minister of Orissa say about this? Historically, the PDS has been an effective instrument of market intervention with the purpose of maintaining price stability. What is important is at what rate the Orissa Government is getting this additional quantity of wheat, which the Centre has been kind enough to give. In Orissa, the price of rice in the open market will be around Rs. 8 or Rs. 9 per kg. There is price differentiation. There are four types of prices the Centre is having. One is for 10 kg. quantity; another for the revamped PDS, which is something less, that is 50 paise; another for issue price and then there is the economic rate. The Central Government wants to be liberal by issuing good grains at economic rate.

The other day, when a delegation consisting of MPs from the State of Orissa met him, the Prime Minister said: "There is no problem. There is no dearth of wheat. We will give you sufficient quantity." But the question is : at what

rate is the Centre giving it now and at what rate were we getting it earlier? That is the main point, which has to be taken into consideration. Because of this new approach, in Orissa the prevailing price rice and wheat in the open market will be enhanced.

It will have an adverse effect. That has been made clear in the Chief Minister's letter to the hon. Prime Minister. So, this is our problem.

As far as different States are concerned. I have already mentioned as to how the State Government had reacted and how this policy is not in the interest of the poor people. So, it needs a revision. My request to the Government is that, let them adopt a practical approach, let them have a human approach, and let this new Policy target at poverty alleviation.

I do not know what is the strategy they adopted Bihar and Orissa are poverty ridden states and they are on an equal footing. But Bihar has stood to gain by 20 per cent. However, the Orissa is worst-affected by this Policy. So let them reconsider and withdraw this new Policy. As Orissa is passing through a crisis like natural calamities, etc. they will have to take a very liberal view.

Again I want to say that whenever there are different prices, they breed corruption. So, to make the Public Distribution System very effective, vigilant actions are necessary. The Government has to be vigilant and Vigilance Committees have to be formed. So starting from the fair price shop level up to district level, State-level watch dog Committees can be formed.

Sir I am reminded of what Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru used to say in the first stage of Independence that blackmarketeers should be hanged at the nearest electric pole. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : That remains a memorable quotation. But it had never been implemented.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : At least you start implementing it in West Bengal. We will follow you. ... (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Panigrahi, please conclude now.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I am concluding. So, very stern action is required to be taken against those who indulge in blackmarketing, etc. Consumer movement is the need of the hour. It has to be built up at the same time we have also to be realistic.

Even if some *sanyashi* from the Ramakrishna Mission are entrusted with this task, with the present level of commission rate and transportation charges, they can not run the fair price shop on no-profit-no-loss basis. So, it has to be quite reasonable. That is why, during our time, we used to give something higher to the panchayats and

cooperatives. We also requested them to run these shops efficiently. So, more allocation to the States is required.

As far as sugar is concerned, there is a big discrepancy in the matter of allocation, rate of distribution as well as quantity for poor men. The poor people should get more.

As regards sugar, at least in the villages, poor people do not get anything. It is just a mockery, giving half a kilogram for the whole month or one kilogram for the whole month as against five kilograms, ten kilograms or something like that given to the rich people. So, there should be upward revision in the quantity. The Public Distribution System has taken birth in our country to help the poor people, the needy people and the common people and to provide succour to them.

In the case of natural calamities also, we have now switched over from the realities. We are pursuing such a new system that it is really the poor States and the poorer sections of the people in such States who are going to be the worst victims. That is why I earnestly appeal to the Government, through the Minister present here, to look at it afresh from the realistic point of view and from a humane point of view and take corrective measures immediately, which is the need of the hour, as different State Governments have come before the Government of India with similar requests.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Bombay-South) : Hon'ble Chariman, Sir I am trying to associate myself with the views expressed here by hon'ble member Shri Panigrahi on the Public Distribution System. One thing is clear that no administration can feed a child in the manner and with such love and affection with which his mother feeds him. One of the reasons for this is that today people are fed up with the politics and they want to remain aloof but I want to convey to all the mothers of the country that whatever efforts they may do to remain aloof from politics, the politics has found place in their hearths. If the Government provide them the rice, they will prepare Khichri out of that and if the Government provide them wheat then they will be able to prepare chapatis. Hence the politics has encompassed the whole household. I take it as my duty and I feel privileged to deliberate on this matter. The Central Government and the State Government have a joint responsibility for running the public distribution system. About 4 lakh 31 thousand fair price shops have been opened throughout India to distribute the grains. Out of those only 90 thousand fair price shops are located in the Urban areas and about three and half lakh fair price shops are located in the rural areas all over India. I would like to tell here that the State Governments distribute the same quota which has been released to them by the Central Government. But if less quota is released by the Central Government the State Government cannot distribute the foodgrains in sufficient quantity so the major responsibility lies on the Central Government and only the responsibility

[Smt. Jayawanti Navinchandra Mehta]

for distribution lies with the state Governments. I am compelled to say that the quota which is released by the Central Government through Food Corporation of India for the State Government is of sub-standard quality. They do not get foodgrains worthy for human consumption and varied complaints regarding the quality of the foodgrains continue to come from every State. Besides, the quota has been prescribed by the Centre usually remains on the paper only. When the State Governments approach the Food Corporation of India to receive their prescribed quota they do not even get that in sufficient quantity.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say this thing here with pride that when Bhartiya Janata Party and Shiv Sena Government came to power in Maharashtra, it had made a promise to eight and a half crore people of Maharashtra. In March, 1995 they promised that Union Government may increase the rates of these five things being distributed through the Public Distribution System, but the State Government of Maharashtra would not increase the rates of these commodities and Maharashtra Government is still fulfilling its commitment. Even today these five commodities i.e. wheat, rice, sugar, edible oil and kerosene are being made available to the public at a controlled cheaper price by the Maharashtra Government as it was in 1995. This is certainly an appreciable thing. None of the States of the country has been able to fulfil its commitment. I would like to say that it is a subject of human hunger, not a subject of politics. We need to keep this thing in mind.

Recently, from first June, the Public Distribution System has been implemented. Initially, I was feeling happy, while saying that 35 crore population of the country, who are living below the poverty line, would certainly get benefit from this type of system. Many schemes of various types are formulated, but the result always remains the same. Poor people do not get any benefit from those schemes, rather directly and indirectly, injustice is done with them. We have seen it through this type of scheme. The reason behind it is that if you go to shops under this scheme, you will find corruption over there. Foodgrains which are available there are not consumable. Complete disorder exists on the shops. Not only this when someone goes to buy foodgrains, he is told that foodgrains are not available and asked to come after two days. If he goes there after two days, he is told that foodgrains have come but now it has been finished. In this way, shopkeepers have a tendency to distribute less and save more. I agree to the point of hon. Mr. Panigrahi. I would like to say it again that the commission, which the shopkeepers are getting is very less, therefore, they give less quantity of grains to the card holders and manage their expenses by selling the saved (blocked) grains in the black-market. It causes injustice to the people living below the poverty line.

I want to tell one more thing. If we talk of giving wheat and rice at a cheaper price, Hon. Minister Sir, please listen to me carefully. I request that rice should be supplied in the

hilly areas as wheat grinding mills are not available there. They consume more rice in their food. Therefore, wheat supplied there will not be consumed. Therefore, rice should be provided to the people who like to eat rice and wheat should be provided to those who like to eat wheat. There is a need to take this type of scheme. At the ration shop, they do not get both the things at the same time. Sometimes when rice is available they are told to come next day for wheat. They have to stand in separate queues for different commodities and in this way many hours are taken in getting ration. If the cardholders have to stand in a queue in the same manner as beggars beg, then this is a matter of shame.

Price should not be increased under the scheme which has been implemented from first June. There should be a control on the price, as the Maharashtra Government has done. But when the prices of grains increase in the market, you also increase the rates of the grains under the Public Distribution System. What I mean to say is that the prices of grains under this scheme should be controlled. It should not be increased. I would like to request you to give assurance in this regard in this discussion.

You have to think about the scheme of distribution after having a trial on all the aspects of the scheme. For last few years there has been talk in all the States that ration cards would be issued in two colours. It has become an old thing. But when we talk of the PDS, I would like to say that the Union Government should do justice in this regard. Through this discussion, I would like to demand that the ration cards in two different colours should be issued at the earliest because rich people do not take ration. Ration card is only a document for them. But it is essential to take foodgrains, kerosene and sugar for the poor. Therefore, I would like to say that introducing scheme of ration cards in two colours should be considered because it is a document for the rich but it is one of the means of feeding to hungry stomachs for the poor. I admit that an expeditious action is needed in this regard.

Targeted PDS scheme has been implemented in Maharashtra and I would like to say that Maharashtra Government has also started it from first June. I wanted to say that Maharashtra Government has conducted a survey under the Integrated Rural Development Scheme from 1990 to 1993 and from this survey they found that at least 77 lakh families were living below poverty line. If the survey report of those 77 lakh families is available. Foodgrains must be made available to them. But the Union Government allocate only 60 lakh and 45 thousand metric tonnes of foodgrains for them. Now if you provide 60 lakh 45 thousand tonnes for 77 lakh people then how could we give the benefit of the scheme to the remaining 17 lakh people. We will not be able to provide this benefit to them, therefore, as Panigrahi ji has given the data related to all the states, similarly, I would also like to request you that all the States including Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan have stated that since launching of this scheme, the quota which the States were getting, has been reduced and in this way, it is an injustice

to the poor. You need to reconsider it. I would like to tell you that 44 per cent population of Maharashtra State is residing in the extension area of the towns and 30 lakh families are living below the poverty line. In remaining 40 per cent civil area, the number of people living in the slums (Jhuggi-Jhonpari) is quite high. There are around 30 lakh families. You have to include them in the number of people living below poverty line and only after that we can distribute foodgrains to them, Maharashtra Government has adopted these criteria. They have included those people in the number of people living below poverty line, who are card holders and living in slums of metropolis. Secondly those who are not having gas connections have also been included in the number of persons living below poverty line. Thirdly, the people who have been registered as people living below poverty line in rural areas, have also been included in it. Through you, I would like to say that quota which has been distributed is very less. There is a need to increase the same.

I would like to tell that the Maharashtra Government should get 20 lakh metric tonnes of food grains each year under this scheme. The Government have earmarked a quota of 14.89 lakh metric tonnes annually against the above requirement of foodgrains you can now ponder over the fact how the Maharashtra Government could do justice with the people living below poverty line when it is facing a Shortage of at least 7 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. There are about 180 lakh ration card holders in Maharashtra as of now. But if you talk about providing foodgrains at half of the normal prices 64 thousand metric tonnes of foodgrains would be required each month even for about 120 lakh card holders and that we do not get. Therefore the need of the hour is allocation of more quota for Maharashtra. But you could increase the quota only if the Food Corporation of India has got sufficient reserves of foodgrains if it has not got that much reserves, you can't allocate more quota of foodgrains. So, don't try to lure people by launching such schemes whereas the real thing is that people should get so much of foodgrains under this scheme that they do not remain hungry, this is what I wanted to urge upon you.

The Uttar Pradesh Government has also put forward the same point as is put forward by the Maharashtra Government. Because the Uttar Pradesh Government has to provide eight kilograms of rice and ten kilograms of wheat under this scheme as has been decided by them. But it is a matter of regret that the Government have allocated only 3.91 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to the U.P. Government for those living below the poverty line. I would like to tell you that they require 15,36,077 tonnes annually for this purpose and the quota of foodgrains allocated to them is far below their requirements.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make a mention of sugar before the hon. Minister. The quota of sugar being provided to the State Governments is based on the population of 1990-91. This is a very serious matter the Government should allocate sugar-quota on the basis of population of every five years in view of the increasing population all over the country. The year 1997 is in progress. In view of

this, the quota of sugar for the State Governments should be increased. This is the month of Shravana. Many of festivals starts from this month. More quota of sugar is provided during festival seasons but at times that increased quota is provided at a time when festival is over. And people do not get sugar well in time. Therefore, the quota of sugar should be provided well in time and on regular basis.

Whosoever had been the Food Minister earlier, they had divided 425 grams of sugar per person. I am unable to understand this thing. If I call on you in your chamber, you will ask for a tray of tea and the sugar pot along with the tray contains 25 grams of sugar. If we use 25-25 grams of sugar for two times, you can understand that 425 grams of sugar will hardly last for 17 days and not more than that. All people do not suffer from diabetes which may prevent them from using sugar.

16.56 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

If we take sugar from a ration shop. The shopkeeper may weigh 25 grams of less sugar and one can't see through that since 25 grams of sugar would not be even a handful. Therefore you should increase that quota to at least 450 grams per person. And if you do that I will feel that your government has done a good job. And after that a shopkeeper who indulges in weighing less will not do that and people would get 450 grams of sugar. Therefore, if you try to increase that we would be happy. When Morarji Bhai was the Prime Minister we used to get sugar for Rs. 2.30 per kg. at that time. I am telling with deep anguish that the market rate of sugar is Rs. 16 per kg. today whereas you say that there has been a white revolution in the country and we are exporting sugar. But on the other hand, the sugar at the rate of Rs. 16 per kg. is increasingly becoming unaffordable for the common man.

Now I would like to draw your attention towards edible oil. When Morarjibhai was the Prime Minister, the palmolen oil used to be sold at the rate of Rs. 8.15 per kg. But if we have a look at the government's rate, as you say, it is Rs. 32 per kg. today. But we have to purchase it at the rate of Rs. 40 per kg. by the time it reaches us. I would like to tell that the Union Government supply edible oil in time and it is not possible to sell them directly. But if this is available in the packing of half a kg. or one kg. we can sell them to general public easily and this will also not result in the wastage of edible oil at the time of selling.

A union despatch dated 1st April, 1997 was addressed to the Maharashtra Government wherein they were apprised of the discontinuing of further allocation of oil to them as the oil stock for the State has been exhausted and in case that was available, the same would be allocated during the festival season. The hopeful card holders go to at shop with great expectation but to their dismay they are told of short availability or non-availability of the commodity.

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In such a situation the State Governments find themselves in a very precarious position. Finally, I would like to dwell to some extent on the issue of Kerosene which is indeed a necessity. Maharashtra should be allocated 2 lakh litres oil per month but the quantity you have been allocating is not sufficient even to light up an earthen lamp. From this point of view also there is a need to get rid of the present lacunae of Public Distribution System and streamline it.

17.00 hrs.

The point I want to make is that the Public Distribution System should be reviewed and geared up. Keeping in view the interests of the various people right from producer to the ultimate consumer, we would have to evolve a scheme containing some policy measures aimed at making the system more effective. That is why I would like to see the Government to come out with a white paper on this subject and avoid possibility of becoming a blackcrow in people's eyes and also posing it as a responsible Union Government.

I would also like to point out that the centre is the Chief organiser in this case. It does not behove them if they just go on making hollow promises and announcing contradictory schemes and, at the same time, try to conceal them under the garb of people's benefactor because hunger cannot be taken for a toy.

At last, I would like to recite a urdu couplet :

"Aisee Yojanaon se haquikat chhup nahin sakati,

Haquikat chhup nahin sakati, en banavat ke ossulayon se,

Khushabu aa nahin skati, 'en kagaz ke phullon se."

That is to say :

"The real contentance of such schemes cannot remain concealed for long behind the veil. The fragrance can't be denied by propounding false concepts of fragrance. The Paper flower can smell the scent. But not the real fragrance."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: While pressing the bell, I was a bit apprehensive that it might make the sugar bitter.

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, one of the most important items in the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government is the strengthening of the Public Distribution System. The prices of foodgrains and essential commodities are rising. To check the price rise, strengthening the Public Distribution System is the only way out.

The most important reason why our people are suffering

is the price rise. So, every effort should be made to check the price rise. We should be able to intervene in the market, at least, to the extent of 22-25 per cent through this Public Distribution System. But I am sorry to say that, at present, the market intervention through this Public Distribution System is less than five per cent. The market is controlled entirely by the private dealers. Price rise is one of the most important problems which the people are facing.

To check the Price-rise the Government has to see to it that the public distribution system is further strengthened.

It is welcome that the Government has initiated some steps to give some concessions to the people below the poverty line. In that scheme also, there are some defects. It has already been pointed out that those defects should be rectified and that concession should continue. They deserve special concessions in our country at present because they are the poorest of the poor. That alone would not check the price rise. Our experience in Kerala is that if we are able to intervene in the market upto 20 per cent or 25 per cent, we can check the price rise. We, a tiny State in the farthest end of our country inhabited by 30 million people, have a well-knit public distribution system from the days of the Maharajas. Every household has a ration card the achievement in the health sector is appreciated. The average life span of Keralites is 70 years. One of the reasons for this is the well-knit public distribution system. We guarantee certain limit of foodgrains to the needy families. At present, after this new scheme, we are the most affected State. We are the sufferers. From the days of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Kerala has been receiving special consideration. Panditji gave us a written assurance that supply of foodgrains to Kerala will be the responsibility of the Centre. This is not out of any sympathy towards us. Our agricultural economy is based on cash crops. This contributes to a great extent to the valuable foreign exchange for the nation. Economists say " You go on with the cash crop cultivation. Panditji also said "You go on with the cash crop cultivation. The foodgrain supply will be made sure by the Centre." That was the written commitment by not less a person than our former Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. That special consideration, is now over looked. I know the present Food Minister is very much aware of it and he is sympathetic towards us, but mere sympathy will not suffice.

Our requirement is 2.4 million tonnes. For the last so many years, we have been getting, not complete but 90 per cent or 85 per cent of the total requirement from the Central Government.

Last year, the offtake was two million tonnes, that is, 20 lakh tonnes. Our hon. Food Minister knows that after launching the new scheme, the supply has been cut down to 1.7 million tonnes, that is, 17 lakh tonnes. Once it was reduced from 24 lakh tonnes to 20 lakh tonnes and again it was reduced from 20 lakh tonnes to 17 lakh tonnes. I must say that this is a cruel discrimination done to us by the Central Government. You cannot overlook the written

assurance given by our esteemed leader Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The food Minister now says that the Government can supply foodgrains, but over and above the 17 lakh tonnes, we have to pay the market price. But that is not the way to strengthen the Public Distribution System.

I am told that in some meetings, the present supply to each State is calculated keeping in mind the last ten years offtake. Taking into account the average of the last ten years may be right in respect of some States. But as far as Kerala is concerned, it may not be correct. During the last ten years, there were some periods when rice was available in plenty in the open market in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and other parts of the country and the prices went down. During such periods, perhaps, there might be some lesser offtake. But calculating it on that basis and cutting down our quota this time is a very discriminatory act. We could not carry on with the Public Distribution System with the reduced quota. So, our request is that as promised by the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, there must be a special consideration to Kerala. That is our contention. It was there from 1947 onwards. It was continuing till recently. There are some special considerations given to States like Kerala which produce cash crops to fetch foreign exchange and to the North-Eastern States. Please do not club together Kerala and North-Eastern States with other states. This is injustice done to us. If you club together Kerala with other States on the average basis, then you are breaking the special consideration guaranteed to the State Government by the Centre. I believe and I hope that the United Front Government will not break this special consideration which we were enjoying from 1947 onwards because of our peculiar agricultural economy.

Sir, we are continuing it on the advice of the Central Government to fetch foreign exchange. Our rice cultivation is less than one-third of our total requirement. The economy is based on cash crops. So, we hope and expect that the present Government - and the hon. Food Minister - will continue the special consideration given to us and give us at least two million tonnes just to keep the Public Distribution System going on.

Next month, that is, from 14th September onwards, the people of Kerala will be celebrating our Onam festival. The festival runs for four days. I invite respected Deputy-Speaker and all the Members to Kerala.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will do my best.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : I am inviting all the Members. If you can spend a few days in Kerala during this Onam Festival, it will be a memorable event in your life. People belonging to all religions and castes, the Muslims, the Hindus and other sections of the people celebrate this Onam festival for four days. We used to get special quota of sugar and rice on the occasion of Onam Festival. I would request the hon. Minister to consider our request sympathetically this time also. Please be with us even if the special quota is not released.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you are inviting me, please ask for some quota of wheat also.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : The Monsoon is very good and our production through out the country will go up. I would draw the attention of the Government that as the availability of foodgrains - good. We have to chalk out a perfect public distribution system throughout the country. The price rise must be checked. You can implement the Report of the Pay Commission, giving more pay and more dearness allowance, but along with it, prices will also go up. Unless you check the price rise, more emoluments, more pay packets will not be able to lift the living standards of people. If you want to raise the living standards of people, the prices must be checked. This is the only way to check the price. The market intervention is only five per cent now. It should be increased to at least 20-25 per cent. If we can do that, we can check the price. I would once again request the hon. Minister, the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister to show a special consideration to Kerala as was there from the days of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY (Burdwan) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, one of the most important declarations of the Common Minimum Programme was to strengthen the public distribution system. It had two objectives to fulfil. The first was that through the public distribution system the requirement of foodgrains shall be made available to the poorer sections of the people. The other objective was to achieve price stability through this effective instrument of public distribution system.

Unfortunately, when on 1st June 1997, the Targeted Public Distribution System was inaugurated, there was little suspicion that the declared objective will not be attained or it was not ever thought at that time that the declaration made on the floor of this House, that all sections of the people in India, particularly, India's poor will largely benefit out of this Targeted Public Distribution System. But when the policy was declared and the broad guidelines were handed down, it was clear that what was aimed, was not likely to be achieved. The guidelines had three principle components. First component was that to those who are below the poverty line, who have been identified as BPL, shall receive foodgrains at half the price of Central Issue Price. The quantity was fixed at 10 kg per month per poor family. This was a drastic deviation from the system that was so long prevalent and never thought of that it would be one of the most oppressive result affecting the poor of this little purchasing capacity.

For so long years, from the Public Distribution System, per adult, per week, 1500 grams of foodgrains were distributed which works out to five members family. That had also been taken under the Targeted Public Distribution System as one unit. Before the present Targeted Public Distribution System had come into force, every month either those who are below the poverty line or those who are above the poverty line, that is, both BPL and APL were

[Shri Balai Chandra Ray]

getting 30 kg a month. This was estimated to be the minimum requirement of foodgrains of an average family. This has now been reduced to 10 kg. This is more than modest. Well, the earlier estimate was more than modest(Interruptions).. Presently, the admitted shortfall is 20 kg.

So far as the poor in India are concerned, they have been pushed to the open market to purchase this 20 kg. And in some States, as pointed out by Shri Sriballav Panigrahi, more than 30 to 40 additional kilograms of wheat or rice have to be purchased by the poor in the open market. The result is, one-third of the present Targeted Public Distribution System that makes available to the poor people, shall be at half the tissue price, and two-thirds shall be at the market price which is always above, what they call, the economic price.

The result is that the poorest of the poor under this scheme will have to spend more than 40 per cent to 45 per cent in purchasing foodgrains. This is the first unfortunate result that has come into existence with the operation of Targeted Public Distribution System. The second one is a more disastrous one. It has been provided that the States will be allowed that quantity of foodgrains for distribution which is the average of last 10 years of lifting

Lifting has been diverse and poor in respect of many States for various reasons. Even in West Bengal lifting had been poor because the Food Corporation of India would not be able to release the stock. There are hundreds of bottlenecks. Therefore, lifting has quite often failed. Because of the poor lifting by some States and some States not being able to very successfully implement the PDS earlier, they had obviously lifted shorter quantities than were necessary to meet the needs of the people below poverty line. What happens to them? Those States which are successful in PDS and successful in distributing and lifting, their current requirement again has to be more because if you believe that there has been an incentive in the lowering of the price to half, which at once works as an incentive, the demand will be more. Therefore the successful States will require more. The unsuccessful States will also require more because they will now have better things to offer to the poor. But the Central Government in its policy guideline says that they cannot get it. They will get only the average lifting that they have successfully done during the last ten years. If there is any shortfall in the requirement between the quantity to be distributed to the people below poverty line and the other group of people, that is, people above poverty line, they will have to meet it from their own foodgrains at their own cost. The States are told to do it. They can ask from the Central pool. Then there will not even be an economical price, but a price to be determined according to the total stock the FCI is holding, the cost of purchase they had paid, plus the cost of storage, etc., everything added, just the commercial price. Therefore, if there is a shortfall in the lifting of stocks for the first group

of people and the second group of people and you want to still give it to the poor, to the needy, you have to fall back either on your own store of foodgrains, own resource of the State or on the Central Government on a commercial basis. This will certainly work costly and is working costly. Every Chief Minister has pointed it out.

I can point out immediately figures that will show how disastrous is the difference between the average lifting and the requirement. For instance, Bihar will require for the poor alone, that is, for the people below poverty line, 1030 MT. Their lifting is 527 MT. That means half. Only to provide to the people below poverty line this is what they will be required to lift. But they have to be satisfied with half of that both for BPL and PL. The same is the position with other States. Take for instance Uttar Pradesh; 1145.77 MT will be the need to feed the people below poverty line; they are lifting 661 MT. In the case of other States, even West Bengal had provided per annum for 18 lakh MT. Now we shall be able to get on the basis of average, 14.5 lakh MT. How do we feed those whom we are feeding at the new subsidised price? There is no supply of foodstock from the Central Government to the State for the purpose. With great respect I wish to point out that there has been abolition of Revamped Public Distribution System.

The State of West Bengal was getting 37,000 MT per month under the Revamped Public Distribution System. We have 27 blocks of hilly and tribal areas in the Darjeeling area itself.

As soon as the Revamped Public Distribution System is abolished, the Targeted Public Distribution System is a system wherein we can approach only a small core group. Then, again they are sent to the open market to further their larger needs. Two-thirds of the needs have to be met by all from the market. This is a totally untenable situation. The declaration in the Common Minimum Programme never aimed at this. The achievement of the objectives has not only failed but if these are continued it would have just the reverse effect; not only an adverse effect but a total inopportune effect on the economy on food security itself.

We were trying to achieve two important objects. We were trying to achieve food security for the poor and the common man through the public distribution system; we were trying to achieve a price stability by the thrust. In the core group of foodgrains supplied at a stabilised, average, commonly acceptable price. Both of these objectives will be destabilised if this system is allowed to be continued as such.

Without further dilating on this, I would only point out another shortcoming of this system. When the issue price was fixed at Rs. 4.12, it was possible that the Central Government had noticed that it was higher than the old issue price. How is it that it has worked it out so? The subsidy that has been granted for food in the Budget is quite a large amount. It has not been equitably distributed on wheat and rice. The result is, common rice, again, is not available to persons above the poverty line.

I must inform the House that 'above the poverty line' is a misnomer, compared to those who are 'below the poverty line'. A person earning Rs. 100 a month may be 'below the poverty line'. But those who are earning Rs. 101 fall under the category 'above the poverty line'. What is the distinction between a person who is earning Rs. 101 per month and a person who is earning Rs. 101 per month? For schemes like this, the artificial line has to be drawn. There is no doubt about it. But if the artificial line is not so shaded as to reach the common man to the largest extent, then, the effect will be that most of the poor will suffer. They are really suffering both on the price front as also in the scale of supply of foodgrains. The price could have been well adjusted and the issue prices could also have been differently fixed.

I want to make one or two suggestions. Of course, these suggestions have also been made by the Chief Minister of West Bengal in a recent letter to the Prime Minister. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one aspect of the matter. West Bengal and some States are producing a quite good quantity of foodgrains. Earlier, only three States in India - Haryana, part of Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh - were surplus States.

Sir, those States which are now producing and procuring sufficiently should be permitted to hold the stock in their own States and the result would be this stock will not have any carrying cost. The saving of carrying cost that we have to pay can be added to the subsidy. That will give us a chance to lower the price at which we are distributing.

I shall conclude by giving two or three suggestions. The 10 kgs limit should be withdrawn immediately. The old allotment at the lower price and the scale of foodgrains that was used to be given to the poor below the poverty line or above the poverty line must be retained. It should not be reduced to 10 kg. The average of ten years' lifting as the basis for allotment should at once be scrapped. Now, we know the number of persons below the poverty line and above the poverty line. Since we know the requirement, we can allow the States to lift according to their requirement as they were doing earlier. This artificial average and the artificial allotment of 10 kgs should at once be withdrawn. Alternatively, 10 kgs be given at the special subsidised price and 20 kgs be given at the old subsidised price so that the poor will get 30 kgs of foodgrains. The Targeted Public Distribution System can be of some merit only if these corrections are made. Only then will it subserve the purpose mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme. Otherwise, it will be against the poor men's purchasing capacity and poor men's very survival. I hope the necessary corrections would be made.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have with me a list of 20 more Members who are all as per the instruction, to speak

today itself. I would like to submit that it would be better if each of you take five minutes to conclude your speech. Though I do not think if all of you would be able to conclude your speeches today.

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are holding discussion on the motion moved by Shri Sriballav Panigrahi and Shri Subbarami Reddy under Rule 193. The matter relating to the distribution of foodgrains in the country through Public Distribution System has been raised under it by several hon. Members. We are celebrating 50th Anniversary of our Independence. This is a matter of pride for our country and for this House. But the point is that the issues being raised in the House and the discussion that is going on under Rule 193 must be held in proper manner. It is good to have a discussion but it is also important to have the discussion in the meaningful manner. The fact remains that the Public Distribution System need to be strengthened.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussion being held now does not speak good of the ruling party and there is nothing to be proud of. It does not give good impression either of the present Union Government or of the preceeding Governments. I would say it with much anguish that looting in the name of dalits is still on even after 50 years of attaining Independence. The problems of the poor concerning bread, cloth and shelter are not being solved.

It is a pity that we are discussing the problem of unemployment and other problems even after fifty years of Independence. This is not a matter of pride for us. What is the ultimate purpose of the Public Distribution System? Its purpose is to benefit the common man, poor people, people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes, backward classes, those living in hilly areas and to all those 60 per cent people living below the poverty line. You can see today whether it is the ruling party or any other party, they all refer to the poor, they hold discussion in the House in the name of the welfare of the poor, but it is only the parties which prosper alongwith politicians whereas the poor remain what he is. They become more backward.

* We are celebrating 50th Year of our Independence. Had our Public Distribution System been in a good shape, these issues would not have been raised today in the House. It is a matter of regret that we could not strengthen our Public Distribution System. The issues raised by Shri Panigrahi and Jayanti Bahen are all important. If you go to the fair price shops run under the Public Distribution System you may or may not get the commodities you want. Even if these are available they are not of good quality. You will get stone particles in wheat and rice. When the poor go to the fair price shops, they are harassed with the reply that commodities would be available on the next day or the day after that. Commodities like wheat, rice, sugar, kerosene or edible-oil under Public Distribution system are supplied to the State Government by the Union Government. But whatever is supplied by the Union Government, is not distributed properly by State Government. Whatever is

[Shri Suresh R. Jadhav]

allocated by the Union Government that has not been supplied to the State Government so far. I have all the data with me in this regard. I have a data of allocation made to Maharashtra Government by the Central Government. During the current year, 1996-97 Maharashtra was allocated 1010 tonne of wheat whereas the actual supply was only 622.20 tonne. Similarly, the allocation of rice was 580 tonne whereas the actual supply was 410.50 tonne. In case of sugar, the allocation was 410.50 tonne whereas the actual supply was 407.35 tonne. Similar is the case with edible oil. Through you, I would like to ask the Union Government as to what is the reason for the gap between allocation and actual supply. The allocation is made by the Government only on paper. The State Government does not get its share as per the allocation. The Government should look into it. When the State Government goes to lift their share, their quota of commodities is not available in the godown. Even if commodities are available, they are not of good quality and at times wagons are not available*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : I am speaking for the first time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is all right, but there is a paucity of time.

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Why there is a gap between the allocation and supply. Through you, I want to know this from the Union Government. There should be some improvement in this regard. The off loading of food grains should be according to its allocation. Shrimati Jayawanti Mehta has spoken at length about the allocation and off take of food grains and other items for Maharashtra under the P.D.S. I would also like to say that Maharashtra has already implemented the new targetted Public Distribution System with effect from June 1, 1997. This scheme is being operated by the U.F. Government under its common Minimum programme and covers 60.45 lakh families. However as per the survey conducted by the Union Government under I.R.D.P. during the year 1992-93. The number of rural families living below the poverty line in Maharashtra is 77 lakhs. Apart from this, the income of 40 percent population of Metro cities like Mumbai is below Rs. 4000. There are 43 lakh such families living in cities of Maharashtra. Thus the number of poor families living below poverty line are about one crore. However, the foodgrains are allocated only for 60.45 lakh families. This creates problems for Maharashtra. I, therefore, would like to request the Union Govt. to make allocation under P.D.S. for one crore families and the foodgrain allocation should be raised to 20 lakh metric tonnes.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Kerosene, foodgrains and sugar quota for Maharashtra is also less. Smt. Jaiwanti Mehta has made mention of it.

Through you I would request the Union Government to streamline the P.D.S. so as to provide necessary items to the poor and backward classes living in remote parts including the hilly regions. Whenever the P.D.S. issue is raised in Parliament, everybody says something or other, but it is not unfortunate that we are debating on the P.D.S. in the 50th year of the independence.

It is utmost necessary to streamline and revamp the P.D.S. The financial assistance provided by the Union Government to purchase vehicles should also be enhanced. The financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the state governments for godowns also needs to be increased. The Government must make all out efforts to revamp and streamline the P.D.S. which was to provide succor to the targetted poor masses.

It is all the more pertinent to operate the P.D.S. efficiently and smoothly as we are a democratic society.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have spoken for 13 minutes against the allotted time of 5 minutes. Please conclude now.

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : I am just concluding. Through you I would request the Union Government to make all out efforts to revamp and streamline the P.D.S., so that we need not discuss this issue again in the House. This is my earnest request to the Government.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on the issue of P.D.S. in this august House.

In the 50th year of our independence, Independence Day is to fall after a few days. In this country, the public distribution system is in the hands of 15 percent people. Hardly any measure has been taken in this country for welfare of 85 percent people who are in the majority also. At present, 54 percent people are living below the poverty line because the public distribution system is in the hands of 15 percent people. At the time of independence, 27 percent people were below the poverty line as against 54 percent at present. The President in his address stated that 32 crore people are below the poverty line yet we people are all set to celebrate the 50th year of our independence. It is unfortunate for 85 percent people. When majority of people are poor, there is no point in celebrating the 50th

year of independence. Therefore, I ask if this country is independent, then why are these people considered below the poverty line? Why have they been subjected to injustice? It is perhaps because these people are being ill-treated and exploited under the distribution of resources for thousands years. Those privileged and belonging to feudal class are merely 6 per cent of population, yet they have grabbed 96 per cent of national resources. Those in the ruling class who constitute just 4 per cent, control 52 per cent of politics but those who are in majority and caste their votes as a national duty do not matter much. These 4 per cent people have grabbed up 70 per cent jobs which has created great disparities and imbalances in the society.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Lakha ji, you have given a very wide scope to the issue.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA : I am coming on to the subject. In this country 52 crore people who also caste their votes, have not been included in the privileged class of O.B.C. by this Government. This belief has not been materialised so far in the country that these 52 crore people should also get justice and they should also be given full share in the distribution system. We condemn this attitude in the 50th year of Independence of the country.

Similarly, there is the question of land distribution. Now there is Government of our party in Uttar Pradesh. Previously also there was our Government which lasted for six months. Ms. Mayawati during her tenure, had distributed three lakh acres of land to these people which had set right the public distribution system. And she has taken measures to distribute six lakh acres of land to those people who have been working on fields. People are happy because nobody has been meted out injustice. Ms. Mayawati has put one lakh forty five thousand unlawful people behind the bars, under the Goonda Act, so that they could not suppress those unprivileged people. The work which would have been done in six years, our State Government has completed that work in six months.

The issue being raised here in this House relates to the basic needs on which I would not like to speak since one can survive for some period even without them. I alongwith the Chairman of the labour consultative committee has visited Guwahati. It rains very heavily there. People there set work for only six days in a month and the daily wages for a family is only Rs. 21. A family consists of four members. In a family which gets only Rs. 126 monthly in this country, how could they survive on this meagre amount. We visited Bihar also, people get only Rs. 27 per day whereas we eat food for Rs. 126 at a time. Many people in this country do not have a roof and have no means of livelihood and they do not have any arrangement for teaching of their children. In such a country we give the slogan - 'Sare Jahan se achha Hindustan hamara' that is to say our country is most beautiful in the world. In a country where a family of four members get only Rs. 126 in a month, how can the country progress. Is there a similar situation in any other country? In other parts of the world, the

Government makes arrangement for food, cloth and shelter and other basic necessities of life for the common masses. But our Government could not do anything through public distribution system.

There are 26 lakh Government employees in our country. They are only 1.5 per cent of total population but the Government have not formulated any policy for the benefit of the remaining 98.5 per cent people living below the poverty line. We formulate common minimum programme but that remains only on papers. A special component programme was formulated for the poor but it was not implemented anywhere in the country. Our Minister say that it has been launched in Mumbai, Gujarat and Punjab but as a matter of fact it is not launched anywhere. These Ministers* only speak in the meetings and virtually they do nothing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This work may be expunged from the proceedings of the House.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA : I will conclude my speech after saying one more thing.

18.00 hrs.

There are about 32 lakh educated people today in the country who are living below the poverty line. And among them are those who had passed MA, BA and some other are matriculate. If one thousand rupees are given to those who are MA, eight hundred rupees to those who are BA and six hundred rupees to those who are matriculate, they would benefit a lot since it is not their fault. On the other hand the Government are at fault because the Government has not provided them jobs, it has not made any arrangement for their livelihood, it is the responsibility of the Government to look after them. It is the responsibility of the Government to make full arrangement for those who are born in the country. There is 90 hectares land which is owned by big people which is not being distributed (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is six O' clock and now this debate should be concluded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The BAC has decided that the House will sit upto 7 O' clock.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA : The prices of flour, rice and pulses are on the rise (*Interruptions*) can anyone eat bread only in hundred grams of flour? We should ponder over this fact in this House. We should know about the condition of athletes also. Today the gap is widening. The gap between the haves and have nots is widening. The people belonging to the category of have-nots have organised. The people will think over it that what injustice has been done to them and people

* Expunged from the proceedings as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Harbhajan Lakha]

- would be ready to implement the public distribution system and the common minimum programme in this country.

I am grateful to you that I am able to put forth my views. I request that this fact should go across all over the country so that people could know about what is happening in the country. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak about the 'Bhujan Samaj'. Our colleagues are laughing. They are laughing because I have put forward something new and I do not forget old things too. Nobody puts forward new thing in this House. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Sir, the House is discussing the revamping of Public Distribution System. I think that the poverty is expanding its wings in this country even though fifty years of Independence have since elapsed and it is unfortunate to have discussion over it now. It is pitiable that the poor is becoming poorer and rich more and more affluent in this country. The politicians have formulated certain policies motivated by their political interests to alleviate poverty which benefited the administrative section the most and as for the poor not even the least. In this way the rich became richer and the poor the poorer. Targetted new public distribution policy was introduced. When the budget was being presented by the Government the benches were thumped a lot and it was propagated on AIR and television for one week that poverty would be removed and even the poor would become rich and all such tall claims were made. It was later on found that it was just a molehill below the mountain unearthed. The policy which they adopted pertained to the requirement of atleast 17 million tonnes of wheat and the quantity allocated was only 7.5 million tonnes. When the journalists enquired from hon. Minister it was stated that only 15 per cent procurement took place. We were given a subsidy of Rs. 9200 crore. He stated as to how he could have mobilised funds for more wheat. The target beneficiaries were announced on AIR and television for one week but the beneficiaries had suffered loss instead. Have you ever maintained your accounts? First of all the Government should have made correct calculations and then a policy should have been evolved keeping in view the requirement of funds, the number of beneficiaries the persons to be benefitted and the manner in which they are to be benefitted. They have provided that 10 kg. foodgrain is to be provided at half the price. The rice is priced at 3.50 rupees per kg and it comes to 35 rupees. Earlier, the cost of 30 kg was 161 rupees. Now, 10 kg rice is available for Rs. 35 and the remaining 20 kg is to be purchased from the open market and that would cost Rs. 180. Mr. Minister, you just calculate that earlier it was available for 161 rupees whereas now it costs 215 rupees. How can this policy be considered good one. When we have incurred a loss of rupees 53. All the State Governments in the country are

criticising this policy. Hon. Prime Minister has also called a meeting to enact an amendment therein. There is much uproar among them over the issue of allocation. Now take the example of Punjab State, it is a matter of regret that the giver is demanding. The people of the area growing foodgrains are not getting foodgrains. There are 43.3 lakh yellow card holders in Punjab, whereas 4 lakh people are living below the poverty line. 20 thousand tonnes of foodgrains has been allocated to Punjab whereas Haryana got 87 thousand tonnes. Voice is being raised against this system for the type of discrimination which is being made in this matter. I would like to say that the PDS can never be a success, if the basic problems such as price rising are not solved. You have to identify the problems of both producers and consumers as well.

Sir, the Food Corporation of India makes procurement of rice. The economic cost of Food Corporation of India is the highest in the world. whether any Government had thought as to why the economic cost is so high and why the Food Corporation of India is ever increasing its expenses? This is like a snake squatting guards on gold. Nobody is thinking in terms of improvements in it. Everyday the newspapers carry the reports about the thefts or smuggling of foodgrains.

There is a report from Bangladesh that the foodgrains meant for PDS has been smuggled to Bangladesh. Several lakh tonnes of foodgrains had gone out in smuggling but not a single officer got punishment for that. Nothing of that sort happened. In the same way, had you ever thought about under utilisation of godowns? It is the statement of hon. Minister that the godowns of FCI are under utilised and the capacity of FCI's godowns is 12.4 million tonne whereas out of that 54 per cent capacity is utilised and stores taken on rent, are utilised upto 76 per cent of their capacity. The first thing is that the stores of the FCI have the foodgrains weighing 11.4 million tonne whereas its capacity is 12.3 million tonnes at present. So, there is in fact no need to continue hiring of stores but still they continue to do so. It is therefore quite natural that the cost would be higher and when that goes up, the poor would have to purchase the costly one. In this way, the producer as well as consumer is being looted. It is a matter which needs attention. This position should be improved, then only the Public Distribution System can be brought in between lines. Discriminatory attitude is adopted towards the rice and wheat producing states e.g. Punjab which contributes about 50 per cent rice and 70 per cent of wheat to the Central Pool and yet receives the lowest remuneratory Price as compared to all other states of our country.

We have raised the voice last year and now again we are suggesting to the honourable Minister that if this system has to be improved, then producer should be encouraged. If the producer are dealt with discrimination, then the price of foodgrains will obviously go up. If this system has to be improved, then Government should not make discrimination against the producers. We import foodgrains, but we do not encourage our farmers. The

landing cost of wheat for foreign farmers is Rs. 7100 per quintal whereas it is Rs. 6733 for our farmers. I would like to say that it can be further reduced to Rs. 6000 per quintal. Bungling is a regular feature of this system which involves of extending subsidy worth Rs. 9200 crore for the farmers of the country. Where the urea scam, fodder scam and Bofors scam are taking place one after the other it is difficult, but not impossible to improve the lot of our country. But who will improve it? We have to see the problems of producer and consumers as well. If you can reduce the operating/administrative expenses of food corporation of India, well then only I can assume that the price of foodgrain to be distributed under PDS, can be reduced. I would like to say that only Punjab and Haryana can solve the matter of PDS. Prices can also be brought down, but there is a need to improve the system. At present producers are suffering and the mediators are par taking the lion's share. There is a need to arrest this odd trend.

I would like to add one new thing more, i.e. Public Distribution System should be based on family instead of an individual as on unit. One side we are trying to control the population on the other we are distributing ration on individual basis. Therefore a person having 15 children, takes more sugar and a person having merely 2 children gets only 2 kg. of sugar. The Government should also consider this aspect. As long as the policies are not improved, the slogan of population will remain just a slogan and the poverty will keep on increasing and the country will have to face problems and problems. If the Government is keen to solve the problem, then it will have to take care of these basic problems. The allocation should be made to various regions proportionate to the population. The earlier policy of 30 kg. foodgrains, i.e. before the implementation of present PDS should be maintained, as 10 kg. is not sufficient enough for an individual. If it has to remain at 10 kg. then half of the price should be charged and the rest 20 kg. should be distributed under the earlier system so that the benefit should reach to the targeted person. I would like to conclude with these words and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, my friend said that the country is about to celebrate the golden jubilee of the Independence. When the freedom struggle was going on, Pandit Ram Prasad Bismal had said, "Oh lord, the day will come, when we will have our own Government; our own sky. We will have the complete independence" But, today Mr. Panigrahi has narrated in the Parliament that Orissa is plagued with starvation. The tribals of Sarguja in Chattisgarh of Madhya Pradesh are not getting foodgrains and other essential commodities of their requirement due to which they are forced to kill monkeys for their food. The tribals of Betul of Madhya Pradesh are eating boiled roots and the leaves of Bhamod tree. This is the scenario after 50 years of independence. Today the common man is suffering due to roaring prices. The situation is such that 32 crore people are cursed to live below the poverty line. They are putting in hard labour but even then their children do not go to the school. Their childhood

is being destroyed by engaging them as labour and they become old in an early age. They do not get sufficient food even after toiling the whole day. Shri Dushyant Kumar must have written these lines on their plight.

"Kal numaish mein mila the chithde ek pahne hua,
Maine puccha naam to bola Hinduistan"

Yesterday I came across a person in rags who told me that his name was 'Hindustan'.

The hapless common man is in a dilemma, what to do and where to go? They can not even have a square meal. Their purchasing power has been reduced. The prices have soared so high, that they were unable to buy essential commodities. We launched public distribution system, but has it been able to achieve the goals. How much foodgrains we received through public distribution system. Just now the Professor from Punjab was saying and earlier Mr. Lakha said that lofty announcement and tall promises are made in this regard but I would like to tell you something about Madhya Pradesh. Whenever I visit my Parliamentary constituency, I find that at many places sugar and kerosene oil is not available. When I ask the Government of Madhya Pradesh, they tell that we get sugar as per the census of 1991, but the population has already increased over these years. Therefore, even if we are willing to provide the ration, we just cannot. Whether our country may or may not have progressed but it has certainly been swelling up in terms of population growth. It is 1997. The quota allocated from the Centre is not upto the required level. I would like to ask whether it is possible to give sugar, kerosene and other ration items to all. This quota should also be increased in proportion to the increase in population. If it is not hiked how it is possible to provide ration to all. I would state the truth. These are trivial things. The Union Government allocates less quota. I would like to read out the figures relating to M.P. we received lesser quota of sugar and kerosene. In Madhya Pradesh 300 gm. sugar is given on one unit. Is it possible to sustain oneself with 5 kg rice and one kg wheat in a month. I would not like to go into the details of it. In our State the situation is such that in its cities, ration items are indeed available to some extent, yet in rural areas sugar kerosene and wheat are the items not to be seen in P.D.S. shops.

Once while travelling my state on foot, I come across an elderly gentleman. He said that he was finding it difficult to sustain in that rule. I asked him as to what has happened to him. He told me that earlier one used to feel tempted for sugar and now the exorbitant price of sugar cause tears in one's eyes. These days our children can not enjoy eating even laddoos. I asked him whether he got the P.D.S. sugar. He replied that he had heard of it but never seen it. He has not seen kerosene for years and years together. The State Government allocates the quota at district level but it disappears from there only. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi used to say that only 15 paise out of a rupee reach the village what to speak of 15 paise here, entire supply disappears and never reaches the rural consumers.

[Shri Shivraj Singh]

In Madhya Pradesh foodgrains, kerosene and sugar are distributed through societies. One society cover about 15-20 villages. There are several villages which are at a distance of 15-20 kms from their respective societies. The moment the labourers come to know that supply of kerosene and sugar has reached at P.D.S. shops, they rush to societies head quartered but find to their dismay that stock of everything has exhausted. That way they lose their one day wage. They visit the P.D.S. shops once or twice and ultimately give up hope but not before uttering out hasty and bad names against the leaders. The Union Government can not leave this matter up to the State Government. The Union Government should see that how the out network of the state functions and whether the P.D.S. items allotted by centre are reaching the ground level. Otherwise it would not work. I would like to request here that P.D.S. shops should be opened in all villages. The smaller villages could be subsumed in 4-6 groups and mobile vans could be used in those areas as you have mentioned in your Economic Report. Wheat, sugar and other essential commodities could be made available in those adivasi areas through mobile vans as they are totally ignorant about the system, whatever commodities such as foodgrain are made available that is rotten and stinking. You talk of JRY. The foodgrains distributed through Employment Assurance Scheme is so much rotten that the labourers readily got agreed to dispose of the same at a distress price. Even animals despise that. Today I enquired from the people of my constituency, then only I came to know that the quota has been allotted but it has not reached there for the want of railway wagons. Would the people starve for the want of rail wagons?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of targeted PDS was being discussed a little while ago. Just the last year it was announced from the ramparts of the Red Fort with much fanfare and every body too felt reassured that the people living below the poverty line would have enough to eat. Prof. Chandumajra who just telling that our, as many as 32 crore fellow citizens are below the poverty line. I do not want to repeat the figures but certainly like to ask as to how much allocation the Government have made. The poor masses are at loss on both the counts. Earlier 30 kg foodgrains used to be supplied through P.D.S. which has since been slashed. Now, the Government intends to provide 10 kg at half the current rate, however, even that quantity does not reach the people. The Government has not allocated the required quantity of foodgrain. Here announcement for providing 10 kg foodgrains will not do. Through you I would like to tell the Government not to bring politics in foodgrains and also not to arouse people's aspirations whenever you formulate such schemes. Then people naturally feel that their fate is going to be metamorphosed but infact every time they are duped. Now some people would say that this scheme was formulated by Shri Devagowdaji or Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, but this scheme was declared by the United Front. If you resort to such tricks then you are committing treachery

with the country as well as its masses. Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, how the issue of kerosene comes up. The blue coloured kerosene distributed under P.D.S. is first of all not available and if at all it is found there in black market and diverted to restaurants, hotels etc. But where has gone the white kerosene? The Government had started providing blue kerosene just to avoid adulteration. Various distribution criteria for kerosene are there in various States. When I was going through the figure, I found that it was available more in urban areas than the rural areas. So the villagers not need fuel? Is it not a poor need? Do the villagers consume lesser sugar? Now it is said that the villagers get fuel woods. In adivasi areas, they can not pluck even a leaf, not to speak of collecting wood and the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 Prohibits people from felling trees. At that, they are not provided kerosene then how would they sustain? Therefore, I earnestly request the Government to have same distribution norms. When I went through the figures, I came to know that in Chandigarh 20 litres kerosenes given while in M.P. only 3 litres. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Minister who himself hails from the rural area, is well aware of all this. These days it is raining heavily and it is very difficult to reach interiors. The bad weather is taken as an alibi to say that it is difficult to transport the commodities of need in the remote areas. Well, can't the commodities be transported a few months in advance? When you talk of constructing godowns and also pay for that then why can't you make an arrangement for some accommodation where the ration can be stored before hand and the poor man continue to get ration every month? Ration would be made available only if necessary arrangements are made by you otherwise it would not be possible and the entire quota of ration, which is allocated to the poor, would go to the black-market.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir so far as the question of ration cards is concerned I can name several cities of Madhya Pradesh where the number of ration cards exceed the total population. Bogus ration cards are issued and the people are involved in corrupt practices. Otherwise also, our Prime Minister says that the corruption is deep-rooted in the country and he feels himself helpless in this regard. Can't we keep a check on issuing bogus ration cards?

Whether under the new T.P.D.S. about which you are just talking ration cards are issued to the genuine consumers. Have you made any arrangement to check that ration cards are being issued to the genuine consumers and not to others and what is the monitoring system for this purpose? The people can't be left on the mercy of the State-Governments only. You must remove the difficulties and problems being faced by the people. Entire responsibility can not be put on the states only. You must devise some monitoring system so as to ensure that the quota released by you is issued to the very people for whom it is meant. State-level monitoring system should be evolved. Monitoring should be done at the district as well as at the shop level so as to see that the ration is being distributed properly. The states have a complaint that sub-standard and poor quality ration is supplied and that too not

on time. Your statement is that you release the ration but the states do not pick up the same. But this is wrong because States are rather much worried about the rationing stuff to reach their states in time. But still if you feel that these are some bottle necks and the States are not lifting their allotted quota they should be issued warning.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have mentioned that Public Distribution system would be implemented in those areas which are prone to famines and have scarcity of food items but I have seen that there are certain regions like the Chhatisgarh region of Madhya Pradesh where we have a good paddy crop and the targeted Public Distribution System did not come into force there. These schemes remain on papers only. The poor people did not seem to derive any benefit out of it. So the distribution system be made more effective and the practice of issuing bogus ration-cards should be checked and as you have said godowns for storage of foodgrains should be constructed in those areas. Punjab produces wheat in abundance. But according to you the producer itself has become a beggar. It is quite right that when wheat produced there in abundance, what is the need to bring that here? We also produce wheat. Can't you make any such arrangement under which the wheat can be purchased from that very place where good quality wheat is produced and they may be provide of subsidy. Such an arrangement can be made by the State itself or the district collector concerned. He may purchase the wheat as per the requirement of the district and he can have the good quality wheat there itself. In this way all the expenditure being incurred on transportation and godowns can be saved.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble minister has made several announcements and we are celebrating fiftieth anniversary of Independence. The people do not trust the politicians and the freedom has lost meaning to them. So please do not attempt to deceive the common man. You have stated that 10 kg. cereal would be provided at half prices to a family living below poverty line. But since they need 20 kg. of ration to feed them, arrangements may be made to provide 20 kg. of ration. I do not agree with the view of Dr. Saheb that the population has so increased that we do not know what to do and where to go. We can put restrictions on any other things but we cannot deprive them of their right to get both ends meet so, please reintroduce the earlier scheme of 30 kg. while continuing the present system of providing 10 kg. simultaneously ensuring that the ration reaches the people in time.

I conclude my speech while thanking you for having given me the time to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have given certain good suggestions, so I also thank you.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA (Salumber) : Honourble, Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank Shri Sriballav Panigrahi for having raised an important issue which gave us an opportunity to discuss the matter under rule 193. Every

member has expressed their views on the subject I will conclude withing 5 minutes. I would just dwell upon the problems being faced by the people of our area. People of any area felt happy on the announcement made by the Government that 10 Kg. of wheat would be issued at cheaper rates to the selected families but they felt otherwise when later they came to know that this 10 kg. of cereal is going to be issued per card holder and not per unit.

We must appreciate that a family normally comprises of 5 persons and in the rural areas they have to cover a distance of 5 to 10 kms on foot for getting their quota of 10 kg and some times he comes back empty handed as an honourable member has stated that everybody knows about it. So one thing is that he losses his wages for that day if he is a wage earner and does not get 10 kg of cereal after reaching there. Secondly the dealer has to keep a separate account for this 10 kg cereal. They have to keep two types of account. First is regarding 10 kg. cereal meant for the selected families and the another one is for others. It is for this reason that he does not take it and he does so knowingly because he does not want to keep double accounts.

[English]

18.31 hrs.

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

As if somebody comes for checking and if any minor discrepancy is found, his quota is cancelled. After cancellation of quota, it takes two -three months to revive that quota. So the whole thing remain pending. Therefore the earlier system was good. Of course it involved more money but all the units used to get the quota. As all the members have said, that the earlier system was good. So either the earlier system should continue or the members of the selected families should get 10 kg. per head. Only then it can be termed as beneficial. Every member has expressed their views and I agree to the same. There goes a saying in my area "Hali ka to harza hota hai, aur karjayya ki maut hoti hai" (It means the farmers bear the losses only whereas the borrowers suffer the most). You might not have understood it, this means that it is a fun for one who ploughs but it is a question of death for an ox.

Mr. Chairman, sir everybody talks of the problems of the backward people but there is no timely solution for their problems. The tribal people or the people belonging to backward class, they migrate to cities for work and they hardly earn there sometimes Rs. 25 and some times Rs. 30. I don't want to say that somebody earns more and somebody earns less or who is rich and who is poor, I don't want to go into that. Whatever relief is provided to a poor through the Public Distribution System, he should get that but he does not get that. Since I have said that I will conclude in five minutes, therefore I suggest that problems

[Shri Bheru Lal Meena]

faced by the States should be solved as they have got their own problems like sometimes they do not get allotted quota and if at all they get the allotted quota, they could not lift it due to non-availability of wagons. They face many problems in lifting the allotted quota of foodgrains as a result of which foodgrains do not reach people on time. Secondly, corruption is rampant today in the allocation of foodgrains. Those dealers who grease the palms of those who distribute the quota, they get their quota of foodgrains of good quality. They have to give bribe to the tune of Rs. 100, Rs. 50 and Rs. 10 to clerk, peon and the man who weighs the foodgrains according to the quantum of work involved. If they give them bribe, they get good quality of foodgrains and when good quality of foodgrain is sold through the PDS shops, people happily take them. But those who do not give bribe to them, they get poor quality of foodgrains as has just been mentioned by the hon. member that it is not fit to feed them a cow and they compel the poor to use poor quality foodgrains because they don't have money and therefore they have to eat poor quality foodgrains. And later they say that this has led to epidemic and spread of diseases and say that people have become weak because of these food stuffs. Therefore we people must see that whatever we have decided that must be followed in future also. Several parties made announcements on the eve of elections. Some said that they would provide foodgrains at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg. and they do make such announcement at certain places and the people are carried away by such announcements expecting that they would get foodgrains at cheaper rates. The Deve Gowda Government or the United Front Government when announced that they would provide 10 kg. of foodgrains at cheaper rate, we thought that they would provide it to all the people. But to our dismay we found that 10 kg. of foodgrains was to be provided on per card. Therefore, I want to give stress on two points—either the quantity of foodgrains supplied under the TPDS should be increased and each member of the families selected for this purpose should be given foodgrains at the rate of 10kg. or the old system should be re implemented by bringing improvement therein.

As has been just discussed here that 10 kgs. of foodgrains are provided to the selected families under the TPDS at the rate of Rs. 3 per kg. and people of the general category are provided foodgrains at the rate of Rs. 5 per kg. whereas the rate of wheat in the market ranges from eight to ten rupees per kg. I do not want to go into the price structure in the open market but the foodgrains now provided under the PDS at the rate of Rs. 3 or Rs. 5 in comparison the earlier rate of Rs. 4 per kg. across the board is not good enough but the earlier rate of Rs. 4 kg. was alright. Earlier everybody used to get wheat at the rate of Rs. 4 per kg. but now due to effecting the dual pricing system some irregularities have come to the fore. So either the quantity of wheat supplied under the TPDS should be increased or the old system should be implemented again so that everybody get foodgrains at a uniform rate.

So far as the question of allocation of foodgrains is concerned it should be allotted as per the demand of the respective State governments so that they do not get any chance of saying that the Union Government has not allocated them foodgrains as demanded by them. It is unfortunate that we have a Government of some other party at the centre and government of some other parties at the States and they trade charges against each other and the poor are the ultimate sufferers. As I have said earlier that the poor man is always ultimate victim. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Hon'ble chairman, Sir, we are discussing in the House on the Public Distribution System under Rule 193 and many hon. members have put forward their respective views thereon. We are celebrating 50th anniversary or the golden jubilee of Independence this year. I must say that irrespective of the various assertions by politicians and various Governments in power we could not implement the PDS successfully even after 50 years of our Independence. However, the revolutionary steps taken by our United Front government under the common minimum programme in respect of the PDS, people are all praise for it everywhere. It has been provided under this system that ten kgs. of foodgrains will be provided to the poor at half of the normal prices to a red card holder and this system has been implemented at many places. I share the concern of the hon. members that there has been some lacunae and bungling in the matter of issuing such cards.

I want to make this point through you that overall improvement should be brought in the TPDS by removing those lacunae in conforming with the views expressed in the House and by taking into cognizance the reports pouring in from all over the country. Not only improvements are needed but a Committee should also be constituted in the Department itself so as to keep vigil and monitor the scheme formulated by our government for providing 10 kgs. of foodgrains to the poor people of the country at half of the normal prices through TPDS could be fully implemented at the grass root level in villages and all the poor people of the country may be benefited. I admit that there are some lacunae in the scheme.

However, it is said that distribution of foodgrains under the PDS is a state-subject but I don't agree with that. The Government of India should have direct control in the matter of distribution of foodgrains. A number of cases have come to light that lot of bungling is there in the system for providing 10 kgs. of foodgrains to the selected families through cards, under the PDS. The hon. Minister is sitting in the House and I am a Member of Parliament from Sitamarhi, the area he belongs to and I understand that the hon. Minister has knowledge about all the lacunae which are there in this scheme. Today the ration-cards are being issued and the way the norms for the people living below the poverty line has been fixed the 60% families in Bihar are living below the poverty line.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the national level the 36% families have been regarded as living below the poverty line and 53% people in Bihar have been considered as those living below the poverty line. Keeping this in view, the red cards have been issued to poor families in Bihar. But the cards given to 53% families do not cover whole of Bihar. These cards must have been given to those who have been registered as the people living below the poverty line, because there are large number of poor families living below the said poverty line.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 80% poor people live below the poverty-line in Sitamadi constituency to which the hon'ble Minister belongs. When we visit our constituencies after Parliament session, we find group of people in our villages, complaining that while well-to-do and prosperous families have been issued red cards, the poor and deserving people have been deprived of the same. There has been much corruption while providing red cards in Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the present government has taken revolutionary decision to enforce T.P.D.S. system, so it should also take revolutionary step to implement the same so that the poor people having red cards may be definitely benefited and these people may get 10 kg. foodgrains at the half rate through the system.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I also support what both Shri Chandu Majara and Shri Bhairu Lal Meena have said I also request that since the poor people are provided only 10kg. out of 30 kg. foodgrains at the half rate, the remaining 20 kg. should be given to them at control rate. If this kind of system is not maintained, the poor people will have to buy remaining foodgrains from the market and this will mar the entire benefit given to them. Therefore I want that the Government should make a change in the system and provide half of 30 kg. foodgrains at half rate and rest at control rate. If you do this only then the poor people of the country will be benefitted.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, some hon'ble Member here have pointed out that the earlier system was better because 30 kg. foodgrains used to be provided at control rate by the Government. But this quantity of 30 kg. foodgrains was shown on the paper only. On real terms, the poor people in Bihar never got 30 kg. foodgrains in the past and will not get the same in future either therefore if they get 10 kg. foodgrains, it is good but it would really be beneficial to them if the remaining foodgrains is provided to them on government control rate. The T.P.D.S. scheme of issuing red cards that the government has launched has been formulated by the United Front Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request hon'ble Minister through you to make a special cell to implement this system in the backward states like Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh and start this distribution system under his Ministry directly. It is only after that he will come to know how much poor people get of what is sent to them by the Centre. If it is not done, the middle men will take away the

whole foodgrain and the poor people will get nothing. I therefore, request you to make a special arrangement for its distribution so that this scheme may prove to be beneficial to the poor people.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Naval Kishore Rai, please conclude.

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI : Madam, I will conclude within few minutes. I am the first speaker from my party, Janta Dal on T.P.D.S. I would like to draw the kind attention of hon'ble Minister to Public Distribution System to which some hon'ble members have referred and said that this system is being enforced in a wrong way in some states. This happens solely because the whole responsibility of implementing the system has been left on the state government and then it is said that as it is concerned with state government, the centre can do nothing in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, sir, we are celebrating 50th Anniversary of our independence and the talk of giving everything to our people through P.D.S. But truth lies in the fact that nothing except kerosene oil, sugar, little quantity of wheat and rice really reach to the village. Nothing more than this is provided under the P.D.S. The Public Distribution System has its own essentiality. I would like to urge the Government that 13-14 essential commodities like wheat, rice, flour, vegetables, salt, kerosene, wax, match, soap, edible oil and the oil for external use be brought under the P.D.S. The P.D.S. will be lacking in its purpose unless all these commodities are allocated to States and districts commensurate to their requirement. Even after fifty years of our independence, we have not been able to make these things available under the P.D.S. We would like the Government to ensure the availability of all these commodities. So far as the issue of corruption is concerned, those who are indulged in it (*Interruptions*). We have to see if no commission is given or in case the amount of commission is less, we should enhance it further..... (*Interruptions*). The hon. Minister is present here. I have to ask him a question and so I draw his attention to this matter. He knows about the chaos pervading the entire Bihar. I want that a special status should be accorded to Bihar.

Through you I would like to say..... (*Interruptions*) let not the hon. member disturb me. He may put forth his points when he is asked so. This is not fair. I would also like to submit that in villages the P.D.S. is in a total mess. The situation is such even in this 50th year of our independence my submission is that things should be set right right forth.

I represent Bihar. I do not want you to say that it is a State matter. If the Central Government provides these commodities to a state, it also becomes its duty to monitor its proper utilisation. The Government can not shirk this responsibility. In States licences are issued for fair price shops. They are at times cancelled just within a year. However later on, the cancellation is revoked when the supply of commodities is resumed. In this way, there is no timely supply of commodities in these centres. Subsequently

[Shri Naval Kishore Rai]

they are not able to get these commodities. The Union Government as well as the State Government have set a consumer forum and certain legal provision has also been made for it. But these laws are not stringent enough. No timely action is taken under these laws. The poor are not aware about the existence of any such consumer forum, where they can lodge their complaints for redressal.

Through you, I would like to request the Government to make the consumer forum as well as the consumer protection acts more comprehensive and more severe. They should be strengthened by more and more awareness be created among the people about them. Moreover, they should be made more effective at Central, State district, block and Panchayat levels by ensuring the participation of elected representatives of all parties from elected bodies whether it is a Panchayat, the Parliament, a State Assembly, a municipal committee or a municipal corporation. I would like to submit that whether it is a State, the Centre, a district, a block or a Gram Panchayat, an All Party monitoring committee should be set up so that cases of corruption, irregularities or favouritism going on in preparation of red cards for P.D.S. and T.P.D.S. may be dispensed with henceforth and thereby the Monitoring Committee may be made more effective. With these words I conclude.

[English]

*SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) : Madam, I shall speak in Bengali. This discussion under rule 193 for streamlining and strengthening PDS is timely and very important. Actually this programme was the outcome of the announcement made by our former Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda in his Independence Day speech from the Red Fort. The sole idea of this new programme was to strengthen PDS so as to give some relief to the poor. In the 50 years of our independence, this discussion on PDS is indeed important. One of the main items of the Common Minimum Programme of United Front Government was to initiate and implement some policy matters with regard to PDS. The scheme was envisaged to strengthen PDS and to provide foodgrain to the people below poverty line at half the normal ration price. The stress was given on streamlining PDS so as to strengthen the system, preserve Government control on essential commodities and also to provide some relief to the people from the pressure of rising inflation. But Madam, I am sorry to say that the new scheme as envisaged by the Government has been a total failure and its implementation in the States has been disastrous. In fact this new Targeted Public Distribution System has brought adverse impact in the state PDS creating a complex and deteriorating situation. According to CMP of the United Front Government the initial plan was to provide 20 kg rice to the people below poverty line. But apprehending shortage in the Central Pool, the quantity of 20 kg was reduced to 10

kg. Actually instead of estimating the people below poverty line, the calculation was based on total population. The main task of PDS is to supply essential items to the needy at subsidized rates and to meet their requirement.

According to Indian Council of Medical Research the annual minimum requirement of rice per head for people below poverty line is 135 kg. But providing 10 kg means only 18% of requirement is covered. If the quantity is increased to 20 kg then at least 50% will be covered and the rest can be drawn from some other source. The scheme of streamlining PDS was to provide foodgrains to the people below poverty line at half rate and at the same time not to raise the prevailing ration price for general public.

Here the Government has totally failed the picture becomes clear if a comparison is made between the price prevailing prior to Targeted Public Distribution System and the current ration price. A family consisting of five members whose requirement is 30 kg was paying Rs. 120.60 Paise at the rate of Rs. 4.02 paise. But with a sudden increase of Rs. 5/- from 4.02 paise, the same family now spends Rs. 125/-. So this partial implementation of providing 10 kg rice at half price has actually resulted in paying Rs. 4.40 paise more for each family. Thus instead of giving relief to the already hard pressed people, this new scheme has in reality increased their expenditure for drawing ration.

Then, under the new scheme, each State has been allocated the average quantity of foodgrains it has actually lifted for the Public Distribution System over the past decade. But the lifting has quite often failed because of bottleneck. As a result, under the new scheme the State Government's allocation of foodgrains for the PDS has declined. In West Bengal the quantity of 18 lakh tonnes of rice has come down to fourteen lakh fifty thousand tonnes. In Orissa as mentioned by Shri Panigrahi from one lakh tonne of rice it has been reduced to 3500 tonnes. Orissa was getting 50 thousand tonnes of wheat before. Now it has become nil. We are all aware of famine-stricken people of Kalahandi. Instead of giving relief to the needy, this new scheme has failed to provide anything to the poor. Even the needy, the intended beneficiaries, are forced to buy a large part of their foodgrain requirement from the open market.

The situation in North Eastern region, Andamans and Lakshadweep is all the more grim. The people here depend solely on PDS for their requirement. But the quantity has been declined. So they are not able to draw the required quantity from PDS. So, there is a total failure of PDS in this region. It is a matter of regret that because of the collapse of the system, a large number of people below poverty line has been forced to purchase from open market.

For implementation of their programme, UF Government has accepted the recommendation of Lakhdawala Committee. This recommendation has got the approval of Planning Commission also. As per this report, the number of people below poverty line is 32 crore. We

*Translation of the speech Originally delivered in Bengali.

had objection to this report. Assam was the basis for North Eastern region. The Central Government has given a guideline to determine the number of people below poverty line. In our region, i.e., Tripura, the percentage was 73.4. But according to Lakhdawala report it is 38.8% Some of the States have made their own yardstick to determine the percentage of people below poverty line. In fact this yardstick is decided by their respective need. In UP, the people with annual income of Rs. 8000/- or below are categorised as people below poverty line. In Maharashtra, the BJP-Shiv Sena Government have gone one step ahead. They have categorised people below poverty line with an annual income of Rs. 4000 and below. Actually by displaying more number of people below poverty line, some want to misuse PDS.

I would like to mention another important point. The previous Congress Government of Shri Narasimha Rao decided to abolish PDS because of World Bank pressure. Keeping in mind the vote bank, they wanted to continue PDS in hilly adivasi and tribal regions. But the U.P. Government has abolished this minimum programme also. What is the outcome now? One-third inhabitants of Orissa are adivasis. In North-Eastern region, Tripura, more than half the population are adivasis and tribal people. We know, Madam the intense poverty these people have to face. We were providing subsidized double ration to these people to save them from starvation. But now due to the new scheme that arrangement has been affected. Moreover in our North-Eastern region, we have some other problems like militancy, the natural calamity like flood, landslide and so on. Keeping in view these problems, FCI were asked to store foodgrains in the State but it was not done.

There is broad gauge line from Guwahati to Lumding. Then there is a metre-gauge line which discontinues after some area. So, proper distribution of foodgrain becomes difficult. Then, the basis of average of 10 years of lifting is also not proper. Tripura Government, even after paying advance payment, could not get their allocation. They have allowed the FCI free of cost of store grain. But FCI is not taking any initiative to store foodgrains. Kerosene, salt and sugar are some other important items in PDS.

Madam, you are aware of many villages in Tripura devoid of electricity. People depend on kerosene. The discretion lies with the Centre to determine the quota to provide kerosene per head and per card. There are some more important factors also. Due to lack of railway connection, diesel is needed for transport. But without any infrastructure facility, the whole process of distribution has failed. Keeping in view these factors, I would like to give some suggestions so as the intended section of Targeted Public Distribution System, i.e., the really needy people are benefitted.

The recommendations of Lakhdawala Committee as accepted by Planning Commission must be followed and the people below poverty line must get grain at half rate.

There should not be any drastic deviation from the prevailing system. The requirement of the State even if it is more must be met by the Centre. The supply price of rice and wheat must not be raised.

The PDS must be streamlined and the Government must give assurance to provide 14 essential items through PDS.

19.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, now, it is 7 O'clock. The time allotted for this discussion was two hours. We have already taken three hours, and still there are seven or eight speakers more to participate. So, if you all agree, we can extend the House by one hour and finish it today.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No, Madam. Please adjourn the House now. This discussion may be continued tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : In that case, there is a possibility of the other names being scrapped.

..... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Madam, the ruling from the Chair was that we will be sitting upto 7 O'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Absolutely, that was the situation. But day before yesterday, it was extended beyond 7 o'clock to cover all the speakers in the list of discussion on IRA Bill.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Madam, if we have done something wrong day before yesterday, does it mean that we should repeat it today also?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You all agreed at that time.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Let it be taken up tomorrow. It is 7 o'clock and we have to attend other programme.

[English]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : It can continue tomorrow (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. If you do not agree, then there is no other alternative but to adjourn the House now.

So, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 8th August 1997 at 11 a.m.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Thank you very much, Madam, for adjourning the House in time.

19.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 8, 1997/Shravana 17, 1919 (Saka)